



THE
Wesley Fellowship
Bulletin



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THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP WAS FOUNDED IN 1985
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AN HISTORIC EVENT

History takes place in many forms, often on a dramatic and large scale, but at other times quietly and unnoticed even by those present. Thus the poet John Gower, a friend of Geoffrey Chaucer, was probably completely unaware that he might one day be credited as the first person to use the word 'history' in a published work in English when he penned the lines 'I finde in a bok compiled To this matiere an old histoire, The which comth nou to mi memoire.' These words are found in his

Confessio Amantis first published about 1383. The *Oxford English Dictionary* notes this, and offers a remarkable range of definitions of the word ‘history’ - one of which is: ‘The whole train of events connected with a particular ...society, person, thing, etc., and forming the subject of his or its ... course of existence or life...’. You may well ask: What is the reason for these editorial musings? Well, unbeknown to most of those attending our last meeting, on Saturday 6 November 2010, when The Wesley Fellowship and The League of Prayer held a joint event at Zion Church of the Nazarene, in Handsworth, Birmingham, a significant piece of church history took place which, perhaps surprisingly, was not actually announced on the day. It now appears that those present were witnessing the last official public meeting of the League of Prayer, so marking the end of a remarkable 120-year history of a series of public meetings held by ‘The League’ that can be considered to have begun with God’s Spirit touching the minds and hearts of two people in 1890 as they travelled by train from Manchester to their home in London.¹ The two people concerned were Richard Reader Harris (born 1847) and his wife Mary Griffin Harris, *née* Bristow. Before their marriage on 10 August 1880, Reader Harris had experienced a remarkable life - including becoming a qualified civil engineer for the Great Western Railway in Britain, and then Engineer-in-Chief and diplomat for the Bolivian Government, as well as turning from Agnosticism to Christian faith. Following his marriage he had begun studying law, eventually becoming a member of the Parliamentary Bar in 1883, and a Queen’s Counsel in 1895. On this significant train journey in 1890, Mr & Mrs Reader Harris were returning home after attending a stirring Convention at Star Hall² held under the auspices of Frank Crossley, the Manchester Christian benefactor, mechanical engineer and industrialist. Prior to this, in 1884, the Harris’s had already been greatly inspired by how thousands of lives had been changed by the direct preaching of the Gospel during the London Mission of D.L. Moody (with Ira D. Sankey), and this had led in 1885 to them beginning missions of their own at various places, notably at Speke Road Hall in Battersea. Now, as they

¹ For further information see: Mary Reader Hooker, *Adventures of an Agnostic: Life and Letters of Reader Harris, Q.C.* (London: Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1959), p. 111.

² The very first Christian meeting had taken place at Star Hall on 4 August 1889. See: J. Rendel Harris, ed. *The Life of Francis William Crossley* (London: James Nisbet & Co. Ltd, 1900), p. 130.

journeyed home from Manchester, they prayerfully faced the questions: ‘Is it God’s will that we should go on [as they had for some time] opening new Mission Halls for revived Christians?’, or: ‘Should we urge people to stay in their Churches and seek to bring revival there?’ They concluded that God was telling them to answer ‘Yes’ to the latter question. And so it was, in 1891, convinced of the need for revival in all branches of the Christian Church, they founded The Pentecostal League, described by Reader Harris as a ‘Prayer Union of all believers.’ To avoid confusion with the growing Pentecostal Movement (which began formally in Britain from 1907), and following Reader Harris’s death, the word ‘Pentecostal’ was not used much after about 1920, and the name changed officially in 1945 to ‘The League of Prayer’. In some ways Harris can be seen to follow in the steps of John Wesley. Both men saw themselves as members of the Church of England, and they wanted to revive the church as it was in their time - without making a new sect or taking people away from their own churches. Working closely with his wife (and here the comparison with John Wesley and *his* wife perhaps fails somewhat), **Mr & Mrs Reader Harris wanted people in the Pentecostal League to: 1. ‘Pray for the filling of the Holy Spirit for all believers’³; 2. ‘Pray for revival in the Churches’⁴; and 3. ‘Pray for the spread of Scriptural holiness.’⁵** Like Wesley with his hundreds of influential publications, Harris also saw the need for printed material to encourage and teach the people, so in 1891 he established and edited

³ Compare, for example, how in a similar way John Wesley in a letter, dated 15 April 1790, to Anne Cutler (one of William Bramwell’s converts) encouraged her to, ‘Go in the name of God and the power of His might. Pray for the whole spirit of humility....’

