

WORK IN LOUTH CIRCUIT, 1836 to 1838.

Journal of J. Stamp.

October 24, 1836. Re-opened the chapel at a village called *Mumby-cum-Chapel." It was crowded to excess; and next morning all the seats were let, and more wanted.

Nov. 1. At Louth. The glory still rests upon us here; and Jesus by his blood is bringing sinners to God every week.

12. At Hogsthorpe. A mighty shaking took place, and several said, "This people shall be my people."

Dec. 18. Spoke at Somercotes. And next morning spoke to upwards of fifty children.

25. Walked twenty miles in a storm. But
"Labour is rest, and pain is sweet,
If thou my God art there."

31. Being the last day in the year, we assembled in the chapel at Louth, at ten at night. Six of us spoke short; and we continued the meeting till four o'clock in the morning. Then upwards of fifty of us sung round the town, "Come, let us anew," &c. At six o'clock we had a powerful prayer meeting, when several backsliders cried for mercy; and ten joined class. Praise the Lord, O my soul!

January 1, 1837. Spoke twice in Louth. The power of God rested mightily on the people.

Jan. 26. Assisted at re-opening Hogsthorpe chapel. Scores could not gain admission. The collections and donations amounted to upwards of thirty pounds. This is the Lord's doing.

March 6. Assisted at Somercotes missionary meeting. During the day Bro. North visited and prayed with upwards of fifty families, which caused many to come in the evening to the house of God.

We had not much help from man, in regard of speaking. But the power of Israel's God rested upon us; and in the prayer meeting several cried mightily for mercy, and two found peace; one of whom, after six months, died in the Lord.

Next morning held a children's missionary meeting. The collection was five shillings.

March 8 At Theddlethorpe. Held a meeting; and next morning held one for the children.

March 14. Quarter-day. God is with us. We have this quarter built one chapel, called out an additional preacher, and had an increase for the year of one hundred souls. Halleluia. The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

April 11. Spoke at N. Cockrington. Next day visited from house to house. Met with an old man upwards of seventy, who scarcely ever attended a place of worship. I prayed, and the power of God laid hold on him, and after a mighty struggle, he obtained pardon. His wife also cried for mercy and found the Friend of sinners. In the evening, spoke at Cockering, and three more looked on Him whom they had pierced. And while I shouted aloud, "The debt's discharged, the ransom's paid, my Father must forgive," they believed with the heart unto righteousness.

April 30, Spoke at Louth; and next morning spoke to upwards of one hundred children.

May 14, Preached the anniversary sermons for Mumby chapel. 'The trustees have been enabled to lower the debt six pounds,

June 13. Quarter-day, After meeting all demands, we had ten pounds over; and had an increase of fifty souls.

June 18 spoke at Louth. Two souls saved.

21. Spoke at N. Cockington; and next morning to fifty children.

July 1. Spoke at Orby, and begged land for a chapel. The hearts of all men are in the hands of God.

July 7. Went to Orby to assist at laying the foundation stone of a new chapel. And it being the feast day, we held a Camp meeting during the afternoon. And at seven o'clock many of us sung to the ground, when Mr. Harrison, who had kindly given us the land, laid the first stone. And Bro. Cram, one of our long tried friends from Hogsthorpe, laid the second, with a donation upon it. He had come six miles, with a cart full of singers for the occasion. I then preached from, "The God of heaven, he will prosper us: so we his servants will arise and build." Bros. B. and N. gave exhortations, and at nine we left the ground rejoicing.

July 23. Louth Camp meeting. Thousands attended. In the afternoon I preached a sermon to the children, which took well. At night lovefeast. The next morning I spoke in the large vestry to one hundred and twenty-six children.

August 7, Spoke on the foundation stone of Mablethorpe chapel. We have had much persecution in this place, for two years. But W. Ward, Esq. kindly gave us land to build a house for God. May the blessing of Him who dwelt in the bush abide on him and his house.

August 20, Assisted in opening Markby chapel, with my wife and Bro. Cheeseman. The collection was liberal.

27. Spoke at Louth at two and six; and at five in a publican's yard to listening hundreds. One drunken sinner was wounded under the word.

Sept. 1. Bro. Cheeseman, myself, and wife, assisted at the opening of Saltfleet chapel.

Sept. 19. Assisted in opening Orby chapel. Sister Blackwell, Mrs. Stamp, and Bro. Gilbert, took part in the services.

October 1. Spoke at Louth. One cried for mercy, and found peace. Next morning preached to one hundred and twenty children.

Nov. 28. Preached on the foundation stone of Grainthorpe chapel.

Dec. 3. Preached a funeral sermon for Brother Blanchard. His death was triumphant. He found peace in our chapel, six months ago, while I was administering the sacrament.

10. Preached a funeral sermon for Sister Tuplin, at Saltfleet.

18. Spoke at Fotherby. One cried for mercy during sermon. I told her, if in God she dare rely, her faith should bring the power. She ventured her soul on the atonement, and was made whole.

