

CORRESPONDENCE

On the evening of Monday, October the 23rd, Mr. W. R. Carson, of Norton, and some of the people of Mercer Settlement, Parleeville, and Searsville, gathered in the home of Mrs. Harry Nelson, Parleeville, about thirty-five persons. They had music, singing, and then in behalf of the friends of Mr. G. Bickerton gave a nice little speech of appreciation for her year's services, and presented Miss M. Sanders with a generous gift of money as a token of the people's friendship and appreciation. She responded in an attempt at expressing her thanks; they then had a few prayers together. Later in the evening refreshments were served and the friends adjourned. God bless them and help their young pastoreess to be faithful to them and to God.

M. SANDERS

Dear Highway Friends:

Greetings in His Name! Just a few words from this section of His vineyard. If God be for us what does it matter what the odds are against us? Surely we are to expect opposition and misunderstanding as long as we follow Him who said "Remember the word that I said unto you. The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted Me they will also persecute you." And even our precious Lord was made perfect through suffering, and how much more we need this perfecting. But I would not magnify our "light afflictions" for they come as blessings in disguise, they are God's agents, permitted, yea often sent by Him to "work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen." So rather we ought to "glory in tribulations also" for His sake. Yet, it is a rare privilege of God's saints to not only "believe on Him, but also to suffer for His sake" these words by the great Apostle Paul were addressed to the Philippien Christians when he was looking forward to martyrdom for Christ's sake. He had comprehended the mission of suffering and could rejoice in the priceless privilege of suffering with Him. Oh, that more of God's children would also comprehend this. It would prove a marvellous blessing to them, as it would sweeten their every cup of woe and sorrowing nad suffering. If we but realized that so long as we are wholly devoted to God and "Abiding in Him" nothing comes to us except by God's special permission, and that all He does permit to reach us whatever its appearance, nevertheless is actually not evil, but for our good and God's glory in and through us. Then our duty is to discover, if we can, God's purpose in each cup of woe as it reaches us . . . and He will show us often; though I think sometimes He replies, "What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter." Yet here we can trust His love and wisdom knowing that "all things work together for good to them that love God."

Sometimes the child of God meets misunderstanding, and it seems that they are forsaken by most everyone, but One has promised to "Never leave thee nor forsake" so that actually we are never all alone. So any time we may feel that way let us remember to look up, and rejoice in Him. How He comforts and sustains the soul that on Him doth lean for sustenance.

I want to express here my praise to God for His presence with me and for His bless-

ing upon His work here even though sometimes the outlook is rather dark and troubled, yet the uplook is always bright. Praise Him. And we are believing Him for more blessing and souls saved.

There is much blessing in serving God anywhere so long as that is where He wants you. The blessing is perhaps three-fold—first there is prospect that if we are faithful we will win some day His plaudits, "Well done," and the rewards, but when there is a great reward irtght here in seeing some lifted from sin and bondage into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, then perhaps greater than these is the inner reward and joy God gives us here when He whispers to our heart, that we are well pleasing to Him. Say, friends, what does it matter whether the world is pleased, or appreciates us or our efforts or not, if we but may win God's approval. I say that is alone worth all the hardships and sufferings possible to befall us in His service. And again, I believe also, that if we work for the praise or appoval of man, we will be disappointed and pained even though we (like the Pharisee) did receive praise of men.

The one thing is sure that when we please God we will also be pleasing the best people in the world, God's saints, and their simple words of encouragement occasionally, are also God's blessing to His child who is striving to please Him.

I'm glad for the glory God sheds along our pathway even between camp meetings, and truly at times He draws near and so blesses that one feels they are feasting with My Lord.

When He gives us revelations of Christ in His beauty, our souls are stirred to their depths in longing to be "conformed to the image of His Son" to be like Jesus in all His meekness, compassion, long-suffering and devotion to His Father's will.

How great is our privilege! Did you ever consider it? Of being workers together with Him in the ministry of prayer. This is the greatest ministry a mortal is able to enter I think. It is also one of the hardest (in a way). It is one of the most neglected, and underestimated, also. Yet, methinks, could even the angel Gabriel be given the offer of coming down here on this sin-cursed earth and be allowed to spend five years as a human being in a body as yours or mine (be it howsoever crippled, or handicapped) with the privilege of praying for lost souls, and the perfecting of the body of Christ, methinks, he would eagerly seize the opportunity. Perhaps I am mistaken. I do not know the privileges of angels and saints in heaven, but I do know that I seriously think that when we leave this body we also leave the ministry of intercession—to a great degree. And just how much praying we may do in heaven and whether we will be able then as now to pray for the unsaved—I do not know—and I wonder. But then that is not my business, one thing we do know that "the night cometh when no man can work." Therefore let us, while we have the chance, improve our opportunity of being co-workers with Jesus in the great ministry of prayer.

The Lord bless you all, and esepcially the dear young people of the Society. Be encouraged in your prayer meetings, young friends; do not let your interest or zeal flag in this, as it is what might be termed the heart of the church, for when the prayer meeting dies what has the church left of life, spiritual life? I think, also, that Satan makes a speical

effort to cause loss of faith and interest in prayer, etc., just when he sees that victory and great blessing are about to attend upon the faithfulness of the few earnest persevering pray-ers. So let us yield to him, no, not an inch.

MIRIAM SANDERS

THE WAY TO A REVIVAL

The days of our fathers! How the memories of those times of power make our hearts leap! Old men can recall seasons when the truth preached was like the stroke of a glittering sword; when heaven came down into prayer-meetings; when whole populations were stirred by the power of the Holy Ghost.

What hinders the return of such days as these? Alas, the church's weakness is often within; there are dissensions, slothfulness, worldliness, inconsistencies, where there should be energy, spirituality and Christlikeness. Consequently those under our influence remain undecided, our children grow up unconverted, while the ungodly around live Christless lives and die in darkness. What can be done to bring about a better state of things in individual hearts and in the church at large?

Perhaps the following fact may suggest an answer. A Methodist minister was disappointed in his people. Where he expected to find spirituality and zeal, he was met by coldness and apathy. It appeared that the people looked for a "revival" during the winter months, and worked themselves up to a pitch of religious enthusiasm, and during the rest of the year slipped back into coolness and inaction.

The minister's heart grew sad, and after many ineffectual endeavors to rouse the church he got discouraged. "I have tried," he said in a letter to a friend, "nearly everything to bring about a better state of things, and am now at my wit's end. Last night, however, while pondering over the state of things, a voice spoke to me 'Try holiness. Preach this great truth to the church; seek to get individuals into the experience.'"

Was he not right? We have tried many things. At one time the cry was for organization, and it was thought that if all branches of church work could be made to move with mechanical precision, the desired results would follow. But the most highly organized work may be entirely lacking in spiritual life and power. Organization is not the cure.

Then it was said that if gospel truth were only preached with the ancient clearness and simplicity many would be saved. Revival methods have been resorted to; "missions" held in churches and chapels; outdoor service organized. Good has been done, but surely it is plain today that the whole question is not one of methods but of power; the need everywhere is for the power of the Holy Ghost working from pure hearts and from lives completely consecrated to the Lord. Is not the secret of real success bound up in the call of God, "Be ye holy, for I am holy"? If the church is to be fruitful in the divine sense of the word she must turn her thoughts to the blessing which the Word of God ever puts before the truly converted soul, the blessing of being cleansed from indwelling sin and filled with the Spirit.—The Way of Holiness.

I have known what it is to tread the earth and fear lest every tuft of grass should but cover the door to hell; trembling lest every particle and every atom and every stone should be so at league with God against me as to destroy me.—Spurgeon.