

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

Newsletter Number 2

Winter 2014

Introduction

This is our second Newsletter. If you have not seen our first then we trust that you will find this informative and encourage you to borrow from the valuable collection of edifying literature that the Library has. The first Newsletter can be downloaded from our website. Our contact details can be found at the end of this Newsletter, or in *The Gospel Standard* magazine, published monthly.

Today much material can now be accessed online and read in electronic format, yet much may be borrowed from the Library which is not available electronically. It is the desire of the Librarians and Trustees of the Library that the availability and use of its resources is increased for any that are interested and would like to take advantage of its collection.

Erratum: We apologise for the inaccuracies that appeared in the first Newsletter concerning the Zion's Witness. This has been corrected in the copy on our website.

George Whitefield

The summer edition of *Perception* contained a brief account of George Whitefield. The article refers to his *Journals* which can be borrowed from the Library, but there are a number of other books by and about Whitefield in the Library. His sermons have been greatly appreciated by the Lord's people, and one appeared in *The Gospel Standard* last year; the Library has a number of volumes of his sermons. Also available are his letters, which in a day of declining letter writing, and rising use of emails, (which are perhaps not conducive to the same spirituality), make a refreshing read. Other biographies giving more details of Whitefield are held by the Library, perhaps most significantly *The Life and Times of George Whitefield* by Arnold Dallimore. These two volumes are comprehensive, but readable, and a balanced account of conflicting times and the difficulties that Whitefield had with some of his contemporaries; suitable reading for the interested teenager.



Some Scottish Authors and their Books

In a year when Scotland will vote whether to remain part of the United Kingdom, we felt it might be profitable to run a series highlighting some books from the countries which make up our nation. We will begin with Scotland and hope to proceed to Ireland and Wales, in future issues (Dv).

Material from the revered Scottish ministers of the past are frequently found in the various magazines. We may not see eye to eye with all aspects of theology peculiar to the Scottish Church, we think of Baptism, the free offer and Presbyterian church government to name a few areas of difference, and thus these books, just as all books should be, need to be read with discernment, yet they are generally very clear on the essential doctrines.

In the past ministers and congregations associated with *The Gospel Standard* have had a particular love for the writings of a group of Scottish ministers from the 1700s who separated from the Church of Scotland and were known as the “Marrow Men.” The “Marrow Men” included Thomas Boston, Ralph and Ebenezer Erskine, John Brown of Haddington and John Colquhoun. *The Gospel Standard* recently published an excellent sermon of Thomas Boston and other works of these men are all available in the Library. In the 1800s John Gadsby reissued 3 volumes of Ralph Erskine’s sermons, all slightly abbreviated and these make good reading. We would also recommend Ralph Erskine’s book of poetry, *Gospel Sonnets*, which was often quoted by our old ministers.

The Zion’s Witness recently contained a piece relating two touching anecdotes of one of Scotland’s lesser known but highly esteemed ministers, John Munro. The account is taken from the book *Ministers and Men of the Far North*, by Alexander Auld. This book contains short biographies of both ministers and godly men from the North of Scotland and are very profitable reading. The Library has several similar books: Donald Beaton’s *Noted Ministers of the Northern Highlands*, also has a supplementary volume of their sermons, making good companion reading to the former. Other similar titles include: *Men of Skye*, *Bypaths of Highland Church History*, and John Kennedy’s *Days of the Fathers in Ross-shire*. The Library holds a number of other books by the noted Free Church minister, John Kennedy, including his *Sermons* and *Expositions*, his review of the Moody and Sankey campaign - *Hyper-Evangelism* - which was highly recommended by *The Gospel Standard*, and a biography of Kennedy by Alexander Auld.



