

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

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fication, consecration being man's part and sanctification the divine work of God.

Sunday morning Love Feast was led by Bro. Wolverton and was a love feast in very truth; the saints got happy and were free in the Lord. "He whom the Son makes free is free indeed." Bless the Lord. Rev. L. T. Sabine brought a message full of spiritual food for every Christian soul in the morning, and at the close of this service the Lord's Supper was observed. This was an impressive service, and our hearts were melted as we again remembered the death and suffering of our blessed Lord, and our own unworthiness of His great blessings.

In the afternoon Bro. Cosman brought the message from Matthew 25:10, "They that were ready went in with Him to the marriage, and the door was shut," showing how very important it is to be ready for the coming of the Lord. At the close of this service two precious souls were at the altar.

Rev. H. S. Dow brought a mighty message in the closing service; deep conviction was on this meeting, and five more souls came to the altar.

We praise God for this quarterly session and believe it was a blessing to all, and resulted in some work being done for eternity. Let us pray that these meetings will not be just a meeting with old friends, but a spiritual feast, a time of salvation to sinners, reclaiming of backsliders and sanctifying of believers.

Respectfully submitted,
EMERY S. COSMAN, Sec'y.

EASTER, PRAYER AND PENTECOST

Birth is the portal by which we enter life; and death is the gateway by which we depart from it; but Easter in Jesus' case has an added significance, for after having passed the portals of life and death, He rose from the dead. Birth, life and death, plus His resurrection, epitomize Jesus' life here; but from whatever angle we vision His life, it is calculated to bless us. The angelic songs which were sung as an accompaniment and announcement of His birth, are calculated to inspire peace prophets and ambassadors who hold peace conferences, such as the one now being held in London. Viewed from the resurrection side, which is the Easter side, we find Jesus inspiring His disciples to undertake the evangelization of the world; and as a preparation for that task He ordained prayer and Pentecost. Easter, then prayer, then Pentecost. Blest Trinity, and in the order named. His disciples were not "disobedient unto the heavenly vision." Jesus' birth was announced by angelic songs; but His church was born in the larger sense with a prayer prelude and Pentecostal flame. Glory be to God!

"By this the blest disciples knew
Their risen Head had entered heaven;
Had now obtained the promise due,
The Holy Ghost sent down from heaven."

Our calendar is much older since the first Easter was born; but it has the same relation to prayer and Pentecost that the first Easter had. "He is risen." That's Easter. The baptism of the Holy Ghost in answer to prayer is still the heritage of God's church. Peter said, "The promise is to you, and to your children, and to them that are

afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Thank God forever!

We rejoice that the church is celebrating the nineteen hundredth anniversary of Pentecost. There are many souls in the church who are as truly sincere as were Jesus' disciples, and who as truly seek the fulness of Spirit as they did. May they realize even in this Easter month that incoming of the Spirit which they desire. Paul deemed it a great joy to pray thus, "The God of all Peace sanctify you wholly"; so we count it a great joy to pray for every candidate for Pentecost. We are on the threshold of Easter, 1930. We shall have Easter sermons, hymns, new garments, flowers, and much more. May the incoming of the Spirit be supreme, gift crowning all the good gifts we bring to Easter! We may truly celebrate the anniversary of Pentecost by praying in the spirit of the poet who prayed thus in song:

"Come, Holy Spirit, raise our songs,
To reach the wonders of the day,
When with those fiery cloven tongues
Thou did'st those glorious scenes display."

Come as the dew and sweetly bless
This consecrated hour;
May barrenness rejoice to own
Thy fertilizing power.

Come as the dove and spread Thy wings,
Thy wings of peaceful love;
And may Thy church on earth become
Blest as the church above."

B. T. GASKIN.

"I FEAR THAT I WAS NOT
REALLY CALLED

Elnora Mannon

Many young preachers express this fear or go down before it without saying it. And why? One reason is this: "Because I can not preach like Bro. ———." I have been through this phase of the trouble myself. Now I know God does not want us all to preach alike. It takes all kinds of preaching to reach all kinds of people. If you could preach like Brother So-and-So, you might be only a copy. May God keep us from copying the other preacher's way of preaching.

Others fear because they are so weak and fearful. If we will take our fears and weaknesses to Jesus He will gird us with strength and give us new courage daily until we can look back and wonder at the amazing grace that has brought us through so many dangers, toils and snares; and those who do not know our struggles, our weaknesses and fears will say, "If I were only as strong and courageous as you are."

Some fear because of their ignorance. God needs a few ignorant people to show the world that His Spirit is more than worldly learning.

Some fear they were not really called because they see little or no results from their preaching. Their rear is deepened by writings and sermons to the effect that preachers who do not see souls saved are sure to be mistaken in their calling.

Let us consider a few points: We may be making such serious mistakes in our preach-

ing that God can not save many souls through our work. We may be spending our time "barking up the wrong tree." Like the preacher who preached on infant baptism to a crowd of grown-up sinners! If we are, we can do no good. We may "beat about the bush" so that no one knows what we are talking about. We may be using such big words that our congregation can not understand what we are saying. We may have formed the habit of telling something over and over every sermon until everyone knows all we ever say by heart, or we may have formed the habit of telling all our family troubles in the pulpit or of talking about our own folks in other ways in every sermon; or of using the same stories over every time which may be making us too tiresome to do any one much good. Or we may scold or abuse everyone until we make ourselves to be hated or we may be afraid to preach the truth with the necessary boldness. Any of these faults will hinder us greatly. Let us search our hearts prayerfully and carefully for faults that keep us from winning souls. God can and will make good preachers of us if we let Him, following His directions: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Our faults where they can be remedied should give us cause for shame.

Last, but by no means least, we may not have been called altogether to save the lost. We may have been called to keep saved from backsliding. Considering how few converts hold out, it seems to me that the ministry of encouragement and establishment is as great as the soul winner's ministry. I attended a meeting in which 128 persons made professions—two of them held out, and one of them was rushed through blindly at the altar and had to pray through to the experience later on. I held a meeting in which one was converted who lived and died a Christian. The first meeting made a fine report compared to the second, but in heaven they count one each.

Again, I could have been called to a barren field as Ezekiel was. Discouraged preachers, read the 3rd chapter of Ezekiel; read of the prophet who could have been sent to people who would have heeded the message (verse 6) but was instead sent to an impudent and hard hearted people who would not hearken. All the results that God promised Ezekiel was that "they shall know that there hath been a prophet among them."

A hard call that, to a fruitless field, but it was God's own call. "It is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." Notice, the Bible does not say successful. Ezekiel would need to have a forehead hard as adamant if he were here. For no one would believe that God called him if he saw no more results than God had promised him.

Discouraged brother or sister, take heart; don't give up just yet. God may only be withholding results until you are hardened to the scorn and a seeming failure. Search your heart to see if there is any lingering scrap of pride that needs removal. Watch your sermons and see if you cannot preach the Gospel so clearly and so simply that a child can understand. Trust in God to teach you how to preach, take up the heavy cross of seeming failure and go on. Oh, while souls are sinking into an endless hell, how can you give up? Hunt up a new field if need be; that may be best, but for Jesus' sake—Go on!—The Church Herald.