

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

"Whatsoever thy Hand findeth to do, do it with thy Might."

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THE MINNESOTA WORKER

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Tonga.

(Concluded.)

The children seem very much interested in the school. They love to search out verses in the Bible during the week, which are given them by the superintendent. Last week they were to find a verse that promises forgiveness of sin. This week they are to search for a verse that shows they must forgive if they are to be forgiven. The little native boy, twelve years of age, who lives with us, got his Bible last evening and searched till he came to Matt. 6:14, 15. His eyes brightened up, and he exclaimed, "I have found it! I have found it!" He was very much pleased to think that he was able to find it alone. He said, "I like to look up verses in the Bible."

The memory verse is duplicated on a typewriter in the English and Tongan languages, and given to each scholar to commit to memory during the week. At the close of last quarter one of the teachers had the children recite in concert all the memory verses of the two previous quarters. With a very little prompting every verse was well recited. The minutes of our last Sabbath-school, held October 6, show the membership to be 32, attendance 26, per cent of attendance 81, number added 8, and donations 18 cents.

After the Sabbath-school we have a Bible-lesson, to which most of the English Sabbath-school scholars remain and take part in the reading. In the afternoon we held a social meeting near the close of the Sabbath. A goodly number of natives have usually attended this evening meet-

ing. On one occasion a native took part in prayer. He prayed in substance as follows: "O Lord, we thank thee for thy care and many blessings. Give us thy good Spirit. We have come to this place to receive light. We are poor and needy; teach us what to believe and lead us into thy truth, for Jesus' sake, Amen." This petition was in plain but somewhat broken English. It cheered our hearts, and encouraged us to put forth fresh efforts to get the light before this people.

We see by the WORKER that our aged, beloved Bro. D. P. Curtis has finished his work, and gone to his resting place. Only a few days before the news reached us we were talking about his long, faithful service as conference secretary. In a letter to him I remarked about his many years of service in this capacity, to which I received the following reply: "Yes, it was twenty years ago that I was first inducted into the office of conference secretary, and have held it all but four years since." He further wrote: "There have been many changes in our conference since you left us. Brethren Phelps, Mead, and myself are all of the old ones that remain. But our young men are taking hold and doing good work." How little it was expected that he would be the first of the remaining trio that would be called, not to another field of labor, but to lay down his faithful pen, and rest his weary, active mind in that profound slumber which knows no waking, save at the call of Him whom he served so faithfully. Bear with us while we quote a few words further in this letter from this beloved member of our conference family. While writing words of comfort to us he expressed his own faith and deep experience in the things of God. He said: "I can see your faces, and your motions, with the mind's eye, but the vision extends no further. But it is a precious thought that *our* Father can see you, and know all about your every care, and every need; and not only does he know these, but he also knows how to *care for you*, and is also abund-

antly able to supply all your needs, and his Word is pledged to do that very thing. Bless his holy name! O, I am so glad that we have such a good God, such a merciful, loving, compassionate, heavenly Father, and such a kind, gracious, piteous and merciful elder brother who desires to share his inheritance with every one of his Father's children."

May God keep and bless his dear family, and every member of the conference family until, with him, all enter upon this eternal inheritance. It is with much interest that we read communications to the WORKER from our fellow-laborers. Our hearts respond to the words of good cheer, and sometimes it is difficult to restrain the tears as we read of the death of one and the affliction of another. Truly our hearts are as the heart of one man. May the dear Saviour deepen our consecration, strengthen our love, and increase our confidence in each other. The blessing of God be upon all.

Yours from the Tongan harvest field,
E. HILLIARD.

* THE SABBATH SCHOOL. *

REPORTS from different Sabbath-schools are coming in very nicely, and I thought perhaps a few items from these might be of interest to all.

