

CORRESPONDENCE

Mary, Wolfe Co.,
Kentucky

Dear Friends,

It has been nearly four months since I was stationed at "Devil's Creek", so am quite well adjusted to everything now, and better able to describe the work here and its progress.

There are about 30 homes in this calling vicinity. We have visited nearly every home, and expect to call at the remaining three or four next week, after which it will be time to cover the ground again. As we call at the homes we come face to face with the real needs. In some places we see the results of sin from generations past. In general the people are friendly, making us welcome and inviting us back. We deal with them personally regarding their soul's need, read the Word and pray, and invite them to church. Their various excuses are often old and threadbare, but this is not characteristic of mountain people alone.

One encouraging feature regarding the work here is the interest of the children as we hold meetings every Friday morning at the school house. This fine group of about 40 is interested in the flannel-graph Bible lessons and enjoys singing choruses. Many remember what they were taught by former missionaries and like to answer questions. We pray that foundational truths will prepare them for early conversions, and thus their souls, as well as their lives, will be saved to glorify God.

Then we are encouraged by the increasing interest in our Young People's meetings. Here, also, we teach mostly by method of flannel-graph and object lessons. This is a fine looking group of intelligent and promising young people.

You would be interested in our congregation, which is usually "on the move", due to the tramping in and out, especially of a certain group of boys. Usually they come in late. The leader of the meeting just gets well into the message and every one seems interested, then one boy will start, followed by several others, and out they troop at the most inopportune time. The speaker would just have time to collect his scattered wits and again get the attention of the people, when the boys return with no small rustle and most of the remaining congregation turns to look. Sometimes we wonder if anyone hears anything but usually there are a few who keep their attention forward. The Lord has wonderfully helped, for it used to confuse me to speak to a group where was the least interruption. I had to overcome that, but needless to say it is difficult to get one's message "over" in the midst of such restlessness, and often we feel quite worn out after the attempt. We thank the Lord that we have seen some improvements in church etiquette among the mischievous boys. During meeting, on my first Sunday here, the chief disturbance was brought about by means of fire-crackers set off around the outside of the church. These annoyances are mild compared to those the pioneer missionaries encountered. Often they preached in the face of threats and actions which endangered their lives.

We are praying and planning for our revival services which we expect to hold in May. We know not what opposing plans the Devil may devise and use his willing imps to carry out. He is mostly disturbed during special efforts for the salvation of souls. Will you join the many who are praying for this needy

place? Especially pray for the young people of whom all are unsaved, that they will desire Christ's forgiveness and the Holy Spirit's cleansing so much that no price will seem too great to obtain the peace, joy and rest of soul that salvation brings.

In many ways missionary work here is like that in foreign lands. One difference, there is no native help for general work. In this particular church, like most mission work, there are no committees to carry on the different phases of the work. It falls on the missionaries to act as president of the mission society (or prayer band of N.H.M.S.), leader of children's and young people's meeting, superintendent and treasurer of the Sunday School, as well as teach classes and order supplies. Added to these responsibilities are the general pastoral duties with preaching and prayer services. Usually the evangelist, or special singer, or both are entertained at the parsonage.

I hesitate to make many descriptions of this station and people, lest some judge general conditions by particular cases. In some of the churches here, various offices are filled by laymen. Conditions and people vary. Only certain characteristics and customs are general.

This church is one of the oldest and has seen better days spiritually. From this place have gone several special workers, five missionaries to their own native hills, one to India and another in Bible School preparing for Africa. A number of the spiritual ones have moved away, some of older ones are feeble, others are sick. There is one faithful family that has "stood by" the missionaries during pioneer days, and since. They are an inspiration to us. The Christian daughter, Lucy, teaches school at Bloody Creek, an adjoining community. She also teaches our primary children in Sunday School.

I have tried to present the needs so those who are interested will know better what to pray for. Also pray for the other station workers, the most of whom are of just average strength, but are happy labouring among the needy, knowing the joy of serving for Jesus' sake. I met the other workers at conference, December 26th—28th. I praise the Lord for this open door of service and fellowship with a spiritual group which seems like one large, happy family.

I wish to thank all who remembered me with cards and gifts at Christmas. Every gift was acknowledged by a personal letter or thanks. If such a letter was not received by any donor, the negligence must be in the postal service.

God bless the home churches and people. My thoughts are often with you. I enjoy getting letters which keep me in touch with the work of the different churches. I know the Lord is helping here in answer to praying friends. Keep praying and the Lord will reward you accordingly.

Yours in Christ,
THELMA ROSE.

TEMPERED TRUTH

F. A. Dunlop

"And it came to pass that while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near, and went with them."

The road to Emmaus was the "road of doubting." And what Christian has not travelled that road! The doings of God are often

shrouded in mystery. The Psalmist learned, that "thick clouds and darkness, are round about Him," and man's inability to penetrate those clouds leaves him an easy prey to doubt. Many a soul whose obedience knew no lack, whose love was strong, whose desires were pure, have nevertheless, travelled the "road of doubting," when such things as "the Cross," the "empty tomb" and the "witness of others," came down upon them, a dark unyielding puzzle. When the "lights go out" one by one; when our "eyes are holden that we cannot know Him"; when all our physical senses combine to fight against the "things we've trusted in;" when faith, and faith only is left to hold the fort, the journey to Emmaus can easily become the "Road of Doubting."

But, the "road to Emmaus," was also the "road of devotion." Doubt can prove fatal only when the heart is lacking the true spirit of devotion. Despite the fact that doubts assailed, the men of the text thought, and talked, of Jesus. While reason staggered under the shock, their hearts warmed to the message of truth, as "He opened to them the scriptures." The hymn writer said:

"Oh Love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths, its flow
May richer, fuller, be."

"O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine's glow its day
May brighter, fairer be."

Love is the anchor that holds when we are caught in the strong tides of doubt. "Love never faileth."

The Road to Emmaus proved to be the Road to Deliverance. "They said, Abide with us, and He went in to tarry with them." Blessed hour, when devotion masters doubt, and we "constrain Him to abide with us." He "gave them bread;" "their eyes were opened, and they knew Him." He "vanished out of their sight," but their doubts had vanished also. And in their place, was a burning heart, and a glowing testimony of a risen Saviour. The road which began in doubt had ended in deliverance.

The lesson of faith is one of the first lessons to master. There will always be mysteries to grapple with, but let us remember that these are for God to solve and not man. In six thousand years of human history He has not failed even once, and often in the darkest hours of life Christ has been nearer than we knew, awaiting an invitation, and His answer is the answer of Deliverance.

ABLAZE WITH GOD

I saw a human life ablaze with God,
I felt a power divine
As through an empty vessel of frail clay
I saw God's glory shine.
Then woke I from a dream and cried aloud:
"My Father give to me
The blessing of a life consumed by God
That I may live for Thee."

—Selected.

Jesus, the Life, the Truth, the Way,
In whom I now believe;
As taught by Thee, in faith I pray,
Expecting to receive.