

G O D ' S M I S S I O N A R Y

STANDARD

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THE
LAME
TAKE THE
PREY





David Wise

AN EVANGELIST OF THE ROUGHER SORT

Benjamin Abbott pursued the pleasures of this world with great zeal. In the days leading up to the Revolutionary War, Abbott was known as a hard-drinking man who had great skill in using his fists to knock out those who got on his bad side. His reputation for rowdiness was well known in Philadelphia and the part of New Jersey where he resided, and frequently he found himself standing before a judge to answer for his violent encounters. To his credit, he worked hard and did provide for his family, but he was not an easy man to live with.

Yet in the midst of all his sin, Benjamin had a heart that feared God and respected religion. In fact, he was often troubled in conscience by his actions and even had dreams of being dragged down to hell by the dark powers. His wife came under the preaching of an early Methodist itinerant and was greatly affected. She begged Abbott to hear the man of God. He did, and he came under conviction. After a time of earnest seeking, he was powerfully converted to Christ. From the beginning of his Christian life he had a marvelous burden for souls, and he won his wife and children to the Lord in his first three months as a Christian. Later on he was sanctified wholly, and his fruitfulness only increased from that point on. He would testify and exhort to his neighbors and would eventually become a local preacher with a tremendous soul-winning ministry.

He was often
troubled in
conscience by
his actions.

Though his early life was marred by scandalous behavior and limited spiritual privileges, Benjamin Abbott displayed a carefulness and a teachable spirit that served him well the rest of his life. After his conversion, he took six months to study the Confessions of Faith and Articles

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of Religion of the various Protestant churches before he firmly decided to cast his lot with the Methodists. Aligning himself and his family with the despised followers of Wesley was not an easy choice because of the persecution involved, but Abbott chose the noble path and labored with the people who had been instrumental in his conversion. His preaching was with great power, and its effect upon a congregation was dramatic at times. In fact, it was said that under his ministry, people would “fall under the power” and rise again as new creatures in Christ to an extent that did not occur under the ministry of other godly men. Yet though this happened up until the end of his life, Abbott never lost his humble spirit, and he never got over the fact that he was truly a “brand plucked from the fire.” He also never attempted to emotionally manipulate a crowd but focused on keeping his heart clean and full of the Spirit while delivering the Word to his listeners. From New Jersey to Pennsylvania, from Delaware to New York, and finally in Maryland, Benjamin Abbott preached Christ and Him crucified with a power and fruitfulness that by some estimates even exceeded that of the apostolic Francis Asbury. Yet all this from a man who for the first two thirds of his life was among the “chiefest of sinners” that could be found in the American colonies.

Many who reach the midpoint of life or beyond begin to look back with regret upon choices made and directions taken. Some are so handicapped by decisions made in their teens and twenties that at best they limp along with the Lord. Others are still out in the far country, longing to get back. The testimony of Benjamin Abbott gives great encouragement to those whose future days will certainly number less than those already lived. We may have missed God’s “perfect will.” Circumstances may have seemed to keep us from the fruitfulness we longed for. Reverses in life may have set us back in ways we could never have imagined. Yet, our God still restores the wasted years, and He still makes something beautiful out of the vessel that was damaged in the initial stages. Even if we are “limping” because of wounds that may not be healed in this world, we can still “take the prey” and be productive for God. We may be an altogether different type of personality than Benjamin Abbott, but we can still be a vessel unto honor that fulfills the purpose of our Creator for our life. ■

“Many who reach the midpoint of life or beyond begin to look back with regret upon choices made and directions taken. Yet, our God still restores the wasted years, and He still makes something beautiful out of the vessel that was damaged in the initial stages.”

THE UNDERDOG

Alan K. Walter



Do you ever find yourself taking the part of an underdog? It can be easy to feel sorry for the disadvantaged. At times we may feel compelled to take the part of a helpless child, a battered spouse, or an innocent victim. Sometimes these are moments when heroes are raised up while doing the impossible after witnessing the unthinkable. Other times the hero is charged with a crime because they got involved trying to defend the defenseless. Now we have a new underdog to root for!

Then there are moments when intervention would not be helpful. I can recall hatching chickens in an incubator as a little boy. A hard lesson was learned when I decided to help some chicks peck out of their shell. My intervention caused them to be born weak or lame because their process of proper development was interrupted.

