

THOMAS PAINE'S JOURNAL, 1830, 1831.
(Tunstall Circuit.)

July 11, Sunday. Spoke twice for the benefit of a Sunday School at Macclesfield, had not much liberty; but I trust satisfaction was given. At night led class, the Lord was present.

15, Thursday. Visited about fourteen families; tears were shed. At night spoke at Sandbach, much of the divine presence was felt.

July 20, Tuesday. After visiting eleven families, spoke in the open air at Penkhill, with great liberty. Several were affected. In prayer meeting two professed to obtain pardon.

August 8, Sunday. Camp meeting at Macclesfield. Nothing particular appeared on the Camp ground. But in the lovefeast at night, the Lord shone from on high, made bare his holy arm, wounded and healed. Five professed to obtain pardon, and one the blessing of sanctification. Glory to God.

Sept. 13, Tuesday. I visited eleven families. In one, a woman who was ill, and seemed then unlikely to recover, cried out mightily to the Lord; and after pointing her to the Lamb of God, and urging her to cast herself as a hell-deserving sinner upon his blood, the Lord broke in upon her soul, and she was enabled to believe, and praise a pardoning God. At night spoke at Penkhill.

Sept. 18, Sunday. Lovefeast at Tunstall. The speaking was clear, and attended with a good effect. The Lord crowned the meeting with his presence; several were deeply affected, and one or more brought to God. At night spoke at Burslem. A refreshing season at the sacrament of the Lord's supper.

Sept. 24, Friday. Visited eleven families. In one, was a young female, an object of commiseration, nearly cutoff by a consumption. I conversed with her on the necessity of being prepared; and, while showing her the ability, readiness, and willingness of Christ to save her there and then, the Spirit strove mightily, she burst into tears, cried out for mercy, and was soon blessed with a sense of pardon. O! the goodness of God to precious souls! At night, Br. Wedgwood spoke at Englesea Brook, and in the prayer meeting afterward, two professed to obtain the remission of sins.

October 4, Monday. At Macclesfield. During the course of this day, we had two prayer meetings, (it being wake time). At night, spoke with good liberty; and in the prayer meeting, two were brought to the Lord, through faith in Jesus' name.

October 10, Sunday morning. Led Br. Lucas' class, and afterward preached in the open air at Buglawton, with good liberty. In the afternoon and evening in the chapel at Congleton; was blest in speaking; and in prayer meeting, the Lord came down in power; two professed to obtain the remission of sins. Glory to God.

October 18. Wednesday. In my course of visiting, I met with a man advanced in years, but was still in an unhappy state, though an attendant on the means of grace. I entered into conversation with him, and amongst other things which he related, said, he had actually prayed to the devil for the space of two years. These things had sunk him in despair. But on viewing the unsearchable riches of Christ, and his compassion to humble penitents, I directed him to look to Jesus, who was able to save to the uttermost. He rose in faith, cast himself on Christ, and believed there and then on the Lord, and that the Lord had taken away his sins. Praise the Lord for his goodness. Amen. At night spoke at Hanley.

October 31, Sunday morning. At Macclesfield prayer meeting, and class meeting. In the afternoon spoke with tolerable liberty. In the evening, to a large and attentive audience. The Lord blessed me with good liberty. But in prayer meeting afterwards, the powers of darkness were amazingly strong; we had a mighty struggle; but God was with us. Several were in distress, and believers groaned in spirit. Three professed to believe to the saving of the soul. Glory be to God. Amen.

Nov. 15, Monday. Visited several families, and at night spoke and renewed tickets at Biddulph Moor. The Lord graciously descended; two humble seekers were brought to the enjoyment of Christian liberty, and gave in their names to join the society. Halleluia.

Noy. 28, Sunday. Morning at Macclesfield attended one class, and gave a lecture to the children in the afternoon, spoke with considerable liberty. In the evening was the lovefeast, which will not soon be erased from my mind. Though considerable barrenness appeared at the commencement, and the speaking was apparently to little effect; but, "God seeth not as man seeth." Prayer commenced, the Lord shone from on high. Sinners trembled, and cried out on all sides; upwards of twelve were in distress. The friends laboured successfully, and God set five or six at liberty. To his name be all the glory.

Dec. 15, Wednesday. After visiting nine families, spoke at Checkly, and renewed the tickets. Two cried mightily to God, and the Lord shone upon their minds, and blessed them with his pardoning love. Glory to his name. Another found peace the next morning.

January 16. On the Lord's day morning, spoke at Pitt's Hill. Heard Br. Petty speak at Burslem in the afternoon. In the evening, lovefeast at Pitt's Hill. Upon the whole a good time. Two were powerfully affected; one of them obtained liberty the night following. Glory to God.

Jan. 28, Sunday. Morning in prayer meeting, in Br. Ashworth's house, at Tunstall. The Lord was truly precious; one soul obtained pardon. In the afternoon spoke at Kidsgrove, a good feeling. In the evening at Tunstall, the divine presence was felt in the chapel. In the school room at prayer meeting, the power of God was amongst us, several were in distress, two backsliders were reclaimed; and at another prayer meeting, one soul found peace with God, and others were seeking the Lord.

24, Monday. Spoke at Audley. There was a fine power, in prayer meeting; one found peace, another was wounded.

26, Wednesday. Visited and prayed with eleven families. At night spoke at Checkly, several were powerfully affected, one professed to obtain a degree of comfort.

Feb. 6, Sunday. At Macclesfield. In the forenoon, I visited a young female upon the point of death.* She could scarcely utter a word. I prayed, and directed her parents to look to God, and prepare for death. We cannot tell whether she was saved or not. Methinks the young would do well to consider the solemn words of the poet,

"Oh, ye young, ye gay, ye proud,
You must die, and wear the shroud." &c.

In the afternoon spoke, and was blessed with liberty; a searching time: one was deeply wounded, and has since found pardon. A young female** recited a piece to the congregation, which produced a blessed effect, as she did it with such power of expression, and deep solemnity, with tears flowing down her cheeks. It seemed as though all in the chapel were moved on hearing her.

In the evening, spoke with good liberty. In prayer and class meeting afterward, two professed to obtain the blessing of justification; another, after a long and mighty struggle, obtained a degree of com fort.

Feb. 8, Tuesday. Visited several families; and at night spoke at Withinglee. The Lord was with us, one soul cried out to the Lord. In the morning following, I heard that he was enabled to believe God had pardoned his sins.

9, Wednesday. Spoke at Watercourse, in Macclesfield, and the Lord laid hold or one who had been a backslider ten years. She trembled, and cried to the Lord, but did not obtain liberty; another seemed distressed for his soul.

Feb. 11, Friday. After visiting a number of families, spoke at Sutton; in prayer meeting, we had a glorious time, two professed to obtain sanctification.

15, Tuesday. Visited eight families, and the Lord saved one soul. At night spoke and renewed tickets at Danehenshaw.

17, Thursday. After visiting a few families, walked to Wintaley, spoke with good liberty, several were deeply affected, gave the tickets, one backslider trembled, and cried to the Lord, and again joined the class.

Feb. 20, "Sunday. Morning we had a prayer meeting at Tunstall. Walked to Congleton, spoke at three o'Clock in the afternoon, and six in the evening. In prayer meeting, two who had dealt with a slack hand, after struggling mightily, were blessed with the smiles of God's countenance. O ye saints of God, rejoice, and praise the Lord, for his wondrous goodness.

* She died that afternoon.

** A Sunday Scholar, and a Member.

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1832/34