



Woodstock, N. B.

Dear Highway Friends:

A report from the Woodstock church would not be out of order. God has been especially good to us here this year and we want others to rejoice with us.

The fact that souls have been finding help gives us the greatest satisfaction. In a recent Sunday morning service, seven fine folk were seekers for spiritual help. Since then, three others have sought the Lord. In some instances, we stood in amazement at the power of the Spirit, not only to call men, but to transform them. The grace of God is still miraculous! Several others are hungry for the Lord and have requested prayer.

A month ago a major face-lifting job was started in the parsonage kitchen. New cupboards, floor, sink, stove, plus an electric hot-water tank, have made the kitchen pleasant and convenient in every way. The desire and the willingness to improve the property here is to the credit of our people. It might be well to mention also that the barn to the rear of the parsonage, a relic of 100 years past, has been dismantled. In its place will be a lawn and shrubs.

We believe the future is bright for the Woodstock church. An increasing congregation together with a praying people should make for advancement in every way.

For all that may be done we promise to give the glory to God.

Laurence and Vesta Mullen

Marysville, N. B.

We'll not mention the fact that a letter is overdue from us, nor just how long since we have written, the less said, the better.

We are finishing our fifth year in Marysville, which hardly seems possible. We are enjoying our stay here very much. It seems to us that things are about as near ideal, both in church and community, as one could expect to find in a world such as we live in.

We believe our work here has improved and increased, not nearly as much as we would like to see, but yet enough to encourage our hearts and inspire our faith. We are looking to the Lord for greater things in the future.

We have had a revival meeting each year since being here and each one has produced some results and the church has been edified and encouraged. Our meeting this Spring was, we feel, quite outstanding. The Spirit of the Lord was definitely in our midst and we saw some gracious victories. Several were saved, quite a few backsliders were reclaimed, and the greatest work was done in the sanctification of believers. I believe that without doubt the greatest need in probably all of our churches is that Christian people really die out and pray through until they have the inner assurance that they are sanctified by the infilling of the blest Holy Spirit.

Our evangelist this Spring was Rev. Annie Laurie Greiner, from Scarsboro, Iowa, Missionary evangelist and Camp meeting worker. The ministry of our sister was much appreciated both by church and community and her messages were used and blessed of God. Our church is more of a holiness church than before this meeting. Those who came to the altar were encouraged to pray through, forsake all sin, make restitution and only claim that which they had a witness to having received. We appreciated very much the thorough work of our evangelist at our altar services.

Herbert McCrea was our song leader and soloist. He filled his place well and made a real contribution to the success of the meeting. Bro. McCrea sang in the Spirit, worked faithfully about the altar, united with us in prayer, and called on the sick and shut-ins in the community. He was a faithful worker and his efforts were appreciated and fruitful.

We wish to take this opportunity to extend to all our Highway friends our warmest Christian greetings. We trust that all have had a good church year and we wish you much greater and better things in the coming year.

Yours in Christian Love,

Rev. and Mrs. G. R. Symonds.

THE HIGHER MINISTRIES OF HOLIDAYS

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"Thou shalt remember the Lord thy God," and His statutes shall become thy songs.

Seek the Mind of God

And then I would give a second counsel. Let us seek the mystic mind of God in the creations of the natural world. For these material presences are speaking to us. They are the wonderful shrines in which are to be found still more wonderful messages. Do not let us confine our wonder to the shrine and ignore the message. Let us hold ourselves receptive to the secret, spiritual thing.

Our Saviour elicited the secret of the lilies. He read an evangel as He saw the birds on the wing or in their nests. Everything was to Him a kind of envelope, and He reverently opened it and found the mystic scroll. And so was it with the psalmists and the prophets. Material things were the bearers of spiritual things, and these old seers continually gather the secret treasures. Charles Kingsley said that whenever he went down a country lane he felt as though everything about him, every leaf, and bud, and flower were saying something to him, and he was pained by the feeling of his density. But he heard many things, and he has told them again to us. And in our own degree we all may do it.

At any rate, we can question these sublime and beautiful things, and rightly to ask a question is to put oneself in the mood for receiving a reply. Why not begin with a flower? "What message hast thou here for me, thou tender, beautiful, gracious thing? What tidings dost thou bring?" Maybe not all at once will our spirit discover the answer, but it will not be long before we are sensitive enough to catch some whisper from our God. Material presences, continually wooed by the spirit, will yield their spiritual treasure, and the jubilant heart will store up its growing wealth of grace.

Keep Alive Unto God

And so, I say, cannot we quietly interrogate our surroundings, without fuss or obtrusion, and by wise questioning prepare ourselves for great replies? "What hast thou to say to me, O breaking wave, lifted hill, flying cloud, gentle breeze, or roaring blast?" And if some day our holiday plans are broken by the broken weather, it will be a blessed thing to consult the falling rain, and ask what secret messages it may have for men, and what news it brings of things Divine! These are simplicities, but they will lead us into profundities, and without any weight or burdensomeness they will keep our souls "alive unto God."

And thus let us imitate the Scriptures in regarding the ministries of Nature as illustrative of the ministries

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The King's Highway