The Scriptures are replete with insights into the lives of those who were just as human as we are. We can read of their weaknesses and struggles. There were those who failed and gave up. But there were also those who relied on God's wisdom and strength and found that He was the key ingredient. Throughout Bible history to the present, God uses heroes who are "flawed."

We all face life as underdogs! The Devil is our

chief enemy. The good news is that we are not alone. Every child of God has a resource available which is far superior to anything the enemy of our soul can muster up. It is critical that we recognize this and believe God for the help and intervention He has available for us.

Often the world considers trouble to be a terrible intruder into life. A tornado came. Our steeple was toppled, and the damage we had on our campus appeared to be a real omen to some. If we had put our steeple back up in that condition it would have made us all nervous. Often a church is seen as a place where everything is expected to look perfect; it is not seen as a place where we can show up crooked. Right?

Problems can either keep us down or make us stronger.

But in a fallen, broken world, all of us are "crooked," each with our own collection of weaknesses. We might be tempted to keep our vulnerabilities under wraps, but Scripture encourages the opposite attitude. We are to confess our faults one to another. Paul suggests that it is in our weaknesses that Christ is most likely to reveal His power. Jesus told Paul, "My strength is made perfect in weakness." So, Paul concluded, "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities,

in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."

We may not like our imperfections, but hiding them only denies Jesus' power to work within those aspects of ourselves. When we invite Jesus into the crooked places in us, He gently mends and redeems in ways our efforts could never accomplish.

For some the problems of life are viewed as nothing more than minus factors. But the Christian perspective of trouble is not pessimistic. Paul experienced a thorn in the flesh, and this weakness made him strong. It was a plus factor for him! He learned how to be strong in the broken places. His weaknesses did not destroy him. With God's help he gained strength out of his weaknesses. Problems can either keep us down or make us stronger.

Faith is no casual nod to God. It is allowing God to join our lives.

Paul had great faith in the Lord. His faith was not just an assent to religious beliefs. His faith was a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. His favorite expression to describe this relationship was "in Christ." Only a genuine faith in God is adequate during the weaknesses of life. Faith is no casual nod to God. It is allowing God to join our lives.

Paul had two purposes in life. First, he wanted every person to know who Jesus was and accept Him as their Savior. Second, he wanted every believer to be Christlike in thoughts and actions. Paul refused to let the thorn detour him in his purposes. When we are possessed by a greater mission, selfish discomforts become secondary.

Paul was able to help others because of his thorn in the flesh. He knew what it was to suffer, but he also knew what it was to find healing. People who have been hurt and helped prove to be good helpers. If one can now be used of God to come alongside another who has been wounded, there can be no greater fulfillment in life. What

seemed like a life that was a total disaster is now deemed a blessing in disguise!

Paul looked beyond the weaknesses to a greater time. The thorn did not cause him to have a pessimistic view of life. Instead, amid his weaknesses he loved life. Part of his great love for life was his optimistic view of the future. He believed that God would ultimately remove the thorn. "This mortal must put on immortality."

There is a greater hope for believers. The weaknesses of life may last for a lifetime, but they will not exist in heaven! The child of God will receive a body that is immune from physical and emotional disorders. What a day that will be!

Your steeple may be crooked and the damage in your life may be obvious. But when we invite Jesus into the crooked places in us, He gently mends and redeems in ways our efforts could never accomplish. All is not lost! Why not give God the broken pieces? Better yet, give it all to Him! ▣

"Most gladly
therefore will I rather
glory in my
infirmities,
that the
power
of Christ
may rest upon me."

II Corinthians 12:9b

A red wheelchair is positioned in a field of tall, dry grass. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that filters through the spokes of the wheelchair's large front wheel. The sky is filled with soft, orange and yellow clouds. The wheelchair has a black seat and backrest, and its frame is a deep red color. The overall mood is one of hope and resilience.

