

ing, wide-spread revival of real laying hold on God.

Prayer is life to the soul as the blood is to the flesh. From the pulse of this life, God knows the condition of the soul. If the devil can by his subtlety get us to quit praying he has our soul. We must pray earnestly and unselfishly. Prayer which becomes earnest, self-sacrificing supplication is genuine prayer. That petition which rises on the wings of faith—faith born in hours spent alone with the Infinite, when the soul becomes knitted with the Divine—moves heaven with all its resource of power in our behalf. We must labor continuously in prayer; for it is through prayer that the unsearchable riches of Christ are revealed to the soul. It is through prayer that any work of grace is wrought in the heart—prayer which goes clear through and touches the throne of God.

This alone will keep the fire of God on the soul, but God's purpose does not stop there. It is importunate prayer—soul travail—and that alone, on which He depends for the salvation of souls. What was it that brought such mighty revivals in Finney's day? What is giving such marvelous results in some instances to-day? It is that which gave us the gracious camp meeting we had in the summer—the baptism of mighty, prevailing prayer. There were a few hearts who dared deny themselves personal comforts and went through the valley of pain and anguish for lost souls. Why did we not see more of God's presence manifest in more turning to God? Because we did not see more of real intercession which denied everything that souls might be gained for Christ. Few persons are willing to suffer the pangs which beget spiritual children. "For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet have ye not many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the Gospel."

"The only place for the child of God is the place of importunate prayer, much more the minister of the Gospel." The minister, peculiar only to his sacred calling, is commissioned to give life. When he stands before his people Sunday after Sunday never knowing that surge of divine life within himself, he is dealing death blows with every stroke, no matter how true his statements may be, "The letter killeth but the Spirit giveth life." The minister must be the example, the inspiration of his congregation. "The husbandman must be first partaker of the fruits." In no way has he touched on his real commission until he has been energized by the Holy Ghost. "Life giving preaching costs the preacher much—death to self, crucifixion to the world, and the travail of his own soul. Crucified preaching alone can give life, crucified preaching can come alone from a crucified man." Intercession can come only after crucifixion. When the carnal nature, which "is enmity against God," is present in the heart the soul is continually battling a power which is binding that soul in prayerlessness. Intercession is that "that casts away all personal considerations—comforts, health, life, all, and lies prostrate across the path of avenging justice." God will not, yea, He cannot "cross the prostrate form" His child, His son, His heir.

David Brainard, that man of God who left all to give the Gospel to the Susquehanna Indians, was a man of great intercession. He labored time after time in prayer which many times would take the entire day, of which, in one such instance, he writes: "I labored from sun half an hour high until near dark for the salvation of souls, with my body wet all over with sweat." Intercession, if it is vital, demands vitality behind it. It must consume the man. "I fill up that which is behind of the sufferings of Christ." David Brainard

suffered in prayer. Intercession with him was a continuation of Calvary. There are sufferings remaining since Calvary which we, you and I, must bear; for it is only after the Calvary experience that we may share the resurrection with Him.

As in the days of David Brainard, when as a result of his earnestness in intercession thousands of Indians were converted, so now, it is the possibility for each one of us, as ministers, to be used mightily of God in the salvation of souls, if we will give ourselves to a life of prayer, which becomes real intercession. "The richest possibilities in prayer lie beyond valleys of pain and sorrow." When God sees we mean business then and only then He will trust us with soul travail. "For as soon as Zion travailed she brought forth her children."

—A paper read before the Ohio Conference Ministerial Institute and Holiness Convention and by that body requested for publication in the Wesleyan Methodist.

#### MACEDONIA SEEKS A PASTOR

Rev. Mr. Paul,  
Troas, Asia.

Dear and Reverend Sir:

As clerk of the church of Macedonia, I have been instructed to communicate with you, with a view of securing you as pastor for the ensuing year. We are in need of a pastor, but before we could possibly decide to accept your services in such capacity, there are a number of things that we would like to have understood and settled beforehand. It will save us much inconvenience, and no doubt will be more satisfactory to yourself.

