

Minutes of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting of
FREE-WILL BAPTISTS
Held with the Long Branch Church, Elk Creek, Aug. 16-20, 1922

Executive Board

JOHN H. WOLFE, CHAIRMAN

C. C. FULLER, Clerk; M. L. MORSE, Treas.; J. F. HARPER, C. L. FLEHARTY

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- 8:00 Opening prayer by Rev. S. M. Ballard.
Bible reading, Acts 26th chapter, first 23 verses.
Opening sermon by Rev. G. S. Latimer. Text Romans 5th chapter 1st verse.
Theme, Justification.

THURSDAY MORNING

- 9:00 Scripture reading from Isaiah 35th chapter.
Prayer by Ada Grover.
John H. Wolfe was elected Moderator.
Words of Welcome.
Response by Ada Grover.
Receiving of Rev. G. S. Latimer of Missouri as corresponding messenger from the Northwest Missouri Association, after which the Moderator asked Rev. S. M. Ballard, representing the extreme west end of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting to come forward and a warm hand shake of greeting was extended to them.
- 9:40 The subject "Value of Doctrinal Preaching" was presented by Rev. G. S. Latimer.
How to Study the Bible was presented by Rev. Ada Grover.
School of the Bible—Regeneration was taught by John H. Wolfe.
- 11:20 Sermon by Rev. S. M. Ballard.
Prayer by G. S. Latimer.
Text Hebrews 11th chapter 6th verse.
Subject, "The Value of Faith."

THURSDAY AFTERNOON

- 2:30 Practical praying by many.
School of the Bible—The Lords Supper, taught by S. M. Ballard.
The subject of "Our Books" was presented by Mrs. M. M. Myers, and discussed.
The subject of "Value of Cottage Prayer Meetings" was presented, and discussed; a request was made that it be printed.
The subject of "Each Members Place" was presented by C. C. Fuller and was thoroughly canvassed.

THURSDAY EVENING

- 8:00 Song service.
Prayer by J. H. Goodell.
Sermon by Ada Grover, lesson read from James 8th chapter.
Subject, "Little Things."

FRIDAY MORNING

- 9:00 Prayer by J. F. Harper of Grandview.
Scripture reading, the first 15 verses of 107th Psalm.
Practical Testimony, by many.

Appointing of Committees

Committee on Nomination—
C. C. Fuller, Mrs. W. J. Gibbs and Oliver Taylor.
Committee on Doctrine.
Rev. S. M. Ballard, Mary Fuller and J. F. Harper.
Committee on Necrology—
Della S. Wolfe, Mrs. M. M. Myers and Ada Grover.
Committee on Publication—
G. S. Latimer, Jesse H. Goodell and John W. Fink.
Committee on Missions—
Ada Grover, Alta Hurlbutt and Mrs. J. H. Goodell.
Committee on Ministerial Standing—
J. W. Fink, A. Gardner and M. L. Morse.
Committee on Closing Resolutions—

Mrs. M. M. Myers, J. H. Goodell, and J. F. Harper.

School of the Bible—Atonement, taught by Rev. Ada Grover.

The subject "Our Morning Star" was presented by C. C. Fuller, and discussions.

School of the Bible—Conditions of Salvation, taught by Rev. Delia S. Wolfe.

- 11:20 Sermon by Delia S. Wolfe, lesson read from Matthew 22nd chapter first 13 verses. Subject "Wedding Garment."

FRIDAY AFTERNOON

- 2:30 Song service.

Prayer by S. M. Ballard.

School of the Bible—"The Sabbath," taught by Rev. G. S. Latimer of Missouri.

The subject of "How to check Irreverence in Children," was presented by J. H. Goodell, and discussed. Closing with prayer by the Moderator, after which the Yearly Meeting went into Committee work as a whole.

FRIDAY EVENING

- 8:00 Prayer by Rev. G. S. Latimer.

Sermon by S. M. Ballard, lesson read from Acts, 2nd chapter and first 11 verses.

SATURDAY MORNING

- 9:00 Prayer by J. W. Fink.