Weakness Made **STRENGTH**

"PRAYING CLEAR THROUGH" BY W. J. HARNEY

In a certain year the author was the leading preacher at a camp; he had a good opportunity to see these good people at close range, to study their methods and work, and all proved conclusively that they had been with Jesus. One Sunday morning, in the presence of twenty to thirty thousand people, the author had preached about ten minutes when that mighty preacher, Dr. A. A. Niles, went down into the aisle and picked up a rubber-tired invalid chair, with what, to us, looked like an invalid in it. He carried chair and invalid onto the platform, saying, "Mr. Harney, listen." We turned and looked at a very bright-faced woman. Her face was lit up with Heaven's light. She had an angelic expression. We felt that we were right in the presence of one of those quiet, unassuming, holy women who had constant connection with the skies, who were always hitched up to the powerhouse, who could get through to God any minute. As we turned toward her, she threw up her hand, shouting, "I have the Blessing." It was wonderful; it was melting. Stout men and women wept all over that great audience. She simply was living in the center of His will. It was not so much what she said as how she said it. She was simply swallowed up in the will of God. She had but one job, and that was to please her Heavenly Father.

After preaching and exhorting, several scores rushed to the altar. She said to her chair woman, "Wheel me to the seekers," then she reached over and took one man by the shoulder, telling him to turn to her mourner's bench (the wheel of her chair), and soon he was shouting. She went to seven and all of them got through brightly. After the service, I asked her for the privilege of going with her to dinner. I asked, "Are you never discouraged? Don't you look at other women with good limbs, a strong body, and wonder why you were so badly deformed? Do you ever bring any accusations against Him?" She said, "Brother Harney, never, not once. I am rejoicing that I am just as I am. Had I been otherwise, I might have been like thousands of other women -- in sin, but praise the Lord! As it is, I am full of faith, hope, and salvation. I am doing a great work for God and lost humanity. I spend from two to three hours almost every day reading my Bible and in prayer. I am having the time of my life in serving the Lord. He is so good, so patient, so forbearing, so long-suffering with me. I am so unworthy of His great love and mercy. He simply fills my heart continuously with His perfect love.

Had I been a strong woman, I could have been useless and fruitless. Have you ever thought how many able-bodied, bright-minded people are on the broad road to destruction? So I am praising God today. Yes, I am really delighted that I am just as I am, for my life is like a Florida flower garden, like a California orange grove. I am just as happy, just as contented, as it is possible for mortal to be. I am perfectly satisfied, because I know that I am as God wanted me to be, and I am fulfilling His purpose relative to my life's work much better as I am than I could have done had I been a strong, able-bodied woman. I am living on the sunny side of the street.

"The Bible is the most interesting book I can study. Its pages loom up with beautiful promises before me as I read, until my soul is immersed and swallowed up in the warm gulf stream of His fullness. It becomes more precious day by day. I get so hungry to get alone before Him with the open Bible. How it feeds, how it strengthens, how it comforts. When the devil whispers, 'Defeat awaits you,' I just open the Bible and read how God conquered through Daniel, how God defeated the enemy through Gideon's three hundred, how God tore down the towering walls of Jericho by the blast of the rams' horns; then I feel like I could leap through a troop and with the jawbone of an ass slay a thousand. You know it isn't always with the strong that He conquers. Look at His disciples; they were unlettered men. Again, through the crowing of one rooster, God brought back into the fold the spokesman of the apostolic college of bishops. God takes the weak things to confound the mighty.

It isn't always
with the strong
that He conquers.

"You see, in working through these simple channels, He gets all the glory, and He is jealous of having the glory. He will use all who will give Him the glory. How could I be discouraged when my Lord is using me to do such a tremendous work? Today I have in foreign lands, working among the heathen, bringing hundreds of them to Christ, seven missionaries, and we are seeing annually hundreds of these poor, sin-cursed, devil-driven heathen lifted into the beautiful light of forgiveness. Oh, it is wonderful just to read my mail! How these missionaries thrill my very soul by telling me what great things our Christ is doing." ■

DON'TS FOR ALTAR WORK

G. A. McLaughlin

Don't talk too much to seekers. It is possible to talk conviction all out of them. Tell them to talk to God and tell them what to ask of Him. We have seen and heard discussion and argument going on over the mourners' bench. People come to the altar to yield to God. Urge them to do it and then quit talking.

Don't tell seekers to believe they are saved, but tell them to trust God to save them now.

Don't offer seekers human sympathy. If the Spirit has made them wretched, do not tell them how nice they are or how much good they have done or how much they are capable of doing. Let them feel badly until the Spirit who gave the conviction gives them liberty. Human sympathy has spoiled much of the Spirit's work.



