JOURNAL OF WILLIAM SUMMERSIDES:

In Weardale, Westgate Branch of Hull Circuit, 1825.

March 21—I arrived at Westgate, and brother Walton and I went to visit a sick man, and we felt it to be very good. The next day I spoke at Wearshead, in the chapel, and had a good time; we held a prayer-meeting after, and several fell to the ground under the sanctifying power of God, and they rose up praising God.

Wednesday, March 23—I went to meet brother Oxtoby, at Ludwell, and spoke. We had a good time; there was one in distress for her soul, but did not get liberty. The next morning we went to visit some of the people; and, while praying with them, we felt it very good. The next day I went to Lanehead, and lost my voice, and had a hard time.

On the day after I went to Nenthead and had a glorious time. A backslider got again restored to the favour of God, was made happy in the Saviour's love, and shouted aloud his praises. This is a good society, there are one hundred and forty members; all seemingly determined for heaven.

March 27—I spoke twice at the same place, and had a blessed day. After speaking at night, held a prayer-meeting, and other two backsliders cried for mercy, and again obtained redemption in the blood of Christ, the forgiveness of their sins. One of them had been a backslider fifteen or sixteen years. She got so happy she said it went through every part of her body, and she could hardly tell where she was. Praise the Lord for ever.

On the 28th I spoke at Haggs to a very large congregation, and had a good time; the Lord was wonderfully present. We held a prayer-meeting, and some were in deep distress for their souls, but did not get liberty; but one young woman got her evidence restored to her again, which she had lost through manifold temptations, and she was enabled to say, she did believe and was filled with peace and joy.

On Tuesday, the 29th, I spoke at Rillhope, and the Lord wrought powerfully upon some backsliders; this is a surprising place for backsliders; I never saw so many in any place that I ever was in. May the Lord reclaim them— thanks be to his name he is; I have seen a few saved this last month, and the Lord is at work with others.

Wednesday 30—I spoke at Welhope and had a hard time; but the power of God was felt, and some fell under the sanctifying power, others ran out of the house as fast as possible, and seemed as if they were terrified.

On Friday, April 1, I spoke at Nenthead thrice, and administered the sacrament and held the love-feast, it being called good Friday—a day kept in commemoration of the crucifixion of Christ. It was in reality a good Friday. One or two professed to obtain the pardon of all their sins, and many entered into a full salvation. O give him glory!

Sunday, April 3—I spoke at Nenthead twice, and baptized a child in the congregation, and had a solemn time. After speaking at night held a prayer-meeting, and three backsliders got reclaimed, and were again adopted into the family of God; made heirs of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ, and became witnesses of his power to save.

On the 10th I spoke at Frosterly in the morning, and twice the same day at Walsingham; at night some were in distress for their souls, and one professed to get liberty.

Friday, 15—Attended a prayer-meeting near Westgate; two or three professed to get liberty. One woman, who got her soul saved, was so filled with love, peace, and joy, through believing, that she went a-cross the house saying, "Jesus has washed away all my sins. Salvation has come to this house." This was her repeated cry.

On the 17th I spoke at Westgate and Stainhope, and had a glorious day.

Sunday, May 1—Attended a camp-meeting at Walsingham; the day was so wet and cold that we were under the necessity of concluding very soon in the afternoon; yet we had a good-time, and the arm of the Lord was made bare in the salvation of some on the camp ground and in the love-feast at night some more were brought into the glorious liberty of the sons of God, and some got sanctified, and were enabled to rejoice in a full salvation. Glory, glory, let us sing.

May 8—Brother William Garner, Jersey, and I, opened our Alstone chapel; there was three great congregations, and the arm of the Lord was visibly made bare amongst the people; and it was a day of the manifestation of the Son of God with power. Souls were saved, and God was glorified.

Sunday 15—Attended a camp-meeting at Newbegin, in Teesdale. A great number of people attended; it was a powerful meeting. None of the speakers were allowed to speak longer than twenty or twenty-five minutes at the longest, and it had a very good effect; it left room for eight sermons and two exhortations, and the praying companies had an opportunity of getting thrice out; and we concluded at three in the afternoon. Then the love-feast commenced in a school-room; the effects of the camp-meeting were in a measure seen at the love-feast. The power of God came down, and many fell to the ground; some cried out for mercy and obtained it. One woman, when the Lord saved her soul, was so happy and so filled with glory and-with God, she leaped for joy, and told her sister what the Lord had done for her soul; the sister immediately dropped down upon her knees, and cried for mercy; the Lord liberated her soul, and they both went rejoicing home, from the banquet of perfume. I hope the effects of this meeting will be seen in eternity.