⁴ Note how Wesley, in a letter to Elizabeth Ritchie dated 12 February 1779, writes, ‘The present revival of religion [Christianity] in England has already continued fifty years. And, blessed be God, it is as least as likely to continue ... as it not only springs wider but sinks deeper than ever, more and more persons being able to testify that the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin.’

⁵ See how Harris in the 19th century, notes the same need, and uses even the very same terminology ‘spread of Scriptural holiness’ that was used repeatedly by Wesley in the 18th century - when he stated his key task as ‘Not to form any new sect; but to reform the nation, particularly the Church; and to spread scriptural holiness over the land’, for instance in the ‘Large Minutes’, *Minutes of The Methodist Conferences, from the first, held in London, by the Late Rev. John Wesley, A.M., in the year 1744*. Vol. I [1744-98] (London: John Mason, 1862), p. 447.

a monthly newspaper, *Tongues of Fire* (later called *Spiritual Life*), as well as writing and publishing numerous inspirational little books and tracts. The League grew and spread rapidly, and *Tongues of Fire* reported in 1898 that crowded missions were being held in churches of all denominations throughout the British Isles. By then League membership exceeded 13,000, with over 130 League Centres established around the country, including 30 in London. Further afield, more branches were formed – even as far as America, Australia and Japan – where local groups (with at least twelve League members) met weekly at League Centres. When Reader Harris died unexpectedly, within a few days of a severe stroke, on 30 March 1909, *The Times* reported in an obituary on Thursday 1st April 1909:

‘Mr Harris ...was a well-known Evangelical speaker and writer....While Mr. Harris’s legal reputation was confined to a limited circle, he was known, and indeed revered, by many thousands of people. He was the founder of the Pentecostal League, which ramifies through all the Evangelical churches, its leading idea being that every Christian should be filled with the Holy Spirit. Mr Harris’s manner was marked by the restraint and cultivation one would expect from his profession; but his expositions were not quite to the taste of a good many equally devout Evangelicals who had no fault to find with his underlying doctrines. Personally, he was a man of the highest character, which did much to commend his views.’

Even here, one can perhaps detect the kind of way an imaginary eighteenth-century newspaper might have reported on John Wesley following his death in 1791 – celebrated and ‘reverenced by many thousands of people’, ‘founder’ of a ‘movement...that ramifies through many churches’, ‘man of the highest character, which did much to commend his views’ - but with ‘expositions’ on the doctrine of Christian holiness ‘not quite to the taste’ of all churchgoers of his day. Oswald Chambers⁶ had already been heavily involved in evangelistic missions for the League, and he considered Reader and Mary Harris as ‘the Lord’s choicest saints’. However, although his preaching work and writing for the League increased after the death of Reader Harris, and he

⁶ For an excellent, illustrated account of the life of Oswald Chambers (and the remarkable work of his wife ‘Bidley’ Chambers in preserving and publishing his teaching and preaching), see the hardback edition of: David McCasland, *Oswald Chambers: Abandoned to God: The Life Story of the Author of My Utmost for His Highest* (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Discovery House Publishers, 1993).

was also effective in setting up a residential Bible school in London under the auspices of the League, he never considered himself as a successor of Reader Harris. So following Harris's funeral in April 1909, Chambers, together with League secretaries from all around the country, at a meeting at Caxton Hall, London, pledged their support to Mrs Harris as the new leader of the League (aided with support from her daughter, Mrs Mary Hooker). For those who would want to learn more of the history of the League up to the 21st century, help is at hand in the form of a very welcome newly published little book, *Praying Always: The League of Prayer (1891-2011)* compiled and edited by Norman Armistead, and briefly reviewed elsewhere in this *Bulletin*.

NOTICES, NEWS & NOTES

MEETINGS OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP THIS YEAR

1. The next regular meeting of the Wesley Fellowship will be on Saturday 9 April 2011 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ, WHEN THE REV. D. PAUL C. SMITH, MA, SUPERINTENDENT MINISTER AT PLYMOUTH METHODIST CENTRAL HALL, WILL SPEAK IN THE MORNING ON 'HESTER ANN ROGERS, A WITNESS TO REVIVAL', and IN THE AFTERNOON HE WILL PREACH A SERMON ON 'LIFE IN THE SPIRIT' (ROMANS 8: 5 - 17). Doors open from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. The meeting is planned to end by 3.30pm. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch.

