

Pepperdine University

From the Selected Works of Jerry Rushford

September 15, 1981

Recent Publications in Restoration History

Jerry Rushford, *Pepperdine University*



Available at: https://works.bepress.com/jerry_rushford/21/

Recent Publications in Restoration History

JERRY RUSHFORD

Christianity has always affirmed an intimate connection between the activity of God and the course of human history. We are forever indebted to the past. It is the source of our very identity. In the present moment, which changes as we live it, the past is all we know. Without a knowledge of the progress of Christianity in history, we have no understanding of who we are or how we came to be.

The above paragraph was the one I used to begin an article under this same title exactly two years ago in the September 18, 1979 issue. It didn't occur to me at that time that a second article would be appropriate so soon. However, the field of restoration history continues to generate considerable interest. The search for roots continues, as does the search for understanding those roots.

In the last two years, significant advances were made in reproducing primary source materials. Four classic biographical studies were reissued. Religious Book Service made available *The Life of James O'Kelly* by W. S. MacClenny and the *Memoirs of Alexander Campbell* by Robert Richardson. Pepperdine University Press reprinted *The Hazard of the Die: Tolbert Fanning and the Restoration Movement* by James R. Wilburn, and College Press brought out *Walter Scott: The Voice of the Golden Oracle* by Dwight E. Stevenson. Each of these valuable works was out of print. Their reappearance will be greatly appreciated by new students in restoration history.

Collections of sources are always of value, and College Press is to be thanked for reprinting Walter Scott's monthly paper, *The Evangelist*. Making this sought-after source material available again is a genuine service to the church. The ten volumes in this series provide insight into the principles and ideals of the first generation of the Campbell-Stone movement.

The first four major periodicals to be published in this vibrant religious movement are now in print. They include Alexander Campbell's *Christian Baptist* (1823-1930) and *Millennial Harbinger* (1830-1870); Barton Stone's *Christian Messenger* (1826-1844); and now Scott's *Evangelist* (1832-1842). The publication of these old periodicals has placed a wealth of resource material within the reach of all. Every church that takes seriously the building of a church library should consider purchasing these valuable sets.

A monumental work that has just been released is *An Index to the Millennial Harbinger*. This 776-page reference book was compiled by David McWhirter, the Director of the Library and Archives at the Disciples of Christ Historical Society in Nashville. Students of restoration history will long be indebted to McWhirter for his meticulous work, which will save future researchers hundreds of hours of reading and searching.

An index of contemporary periodicals

in the Church of Christ has recently been published. *The Christian College Librarians Index of Select Religious Periodicals* includes material from 20 different publications. The first volume covered the years from 1975 to 1977, and the second volume continued the project from 1978 to 1980. Both volumes ran to approximately 550 pages. Callie Faye Milliken, Marsha Harper and R. L. Roberts have been the editors of this important project.

Copies of the index have been placed in each of our Christian college libraries.

Some recent books that deserve a wide circulation in the church are *Saga of a Movement* by Marvin W. Hastings; *Voices Crying in the Wilderness: A History of the Lord's Church with Special Emphasis on Australia* by David Roper; *Restoration Movements Around the World* by William Ralph Wharton; and *Our Garden of Song: A Book of Biography of Song Writers of the Church of Christ* edited by Gene C. Finley.

The volume by Hastings is an informative and enjoyable survey of the Churches of Christ throughout the world gleaned from a lifetime of study. Numerous historic photographs grace its 400 pages. Roper's book is a 475-page narrative that is particularly well-documented in its treatment of the British Isles and Australia. The appendices and bibliography alone are worth the price of the book. Wharton relates the stories of indigenous restoration movements around the world. These movements either predated the American restoration movement or had no connection with it. Finley has provided us with a handsome book which contains over 100 biographies and many old photographs in its 560 pages.

Florida College published their 1981 lectures under the title *They Being Dead Yet Speak*. This volume contains 15 biographical studies of twentieth century leaders in the Church of Christ. *Essays on New Testament Christianity*, edited by C. Robert Wetzel, includes three articles on restoration history. The article by William J. Richardson on "Value Judgments in History and the Restoration Movement" is very enlightening.

Several other books ought to be mentioned. *Historic Churches of Texas* by Frank Driskill and Noel Grisham included eight congregations of the Church of Christ in its narrative. Ottis L. Castleberry has written a fine biography of John T. Lewis called *He Looked for a City*. L. C. Sears, the Dean of Harding College for nearly 40 years, published a delightful autobiography entitled *What is your Life?* David Filbeck wrote *The First Fifty Years: A Brief History of the Direct-Support Missionary Movement*. This long-awaited book fills an important gap in restoration studies.

Two excellent congregational histories have appeared recently. *Called to Serve: A Biography of the South National Church of Christ, Springfield, Missouri* by Richard Hughes, Royce Money and

John F. Wilson is a great example of what ought to be done in every congregation. This 13-page book is attractive, highly informative and well written. Equally valuable is *Where There is Vision: A History of the Lamar Avenue Church of Christ 1869-1980* (Paris, Texas) by John H. Cannon, Jr. For those who are contemplating writing a congregational history, here are two good models.