May 29—I spoke at Westgate, and led a love-feast. It was a melting time, much of the power of God was felt, and many bore testimony of his power to save from all sin. I think of all the love-feasts that ever I attended, I never heard better experience spoken. Towards the close, the glory of God filled the place, many fell to the floor, and six or seven professed to enter into a full salvation, and could reckon themselves dead unto sin, but alive to God through Christ. Praise the Lord for ever.

Tuesday, June 7—We held our preparatory, or branch Quarter-day, at Westgate, and all appeared to be in prosperity. After the quarterly meeting we held a watch-night, at which brother A. and brother Oxtoby and I, spoke, and had full liberty. There was a shaking among the people; some were in distress, and one or two professed to get liberty.

June 26—After I returned from the quarter-day held at Hull, I spoke at Nenthead to a large congregation. The power of God was felt in a gracious manner. Some were in distress for their souls, and one professed to receive pardon.

Tuesday 28—Spoke at Wearshead, and had a blessed time. Some fell down.

Wednesday 29—Spoke at Unchealpond; a hard time, but the Lord was there; one woman, that fell under the mighty power of God, lay between six and seven hours.

Thursday 30—I spoke at Lowburn.. Many fell, two of whom lay each two hours upon the floor; then came to themselves, praising the Lord; one of them said it was all heaven, glory, and happiness. There are many things in this falling which fill the people with wonder and astonishment. One thing much noticed is that the body is never injured when they fall under the power of God. But it does not much surprise me when I consider in whose hands they are, and by whose power it is effected, There has been various opinions about this falling, and some medical men have taken the liberty of feeling the pulse of those who were down; but they have been lost in it, it being too deep for them to comprehend.

Sunday, July 10—We held a camp-meeting at Westgate. We sung nearly all the way to the ground, which, is about two miles; heaven seemed to breathe in the air, and the dale echoed with the praises of God. We opened the meeting with singing and prayer, and a short exhortation; after which seven sermons were preached, and the praying companies were out thrice.

Nothing very particular appeared on the camp-ground, but in the love-feast, at night, the power of God came down; glory filled the chapel, and it was thought that between eighty and ninety fell to the ground, or were held by others. The arm of the Lord was made bare in the conversion of sinners, in the restoration of backsliders, and in the sanctification of believers, Praise the Lord. I hope the effects of this meeting will be seen in eternity.

Sunday 17—Attended a camp-meeting near Workington, on the sea coast. We sung down the town; the singing seemed to have a wonderful effect, and the people manifested the best of behaviour. We opened the meeting with singing and prayer, and a short exhortation. Great power attended the preachings; tears flowed on every side; the word made a slaughter among the people; many got pricked to the heart.

In the love-feast at night, between twenty and thirty professed to enter into the liberty of God's children, and could rejoice in him as a sin pardoning God. Seven professed to enter into a full salvation, and stand up as living witnesses of his power to save from all sin.

On Monday preached at Whitehaven. After preaching held a prayer-meeting. The power of God was felt and some cried aloud for mercy. Seven professed to obtain the pearl of great price, and went home exulting in a risen Saviour, whose resurrection power they felt in their hearts.

19—Spoke at Workington, and had a hard time; but in the prayer-meeting two souls professed to emerge out of darkness into light, and were made happy in the dying love of Jesus. Praise the Lord.

Wednesday—Spoke at Harrington, and had a good time. On the 21st set off to my Branch in Weardale.

Sunday, 24—Spoke at Allenshead, and twice at Garrigillgate, and led a love-feast. One soul obtained the forgiveness of all his sins, and was made very happy.

27—We held a missionary meeting at Westgate; it was well attended both by preachers and people.

31 —I attended a camp meeting at Nenthead. Much power attended the speaking, and many fell to the ground, and many more were pricked to the heart, who had been hardened sinners. In the love-feast at Nenthead there was good experiences spoken, much power in them. But they began to fall down so fast, that many who were in distress went out and did not get saved; yet there was one backslider got restored, and some fully sanctified. Thank the Lord.

Tuesday, August 2—I spoke at Garrigillgate, and had a good time; many tears were shed, and the word seemed to have free access.

On the 5th I spoke at Alstone, and had a good time After the congregation was dismissed, I stopped the society and read the rules over, and talked to them about various things relative to the work of God; and it was a profitable soul reviving time, and I hope it will be productive of much good.

Sunday 7—Spoke at Wearshead twice and once at Westgate. After preaching held a prayer-meeting, at which one backslider professed to get reclaimed, and was made unspeakably happy. To God be all the glory. Amen.

References

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