PLEASE: BOOK THE DATE - HAVE THIS MEETING ANNOUNCED AT YOUR CHURCH - PLAN TO COME – BRING FRIENDS – ALL ARE WELCOME!

2. The autumn meeting of the Wesley Fellowship will be on Saturday 29 October 2011 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ, when THE REV DR JOHN M. HALEY, MA, MINISTER OF BOTH RIDGEWAY METHODIST CHURCH, PLYMPTON, PLYMOUTH, AND MILLBROOK METHODIST CHURCH, CORNWALL, WILL SPEAK IN THE MORNING ON "REDEMPTION FOUND: PRAISING GOD WITH JOHN WESLEY", and IN THE AFTERNOON DR HALEY WILL PREACH A SERMON BASED ON PSALM 138:8, "FATHER THY MERCY NEVER DIES." Doors open from

10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. The meeting is planned to end by 3.30pm. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch. Everyone is warmly welcome – please bring friends.

PLANNED MEETINGS OF THE WESLEY FELLOWSHIP IN 2012

1. The spring 2012 regular meeting of the **Wesley Fellowship** will be on **Saturday 31st March 2012** at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham, B21 0JJ. The speaker and preacher (DV) will be Mr Doug Atherton, the UK Executive Director of One Mission Society (OMS). He is based in Manchester. Doors open from 10.30am, ready for a formal and prompt start at 11.00am. The meeting is planned to end by 3.30pm. Drinks will be provided, please bring your own packed lunch. Everyone is warmly welcome – please bring friends.

2. **The autumn 2012 meeting of the WF is planned as a residential conference/holiday to be held at Rhos-on-Sea, North Wales, from Monday evening 29 October 2012 to Friday morning 2 November 2012. Please note the dates - and plan to come!** Further details about this meeting are given below by WF Secretary/Treasurer Mr Alistair Barclay.

NOTICES FROM WF TREASURER MR ALISTAIR BARCLAY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME IS HERE AGAIN!

You will notice from the membership renewal forms enclosed with this mailing of the *Bulletin* that we have maintained the same annual cost of WF Membership as last year. This is despite rising costs for postage, stationery, & etc. We are able to do so because some members who are financially able give a gift over and above their membership fee. **Thank you!** Payment for the coming year is due on the 1st April 2011. Duly completed Membership Renewal slips and **cheques made payable to 'The Wesley Fellowship'** should be sent to The Wesley Fellowship Treasurer at the address given on the front of this *Bulletin*.

PROPOSED WESLEY FELLOWSHIP CONFERENCE/HOLIDAY

An event planned from Monday evening 29 October 2012 to Friday morning 2 November 2012. Normally WF residential conferences have been held over three days, and of late we have used the facilities at The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire. Although they have generally been successful and enjoyable – for which we praise the Lord – **for 2012 we**

have decided to try something different, with an emphasis on ‘fellowship’ and ‘holiday’ as well as ‘conference’. Accordingly, we are planning to use as the venue an attractive seaside Hotel overlooking the Irish Sea in north Wales, with level walking along the promenade to nearby harbour, shops and beach. Furthermore, it is planned to make it a five-day event with full-board - which will be at no extra cost to what we have generally needed to charge for a three-day conference. So, it will be advertised as a Conference/Holiday. Not only will we be stimulated intellectually and spiritually by the presentation of several Wesleyan papers and preaching - but also the ‘fellowship’ aspect of our group will be developed, with time available for relaxing recreational activities hopefully indoors and outdoors. Being a residential event means much less long-distance driving is needed on a given day compared with a one-day event – and there are excellent motorway and dual carriage roads right to the planned venue. Plan to come and join with us; we will need at least 40 firm bookings to make the event viable. Further details will be available soon, in the meantime please note the date of the event in your diary. It might be worth knowing that the hotel at Rhos-on-Sea can accommodate over 60 guests in a mixture of room sizes – apart from the usual rooms for two persons, there are a few single rooms, and rooms for three or even four. Consequently, in order to accommodate the largest number at the event, it could be helpful if groups of friends planning to come might consider the possibility of sharing a room. Feel free to contact Alistair Barclay by phone if you would like further details.

