

*Journal of R. Watkins 1829, 1830.*

December 2; 1829; Led the classes. Some were in distress.. Two joined. 3. Led a class. One joined. E

Sunday 6: Spoke in Pridy St. in the evening. Numbers went away that could not get in. The presence of the Lord was manifest: many came forward to be prayed for. Two were enabled to shout, "Glory to God in the highest."

Tuesday 8. Spoke in Pridy St. In the prayer meeting after, several came forward to be prayed for. One backslider was reclaimed; and drunk again at the fountain of life.

Monday 14, Attended a prayer meeting two exhorted and while they spoke on the nature of faith, my soul was much edified. Tuesday 15, Spent the day in visiting the sick and other families and felt much encouraged.

Wednesday 16. Led my two classes, one at 3 o'clock and the other at 7. A general thirst for holiness. The Lord came down and refreshed our souls. One joined. Thursday 17. Led a class. Two were in distress: one was bought to praise God from whom all blessings flow. Two joined the society. Praise the Lamb.

Sunday December 27. 1829. Assisted in opening the NEW CHAPEL. A soul refreshing time. I felt a want of gratitude to God for his goodness to us since we landed here, in a strange land; which is about five months. And what has God wrought! It was the cry of some that we should never get a footing in New York. But, blessed be God, we are encouraged to say, "Our God will prosper us, therefore we his servants will arise and build." The chapel is commodious, the congregation increases. At times we find the chapel too small but there is room to enlarge. The weather was unfavourable: it rained all day. And in such weather the churches here are in general almost empty; the people will not expose themselves, in this respect, so much as they do in England. But, bless the Lord. we were crowded, and the collections amounted to near forty dollars.

Monday December 28. I went to Philadelphia, about 67 miles by water; and about 25 by land. Much indisposed in body through the fatigues of the journey. The water travelling is pleasant, but the land very inconvenient. The roads are very bad, and I believe they pay but little attention to repairing them.

In the summer the travelling is cheap, we can go by water to Philadelphia for a dollar and a half. But in winter the rivers being frozen up, the steam boats cannot travel, and the travelling is much more expensive.

Sunday January 3. 1830. Spoke three times in Philadelphia. Our places of worship here are large. But it was supposed that hundreds went away that could not get in.—I was informed that a deist got convinced of sin, and many others.

Monday 4. Preached in the Episcopal Church, and made a collection for the Sunday. School. This was a heavy cross, but the Lord was present to help.

Thursday 7. Preached in one of our places to, at least, nine hundred people. They climbed the outside of the building, the windows were also lined. —It was a solemn time, many appeared to be under conviction.

Sunday Jan. 10. While speaking the tears flowed in all directions. Sunday 17. This day the Lord showed us his glory.

Tuesday 19. Preached to a crowded audience. My soul was much humbled before the Lord. The convincing power of God was evidently felt, and I believe the fruits of that meeting will be seen in eternity.—I never witnessed such a thirst for hearing in my life. Our places of worship were often filled an hour and a half or two hours before the time appointed for worship to commence, and they would wait till the time, with the greatest composure. And at last did not seem weary.

Wednesday 20. Led a class: 4 joined.

Our dear friends the preachers in Philadelphia, (Wm. Summersides and Thomas Morris,) and their wives, have suffered much through sickness. They have a great opening if they had strength to labour.

Tuesday Jan 21. Returned to New York. My health much impaired.

Thursday. Feb. 11. Visited the sick and other families, One woman had every appearance of a speedy dissolution.—Her mind was clouded. But while conversing and praying the cloud dispersed; and in a few hours she died happy in the Lord,— I also visited the sick members and others in the hospital. Alas! here I had an opportunity of learning many lessons.

Sunday Feb. 21. Spoke at Newark, about nine miles from New York. We preach in the Academy, have nine in society, and a good prospect.

Monday 22. Spoke at Bloomfield, about three miles further. Here we have twenty in society, and a chapel in building. One gentleman has given the land, and thirty dollars. The people are so liberal and zealous, that I expect the chapel will be clear of all expence.

Tuesday 23. Returned to the Quarter Day.

DEAR BRETHREN,

The Lord is doing great things for us, of which we are glad. Our number in society is one hundred and twenty, in good standing.

I am happy to tell you the Lord has been very mindful of me, in raising up friends for me in a strange land. The kindness of the people is unspeakable.

We have three preaching places.in New York. The Chapel near the East river, the Bowery room near the center of the city, and a commodious room near the North river. But our places are often too strait to hold the people. We have also opened Newark, a town about 9 miles from the city; and Bloomfield about 3 miles further. And in building the chapel here the people have come forward liberally: some give timber, some stone, some: workmanship.—And the people labour as though they had a mind to the work. The general cry of the people is, “This is the work of God.”

RUTH WATKINS.

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Reference

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