The secretary from Owatonna writes:—"Though I have been here only a few months, I notice a real interest in the Sabbath-school work among all; and the interest in the study of the lessons is good. The children seem to be very earnest in the study of God's word. The kindergarten class may be especially mentioned; they have taken such an interest in the stories of the lessons, and their intelligent answers to questions show that their tender little hearts have been filled with a love for Jesus."

Brainerd—"I can say that our school has advanced in the last quarter in every way. The per cent of attendance and membership is larger, and the donations have increased. Of course the increase is small but every little counts. I don't believe there is one that has lost any zeal or love for the Lord's work."

Amor—"You see by the report our members are few, but the Lord meets with us just as he has promised and our school is very interesting."

Minneota—a school of only eight members—

"We are thankful for the privilege of studying the good lessons together. The Lord has blessed us in the study of the book of Genesis and much spiritual strength has been derived therefrom. The attendance and interest has been good."

Clinton—"We have a good little Sabbath-school. The Lord has greatly blessed us this last quarter for which we greatly thank him. We do not get the good out of the Sabbath-school that we could if we all could read the English language. We do not take the *Sabbath School Worker* or *Little Friend* as all the teachers are Scandinavian and cannot read the American."

Badger, Roseau Co.—"We are about seventeen in number. We are all Scandinavians and therefore do not take any of the *Instructors*, *Little Friends* or *Sabbath-school Workers*."

As I read these reports from our Scandinavian schools and think of the many helps we have, I wish that some plans might be provided to supply the need, and give the children as well as the older ones the benefit of the instruction we prize so highly.

Several family schools have been heard from and it is encouraging to note the faithfulness with which they are carried forward.

One sister writes:—"There are only three of us in the town that keep the Sabbath, with the exception of a few families of Jews. We meet at Sister ——— every Sabbath as she cannot get out very well. We do the best we can under the circumstances and enjoy our little meetings very much."

If those who have the lesson pamphlets and prefer to use the map given there, to drawing one of their own, would trace the journeys of Christ from place to place in red ink, they would find it a real help to them.

ELLA E. MERICKEL.

◉ NOTES FROM THE FIELD. ◉

Yellow Medicine.

I WAS at Canby during the week of prayer and devoted some time with that church at its close. God greatly blessed us together. It was decided to build a church and steps taken to begin at once. All the money for lumber, wages, furnishing, and seating it was raised except \$70.00. This different individuals took upon themselves as personal debts so the church stands free.

Of late I have been holding meetings in Yellow Medicine County, east of Canby. A few are interested but the fear of man and especially of the min-

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

ister is holding many away. We have spoken principally on the gospel that is mighty to save to the uttermost. People need such a gospel. My courage is good, and my love for God is growing stronger.

A. E. CHRISTIAN.

Dexter.

We had good meetings at Dexter Sabbath and Sunday, December 24 - 25. Brethren from Austin and Dodge Center were with us. The Lord greatly blessed in the Sabbath services. Their new house of worship was dedicated on Sunday, 11 A. M. This house is all paid for. The brethren here have a neat, comfortable church free from debt, and an ornament to the cause of present truth. The deed was made to the Minnesota Conference Association of S. D. A.

At our parting meeting, Sunday night, the Lord fulfilled James 4:8, "Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you." We drew nigh to him by earnest prayer and confession, and he drew near to us by giving light and liberty. I am glad to see the spirit of "revival" coming upon our churches. It makes me think of my early experience in the M. E. Church.

DANIEL NETTLETON.

Rochester, Jan. 3.

Byron.

I JUST had the privilege of visiting this place. There are five Scandinavian Sabbath-keeping families around Byron. These have nearly all grown more or less indifferent. Their Sabbath meeting had nearly died out. They have had no help for three or four years. Our meetings were greatly blessed. The people were glad to hear the words spoken, and hearts were turned to God.

Nov. 8 Eld. Nettleton met with us in the Byron church and after an appropriate sermon on "Remember Lot's wife" we celebrated the ordinances. Some of our people had not had this opportunity for four or five years, one had not partaken for seven and one for nine years. It was a blessed occasion for all.