REPORT ON AUTUMN 2010 MEETING OF THE WF & L of P

A regular meeting of the Wesley Fellowship was held in conjunction with the League of Prayer on Saturday 6 November 2010 at Zion Church of the Nazarene, Brearley Street, Handsworth, Birmingham. More than thirty people were in attendance at the meeting and Mrs Audrey Bolton played the piano with great effect to accompany the hymns sung during the day. **The morning session was organised by the Wesley Fellowship, and Rev Tony Tamburello chaired the meeting,** which began with a short time of worship with a reading, hymn and prayer. He then introduced the speaker, the Rev Dr Peter W. Gentry who delivered a most interesting paper with the title ‘Methodism and *Messiah*’ which dealt with a subject not before considered at a meeting of the Fellowship, that of possible links between John and

Charles Wesley and George Frederick Handel and his famous oratorio *Messiah*. Some interesting questions followed - and it was subsequently agreed by the Wesley Fellowship Executive that the lecture should be published as Occasional Paper No. 20, and a copy sent to all members.

At the lunch break, thanks were extended to the Pastor and members of the Zion Church for their hospitality and the provision of drinks. Also a discussion took place ending with an agreement that the WF Executive would look into the possibility of organising a residential conference/holiday during 2012.

It seems likely that many of those attending the League of Prayer afternoon meeting, were unaware of the historic significance of the occasion because it is only now becoming known to some that it was the very last public event of its kind to be organised by the League since it was first established 120 years ago, as the Pentecostal League, by Reader Harris. The meeting was chaired by the Director of the League of Prayer, Major Norman Armistead, who, before the sermon, invited **Mrs Eileen Crossman to address the meeting. Using John 2:5 as her text, she emphasised the truth for all people today contained in Mary's words to the servants as she pointed to Jesus at the wedding at Cana of Galilee, saying "Whatever He says to you, do it."** After the singing of Frances Ridley Havergal's hymn, 'Master, speak! Thy servant heareth', **prayers were led by Major Beryl Armistead.** Eileen continued with reference to verses from Isaiah 41: 21 'Have you not heard?...and Isaiah 41: 31 '...they will walk and not be faint'; and words of a daughter of Reader Harris were recalled on how for a Christian **'There is something more than just being saved...the League of Prayer was a group of people who, with faith in God's promises, combined to promote something...'** 1. God wants to sanctify His people (1Thes 5: 23); 2. God's purpose is that they should be filled with the Holy Spirit; & 3. God is able and willing to pour out His blessing on His people'. **Following this meditation, Rev Douglas Crossman, who himself at times has served in the League as Travelling Secretary, Magazine Editor, and General Secretary, preached a challenging expository sermon** on Rom 5: 13-17, explaining how these words were an important 'digression of Paul' from the main argument in the Epistle. So ended an uplifting day with the congregation picking up the leading of the pianist and quietly singing 'Reign in me' and realising the impetus to their Christian life and witness that can come from attending

a meeting where the word of God is read and expounded in the power of the Spirit. Although the work of the League of Prayer as a formal organisation may be coming to an end in 2011, its work for Christians remains, just as Reader Harris put it – one of the tasks for members of the Pentecostal League is to: ‘Pray daily for their churches, and for one another, that the Holy Spirit may mightily fill and use them, and that a general spiritual awakening may follow.’⁷

NOTICES OF OTHER MEETINGS

1. THE 7TH MANCHESTER WESLEY RESEARCH CENTRE ANNUAL LECTURE ENTITLED "AN EXACT IMAGE": PORTRAITS OF JOHN WESLEY' WILL BE GIVEN BY THE RENOWNED WESLEY SCHOLAR DR RICHARD P. HEITZENRATER, Emeritus William Kellon Quick Professor of Church History and Wesley Studies, Duke Divinity School, Durham, North Carolina, USA, **at 5.00pm on Monday 13 June 2011 in the JB Maclagan Chapel at Nazarene Theological College, Dene Road, Didsbury, Manchester, M20 2GU. This is certainly a lecture not to be missed as it is a subject in which Dr Heitzenrater is an acknowledged enthusiast and expert.**⁸