Reading of Quarterly Meeting letters. (See letters.)

The following named delegates were present: Oliver Taylor M. L. Morse, Mrs. M. M. Myers, J. W. Fink, J. F. Harper, C. C. Fuller, Mary Fuller, Alta Hurlbutt, and Sarah Gibbs.

Ministers present: Rev. S. M. Ballard, Rev. John H. Wolfe, Rev. Delia S. Wolfe and Rev. Miss Ada E. Grover.

Received the greetings and report of the corresponding messenger, Rev. G. S. Latimer of Missouri and report of J. H. Goodell of Kansas. Mrs. M. M. Myers and Miss Ada E. Grover, delegates to the Co-operative General Association meeting at Tecumseh, Oklahoma made a full and impartial report.

Report of the Chairman of the executive board was received and adopted. (See report.)

Report of Treasurer was received and adopted. (See report.)

Committee on nominations reported (see report) and it was unanimously voted that we suspend the rules of order and instruct the clerk to cast a ballot for C. L. Fleharty and J. F. Harper as members of the executive board for the term of three years, the clerk so casting the ballot.

Annual report of pastors. (See report.)

Voted to adopt the report on Ministerial Standing. (See report.)

Adopted report on Missions. (See report.)

Voted to adopt the committee's report on Doctrine. (See report.)

Colon Fish was elected auditor.

Report of the committee on Publication was received and adopted item by item and then as a whole. (See report.)

Voted that Rev. John H. Wolfe be our corresponding messenger to the North-west Missouri Yearly Meeting.

Voted that Rev. John H. Wolfe and Rev. Ada Grover be committee on yearly meeting program.

Voted that we send C. C. Fuller as our corresponding messenger to the Missouri State Association.

Voted that Ada Grover and M. L. Morse go to the Northern Kansas Yearly Meeting as corresponding messengers.

Mrs. M. M. Myers, S. M. Ballard and Delia S. Wolfe were elected Special correspondents to The Morning Star.

Delia S. Wolfe, Ada Grover and J. W. Fink were elected "The Morning Star" campaign committee.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON

- 2:30 The Yearly Meeting Covenant Meeting was led by J. H. Goodell.

Prayer by J. H. Goodell.

Benediction by S. M. Ballard.

Voted that M. L. Morse be allowed Three dollars for transcribing the Yearly Meeting Minutes to be printed.

Voted that M. L. Morse be allowed one dollar for printing the yearly meeting programs.

Bros. J. F. Harper, S. M. Ballard, C. C. Fuller and Sister M. M. Myers were elected committee on maintenance of the college at Tecumseh, Oklahoma.

It was voted to enter into a close affiliation with our sister States, that we have a Tri-State Advisory Council with John H. Wolfe and S. M. Ballard on said

council. (See report.)

SATURDAY EVENING

- 8:00 Prayer by S. M. Ballard. Subject,
Sermon by Ada Grover, lesson read from the first chapter of St. John Text, 36th
verse "Behold The Lamb of God."
Benediction by S. M. Ballard.

SUNDAY MORNING

- 10:00 Sunday School was conducted by J. H. Goodell.
Prayer by G. S. Latimer.
11:00 Yearly Meeting sermon was preached by Rev. G. S. Latimer.
Lesson read from 2nd chapter of 2nd Timothy.
Prayer by S. M. Ballard. Text Isaiah 45th chapter 22nd verse, subject, Salvation.
Communion services was conducted by Rev. John H. Wolfe and Rev. S. M.
Ballard after which there was a farewell hand shake with Brother J. H. Goodell,
wife and son.

SUNDAY EVENING

- 8:00 Prayer by Ada Grover.
Report of Committee on closing resolution. (See report.)
Voted that the yearly Meeting be adjourned Sine Die at the close of the services.
Closing sermon by Rev. S. M. Ballard, Lesson read from the 1st Psalm.
Benediction by Rev. John H. Wolfe.
Yearly Meeting Offering\$16.38

QUARTERLY MEETING LETTERS.

Nemaha River Quarterly Meeting Letter. Elk Creek, Neb., Aug. 11, 1922.