"First of all our church requests that you come over for at least one Sunday, so that we may all have a chance to see and hear you. We would then be much better able to judge whether we wanted you or not. We do not feel it wise to take a chance in this important matter. Our church is particular about a preacher's style, and we need an eloquent and prepossessing man to hold our prestige with the churches around us. You will pardon the reference, but we do not want an old man; we have heard some reference to a man who was called "Paul the Aged" (old Paul), you might give us an idea of your age. We want a young man.

"Again there is the matter of education. What have been your educational advantages? How many degrees do you hold? We would much prefer a man with a Master's degree or an S.T.D. but we insist upon the B. A. degree. All the churches about us have college men filling their pulpits, and it would put us in a bad showing not to have a college graduate.

"There is another item that we would not overlook in our note to you, the matter of remuneration. You will receive the Sunday collections which we hope will amount to about \$15.00 a week. Of course this amount will vary, and there will be very stormy Sundays when there will be none at all, this will be your loss.

We like this method best for it relieves the church of the load of responsibility, and it seems easier for the pastor alone to take all the risk of hard times and exigencies occasioned by crop failure or a drop in prices. Few of our working men get more than \$45.00 per week, and considering the high cost of living, and the price of gasoline and good clothes, we think if we raise that amount it will be about all we can do. In this connection we may as well remind you that we have no parsonage, but there are some suitable

rents to let on Straight Street, at prices varying from \$40 to \$50 per month. We like our pastors to live in a good respectable looking place that will not detract from the dignity and respect of our church.

"One other little matter we would like for you to know. We expect our pastor to keep himself well dressed. We like to see him in his clerical broadcloth every day of the week. It may be out of taste to mention this, but a former pastor disgraced us by publicly wearing trousers patched at the knees. Yes, and his wife shocked the ladies of the church by wearing a hat for the second season. Now, having mentioned the woman, we want you to state in your reply whether you are married or not, and if so, how many children you have and their ages. We would not care to engage a man with a large family, it would increase our responsibility, and if there are young children it would be an impediment to your wife's co-operation with you in the work, and we expect her to take an active part in the W. M. S., the Ladies' Aid and the Sunday School.

"We also object to our ministers doing manual labor. We have had pastors who persisted in working with their hands, and we object on the grounds that it is undignified, and looks as though he were penurious, and it reflects upon the church, as though they were not taking good care of him.

"Again we are not in much sympathy with preachers taking a vacation. We find no warrant for it in the life of Christ, and then it usually comes at a time when nearly all our church have gone to the country, or go out for the week end, and we think it is the place for the pastor then, to be at his post to hold the few together.

"We need a good "mixer", and one who spends the major part of his time visiting the people. We expect him to preach sermons well thought out, deep and homiletically finished. We are not satisfied with mere "talks" upon which little time has been spent.

"And lastly, we wish to remind you that the church of Macedonia calls you for one year only. If the church shows no marked signs of advancement during the year, we shall consider a change of pastors, accordingly we reserve the right to dismiss you at the end of the year. We shall await your early reply.

Sincerely yours,  
Clerk of the Church of Macedonia.

Hartland N. B.

Dear Brother Trafton:

Please grant me space in the Highway to acknowledge the kindness of our people on this field. In spite of hard times and scarcity of money in this county, because of the potato situation, the people are still mindful of the material needs of their pastor and his family. This fact was demonstrated quite lately when the members of the Hartland church and congregation and some from Victoria surprised us by presenting us with a good sum of money, also groceries, wood, hay and oats. A few nights after that about forty of the citizens of Waterville met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Tompkins and repeated this very generous act. During the evening Gerald Deware in whose hall we hold our services, presented us with a purse of money on behalf of the congregation. In each case although we tried, we could not express our gratitude to these kind hearted people. We feel that we are under greater obligation to them and to our God to render better service than before, which we shall endeavor to do by His grace.

H. S. DOW