

Hannah Whitall Smith (1832–1911), born in Philadelphia to a prominent family, was raised in a strict Quaker home and was given to deep introspection and found little relief until her marriage to Robert Piersall Smith in 1851. They were both converted under Plymouth Brethren influence in 1858, and in 1867 had a new experience of faith that propelled them on a speaking tour of the United States and Europe. Their "Higher Christian Life" meetings in England were exceedingly popular, partly because of D. L. Moody's success there. They remained in England due to Robert's declining health and observed the founding of the Keswick Convention in 1874, an outgrowth of their conferences.

Her most famous work, *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* (1875), sold over two million copies. It spoke much of resting faith in God's promises, and ministers much good about the life of faith in Jesus. It became a cornerstone of Keswick Convention spirituality. During their time in Britain, Hannah was hailed as the "angel of the churches" for her eloquent preaching at major holiness conferences in Oxford and Brighton.