

WORK OF GOD IN CHESTER CIRCUIT, 1832,

DEAR BROTHER BOURNE,

Grace, mercy, and peace be multiplied unto you from God the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

In reading over our Magazines, I find the Almighty has of late been graciously pleased to pour out his Holy Spirit upon our Connexion in general, so that most of the circuits are in arising state. And I feel thankful to God that some part of the heavenly shower has fallen upon Chester Circuit. The barren places are becoming fruitful; and, in some measure, the rough places are made plain, and the crooked things straight. I take this opportunity to send you an extract of my Journal. May God make us a Holy Priesthood, a chosen generation, a peculiar people, zealous of good works. And may we ever ascribe all the Glory to God, for the riches of his Grace by Christ Jesus, is the prayer of

Your Brother in Christ,

W. HOLT.

Chester, Dec. 29th, 1832.

Monday, Sept. 10, Quarter day at Chester. Things went on well. Many of the Preaching Places are crowded with hearers, we have an increase of members, our pecuniary wants are supplied, and we have something to spare. Hitherto the Lord hath helped us. Let us praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that which is to come.

Thursday 13, Guilden Sutton. The Lord was with us and made us happy in his love. His presence makes our paradise, and where he is, is heaven

Sunday Sept. 16, Chester, at six o'clock attended the prayer meeting; at nine spoke at Handbridge, and had a remarkably good time. In the afternoon I was rather straitened. In the evening there was a large and attentive conregation, the word ran freely, tears were shed, and I trust good impressions were made on many minds.

Monday 17th, Clotton, there was more people than could get into the house. The Lord was with us; I was enabled to preach with power, and the shout of the King was heard in our camp.

Tuesday 18th, Huxley. The house was well filled with attentive hearers. The word had free course and there is a moving among them. All glory be to Jesus,

Wednesday 19th, Burton Hall. A large congregation; much good has been done here, and the Lord is still working: souls have been converted, but satan rages at his loss, and hates the Doctrine of the cross.

Thursday 20, Little Barrow. Took tea with a few friends, and in singing and prayer, we felt very happy. In preaching, the word seemed to have free course, and we had a good meeting.

Saturday 22, Chester Band Meeting. Almost as soon as the meeting commenced, a young woman began to cry out for mercy. We prayed to God to have mercy upon her, for the sake of Christ. And she soon professed to be made happy in his pardoning love.

Sunday, Sept. 23, Wrexham. The preaching room, was well filled; the meetings were attended with Divine power; and though we had not any converted, yet I believe the work of conviction is going on.

Monday 24, Wrexham. I felt much blest in visiting the members. I have meat to eat that the world knows not of. We had a good meeting in the evening; we prayed with some who were convinced of sin, but they did not get converted.

Tuesday 25, Eaton Pool. The house was crowded, the people were attentive; believers rejoiced, the word had free course, my soul was happy, and I believe the blessing of the Lord attended the meeting.

Wednesday 26, Bangor Bank. We had a good meeting; by waiting upon the Lord, we renewed our strength, and were enabled to rejoice together, in the God of our salvation.

Thursday 27, Shocklatch. The word had free course, one sinner got converted, and others were praying for mercy.

Friday 28th, Carden Green. We had a good meeting, the Lord was with us.

Saturday 29, Little Barrow. We had a good fellowship meeting; the Lord was with us; we could rejoice and say "Master it is good for us to be here."

Sunday, Sept. 30th, Ellerton. This is a fresh place, I took my stand in the open air, opposite a Farm house. But, as it rained very fast while we were singing the first hymn, the farmer kindly invited me to preach in his house. The people were attentive; some were affected, and tears were shed: may the Lord water the good seed sown.

Monday, Oct. 1, Wirvin. The house was well filled. Some appear to be in a seeking way.

Tuesday 2, Saughall. The Lord was with us, and we rejoiced together. Our new Chapel here, has been made a blessing. It is well attended, and souls have been converted in it.

Wednesday 3, Little Nesston. A good congregation, and a good time. But, the members are rather backward in praying for and expecting a present salvation.

Thursday 4, Willaston. The house was well filled, the people were attentive. I was poorly in in body; and in Preaching had a great conflict with the enemy.

Saturday 6, Chester Band Meeting. The vestry was well filled; the power of the Lord came down, believers were quickened, and sinners seemed to be astonished.

Sunday, Oct. 7, Picton. A good congregation, and I was enabled to speak with power, At Guilden Sutton in the evening. I had a hard time. I want more faith and zeal, and love.

Monday 8, Quarry Bank. This day I walked about fourteen miles, through wind and rain; yet I could cheerfully say, "I bear the toil, endure the pain, supported by thy word." The house was well filled. The Lord is working among them; some have found the pearl of great price, and others are seeking after it.

Tuesday 9, Ashton. A powerful lively meeting.

Thursday 11, Guilden Sutton.

A refreshing time, from the presence of the Lord. One said that during the meeting he had a view of poor sinners hanging over the pit of hell.

Friday 12, Chester. A good meeting. I was enabled to speak with liberty and power.

Saturday 13, Chester Band Meeting. We began these meetings about six months ago, and they have been attended with a special blessing.

Sunday Oct. 14, Handbridge, in the morning, a powerful time. At Saughall a lovefeast in the afternoon a lively meeting. Some of them seemed to rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of Glory. At Chester in the evening, and in the prayer meeting after preaching, believers rejoiced, and sinners were praying for mercy.

Monday 15, Clotton, There were more people than could get into the house. Sinners were convinced, believers rejoiced, and the shout of a King was heard in our Camp.

Tuesday 16, Huxley, I did not labour in vain, nor spend my strength for nought, Sinners appeared to be convinced, and a gracious influence rested on the meeting.

Wednesday 17, Burton Hall The house was well filled with attentive hearers.

Thursday 18, Little Barrow. We had a lively meeting.

Friday 19, Plough Lane. We had a blessed meeting; the heavenly influence rested upon us, we sat under his shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to our taste,

Saturday 20, Chester Band Meeting. We had a precious time. Three of our friends from Liverpool were present, and in speaking their experiences, they said, they found it exceedingly good to be there.

Sunday. Oct. 21st. Walked about twenty miles to my first appointment, at a fresh place on the border of Wales, There was more people than could get into the house, they were very, attentive, and I have no doubt, good was done.

Monday 22, Wrexham. Had great conflict in preaching, but felt the presence of. the Lord at the prayer meeting after preaching. It was a powerful time: one man fell to the floor, and lay for a considerable time. When he came to, he lifted up his hands and his voice, blessing and praising God.

Thursday 25, Shocklatch. The house was crowded, I had good liberty in speaking; believers rejoiced, and sinners were crying for mercy.

Monday, Dec. Quarter Day at Chester. Praise the Lord, our affairs were settled in a peaceable manner. Our pecuniary wants were supplied; we paid five pounds of the principal on Chester Chapel, and six pounds we paid off some time ago. We have something in hand, and what is best of all, we have reason to believe, the Circuit is increasing in holiness, as well as in number. To God be all the Glory.

(Approved by the Circuit Committee.)

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1833/142