Four books are due off the press this fall. *Restoration Roots* by Lynn McMillon is a rewriting of his doctoral dissertation at Baylor University. It will emphasize the Scottish roots of the American restoration movement and include chapters on John Glas, Robert Sandeman and the Haldane brothers. *A History of the Church of Christ in Little Rock, Arkansas 1900-1925* by Michael Wilson is the publication of his M.A. thesis at the Harding Graduate School of Religion. *Preachers of Today Volume V* will contain biographical sketches of approximately 1500 current preachers in the Church of Christ. *The Stone-Campbell Movement: An Anecdotal History of Three Churches* by Leroy Garrett will be an 850-page narrative of the entire movement.

In addition to these published works, some unpublished theses and dissertations are worth noting. *J. W. McGarvey: His Role in Communicating the Conservative Approach to Scripture During the Rise of Liberalism, 1865-1911* by Richard O. N. Halbrook, and *The Theological Impact of the Restoration Movement on American Methodism* by Douglas Foster were two M. A. theses done at Vanderbilt. Pat Casey completed a doctoral thesis at the Harding Graduate School of Religion entitled *The Role of the Preacher as Set Forth in the Gospel Advocate from 1895 through 1910 with Beliefs and Consequences to 1980*. Newell Williams wrote a doctoral dissertation for Vanderbilt on *The Theology of the Great Revival in the West as seen through the Life and Thought of Barton Warren Stone*.

One interesting doctoral dissertation that is still in progress at Vanderbilt is *A Social History of the Churches of Christ, 1900-1940* by Stephen Wolfgang. The research in this project continues the series so ably begun by David Edwin Harrell.

Several state histories are now underway. Loyd Smith is writing a history of the Church of Christ in Oklahoma and Jesse Clayton is gathering information for a similar history in Michigan. R. L. Roberts is preparing a volume that will relate the history of the Church of Christ in Texas between 1824 and the end of the Civil War, and Jerry Rushford is collecting materials for a California church history. Hopefully, the excellent material on the individual states compiled by Mac Lynn in his *Missions Bulletin* will eventually be published in one book.

A number of other important books should be ready for publication in the next year. The history of the black Churches of Christ will be described in a forthcoming book by J. S. Winston. Earl West is working on a biography of Benjamin Franklin, the founder of the American Chris-

Continued on page 11

**GOD IS IN CHARGE, AND
HE KNOWS HIS OWN**

(Continued from page 3)

the only righteous person, but I am the judge. Had your judgements not been so narrowed, you would have had the strength of seven thousand people to aid you and dispel your loneliness. I am still in charge and I know who are my own. Wait for me!"

Jesus did not call us to bear heavier burdens and wear more galling yokes. Jesus still invites, "Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

1350 Huisache, New Braunfels, Texas 78130

**RECENT PUBLICATIONS IN
RESTORATION HISTORY**

(Continued from page 4)

tian Review, and John Neth is writing a biography of George Forrester, the Pittsburgh educator who baptized Walter Scott. Adrian Doran and J. E. Choate are collaborating on a biography of the noted Christian scholar, Hall L. Calhoun. The Restoration Movement will receive an entire chapter in *The American Evangelical Mosaic*, edited by Timothy L. Smith of Johns Hopkins University.

The time is ripe to challenge our members to discern anew the richness of our heritage in the Restoration Movement. By telling us what our forefathers did, church history inspires us in two directions: to respect their achievements, great in their day, and to strive to equal their resourcefulness and courage.

Pepperdine University, Heidelberg, Germany

"BOY AM I IN FOR IT NOW!"

(Continued from page 8)

But after your woe has served as a pathway to your Maker, don't stay in the woe. God only USES the woe. He doesn't allow it or give it as a place of abode. Gloom, despair pessimism, sorrow and pain are not the dwelling places for those who meet God. They are only learning points in the pilgrimage of discipleship. Move on then from your Woe into God's Wow. It's God's gift for you—if you will receive it.

**Come With Us To
HOLY LAND**

August 2, 1982

Send for Brochure.

Jack P. Lewis, Harding Graduate
School of Religion, 1000 Cherry
Road, Memphis, Tenn. 38117.

Phone

901-683-1678 901-761-1350

FAULKNER and BRECHEEN

plus hundreds of other presentations on video tape. Sales or rentals.
Send for free catalog. CHRISTIAN VIDEO SERVICE, Box 4174,
Lancaster, Calif. 93539.

Brown Trail School of Preaching

WENDELL WINKLER, Director
EDDIE WHITTEN, Administrator

Two Year Full-Time Course
Approved for VA Benefits
Bible Emphasis; Practical Training
Experienced Qualified Faculty
Curriculum For Students' Wives

No Tuition
"What" and "How" To Preach
Comprehensive Curriculum
Open to Persons of Any Race
Established in 1965

APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED
For Information and Catalog Write or Call

BROWN TRAIL SCHOOL OF PREACHING

1801 Brown Trail, Bedford (Fort Worth), Texas 76021, Phone: 817-282-3911

**CHRISTIAN EMPLOYEES TRUST
GROUP HEALTH PLAN**

For Employees of Churches of Christ & Related Institutions

CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT

Guaranteed Issue Life, Retirement Plans

WRITE OR CALL FOR INFORMATION

Bill Minick & Associates

P.O. Box 8779, Ft. Worth, TX 76112

817/535-1801—817/429-1403

Position Open Immediately

Christian college seeks experienced social worker with at least a master's degree to join undergraduate social work faculty. Send letter and resume to: *Dr. B.J. Naylor, Dean of Instruction, Freed-Hardeman College, Henderson, TN 38340.*

Freed-Hardeman College is an equal opportunity employer.



**Freed-Hardeman
College**

Henderson, Tennessee 38340
(901) 989-4611