To the Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Free Will Baptists assembled with the Long
Branch Church August 16th to 20th, 1922.

Christian Greetings and a most hearty welcome to the bounds of the Nemaha River
Quarterly Meeting, and to the home of the Long Branch Church and into the homes
of its people.

May this session of our Nebraska Yearly Meeting be one of the very best from the
opening session Wednesday evening to the closing session Sunday evening. May the
Introductory sermon be such as to awaken and inspire us for all the services. May
we all be ready and willing to do our part in a manner pleasing to our Heavenly Father
and interesting and encouraging to our brothers and sisters, to this yearly meeting.

As a Quarterly Meeting we have much to be thankful for, and great reason to
praise God. God has wonderfully blessed with promises of abundant harvest and in-
gathering of the good things of this life; without the storms so destructive to life and
property, for which we praise His Holy name.

Only one death in our Quarterly Meeting; but we would also mention the passing
of our Dear Sister Murphy, charter member of Grandview Church, but at time of death
living too far away to meet with the Grandview Church so had united with a church
in Adams.

Since last Yearly Meeting have had two services of Nemaha River Quarterly
Meeting, that were a help to those in attendance and the business of the Quarterly
Meeting attended to.

There has been change of pastors in the Quarterly Meeting, Mr. Wolfe closing his
work with the Grandview Church last Sunday in January 1922, and having accepted
call to Long Branch Church, began work first Sunday in February, the Grandview
Church were fortunate in securing Rev. Miss Ada Grover, of Tecumseh, Oklahoma, be-
ginning her work the first Sunday in March. There is dearth of spiritual interest in
the churches and lack of spiritual life, no doubt caused by the many calls of the world,
and also lack of ministers, that when one feels his work should close at one place,
that there might be another ready to step in, that there might not be any gap-time
without pastors. A church without a pastor for six months or two years will take
more than the six months or two years to get even the professed christians back to
their place and in working order to say nothing of having a revival for the unsaved.
May our professed christians get where Jesus can use them and call more into the
Christian Ministry.

May we as professed christians, Free Will Baptists of the Nemaha River Quar-
terly Meeting, and all our Nebraska Yearly Meeting put on the full armor of Christ and
be ready to be used in any place at any time for Jesus Christ our Saviour who gave
His life for us.

Number of churches in Nemaha River Quarterly Meeting, 2; value of church pro-
perty, \$10,000.00; number of Sunday Schools, 2; average attendance, 90; dismissed
by letter past year in Q. M., 9; received by letter, 3; received by baptism, 1; total resi-
dent members in Q. M., 64; total non-resident members in Q. M., 104; number of or-
dained ministers in Q. M., 3; number of Ladies' Aid societies, 2; moneys paid on

repairs in Q. M., \$135.00; money paid Benevolence (to Tecumseh College), \$25.00; minister salary paid up to date; number of new Morning Star subscribers in Q. M., 7.

The following are delegates to sit in this conference: A. Gardner, J. Fink, J. F. Harper, Clara Harper, S. C. McPherson, Vera Revis, C. C. Fuller, Mary Fuller, Alta Hurlbutt, Maud Mollins, D. J. Miller, Olive Taylor, Sarah Gibbs and Rev. John H. Wolfe, Rev. Delia S. Wolfe and Rev. Miss Ada Grover, Ministers.

Done for and in behalf of the Nemaha River Quarterly Meeting.

DELIA S. WOLFE, Q. M. Clerk.

Hastings Quarterly Meeting, Denman, Aug. 12th, 1922.

Greetings:—

The Hastings Quarterly Meeting has held one session since the last session of the Yearly Meeting. All worked in harmony for the upbuilding of the work. Blackwood reported the state of religion fair, union, fair, with a good Sunday School. As to membership they reported the same as last year. Fairfield does not have any meetings at all. South Bethel has preaching the first and third Sundays; the state of religion good, union good, with a good Sunday school, the membership the same as last year. Elm Island does not have any preaching, has a good Sunday school, membership same as last year. Geneva has not any services, but they expect Bro. Price of Missouri to come and hold revival meetings in the near future.