Five expressed a desire to be baptized, but owing to preverse circumstances it was postponed. Eld. Nettleton promised to meet with them during the winter. It is only twelve miles from Rochester, his present home. We cannot afford to see our old churches go down.

Tomorrow, the 22nd, I expect to start for the work assigned me at Canby. A. E. CHRISTIAN.

Minneapolis.

I WRITE to the many friends and readers of the MINNESOTA WORKER at this time to tell you that I am soon to leave the dear old State of Minnesota, and it makes me sad to think of it, and yet there is pleasure, for I will be near my mother. My brother going to Africa necessitates me going back East to be with or near her, as God may see best. I have been here eight years, and God has blessed me in the

Bible work as I have tried to consecrate myself to him, and has given me many precious souls. It is hard to leave these, but I believe that I will meet them in the earth made new.

It seems strange to think that next year when you meet at your campmeeting that I will not be there to greet you, but I will remember you at the throne of grace.

I have been trying to finish up my work here before going away but it is impossible, as new ones are found all the time. Some I find, in handing out papers, who have been far down in sin and need a helping hand in the struggle to arise. Others come to the church to see what the Seventh-day people are like and these I follow up. One lady who has just come from Canada and came to the church to see what we were, and as I visited her I found her having a deep interest to know what we believe, so much so that she came to my room yesterday to have a reading as it was not convenient to have the reading where she is stopping.

There are many cases that I might mention but time will not allow. I do not go for lack of work to do but because I feel I must. The question comes to me: Who will take up my work as I leave it here? A Bible-worker is needed in Minneapolis in connection with this church.

May God bless the Minnesota Conference.
2 John 2:3. ROSE F MEAD.

Henning and Vicinity.

I HAVE been disappointed in the WORKER the last weeks because, while all it contains is good and much of it inspiring, yet there are so few reports from the laborers. Surely the older workers should report oftener; those of us who have labored a shorter time ought to hear of their experiences and success. There is nothing that kindles a true, deep, determination to work as to see others labor and succeed. I write this because I feel the need of such reports from others. Why cannot the WORKER be brimful of reports of what has been done and announcements of what we intend to do?

I will fill the rest of the writing with that anyway, especially what we have done. We intend to do something, and the indications are clear that God purposes to do far more than our faint powers of conception can grasp. There are good openings for meetings among the Scandinavians, at least, around here, and the almost intensity of desire with which some listen to the word promises good. I never saw people so hungry for God's word as are some, and not few either, of the Scandinavians here. They do not hunger so much for doctrine as for spirit and life. The "stale four-hundred-year-old hash" which is served from Sunday to Sunday in the Lutheran churches is becoming unbearable to many, at least, of the people. Some turn from it to Unitarianism, some to skepticism, many, many to socialism, and some to seek the pure fountain of God's word.

Our little church is now done. Bro. Sweany holds meetings each night. We will organize a

THE MINNESOTA WORKER.

church next Sabbath. I hold meetings nearly each night and twice on Sunday in the country from house to house, and during the day have many blessed Bible studies with the people. I hope that out of the many who are interested a few may obey all the truth. It will take time. The people are so entirely ignorant of the Bible that I have to begin with the very simplest principles. I try to show the people the plain, simple way to Jesus and then the special truth. God has blessed me much. Pray for the work here.

L. H. CHRISTIAN.

St. Cloud, Fulda, and Highland.

At the first named place I spent three weeks. During this time we settled again for house-keeping and attended to various other things. The quarterly meeting was held with the church and officers elected for the coming year. The new year finds us free from debts and of good courage in the Lord. Our club of twenty *Signs* was renewed. An organ and box of clothing was donated to the Helping Hand Mission. A good tithe has been received during the quarter, considering the number who paid. The Christian Help Band takes hold of the work anew, helping the needy at home and gathering for the Mission. One discouraged soul made her covenant again with the Lord.

