

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

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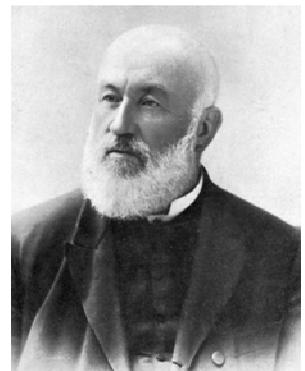
Introduction

You may already know that the Gospel Standard Library has a large collection of spiritual literature. It is the desire of the trustees that its resources are used for the profit of more readers than they currently are. Sadly today, reading is not the pastime that it once was, possibly because relevant material is not brought to the attention of would be readers. Perhaps most who may find an interest in the GS Library read the wide range of magazines available today, including those associated with the Gospel Standard churches: *The Gospel Standard*, *The Friendly Companion*, *Perception*, *Zion's Witness*, *The Christian Gleaner*, *Cheering Words* and *The Sinner Saved*. Some may also take magazines from other churches and organisations: *The Banner of Truth*, *The Free Presbyterian Magazine*, *The Bible League Quarterly*, *The Quarterly Record of the TBS* and so on. The reader may have their appetite whetted by extracts and pieces in these magazines, but do not pursue further reading, possibly because they are not aware of what material may be available. Although the Gospel Standard Library has a catalogue (both on our website and in paper form on request), the more casual reader may not regularly peruse it, or think of obtaining reading material from the Library.

Therefore, the purpose of this paper (which we hope to produce twice a year) is to highlight in each issue some books that are available in the Library, particularly relating to current articles in some of the periodicals already mentioned, and also to draw attention to other material of interest held by the Library. New acquisitions may also be brought to the reader's attention, which are already listed on the website at six monthly intervals. It is hoped that in this way, this regularly issued leaflet may be useful and encourage readers amongst the churches.

Turton's Pillar

This unusually titled autobiography of a Lancashire shopkeeper and deacon of the Strict Baptist Chapel in Haydock (now closed) is currently being serialised in *The Gospel Standard*. Further information on the little group of godly people who worshipped at Haydock can be found in the *Life and Letters of Thomas Bradbury* and *The History of Grave Chapel, Camberwell*. After a time in Haydock, Thomas Bradbury (picture on the right) became the pastor of Grove Chapel, Camberwell. Several volumes of his sermons are also in the library



and these are eminently suitable for those who have to select material for reading services. *Turton's Pillar* has been republished several times, although at present out of print (there are plans to republish it), but copies often appear among the Library's surplus books and are reasonably priced for those who wish to obtain one.

James Turton is not the only deacon of our churches to leave an edifying autobiography. That of Daniel Combridge of Galeed Chapel, Brighton: *All The Way*, or of Joseph Gray, a deacon at Gower Street Chapel, London, and first secretary of the Gospel Standard Societies are also worth reading. One of Joseph Gray's fellow deacons, Robert Link, also left a little autobiography entitled *Goodness and Mercy*. This has recently been republished and the Library has also recently acquired a rather touching typescript of the letter he wrote to his wife on proposing marriage and her response to him; they are models for what should be sought by each exercised young man and woman seeking a partner in the Lord.

Arthur Wilcockson and the *Zion's Witness*

In the November-December issue of *The Christian Gleaner*, there was a piece entitled "Death Swallowed up in Victory" by Arthur Wilcockson. He was the first editor of the *Zion's Witness*, which was commenced in October 1858. The piece is spiritually edifying. The Library has his autobiography entitled, *The Way He Has Led Me*. This is an interesting account to follow up. He also compiled the hymnbook: *Zion's Songs for Zion's Children*. After Mr Wilcockson gave up editing the *Zion's Witness*, Mr Herbert Sawyer of Mayfield took on the editorship; in time it passed to Mr John Chapman of Haverhill and is now edited by his son-in-law, Mr James Pack. The Library has a reasonably complete run of the *Zion's Witness*, and these contain a treasury of spiritual letters and sermons, often by lesser known ministers. Being a magazine, the pieces are short, and very varied reading material, and thus can easily be dipped into as time allows.