Delegates to the Yearly Meeting are: Mr. Bud Smith, Mrs. Bud Smith, John Lauthan, C. C. Wilson, M. L. Morse, Maggie Morse, Mrs. M. M. Myers and Frank McGee, and Rev. Leona Mack, Minister.

Voted that each delegate be given power to make substitution for alternate delegates.

M. L. MORSE, Q. M. Clerk.

Union Center Quarterly Meeting Letter.

Greetings:—

The state of religion is good, we have a good Sunday School with attendance about 40. There has been two revivals held with 40 conversions with 28 additions to the church.

Delegates to the Yearly Meeting are Guy Renolds, H. A. Renolds, Mr. Timothy Casey, Mrs. Timothy Casey, one minister in Q. M.

Report given verbally by Rev. S. M. Ballard.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT.

To the Brethren of the Executive Board and Members of the Nebraska Yearly Meeting of Free Will Baptists.

GREETINGS:—

Another year has been loaned to us to fill full of service in recognition of the manifold blessing of salvation given to us, and to write a worthy history on its white pages for eternity. How faithfully we as a people have grasped these opportunities, only eternity can reveal. It should more and more impress itself upon our minds and hearts that time is the great seed-plot of eternity. To sow good seed and if perchance we get to see it germinate, and then too to get to cultivate the growing plants should be the highest aspiration of every soul. To this end God has saved us; to this end He has called us into His work; and to this end He has given us our organization; to this end He has given us the Holy Spirit and sent us the Bible for our guide. To use these means should be our greatest joy.

To look back over the past year ONLY, may bring sadness of heart at the seeming poor spiritual harvest in the Yearly Meeting both by pastors and people. And then again, to know that we have done everything possible with consecrated lives and means, we can thus leave the rest that cannot be seen now with Him, who has said that He would not forget our labor of love.

To stem this awful onslaught of sin, we need to draw closer to the Great Power House of God from whence comes all our strength for service. We need to watch our own individual lives that the subtle power of Satan does not, almost unknowingly, draw us from the straight path. We need to be more watchful of one another in the church as we have pledged to so do, thus helping to bear one another's burdens and thus fulfill the law of Christ. We need to be forever on our guard that we bring no reproach upon the church which is the bride of Christ. We need to be really more HONEST WITH GOD with reference to His Day—The Sabbath. That is His Day. The world is watching God's children as to how they use that Day. If it is used for joy-riding, visiting, lounging around, going after Sunday mail, traveling on trains on Sunday, and many other secular things, they are likely to loose all confidence in the professed Christian, the Church, and ultimately God.

During the past year as your Chairman we have tried to carry out all recommendation given last year, and in doing this we started and carried out a little campaign for pastors both for Kansas and Nebraska, stirring up our churches to the op-

portunities for getting pastors and thus again taking good earnest work for the Lord. Good response was given. Visible results may not show what the harvest has been or will be along this line, but we know that a few advanced movements have been made, namely, our Summit, Kansas, church has secured a pastor or will have one on the field soon. Hickory Grove church has called Rev. J. B. Sparks, of Chanute, Kansas.

Grandview church has been blessed in getting Sister Ada Grover, who had been in our Tecumseh College for several years, coming directly from the College to this important field from which your Chairman had just closed a two year pastorate to go to our Long Branch church.

Bro. Ballard is working heroically with loyal followers in our Union Center Quarterly Meeting in Colorado.

Geneva, Elm Island, Blackwood, Smithfield, South Bethel and Fairfield churches in Hastings Quarterly Meeting all need pastors. Bro. Prior L. Price of Missouri held a few weeks' meeting with the Geneva church and will be back for another one next month. We feel confident that the Lord is going to bless that church and we will again see it moving along in its usual way, and that way is reaching after the unsaved and getting them.