At Fulda I remained from Sabbath till Wednesday, December 28. All were of good courage. A good spirit was present during the services while the ordinances were celebrated and officers were elected and ordained and business transacted for the need of the cause. The building committee's report showed that all expenses in connection with the church amounted to \$508.22, all of which is paid and enough money on hand to finish painting the woodwork inside, the outside being already painted. All were anxious to do their appointed work. The special number of the *Signs* is being sold by the younger members and all are taking an interest in the spread of the gospel at home and abroad in some way.

I am now on my way to Highland where an interest has been awakened by the reading of "Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation" in a Friend settlement. The leader requested to have some one explain the prophecies and would arrange for a place of meeting by the time I return. He expressed himself freely and wishes to know the way of the Lord more perfectly. Bro. Luther Burgess is to join me at this place and we desire the prayer of God's people for His blessing.

J. H. BEHRENS.

I WAS at the general meeting at Cambridge, Nov. 29 to Dec. 5. Bro. A. Nelson from Dakota Conference and Bro. Stone were also at this meeting. Our people in this part of the Conference are nearly all Scandinavian. Brn. Nelson and Stone spoke in the Swedish, and I spoke on each day in the English. Bro. Nelson interpreted for them, taking the English sentences and with dispatch and accuracy, transforming them into Swedish. There were a few English people, not of our faith, that were deeply inter-

ested in our message, and the last night (Sunday) I spoke alone in the English language for their special benefit. God's good blessing rested on us as we studied the law and gospel. A collection was taken for the Conference debt, and I took orders for about 200 of the special *Signs*.

On Tuesday, the 6th, I went to Duluth. The summer and winter of '96 - '97 I and my family were located in this city, and during that time found many dear friends. It was a great pleasure for me to return to this place and spend a few days in worship with them. Our theme of study was "the soon Coming of our Lord," "the close of probation," and the "work to be done now." The Lord blessed and helped us. I took orders for several hundred of the special *Signs*. Here in Duluth is an excellent field for missionary work. May the dear Lord fulfill to his workers here Ps. 126:6.

I was at the Pine Island meeting a short time, took several orders for the special *Signs*, and spoke a few times.

Sabbath P. M., Dec. 17, I met with our little company at Rochester. Our Sabbath-school now numbers twenty. They are of good courage.

Wednesday and Thursday, the 21st and 22nd, I was at Stewartville. We had three precious meetings—these were special meetings—the Lord helped us, and fulfilled to us his promise, "Draw near to God and he will draw near to you." Received \$15.00 for Conference debt and \$20.00 for foreign missions.

I am now on my way to Dexter to dedicate their house of worship Sabbath and Sunday, Dec. 24 - 25.

I am of good courage in the Lord and believe 1 Cor. 15:5-8.

DANIEL NETTLETON.

Chicago.

PERHAPS you would like to see a report from an old Minnesota canvasser in Chicago: for the last six weeks I have been canvassing for our small books. Sold and delivered as follows: Christ Our Saviour 17, Steps to Christ 24, Glorious Appearing 8, Gospel Primer 18, Making Home Happy 13. All in the best binding. Eighty in number, value \$61.70. I think the Lord has blessed me very much in this work and strengthened an old man like me. I have at the same time distributed a number of good tracts and papers. Bless God's holy name.

C. NELSON.

Owatonna.

THE attendance at our meetings the week of prayer was very small until Sabbath a large number came out, but were sadly disappointed to find that our appointed leader, Bro. A. H. Van Kirk, had left us and gone home. In this we could see the blessing of God, for many of us realized as never before that unless we aroused from our lethargy and became more consecrated to God's service we would experience a far greater—yea, much sadder disappointment when Christ will come and find us, as it were, asleep—so engrossed in pride, worldly care and ambition

Concluded in supplement.