

## **Transcription of Article in the 1921 Primitive Methodist Magazine by W.E. Lead**

THE Rev. W.J. Tristram, though born in Cheshire, springs from a Shropshire stock; his forebears being born and bred in Ludlow, where they were the pioneers of Primitive Methodism, and for three generations have been prominent workers in our Church. His grandfather, James Tristram, who lived to be ninety-one, was for seventy years a local preacher and class leader, and became a deed poll member of Conference. Mr. Tristram's father, the late Rev. John Tristram, who for fifty years faithfully served in our ministry, was the eldest of four brothers all preachers. The Rev. James Tristram is an honoured superannuated minister in the Newport Circuit, Salop. The other two are still taking work as local preachers in Ludlow.

The subject of this sketch was born at Sandbach, January 6th, 1869, and converted at Whitchurch, March 5th, 1880. His conversion was so definite that, after forty years, it stands out in his memory as one of the most vivid incidents in his life. After some preparation for the ministry in the Stafford Circuit, he entered College in 1890, when Dr. Joseph Wood was Principal. He commenced his ministry in the Oldham II. Circuit, under the superintendency of the Rev. J.P. Langham, to whom he feels deeply indebted. His next sphere was the Bloxwich and Cannock Circuit, where he travelled three years, finding full scope for his energies among the twenty preaching places, and in building three new chapels. During the next twelve months he sojourned at Leominster, but soon felt impelled beyond resistance to return to Lancashire, dwelling for three years at Ramsbottom, in the Bury Circuit, where he wiped off the debt of £500. This was followed by five years at Bacup, where he did good work. He then moved to Scarborough II., where he had charge of Gladstone Road. There it was no uncommon sight to see penitents coming forward at the ordinary evening service. After three successful years he went to Belle Vue, Leeds. This was a difficult sphere, where for many years decreases had been recorded. During the four years he was there, Mr. Tristram not only arrested the drift, but had the joy of reporting an increase. His next station was Otley, where he spent four happy and successful years. In 1918 he entered his present station, Liverpool III., where he has concentrated his energies chiefly on the historic Everton Road Church. He is engaged to Oldham IV. for 1921.

Mr. Tristram has heard and heeded the apostolic injunction, "Give attention to reading," and has made himself familiar with all the great books of Methodist theology, religious biography and evangelistic literature. But the men who influenced him most were not Methodists. During his formative years he read all he could get by Drs. Parker, Dale, Dods, MacLaren, Fairbairn and Bruce. More recently he has come under the spell of Dr. David Smith. He likes to hear great preachers, loves congenial company, and is greatly influenced by his social instincts. As a speaker, he is master of a forceful popular style, and possesses considerable pulpit and platform power and passion. An outstanding feature of his ministry is his aggressive evangelism. He revels in revivals and likes to conduct his own special missions.

Mrs. Tristram, who was a Miss Critchlow, of Lees Road Society, Oldham, has a distinguished ancestry, and, but for her modest and retiring disposition, might boast of having behind her three generations of worthy workers in Primitive Methodism. She is a fine type of Christian gentlewoman, and her quiet, gracious, Christian life has contributed much towards the making and moulding of their five children. One made the supreme sacrifice in the world war, and two sons and two daughters are all members of the Everton Road Church.

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### Reference

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