

BOOKS BRIEFLY NOTED

Susan I. Jackson. *In the Shadow of a Mighty Rock: A History of the Gibraltar Methodist Church*. Evesham, England: Wesley Historical Society, 2009. 470 pp. £12.50.

This is an extremely detailed regional history that also includes information about the beginnings of the Methodist in Portugal, Spain and with the armed forces. Gibraltar is probably the oldest Methodist Church in Europe, outside Britain, dating from 1769. The book was written as part of the 240th anniversary celebrations and includes over 70 illustrations. Themes include the contributions of the church in the fields of education, sanitary reform and care for service men and women far from home. The international importance of Gibraltar and the geo-political realities of the European continent make this more than a limited regional and local history.

David H. Tripp and Wesley W. Wilson, eds. *DePauw's Forgotten Founder: The Memoirs of Calvin Washington Ruter: A Brief Sketch of the Life and Itinerant Labours of Calvin W. Ruter With Some Account of the Progress of Methodism in Indiana*. Greencastle, Indiana; DePauw University, 2009. 163 pp. \$10.00.

Ruter was a Methodist minister and member of the committee that established DePauw University at Indiana Asbury University in 1837. In this work, he describes his experiences in southern Indiana in the first half of the nineteenth century in a colorful and engaging style. The book is available through DePauw University Archives, 11 E Larabee St., Greencastle, IN 46135.

William J. Abraham and James E. Kirby, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Methodist Studies*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009. 761 pp. \$150.00.

Forty-two essays by the world's leading scholars on Methodism comprise this comprehensive and exhaustive volume. The essays are grouped into six parts: History of Methodism; Ecclesial Forms and Structures; Worship: Sacraments, Liturgy, Hymnody, Preaching; Spiritual Experiences, Evangelism, Mission, Ecumenism; Theology; and Ethics and Politics. While

the majority of the writers are from the United States, there are authors from the United Kingdom (5), Argentina, Germany, and Russia. The suggested reading and references for each essay along with the index makes this an invaluable reference work and beginning point of study for almost every topic in Methodist studies. A global perspective is evident, if limited, and this resource may not be as widely used as it deserves because of price.

Russell E. Richey. *Methodist Connectionalism: Historical Perspectives*. Nashville, TN: General Board of Higher Education and Ministry, The United Methodist Church, 2009. 301 pp. \$16.95.

This is a collection of thirteen previously-published essays along with an introduction and conclusion. Because this is a collection of essays, there is an absence of a single narrative and yet each contributes to deep historical grounding illuminating current practices of the church. The groupings of essays are titled: Connectional Order; Connectionalism and Ministry; Self-Preservation—Ritually and Apologetically; and Conceptualizing the Connection. Classes in both United Methodist history and polity would benefit from a close reading of these essays as well as anyone seeking to reform the church. The essays do not prescribe a course of action but describe how the church embraced certain practices. Dr. Richey concludes one essay that captures the place of history: “We do need to be reminded of our forebears’ visions and their perplexities. That can be a stimulus for today’s ministry—but it will not suffice. History can inform but cannot provide the vision.” These essays inform and from such our vision will be clearer.

Dennis C. Dickerson. *African Methodism and its Wesleyan Heritage: Reflections on AME Church History*. Nashville, TN: Commission on Publications, The African Methodist Episcopal Church, 2009. 236 pp.

This is a collection of twenty-one previously published essays by Dennis Dickerson, Historiographer of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (AME). Most had appeared in the *A.M.E. Church Review*. They represent the preliminary work of Dr. Dickerson in preparation for a new and definitive history of the Church. Essays discuss figures and movements across the two centuries of the church’s history and introduce the reader to many who may have been relatively obscure. Well researched and cogently presented, this work on aspects of the history of one Methodist denomination should be of interest to all who care about the spiritual descendants of John Wesley.

**DOCTORAL DISSERTATIONS
IN WESLEYAN AND METHODIST STUDIES, 2009**

COMPILED BY CHRISTOPHER J. ANDERSON

Bailie, J. "The Impact of Liberation Theology on Methodism in South Africa with Regard to the Doctrine of Christian Perfection." Th.D. diss., University of South Africa, 2009.

Breidenstein, Rychie Lynn. "That Thy House May be Filled: A Study of the Earliest American Methodist Lay Worship Leaders Between 1766 and 1773: Philip Embury, Robert Strawbridge, Joseph Pilmore, and Francis Asbury." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 2009.

Bundy, David D. "Visions of Apostolic Mission: Scandinavian Pentecostal Mission to 1935." Ph.D. diss., Uppsala University, 2009.

Childs, David J. "The Black Church and African American Education: The African Methodist Episcopal Church Educating for Liberation, 1816-1893." Ph.D. diss., Miami University, 2009.

Cook-Moore, Carol Ann. "Words That Hurt, Words That Heal: United Methodist Worship and Gender Language, 1972-1992." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 2009.

Ganske, Karl Ludwig. "The Religion of the Heart, Growth in Grace, and the Active Divine Presence: John Wesley's Selection and Editing of Puritan Literature in *A Christian Library*." Ph.D. diss., University of Manchester (Nazarene Theological College), 2009.

Haggler, Patricia. "Remember the Sabbath: African-American Sunday Schools, Education, Activism, and Community Building in the South, 1890-1985." Ph.D. diss., New York University, 2009.

Jackson, Thomas Glenn III. "A Wesleyan Theology of Evangelism as Proclamation." Ph.D. diss., University of Manchester (Cliff College), 2009.

Liang, Jane Weijen. "Imperialism, Modernization, and Postcolonial Christianity: The Indigenization of American Methodist China Missions, 1880-1930." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 2009.

Newburg, Kevin. "Sermons and the Shaping of Northern Methodist Identities, 1885-1905." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 2009.

Oconer, Luther Jeremiah. "The Culto Pentecostal Story: Holiness Revivalism and the Making of Philippine Methodist Identity, 1899-1965." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 2009.

Peterson, Brent David. "A Post-Wesleyan Eucharistic Ecclesiology: The Renewal of the Church as the Body of Christ to be Doxologically Broken and Spilled Out for the World." Ph.D. diss., Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, 2009.

Turner, Michael K. "Redeeming the Time: The Making of Early American Methodism." Ph.D. diss., Vanderbilt University, 2009.

A Love Affair with India



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