Dec. 24. Spoke at Louth in the afternoon, And Mrs. Stamp and myself in the evening. Three cried for mercy, and found peace, and several were in deep distress. Praise the Lord, O my soul,

Dec. 31. Spoke at Alford. At ten at night we sung to our chapel, followed by hundreds.

January 25, 1838. Spoke at a teetotal meeting in Hogsthorpe; and eighty-one signed the pledge. This has been one of the strong holds of drunkenness. But the snare is broken, and many captive slaves are made free.

Feb. 1. Gave tickets to four classes in Louth. Gave thirty notes on trial. Bless the Lord for ever and ever,

7. Spoke at Muckton. One young woman was deeply wounded under the word; and after she got home she fell down and cried aloud for mercy. Her father fetched me to pray with her, and she obtained liberty through the blood of the Lamb.

22, Spoke at Legbourn; and while describing the willingness of God to save just NOW, one woman jumped up, clapped her hands, and rejoiced in the God of her salvation. This had a powerful effect on the meeting; and two others cried out for mercy. Praise God,

Feb, 25. At Somercotes. Spoke particularly on the besetting sins of excessive smoking and drinking. It had the desired effect on many professors. And next morning, while preaching to the children, twenty grown up persons came and signed the teetotal pledge.

March 4. Lovefeast at Louth. For the first hour the meeting appeared to be full of heavenly feelings; and several said they believed souls would be saved ere the meeting closed. At that instant satan marshalled his troops, and came with fresh forces to fight for his tottering kingdom. All was dark as midnight; and about half-past four, some began to retire; and amongst them were some of those who had said they believed souls would be saved. I reminded them of what they had said, and told them hell would laugh if we went from that place conquered. I cried out in mighty faith, "Who believes, now all is dark and cloudy?" Silence ensued. But at last the cry of "I do," rose from two or three. I then left the pulpit; and, with a loud voice, said,
"Thine arm, Lord, is not shorten'd now,
It wants not now the power to save."

At that moment devils feared and fled. The power of God descended; five cried for mercy,
"And heard the glad sound,
And liberty found
Through the blood of the Lamb."

Several continued in the chapel till the evening service; when Bro. Norriss and I preached; and in the prayer meeting five more cried for deliverance. Halleluia.. The Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

March 13. Quarter-day at Louth. Reported one hundred increase for the year. And in the prayer meeting after the evening service, two souls were converted to God.

April 1. Went into Boston circuit, to assist in opening a new chapel at Irby. Mrs. Stamp spoke in the chapel, and I spoke in a large barn. At night we had a glorious cry out for mercy, and two obtained the forgiveness of all their sins.

22. Hogsthorpe and Chapel. There has been a glorious work in these two places during the last quarter; upwards of fifty souls have joined. Well may it be said, "What hath God wrought!"

29. Spoke at Alford at five. We had a prayer meeting in the market-place, and then sung to the chapel. Four cried for mercy, and found pardon. These make upwards of twenty for the week. Praise the Lord, O my soul.

May 27. Attended Skendleby Camp meeting. We had a course of walking sermons to the ground, and one to the children. In the afternoon held a lovefeast in the open air.

June 25, Preached my farewell sermon at Addlethorpe cottage, in a large granary. Scores came from the adjacent villages. Several were cut to the heart. The meeting continued till break of day, and five passed from death unto life.

26. Spoke at Hag, in the Horncastle circuit. In the midst of my discourse, while offering a free and full salvation, I was interrupted by a high Calvinist minister, who said I was leading my hearers to endless perdition. I mildly asked him who I was so leading, if the elect? He answered, no, that was impossible. I then asked him if the reprobates could be led any where else, according to his views? This he declined answering, and hastened out of the door.

June 27, 1838. I attended a teetotal meeting at LOUTH. And the reformed drunkards kindly presented me with a silver medal and chain.

July 1. Preached my farewell sermon at Louth. The chapel was crowded, and many were unable to gain admittance.

July 2, 1838. At nine in the morning, took my farewell of dear Father Coulson, (superintendent preacher,) whom I shall never, I trust, forget, while memory retains its seat in my breast. His fatherly counsel and advice; the many blessed seasons we have had together, while travelling three years in the same circuit, have left impressions on my mind, which, I trust, I shall never forget. And, oh! may, the God of Israel still continue to prosper and support him until we meet in the Paradise of God, to part no more, is the prayer of J. Stamp.

During the three years that Father Coulson and myself have laboured in this, the Louth circuit, we have built sixteen chapels, enlarged one, bought another, and fitted up a large room; and have had an increase of twenty-five local preachers, and four hundred and sixteen members; and our last quarter's income was sixty-five pounds more than the first; and we have called out three additional travelling preachers, and have fitted up a preacher's house.

I have walked more than ten thousand miles, have preached upwards of one thousand five hundred sermons, and have visited near six thousand families; and, through the blessing of God, I feel more strong to labour than when I first began, which I attribute in a great measure to total abstinence from intoxicating drinks, and the blessing of Almighty God.

J. STAMP

(Approved by the Circuit Committee.)

References

Primitive Methodist Magazine 1839/415