Providence

The recent republication of Alexander Carson's (1776-1844; an Irish author, best known for his book defending Believer's Baptism by immersion) *History of Providence* was noted in several magazines. A copy of this instructive book is available in the Library and also his little work on the Book of Esther, bound together with a short piece by George Lawson (a Scottish Divine, well known for his volume *The Life of Joseph*) on the Book of Ruth. The lives of both Esther and Ruth are full of illustrations of God's goodness to His people in providence. James Dennett, once editor of *The Gospel Standard*, also wrote a valuable little book on Ruth, which the Library has copies of. Other books dealing with providence include the Puritan John Flavel's well known *Divine Conduct, or the Mystery of Providence*, while Thomas Boston (a Scottish minister) wrote a helpful little book on when providences appear to be going wrong, entitled *The Crook in the Lot*.

Chapel Histories

Over recent years there have been a number of chapels that have reached a special milestone of a centenary or 150 years and have produced booklets of commemoration which often give interesting histories and accounts of the pastors, deacons or even some members which make good as well as interesting reading. These are some of the chapels which have produced such booklets which are in the Library: Rotherfield, Eastbourne, Stotfold, Fenstanton, Colnbrook, Heathfield (photo to the right) and Ebenezer Chapel, Luton. The Library has a short history of Southill Chapel, which is probably one of the oldest churches in our denomination, and also of Zoar Chapel, Canterbury, where the foundations of the building date back to Roman times, making it the oldest chapel building in our group of churches. Often there is a limited number of these histories printed, which makes them difficult to obtain in later years, but the Library has a copy of most of these little booklets.



Recent chapel histories added to the Library include that of Salem Chapel, Portsmouth, and Ebenezer Chapel, Ripley, both of which have recently marked their bicentenary

William Huntington

This year marks the bicentenary of the death of William Huntington in July 1813. The event has been marked with pieces in both *The Gospel Standard* and *The Sinner Saved*. The Library has a complete set of Huntington's works. His collected works were last republished by the late Mr John Broome in the late 1980s, but the six volume reprint did not contain all his works and letters. Huntington is, however, surprisingly easy to read and his *Posthumous Letters* were particularly valued by Mr J C Philpot. A new volume of Huntington's previously uncollected letters entitled *Letters from the Cabin* has been published to mark the bicentenary and a copy is available to borrow from the Library.

Letters

On the subject of letters, some people find these particularly good reading material, in that they are short and self contained and can be dipped into without having to read straight through the book. The Library has many volumes of collected letters, including recent compilations of the letters of William Hadow (many of which originally appeared in the magazines named above) and these are particularly suited

to younger people, to whom they were originally written. There are also a few volumes of letters by Christian women, and those who have read and enjoyed the letters of Ruth Bryan might like to look at the collected letters of Anne Dutton, last printed by Mr J Knight, one of the authors of the Gospel Standard Articles of Faith.

Reuben Weeks

Reuben Weeks (photo to the right) was the little known pastor at Jireh Chapel, Tenterden, from 1884 – 1922. In the June edition of *Zion's Witness*, there is a letter of his signed Rueben and Ruth Weeks entitled, "I will make darkness light." A recent publication drew together a short account of his life and 26 previously unpublished letters, and is entitled *A Memento of Reuben Weeks*; copies of this are available in the Library. His letters are homely and will find an echo in the tried and exercised people of God.



Puritans

Recent years have seen a great deal of interest in republishing the Puritans. The Puritans were originally those who sought to further purify the worship and practice of the Church of England after the Reformation. Though not always easy reading, the Puritans always reward the reader; what they pack into a few lines is often worth a page of any modern publication. As well as many volumes of collected works by men such as Owen or Goodwin, which are often large and heavy, the Library has a lot of individual Puritan books. We recommend Thomas Watson's *Art of Divine Contentment*, John Owen's *Commentary on Psalm 130*, and Thomas Brooks' *Secret Key to Heaven* (on prayer). We hope to notice further Puritan authors and their books in future issues.

How to Use the Library

Borrowing Books: To borrow any of the books mentioned in this newsletter, you do not have to visit the Library, or become a subscriber. Simply phone or email the librarian (contact details below) with the book title you wish to borrow and your address. The book will be posted to you free of charge. Return postage is paid and you have three months to read the book. Similarly, you can borrow any book from the catalogue (except those marked as being in the reserved collection); the catalogue is available on the website.

Surplus Books: The Library regularly receives books surplus to requirements and these are sold to raise money for the maintenance and expansion of the Library's collection and general upkeep. A catalogue is regularly produced.

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