Don't urge seekers to "Believe, believe," until they have truly yielded to God. If they have done that, their faith will not need much urging.

Don't let two persons talk to the same seeker at once. It would be ludicrous if it were on any other subject but salvation, to see two persons, one on each side, pouring a stream of talk into each ear of the seeker at the same time. No wonder people often object to going to the altar, declaring that they get confused. We wonder in some altar services that anyone gets saved.

Don't be in a hurry. Although you see the way clearly, the seeker may not see it at all. Some minds act more slowly than others. We have seen many an altar service rushed through mechanically, where seekers got nothing. Give people time to break up, count the cost, and forever settle this matter of eternal destiny.

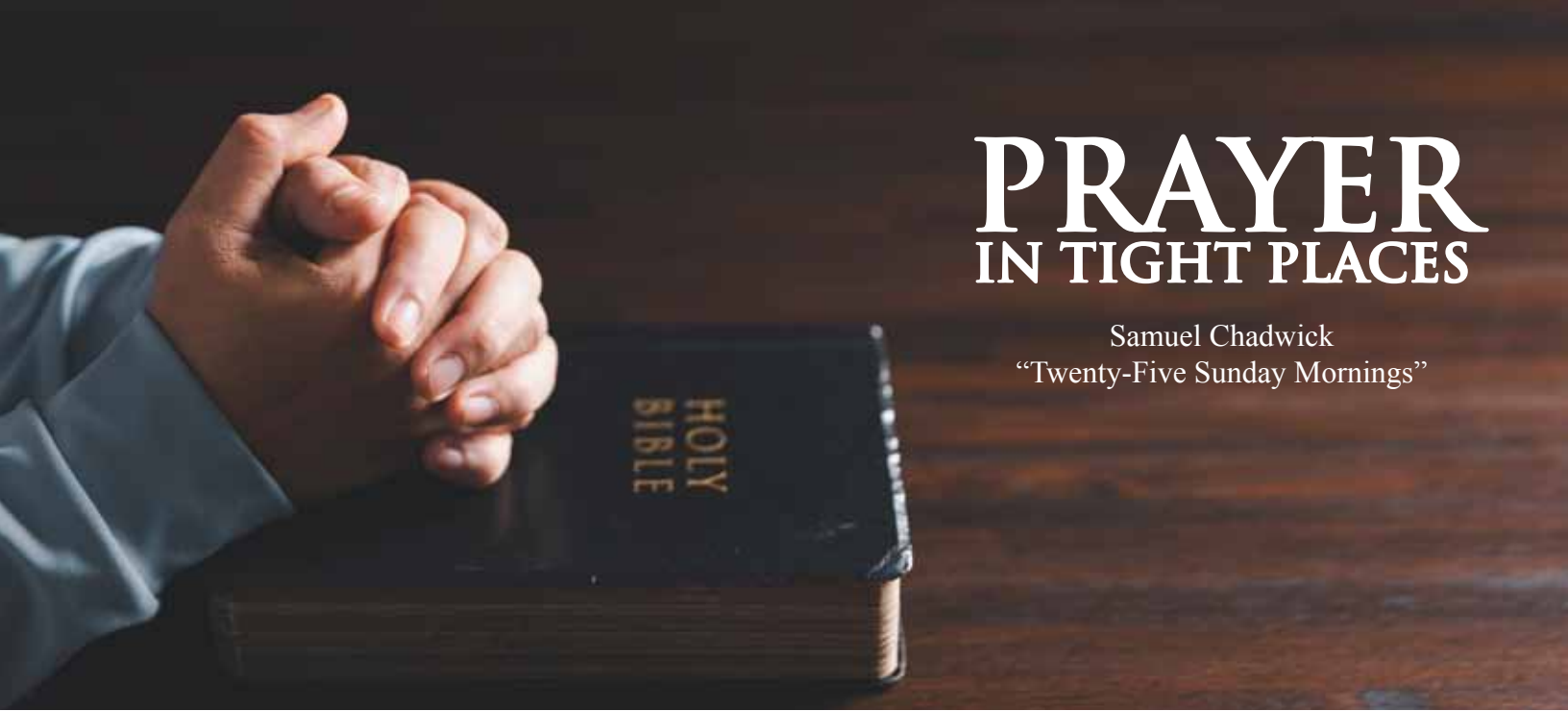
Don't let the altar service become only a place of conversation. Let it be a place of mighty wrestling with God. We have seen so-called altar services with scarcely a word of prayer.

