

The Gospel Standard Baptist Library

Newsletter Number 12

Spring 2019

Introduction

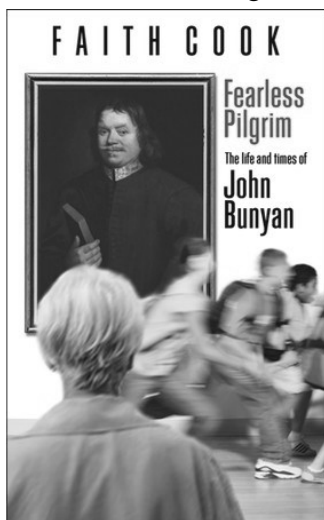
In this issue of the newsletter we aim to highlight some books which might be of interest to teenagers, all written by contemporary authors—the library does not just contain old dusty books, but as able, we try to keep the collection up to date and relevant. We have included two short reviews of recent additions to the library with the aim of encouraging you to read the highlighted books. There is an update on the scanning project and a brief report of the library's activities over the past year.

Books for Teenagers

We often get contacted by parents asking for suitable reading material for their children. While there are books that target younger children, finding books for teenagers appears to be a particular problem. The library holds a number of “Victorian” books on figures from church history, but both the presentation and the style of writing are probably off-putting to many young people. The books we highlight below are largely more modern books, by contemporary authors, but are written in an interesting manner, while having some spiritual content. For the most part they are attractively presented paperback books.

The Gospel Pedlar – the life of John Berridge, hymnwriter and preacher during the Great Revival (by Nigel Pibworth). *A Mighty Fortress is our God* – life of Martin Luther (by Jim Cromarty). *God's Outlaw* – life of William Tyndale (by Brian Edwards). *Dawn of the Reformation* – life of John Wycliffe (by David Fountain – he also wrote interesting books in the same easy style on Isaac Watts (hymnwriter),

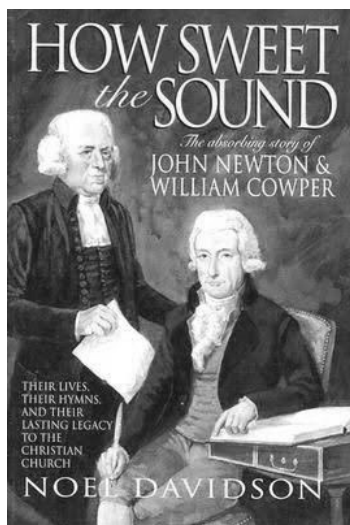
Lord Radstock (who brought the gospel to Russia in the 1800s) and the Pilgrim Fathers). *Fearless Pilgrim* – life of John Bunyan; and *William Grimshaw* – a minister contemporary with Whitefield and the Great Revival from Haworth in Yorkshire (both by Faith Cook). *The Excellent Benjamin Keach* – a biography of the early Baptist minister who was largely responsible for introducing hymn singing amongst the English Baptists (by Austin Walker). *No King but Christ* – an account of the Scottish Covenanter, Donald Cargill, who preached on the moors while his life was hunted by the King's men (by Maurice Grant). *Apostle of the Peak* – an account of William Bagshawe, a preacher in the 1600s in the Peak District (by John Brentnall). Then two books on John Newton – the hymnwriter and redeemed slave trader: *Through Many Dangers* (by Brian Edwards) and *How Sweet the*



Sound (by Noel Davidson) – the second of these is an absorbing account of Newton’s friendship with Cowper, and how it produced the hymns which we love and sing today, and it is very sensitive in dealing with Cowper’s mental illness.

Then there are a number of books by or about Missionary leaders. We recommended *To the Golden Shore* – the life of Adoniram Judson, missionary to Burma – in our last newsletter and several have borrowed and appreciated the book since. There are a number of interesting books on the Free Presbyterian Church of Scotland Mission in Zimbabwe during the twentieth century: *John Boyana Radasi* by Jean Nicolson (the first mission to Zimbabwe); *Mfundisi Tallach* (the life of Rev John Tallach, who arrived in Zimbabwe for the first time on the train, only to discover the train he was on had knocked over and killed his predecessor Mr Radasi and so he had to carry on the work alone); *A Heart for Africa* (the life of Jean Nicolson, who became a teacher on the mission for many years). There are also several books on or by John G. Payton, missionary to the New Hebrides, and on Hudson Taylor, missionary to China.

The Library’s recent purchases: Martin Luther and John Knox by Simonetta Carr have proved very popular with the children that have borrowed them. The Library has several more on order, including John Newton and Lady Jane Grey. Although this series is aimed at ages 7-12, they are accessible to all ages, and could be stimulating introductions to the individuals for slightly older young people.



Two Short Reviews

The library recently added two short books by John Bunyan and John Owen. We include here two reviews written by those who have found them helpful.