Dr John Kennedy

Other Free Church ministers represented in the Library and whose writings frequently appear in the pages of the various magazines, include: Robert Murray M’Cheyne (there are

many volumes of his sermons and his famous *Memoir*), Alexander Moody Stuart (*The Three Marys* and a warm volume on the *Song of Solomon*), John “Rabbi” Duncan, friend of John Kershaw, whose *Life* and his *Communion Sermons and Addresses* are well worth reading. For those who enjoy volumes on doctrine, we would recommend the writings of Hugh Martin, whose volume *The Atonement* has recently been reviewed in *The Gospel Standard*; the Library also has his *Abiding Presence*, *The Shadow of Calvary* and *Simon Peter*. The Library also holds a valuable but short book: *The Atonement* by James Haldane, who also wrote a readable volume on Galatians which is bound in with a little booklet defending Believer’s Baptism. The Library also recently acquired a new biography of the highly regarded Free Church minister: Archibald Cook, which makes very profitable and interesting reading.

The Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland is also represented, with a volume on their church history *One Hundred Years of Witness*. Biographies of some of their notable ministers worth reading include those on: Donald MacFarlane, Neil Cameron and William Grant. The Library has a copy of the new book of sermons, *Unsearchable Riches*, by Rev. Donald MacLean, who will have been well known to many.

For those interested in the Covenanters and Scottish Church history, we recommend Alexander Smellie’s *Men of the Covenant* and *The Story of the Scottish Church* by Thomas McCrie, while Thomas’ father, Thomas McCrie wrote valuable histories of the Reformation in both Italy and Spain, and a biography of John Knox. John Knox himself wrote a very readable book on the *Reformation in Scotland*, while Patrick Hamilton, the first Scottish martyr, wrote a useful little exposition of the Law and the Gospel.

Of course, at least two “Gospel Standard” ministers have been brought up in Scotland. The early Editor of *The Gospel Standard*, John MacKenzie, wrote a sweet autobiography, quaintly called *MacKenzie’s Fragments*, this together with a number of sermons of his, in the *Zoar Chapel Pulpit* series, are all in the Library. The other was Alexander Barrie Taylor, successor to William Gadsby at Manchester. His biography was republished in *Six Remarkable Ministers*, but the Library also has a book of his poetry.

Gadsby’s Hymns

This year also marks the 200th anniversary of the first publication of *Gadsby’s Hymns* in 1814. Although the Library does not possess a first edition, it does have a number of editions of the hymnbook on the shelf which are worth browsing. Many of our readers may have used John Gadsby’s little volume of hymns for the Sabbath School, or perhaps *The Clifton Hymnal* or William Wileman’s Sabbath School hymnbook. These are all in the Library should you ever wish to look up the elusive verse you remember from your youth. You may not know William Gadsby also wrote a Sabbath School Hymnbook which has been out of print for many years, but the Library has a copy, along with the Sabbath School hymnbook produced by his successor at Manchester, A. B. Taylor.

The Library also has a range of other little hymnbooks written for use in our chapels or by our ministers. These include Septimus Sear’s *Clifton Selection* (quite different from the *Clifton Sabbath School Hymnal*), Denham’s *Selection*, Steven’s *Selection*, Well’s

Selection, along with Samuel Medley's *Hymns* and an unusual little book by William Westthorp, a minister in the 1800s in Essex. These make interesting reading. Indeed many hymns quoted by our ministers are not in Gadsby's. Some examples include:

*"How stands the case my soul with thee,
For heaven are thy credentials clear?
Is Jesus blood thy only plea?
Is He Thy great forerunner there?"*

*"Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,
And looks to it alone;
Laughs at impossibilities,
And says, 'It shall be done!'"*

*"Depth of mercy, can there be,
Mercy still reserved for me?"*



The picture to the right is a rare portrait of Gadsby which was included in the 7th Edition of *Gadsby's Hymns*.

Children's Books

The Library is not just about books for older people. We also have a considerable selection of Children's books. This includes several biographies written for young people, such as Whitefield, Luther, Bunyan, the Huguenots and many others. The well known *Book on the Windowsill* by Damaris, and the sweet accounts in *Lambs Safely Folded*, of children who died in youth, are suitable for any teenagers who would appreciate a more spiritual narrative. The Library has many volumes of children's magazines which have exercises/questions which may be useful for parents to use with their children. Books on creation and refuting evolution are also available.

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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