Don't sing too soon. Let the battle get fairly on before you sing songs of faith. Let prayer come first. ■

TESTIMONY OF BILLY BRAY

English coal miner and early Methodist lay preacher. He was known for his "great sinning" before his conversion. After his conversion, he was known for his Christlikeness and his joyful spirit.

"There were men who professed to be converted before I was but did not love the Lord enough to own Him or us enough to pray with us and tell us we were going to hell. But when I was converted, praise the Lord, He gave me strength to tell all I met with that I was happy and that what the Lord had done for me He would do for anybody else that would seek His face. There was nobody that prayed in the mine where I worked; but when the Lord converted my soul He gave me power to pray with the men before we went to our different places to work. Sometimes I felt it a heavy cross, but the cross is the way to the crown. Sometimes I have had as many as from six to ten men down with me, and I have said, 'Now, if you will hearken to me, I will pray for you before we go to work, for if I did not pray with you, and any of us should be killed, I should think it was my fault.' Some of them would say, 'You pray, and we will hear you.' Then I should pray in what people call simple language, but as I hope the Lord would have me. When praying I used to say, 'Lord, if any of us must be killed or die today, let it be me; let not one of these men die, for they are not happy; but I am, and if I die today, I shall go to heaven.' When I rose from my knees, I should see the tears running down their faces; and soon after some of them became praying men too." ■



PRAYER IN TIGHT PLACES

Samuel Chadwick
“Twenty-Five Sunday Mornings”

And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, Lord it is nothing with Thee to help, whether with many or with them that have no power; help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on Thee, and in Thy Name we go against this multitude. O Lord, Thou art our God; let not man prevail against Thee. 2 Chronicles 14:11.

The King was in a tight place. He had done that which was good and right in the eyes of the Lord his God, and the Lord gave him rest on every side. The days of peace were devoted to cleansing and strengthening the land. They removed all traces of idolatry, restored the religious life of the land, and prospered exceedingly. All went well for years, and then suddenly their Ethiopian enemies marched against them. There had been no backsliding, no change of policy, no provocation, and yet in a moment the whole aspect of Providence was changed. Humanly speaking, defeat was inevitable. The enemies were two to one, and their fighting strength beyond comparison. Asa was in great straits. In the emergency for which he was not responsible and from which he could not escape, he betook himself to prayer. In times of emergency our wants are soon told. The prayer comes out in broken fragments of speech without regard to grammar or rhetoric. The enemy is at the gate. The need is urgent and definite. We are helpless but not hopeless, for in

God there is infinite wisdom and power. It is a day of trouble, but God told us to call upon Him and He will deliver us.

Prayer in times of emergency falls back on the power of God. His resources are not measured by anything we can do. It is nothing with Him to help with many or with them that have no power. In military science, able generalship, numbers, and all that counts in the armies of the world, the case of Asa was hopeless. But God counts. If He fights for us, He is more than all that can be against us. At the Red Sea, at Jericho, and in many a great battle, God had done great things for Israel, and Asa hemmed in on every side appealed to God. Nor did he appeal in vain. The Lord fought for Israel that day, and Israel triumphed over Zerah and his Ethiopian host. There are Christian soldiers whose success has been a mystery to military experts. General Havelock, in India, used to succeed where by all the rules of war success was impossible. In the American Civil War a General exclaimed to his staff, “We have got them now,

Though our resources seem ridiculously inadequate they must not be withheld. God often works by what we have.

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and they know it. God Almighty Himself cannot save them!" "Yes," responded his colleagues, "We are sure of them now." So they were by all human reckoning. It happened, however, that the Commander on the other side was a praying man who that morning was appealing to his God for deliverance, and somehow the close of the day found him offering thanksgiving to God for victory; while the General who defied God Almighty to defeat him was fleeing for his life. Yes, God counts. He is never in a tight place. The mountains of the Lord are full of horsemen and chariots. All the resources of the Infinite are at his service whose prayer God hears. Prayer attempts the impossible, because it commands the supernatural.