2. The Wesley Historical Society Annual Lecture this year will be given by **Dr Eryn White, Senior Lecturer in History** at the University of Aberystwyth, with the title **‘Wesley, Whitefield and Wales’**, on Saturday 25 June 2011 at the Gladstone Library, Hawarden, Flintshire, CH5 3DF.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

Dr Herbert McGonigle and his son Stephen

We need to keep the McGonigle family in our prayers. Following his stroke in 2009, our WF Chairman, Dr Herbert McGonigle, has continued to make steady, if slow, progress – for which we praise our Lord. Earlier in the year he underwent an operation on his shoulder to make movement of his arm upwards easier. This prevented him from driving for some time - but it is good to report that he was given permission by his doctors to resume driving during March. Alongside all this, Stephen McGonigle, a fit and active police constable, completely unexpectedly developed symptoms of a hitherto unsuspected congenital heart condition following a strenuous skiing holiday in Colorado.

⁷ Reader Harris, *‘When He is Come’: The Personality and Work of the Holy Spirit* (London: S.W. Partridge & Co. Ltd, 2nd ed. 1902, reprinted 1912), p. 85.

⁸ See for example: Richard P. Heitzenrater, *The Elusive Mr. Wesley* Second Revised Edition (Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003). This volume is nicely illustrated; it was first published (in two volumes) in 1984.

This resulted in a period in hospital for tests, and although he is hoping to soon be able to return to work, in the long term he may have to face an operation.

John Gibby's Mission to the area around Bethlehem

Wesley Fellowship Executive member, John Gibby, reports that he and his wife Pim are preparing for his latest mission to Bethlehem from 13 to 30 April 2011. This on-going work of Christian outreach and ministry to many needy and disadvantaged people in this volatile part of the world deserves our prayer support. John will be leaving Britain on his own, to meet up with Sami Badra and other helpers, and our prayers are sought that they may again be borne along in the power of the Holy Spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, as they go into this period of ministry at such a challenging time with the revolution in Egypt and the wind of change beginning to blow through many countries in the region. They also seek prayers that: Christian believers in the area will be protected - and also be given wisdom and strength and new opportunities to be ambassadors for Christ! John hopes: 1. 'To be able, with the helpers, to distribute Arabic Gospels of Luke, particularly to people like taxi drivers and shop keepers'; 2. 'That Sami Badra and other helpers will be encouraged to use their gifts of language, prayer, song and praise to minister in Jesus' Name'; and 3. 'That the Lord will visit with salvation & revival blessing the Palestinian & Israeli people particularly in the areas where he will be working and travelling.'

BOOK & FILM NOTICES & REVIEWS

***Three Simple Rules: That Will Change the World* by Rueben P. Job
(Abingdon Press: Nashville, 2009. Hbk. £5.99. 94pp. ISBN
9781426700262).**

The author writes this powerful book about John Wesley's three simple rules for all who belonged to his United Societies during the 18th century. The three rules were: *Do No Harm; Do Good; & Stay in Love With God*. The author indicates to the reader the difficulties of living by these rules in today's broken world. Nonetheless he underscores the importance of these simple yet very profound instructions that were given to the early Methodist disciples who met in the Societies. As we read we are reminded of the same challenge of living out these teachings today. Essential to our discipleship is faithfulness to God and effective Christian living. These are to be the hallmarks of our Christian discipleship today. The book also offers some prayers and meditations for the reader, together with a summary about the time and culture in which John Wesley lived. Rueben Job uses his gift as a writer when dealing with each of the above teachings as he very powerfully draws upon Biblical texts and other writings of John Wesley and others. They remind us of the importance of living by these teachings within our covenantal relationship with God. They remind us not only of what **our attitude should be towards others, but also what our attitude should not be**. The words, style and language that the author uses is

clear for lay people to read and fully understand. The book is written warmly by a man who not only loves God, but permits the power and Spirit of God to use him in order to convey the great pearls of John Wesley's teaching, not only for the people called Methodists in the day in which he lived, but for us today. A small book but one filled with the dynamic power of the Love of God.

Denis Haywood

Film: 'Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World', released by Foundry Pictures, 2009. DVD release date June 2010 NTSC format; Region 1, imported from USA (therefore requires a North American or multi-region DVD player and NTSC compatible TV – most modern machines bought recently in Britain have these features), £14.99.

