

## **James Gorton**

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

Born at Murton Colliery in 1876. A little more than half a century ago, when the county of Durham was stirred by a spiritual presence, the hand of God touched one miner at Murton, and he responded.

He joined the Methodist Society at the colliery, soon won the confidence of his fellow Christians, and within a short time was encouraged to preach.

Leaving Hartley College after two years, he began his active ministry at Glasgow.

From Glasgow he travelled South to Nottingham, Melton Mowbray and Hull; from the East Riding of Yorkshire to the north-west of Cumberland and then to the Tyne Valley.

His arrival at Hexham coincided with that of John B. Bayliffe, and for six years they served together.

From Hexham he travelled in the Isle of Man, Berwick, Scunthorpe, Bradford, and finally Cleckheaton, where, after one year, heart trouble compelled retirement.

In 1941 he superannuated, later moving to Hexham. He discharged his office of preaching fearlessly, being confident of his Saviour.

His personality was warm, generous and sympathetic. His heart was made for friendship and all his colleagues loved him.

Wherever he laboured he left an abiding influence and example. In his pastoral work he did not spare himself.

Books were his delight. Rich though it was, no work of his active ministry outshone that which he fulfilled in his retirement when, as Hospital Chaplain at Hexham, he exercised a great ministry of comfort and consolation.

He walked the wards almost daily, being known as "the little man with the white hair who prays in English". When he prayed "hearts were glad again".

On Sunday 7th October 1951, he suddenly passed home in the seventy-fifth year of his age and the forty-ninth of his ministry.

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### **References**

*Methodist Minutes* 1952/125

Transcribed by Christopher Hancock