The poverty of our resources is no hindrance to God. We have no power, but in Him there is everlasting strength. In us there is no wisdom, but He giveth liberally the wisdom from above. We have no resources, but the heaven and the earth are His. We have no wealth, but the silver and gold and all the treasure of the earth belong to Him. It is when we realize our need that we pray and prevail. So long as we think we can manage without God, we do not trouble to cry unto Him. That is why the answer is sometimes delayed. The trial gathers intensity as the crisis deepens. The need

gets desperate, and prayer becomes fervent. All other help is cut off, and the soul is flung back upon God. Our moment of extremity becomes God's opportunity, and He appears glorious in holiness, doing wonders.

We may be of
no importance,
but we are at
Thy disposal.

Whitefield said in one crisis of his life: "I have thrown myself blindfolded into His Almighty arms." Though our resources seem ridiculously inadequate they must not be withheld. God often works by what we have.

The widow had to use her little oil and meal, and the lad had to give up his five barley cakes and two small fishes. Weapons that are useless in our hands become mighty in His. Methods are nothing apart from inspiration, and the most faulty tools are better with Him than the most approved without Him.

The reliance was not new. Faith is not born in a panic. It is the people who pray in fine weather who know how to pray in a storm. People who only pray when they are at their wits' end do not pray like this. This is no mere desire to be got out of an awkward situation. The battle is not Asa's, but God's. There is a profound oneness of interest. His work is theirs, and their honor is His. "In Thy Name we are come." We are inadequate, but we have come. We may be of no importance, but we are at Thy disposal. Such as we are, we are Thine; save and deliver us, O Lord. Our failure will be Thy failure. "Let not man prevail against Thee." In all prevailing prayer there is concern not for the petitioner so much as for the glory of God. "What wilt Thou do for Thy great Name?" is the final appeal. Desperation is better than despair. When all the odds are against us we can still rely on the power, goodness, and fidelity of God. A godly mother asked her wayward son where he was going as he took up his cap to go out. "To Hell," was the heartless reply. He slammed the door behind him and went out into the darkness. The mother went upstairs and flung herself into the arms of God, weeping bitter tears for her son. He went to the public house, but as he put his hand on the door something arrested him, and he could not go in. The same thing occurred at three public houses in succession. His conscience was awake. He sought out a meeting and gave his heart to God. The mother's tears were turned to joy. Cast your burden upon the Lord. Call upon Him in the day of trouble. He is able to deliver. ■



Travel notes with the president



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Oct. 10-14: Administrative work, travel notes, and sermon preparation for Sunday and a revival meeting in Ohio.

Oct. 15: Blue Knob. I preached twice, and we shared a wonderful meal and fellowship with the Salyards.

Oct. 16-22: I made the hard but right decision to cancel my revival meeting at the Fairview Holiness Church in Ohio. I was in so much pain for days. I ended up in the ER a few times and had lots of tests and doctor visits. Long story short, I was diagnosed with a bad case of Lyme disease with facial palsy that went away, etc.

I appreciated all of God's people praying, sending cards, texts, and phone calls. Rhoda, our children, and grandchildren also get an A for caring and helping. Each general board member was so kind to encourage me to take a little time off to get well. Our vice president, Rev. Jeremy Fuller, did an excellent job leading a few things I could not.

Oct. 22 – Dec. 10: I had canceled 10 conference president visits to Pillow, Penns Valley, York, Beavertown, Millmont, New Columbia, Rebersburg, Shamokin, Lancaster, and Duncannon. All our pastors were so gracious to us. I love and appreciate each one of them and our churches.

I went to a few conference board meetings along the way as I was able.

I was finally able to go to church on Wed, November 22, at the Beavertown church. It was a time of prayer and praise. Finally, I feel about 85-90% better.

I was then able to go to the PVBI faculty and staff Christmas banquet. I helped Rhoda with our GMC Ministerial mailings. I met with another conference leader and other things for the conference.

Dec. 07: Archive Board. Bro. Matt Killgore is doing a great job leading the board. The cooperation with the other members is wonderful.

Dec. 08: General board meeting and then I attended a PV Business-man's Banquet and the wonderful musical in the tabernacle. The music, singing, and story were excellent.

Dec. 09: I missed most of the archery season but was able to get out on the last day of rifle and was blessed to get a 6-point buck. I called my son-in-law, Dan, to come over, and he field-dressed and dragged out my deer. Thanks, Dan, I did not have all my strength back from this Lyme disease. Family and friends are awesome.