The Fear of God by John Bunyan

This little book is extracted from Bunyan’s *Works*. Bunyan deals with his theme in six Chapters. The first is ‘The object of our fear.’ The immense gulf between the Almighty God and puny man—the ungodly have most to fear, yet have least fear. In Chapter 2 Bunyan moves on to speak of ‘The rule and director of our fear.’ For the Christian, the fear of God is a sovereign work of God, leading to conviction of sin and then reliance on Christ as the only remedy for sin. Chapter 3 considers ‘Different sorts of fear.’ There is a *natural and selfish fear*, of God’s wrath but not of his holiness. There is *temporary fear* that appears in times of distress and is forgotten when at ease. There is a *godly fear* of which God is the author, as the Spirit of bondage (Romans 8:15), to bring conviction of sin and of damnation by the law. In this fear the sinner is held until the Spirit changes his ministration and brings salvation by Christ in the gospel. The Spirit of God cannot come *again* as a Spirit of bondage for he cannot undo what he has done. Therefore Bunyan argues that although we may have dreadful fears of sin and its consequences after knowing the

peace and liberty of God, these are wrought by the spirit of the devil and are ungodly fears and should be resisted by the help of God. Chapter 4 considers: 'The grace of fear.' Godly fear is a love-gift from God. It makes us hate sin, as God hates it. Chapter 5 deals with 'The privileges of fear.' These are assurance, forgiveness in Christ, with the promises of teaching and of daily protection from evil. Finally in Chapter 6 there is practical advice on 'The practice of godly fear.'

With careful reading his arguments can easily be followed and prove helpful, Chapter 3 in particular. It is important that we are aware and understand the different forms of the fear of God that we might practise self-examination of our spiritual status. Under the Spirit's blessing may this book be the means to release from ungodly fear and bring us to rejoice in the Lord.

Rules for Walking in Fellowship by John Owen

This little book is about fellowship within the church. How church members should behave towards each other, watching over, praying for, and caring for one another. It also deals with the position of pastor and office bearers in the church, how they are to rule faithfully, in love to the Lord's people and for the glory of God, and in turn, the love and respect the church members should show to those in authority. These are issues which are rarely mentioned from the pulpit, but are of vital importance for unity within the church. Owen originally titled the book: *Eshcol; A Cluster of the Fruit of Canaan, brought to the borders for the encouragement of the saints traveling thitherward, with their faces towards Zion.* The grapes brought back by the spies from Eshcol in the land of Canaan were a picture (or a foretaste) of the good things God had prepared for them there. So when the church on earth is found walking in love and unity, it is a foretaste of the blessed state that the church will enter into in glory to come. This shows the importance of this subject and why we should all desire that within the church of which we are a member there might be more grace and gracious walking and communion with one another and the Lord. It is a searching read, but a profitable one, and a very necessary one in the days of division and small things.

Although Owen can be difficult to read, this book has been tastefully modernised, while retaining the AV.

Annual Report for 2018

At the annual trustee meeting in February, the librarian was able to report that during the year 420 books had been borrowed from the library. We added 87 books to the collection. The library continues with a programme of work (carried out by volunteers) to preserve old books in its collections (repairing and rebinding where necessary), scanning manuscripts and materials which are irreplaceable to provide a digital record of them, indexing magazines and sermons in the library (it is hoped some of these indices will be available on the library website shortly), and transcribing manuscripts in the collection to make them more widely available (during the past year this has focussed on the sermon notes of Henry Haddow of Brockham Green). During the year Gospel Standard Trust Publications published one of the transcripts made by the library of a manuscript it owns: *Seeking the Mind*

of the Spirit by Alfred Dye. The financial situation is a cause for concern, with capital covering less than 18 months running costs in hand. The library has no real way of generating income, and is reliant on kind donations and the occasional chapel collection. We would encourage you to consider the library in your giving. The full report and accounts is included in the annual reports of the Gospel Standard Society and the Gospel Standard Trust.

Scanning Projects

The library's scanner has been kept busy and the website now hosts scans of all the typescript sermons held by the library that were preached by Jesse Delves, Stanley Delves, Frank Gosden, John Gosden, James Popham and John Walder. Sermons by Leslie Hyde, John Raven and John Sperling Tyler have been scanned and will shortly be available on the website. We are currently scanning the sermons of John E. Hazleton, Charles Hemington and Joseph Oldfield and the scanning will continue, as time allows, until all the sermons in the library have been digitalised.

In addition the scanner has been used to preserve a digital copy of the church records of closed chapels, prior to the original records being deposited in local archives where they can be properly cared for. The records of Station Road, Redhill, and Zoar, Canterbury have been digitalised in this way and we have started scanning those from West Street, Croydon, and Zoar, Whitechapel.

We have just received four large boxes of minute books and papers from Rochdale Chapel, and these are currently being sorted and catalogued ready for scanning and finding a home in an archive local to Rochdale. One of the newest additions to the Library is Mr B. A. Ramsbottom's recent book *John Kershaw and Blessing over the Moors* which details the ministry of John Kershaw amongst the cotton mills of Lancashire. The book also includes a complete transcript of the memoirs recorded by Kershaw in the Rochdale Church books of deceased members. These were originally published in *The Gospel Standard* under the title *Of Whom the World was not Worthy*.

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.

5 HOVE PARK GARDENS, HOVE, E. SUSSEX. BN3 6HN.

Telephone: 01273 559813 E-Mail: gsblibrary@talktalk.net

Website: www.gospelstandard.org.uk/Library