

## **Albert Lewis Humphries**

### **Transcription of Obituary in Minutes of Methodist Conference**

Born at Bristol in 1865. His education foreshadowed the man. A succession of brilliantly won scholarships took him from an elementary school to Liverpool College and St. John's College, Cambridge.

He entered the Primitive Methodist Ministry in 1887, and in three circuits he served with distinction for fifteen years. In 1902 he was appointed a Tutor at Hartley College. Greek, psychology, New Testament exegesis and theology were his subjects.

For thirty-three years the industry that marked his climb to scholarship was applied in teaching generations of students, and the standard he set them was high. His pen was not idle, and many were the articles contributed to the denominational journals. Amid his publications his Hartley Lecture, *The Holy Spirit*, was outstanding.

The 1935 Conference recorded on his retirement: 'His rare gifts of scholarship have greatly enriched the Church and his important book, *The Holy Spirit*, has been widely read on both sides of the Atlantic'.

Through all his college work he maintained an intense interest in the general life of the Church, and gave himself unstintingly to District and Connexional Committee work. From 1910 to 1924 he was Connexional Secretary of the Local Preachers' Committee, and did much to improve the status, training, and equipment of the lay ministry.

The Conference called him to the Presidential Chair in 1926. At Union, he became the Chairman of the Manchester Second District. His ability in administration, coupled with his intimate knowledge of the Manchester area, was invaluable in those formative days. 'As a preacher' wrote Dr. A. S. Peake, 'he is gifted with a sure exegetical insight, felicity of language, and freshness of treatment'.

Though he became a Supernumerary in 1935, he never really retired. He continued to serve his chapel and circuit, the Hartley-Victoria College, the Manchester and Salford Mission, and the Free Church Council with devotion.

Tragic sorrows came to him, but his faith stood all tests, and he went on with his work. He held austere views on the Ministry, but students came to discover in him warm sympathies and a brimming sense of humour.

After he had passed his four score years he found it increasingly difficult to travel to Manchester to the committees, but almost to the last he strove to attend God's house.

On 28th March 1950, in the sixty-third year of his ministry, he fell on sleep—a long day's work well and faithfully done, and secure in the admiration and affection of all who had sat under him and worked with him.

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**References**

*Methodist Minutes* 1950/145

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock