

blessing and inspiration she is to us all. She came here ill, and asked if Jesus should call her home if we would mind to bury her here on this mission station. She really had been very ill and her case seemed pretty hopeless, but we had special prayer, and God undertook and she has daily gained, till coming back from Altona Thursday evening she said I eat well and I sleep well and I feel well. God has healed me and I am well.

She is a wonderful worker, just on fire with the passion for souls, and she gets them wherever she goes, white and black, every one she meets has somehow to have a chance. Stepping into the store at Moolman she handed each of the store men a good tract. She sees chances when the rest of us would not even know there was one around. It makes us feel almost as if we were not real live missionaries at all.

Then she writes dozens and dozens of long letters just packed with good things. She is at it early and late. When she is tired of writing, reading and praying then she feels like going into the kitchen and makes fine pies, cakes and cookies. I asked her how long she has worked alone and it seems that it is only two of her 48 years in the field that she has had a white companion. She has lived alone with the Natives a lot any way, and for some time right in the Native Kraals—this in the early days. The stories she can tell of the conquests of the gospel are thrilling. God has granted to this, His humble hand-maid, a long term of blessed service and usefulness, both here and over-seas through her He has called many missionaries, raised up many supporters, established many churches, provided many native workers and spread the light in many dark places. Praise His name! We are so glad to have her here for a while—perhaps 6 weeks in all.

The Christmas here had not the usual crowd owing to a dark rainy morning, but nearly six hundred gathered on our front lawn and listened attentively to the messages from workers, white and black. Eight young lads confessed Christ that day. Brother Kierstead and son, Glendon, came with George in good time, but Gladys was not able for the trip, which was quite a disappointment for us all.

Our quarterly started on Wednesday and continued till Sunday, and we had some lovely meetings. Charles baptised candidates Sunday morning. A good number came early from the distant outposts. Two new workers came forward for appointment, both quite promising. This is one phase of our work which is very encouraging, and I note it is so in the Homeland too, the number of young workers God is raising up and thrusting forth.

The Altona feast was on Thursday and they had ideal weather and a fine attendance. I do not think I ever saw better interest and attention for such a crowd in an open air service, and the fishermen made quite a haul at the close of the service.

One thing we remarked: Contrasting the Hartland crowd with that of Altona. Here raw heathen were very few indeed. Even many of those in heathen dress had once been professed Christians. But at Altona, perhaps 300 of the 1,000 present were heathen, and as Johan Kunene remarked on his return journey with us: "Many have never heard the gospel story yet."

The messages were good, but George's gripped my heart. I never heard him speak

better. His spirit so tender, humble and eager. He mentioned among other things that since the Sterritt Sisters left, while alone with Johanisi over there thirty seekers came forward (in about two years). Now in the seven months since the Kiersteads came, 60 have given themselves and they are trusting soon to reach the 100 mark. He mentioned the increase as one of the signs of God's blessing on the labours of the new missionaries. Of course turning the whole Transvaal work over to the Altona center has had somewhat to do with this increase of seekers—there are now many more sections to draw from. The Transvaal work, with but one or two exceptions is in a splendid thriving state and has great scope for expansion. The spirit of the workers is like that of eager war-horses scenting the battle and we look for great things in the new year.

There's so much more I would love to write, but this letter is already too long. Friends, God is waiting for us to ask—make our petition deep and high and He will work mightily.

Yours for more souls won from darkness,
FAITH MacDONALD

REVIVAL PRAYER

Rev. Charles G. Finney

I have said more than once, that the spirit of prayer that prevailed in my revivals was a very marked feature of them. It was common for young converts to be greatly exercised in prayer, and in some instances so much so that they were constrained to pray whole nights for the conversion of souls around them.

There was

a great pressure of the Holy Spirit

upon the minds of Christians, and they seemed to bear about with them the burden of immortal souls. They manifested the greatest solemnity of mind and the greatest watchfulness in all their words and actions. It was very common to find Christians, whenever they met in any place, instead of engaging in conversation, falling on their knees in prayer.

Not only were prayer-meetings greatly multiplied and fully attended, not only was there great solemnity in those meetings, but there was

a mighty spirit of secret prayer.

Christians prayed a great deal, many of them spending many hours in private prayer. It was also the case that two or more would take the promise: "If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven," and make some particular person the subject of prayer; and it was wonderful to what extent they prevailed. Answers to prayer were so manifestly multiplied on every side that no one could escape the conviction that

God was daily and hourly answering prayer.

If anything occurred that threatened to mar the work, if there was an appearance of any root of bitterness springing up or any tendency to fanaticism or disorder, Christians would take the alarm and give themselves to prayer that God would direct and control all things. And it was surprising to see to what extent and by what means

God would remove obstacles

out of the way in answer to prayer.

In regard to my own experience I will say that, unless I had the spirit of prayer I could do nothing. If even for a day or an hour I lost

the spirit of grace and supplication, I found myself unable to preach with power and efficiency or to win souls by personal conversation. In this respect my experience was what it has always been.

For several weeks before I left my church to attend the Synod, I was very strongly exercised in prayer and had an experience that was somewhat new to me.

A spirit of importunity

sometimes came upon us, so that I would say to God that He had made a promise to answer prayer, and I could not and would not be denied. I felt so certain that He would hear me, and that faithfulness to His promises and to Himself rendered it impossible that He should not hear and answer, that frequently I found myself saying to Him, "I hope Thou dost not think that I can be denied. I come with Thy faithful promises in my hand, and I cannot be denied."

I cannot tell

how absurd unbelief looked to me,

and how certain it was in my mind that God would answer prayer—those prayers from day to day and from hour to hour that I found myself offering in such agony and faith.

I had no idea of the shape the answer would take, the locality in which the prayers would be answered, or the exact time of the answer. My impression was that the answer was near, even at the door, and I felt myself strengthened in the divine life, harnessed for a mighty conflict with the powers of darkness, and expected soon to see a far greater outpouring of the Spirit of God in that new country where I had been labouring.

THE CHURCH MUST BE FREE

The Church is founded on the Rock of Ages, Jesus Christ; that is the true Church, made up of every blood-washed soul throughout the ages. The promise that the gates of hell shall not prevail against her applies only to Christ's holy Church, and not to any or every ecclesiastical denomination which shows its head in these last days.

The Church must be independent and unattached to the world or worldly things, for he that is a friend of the world is an enemy to God.

If the Church is to accomplish her God-given mission—

1. She must be free from any taint of worldliness—not like the world.

2. She must be free from all wildfire and fanaticism—no unscriptural traditions, unknown tongues, extremes in any truth beyond the plain teaching of the Scriptures.

3. She must be free from every appearance of evil. If meat makes my brother to offend, I'll eat no more meat while the world stands.

4. She must be free from laziness and indifference concerning the lost, and mightily, by prayer and effort, push the work of rescuing the unsaved before forever too late.

5. She must be free from emptiness, and be filled with faith and the Holy Ghost. She must be like her Lord, seeking the lost and bringing them to Jesus.—Rev. E. C. Wills, in the Free Methodist.

The moderation of fortunate people comes from the calm which good fortune gives to their tempers.—La Rochefoucauld.