Dec. 10: Danville. I went to Geisinger Hospital to see Sis. Ruth Cooley. We talked and read her Scriptures and prayed together. God met with us in a special way. Sis. Cooley told me the doctors told her that she would not be getting out of the hospital.

That evening I went to the Beavertown Christmas Program. Everyone did a great job ministering through song and story.

Dec. 12: Danville. Rhoda and I went to visit Sister Cooley. Rhoda had brought along a big basket of fruit, homemade cookies, etc. At this time, Sis. Cooley was unconscious, but we were able to visit with Bro. Cooley, Tim Jr., and Tabby. We still had prayer with her and the

family. Sis. Cooley went to be with Jesus an hour and a half later.

Dec. 13-16: Funeral sermon preparation, then we went to the viewing and funeral for Sis. Cooley. Everyone did a wonderful job with their tributes, memories, and songs. Sis. Cooley inspired all of us to use our gifts for God and to love and let other people into our lives. The last song sung by the Cooley family, "Path to Calvary," was written by the late Ladette Cooley, father to Tim Cooley, Sr.



JACOB MARTIN

Dec. 17: Sunday morning and evening we attended the Christmas programs at Sunbury Church. We enjoyed them a lot. A lot of our family and friends were in both programs. In the evening there were also 3 chalk drawings going on at once. Sis. Lori Sanford; our son, Pastor Ryan Martin; and his daughter, Shiloh.

Dec. 18: Millmont for the funeral of Frances Stroup. The church was full to honor this saint of God. Her testimony was real and clear.

Dec. 19-20: Doctor visit and another follow-up test. I have a few issues yet with Lyme disease, but I seem to be getting a little better each week.

Dec. 21-23: Administrative work and preparation for FL District Camp.

Dec. 24: Beavertown Candlelight service in the evening. All the specials from the children and adults were a tremendous blessing to us this Christmas season. The candlelight view was beautiful at the end of the service.

Dec. 25: Christmas with all our children, grandchildren, and my dad at our house. Rhoda and I are so blessed!!! Her mother and sister, Carm, also stopped in for a visit.

Dec. 26: I went to Larry's Pizza and then to my dad's place to play games.

Dec. 27: I worked on my travel notes.

Dec. 28: Ranch House Restaurant. Vice President Jeremy Fuller and I met with EMC Conference leaders Brent Lenhart and Nathaniel Mowery to discuss God's work. We had a profitable meeting together.

Jan. 01-07: I listened to several hours of the Bible this week. Every January I try to set aside extra time for His Word. God's Word always inspires and challenges me. I was able to meet and visit with two Ministerial interns from our Beavertown Church: Rev. Matthew Lindsey and Rev. Blake Cassidy. I also took them out to eat. The meal was paid for by G.M.C. I also had Florida camp preparations to finish.

THE HOLY GHOST MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

J. W. Adcock taken from
"The Holy Spirit in Life and Labors"

A number of Free Methodist churches were having a special meeting in their church in Lawrenceville, Illinois. I had the honor of being the speaker for this particular service. My text was the last part of Genesis 42:36. It reads, "All these things are against me." These are the words of Jacob when he thought Joseph had been dead for years, Simeon had been left in Egypt, and there was an effort to take Benjamin to Egypt. Notice how he expresses it as he says, "Me have ye bereaved of my children: Joseph is not, and Simeon is not, and ye will take Benjamin away." Jacob was badly mistaken in thinking all those things were against him. God was working things around for him to see Joseph who he thought had been dead for years. My subject in dealing with my text was, "A Smiling Face

Behind a Frowning Providence." The devil would like to rob us of the rich Scriptural teaching on Divine Providence. Oh! what a battle the devil gave me in the earlier part of the message. It was somewhat as if I were reaching into thin air grasping for words. And then something happened; the blessed Holy Spirit set me in a large place of liberty and blessing. I don't remember ever having my nothingness and God's all-sufficiency so distinctly revealed in one and the same message. The aid of the Holy Ghost was so pronounced and blessed! The church official over that section of churches was present. I understand he claimed the message was worth five hundred dollars to him. They had lost an only son in Uncle Sam's service, and the Lord got to his soul with needed help. The Holy Spirit made the difference! Bless His dear name! ▣

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