Some members may remember seeing and enjoying years ago a film entitled 'John Wesley' (perhaps in 16mm format) originally made in 1954 by the Radio and Film Commission of the Methodist Church in cooperation with J. Arthur Rank. It was a live action re-telling of the story of the life of John Wesley, with actor Leonard Sachs playing the part of Wesley; although rather dated by 21st century standards, it is now possible to obtain this film in DVD format. However, the present reviewer was recently pleasantly surprised when he received as a birthday present a DVD containing a completely new film with the title 'Wesley: A Heart Transformed Can Change the World,' directed by John Jackman. It is really a film about the two younger Wesley brothers, John and Charles, and concentrates on their experiences as young men in the 1730s, most of it in America - and John's encounter with Sophy Hopkey provides a significant part in the plot. It stars Burgess Jenkins as John, R. Keith Harris as Charles; and features June Lockhart as Susanna Wesley. Kevin McCarthy plays a fictional character, 'Bishop Ryder', who appears to have been introduced for dramatic purposes into the plot. The film is an independent 'low budget' enterprise, but with professional quality acting, and I have to report that I found viewing the film not an unpleasant experience. Nevertheless, some of the historical details are clearly open to question, and critics would be inclined to complain that parts of the story told are based on conjecture rather than fact.

Bill Graham

***Methodism and Messiah: Reflections on John and Charles Wesley, the Early Methodists and George Frederic Handel's Great Oratorio*, Wesley Fellowship Occasional Paper No. 20, by Peter W. Gentry (Sheffield: The Wesley Fellowship, 2011. Pbk. £4.99. vi. 14pp. ISBN: 978086071652 5).**

This latest WF publication presents in an attractive format the substance of an interesting lecture given by a much respected Wesley Fellowship member, the Rev Dr Peter Gentry, to a joint meeting of the Wesley Fellowship and the League of Prayer in Birmingham on 6 November 2010. The lecture was very well received by those fortunate enough to be present and it is appropriate that it has been given the well-earned distinction of being nominated as an

‘Occasional Paper’ of the Wesley Fellowship - and so sent round the world free to members. The subject of the book is unusual in that it attempts to link up some events and people contemporary with John and Charles Wesley and begin to investigate the intriguing question as to how much Handel’s life was transformed by 18th century Methodism and its gospel of a full and free salvation.

Bill Graham

***Praying Always: The League of Prayer (1891-2011)*, edited by Norman Armistead (A League of Prayer Commissioned Publication of Moorleys: Ilkeston, 2011. Pbk. Illus. £7.50. xii. 98pp. ISBN 978 086071 651 8).**

As Director of the League of Prayer, Norman Armistead was well qualified to compile this largely devotional publication, centred on the work and ministry of this significant holiness movement. It is a book written in a popular style which makes for easy and informative reading. It is to be welcomed because (to the knowledge of the present reviewer at least) no other book has been published with a title that even suggests it is setting out to give even a brief history of the 120 years of the League of Prayer, a movement originally known as the Pentecostal League when it held its first public meeting under the leadership of Reader Harris in London in 1891. Although only about 18 pages are directly devoted to the history, the editor has skilfully produced a concise popular account that lists events and personalities involved with the League, much of which would not otherwise be easily available to the general reader. This alone makes the book worthwhile, especially the information on the more recent history. For the earlier history, one suspects that Major Armistead has leaned heavily on the 1995 University of Manchester unpublished MA dissertation on the ‘Life and Influence of Reader Harris’ by Geoffrey N. Fewkes. Sources used are helpfully listed in the form of a short bibliography for those who might want to read further on the subject. Unfortunately, the student will be disappointed to find that the text is not supported by direct references to the particular sources used. The bulk of the book (around 77 pages) is made up of a collection of devotional readings that many readers will find inspirational, taken from the writings of about ten people (including Reader Harris, Allister Smith, and Oswald Chambers) all of whom have had close associations with the League. The preliminaries include a picture of Reader Harris, as well as a challenging Foreword by Rev Leslie Evans (former General Director/Secretary of the League of Prayer and current Chairman of the Council) who poignantly states that, ‘Whilst after one hundred and twenty years it is felt that the League of Prayer as a movement has completed its ministry, its three-fold prayer thrust remains as urgent as ever’, namely: ‘The infilling of the Holy Spirit for all believers, Spiritual revival in every church, and The spread of scriptural holiness in the life of every believer.’

Bill Graham

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