Thus, taking it all and all quite an advance has been seen during the past year bringing us hope and encouragement. Now with more of our churches with pastors, we bespeak a still larger advancement all along the following lines:

1. A larger uplift spiritually among the membership.
2. A larger hungering and thirsting for good organized Bible Study Classes.
3. A good substantial campaign for subscriptions to the MORNING STAR.
4. A giving to Tecumseh College till we feel the giving, both for its present running expenses and for its permanent endowments.

For Recommendations, we want to RE-AFFIRM the whole Sixteen Articles in our Report for last year. And ask that they with the preceding four Advancements be printed in leaflet form for free distribution.

And now the blessing of the Heavenly Father, the love of the Saviour, and the infilling of the Spirit be ours.

JOHN H. WOLFE, Chairman Executive Board.

Great possibilities are before us as a people as we view the wondrous leading of the Lord in the co-operation of our people in the larger work. There are a few needs that should be emphasized and kept before our people in order that we may know better how to build wisely. May these needs as outlined sink deeply into our hearts and be the impetus to larger work:—

1st.—We need a little more loyalty in standing side by side with our membership, one to another.

2nd.—we greatly need to recognize the looseness in speak in the home concerning the pastor, his faults, failures, real or imaginary.

3rd.—We need as a people to pray more devoutly that the Lord would call more of our young people into the Gospel Ministry.

4th.—We need more pastors in our Yearly Meeting. How shall we get them is the serious question. Out of the many ways let us consider just a few, namely: First—Be willing to call them; second—a little less critical as to quality; third—treat them with a little more respect while with you; fourth—be willing for your son or daughter to be called into the Gospel Ministry.

5th.—We need to build parsonages so that our pastors have a place in which to live near to their work.

6th.—We as pastors need to have a more willingness to take hard fields and to pastor more than one church.

7th.—We need to ask the Lord to "make us willing" to go into grouping of our churches in order to have preaching regularly.

8th.—We need a better system for raising our money for our church purposes, especially that for our pastors, thus saving anxiety as long periods elapse between payments.

9th.—we need a better relationship between Sunday School and Church, so that there shall or may not be two separate organizations running parallel and independent with each other.

10th.—We need a better acquaintance between the Executive Board and our membership and a better understanding of our system of co-operation.

11th.—We need to take more seriously our local membership so that when we move away from our local church we shall under no circumstance unite with another church without first securing a letter of dismissal.

12th.—We need to bear in mind and heart that as non-resident members that we should keep in touch with our church in which our membership lies.

13th.—We need to have a Treaties of our Faith so as to be fairly familiar with our doctrines and practices.

14th.—We need the reprint of our BUTLER-DUNN SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY. Every one of our ministers should have one and they are needed as Text-Books in our schools.

15th.—We need and must have a larger General and Permanent Fund. From these we are able to carry on our general work and aid churches in building houses of worship.

16th.—But the crying needs today are back to the study of God's word; the good old Family Altar again erected in every family's home; the Weekly Prayer Meeting brought back into the church; the opening of our hearts to stop long enough before partaking of our meals to say, "THANK YOU LORD"; to get back to our old method of prayer and testimony meeting for our members; to more really keep the Sabbath holy, using it less for holidays and more for God's glory. Give us the above needs and the world can be taken for Christ. We can if we will. With gratitude to our HEAVENLY FATHER for the brightening prospects of the OLD NEBRASKA YEARLY MEETING, and faith in our brethren, I remain

Your fellow worker,

JOHN H. WOLFE, Chairman Ex-Board.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NECROLOGY

As a Yearly Meeting we have reason to be thankful in that so few have been called from our midst, Mrs. W. A. Baine of the Long Branch church, and Mr. G. W. Bobbit, of the Geneva church have passed on to their heavenly home. We would also state that Mrs. Sarah Murphy a charter member of the Grandview church was called to her reward March 7th, 1922.

Resolved that we have sustained a loss in their death and heaven is the richer.

DELIA S. WOLFE,

MARTHA M. MYERS,

ADA E. GROVER,

Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON NOMINATION.

We the Committee on nomination recommend the following names for members of the Executive Board, C. L. Fleharty for reelection, John Harper as new member.

C. C. FULLER,

SARAH J. GIBBS,

OLIVER TAYLOR

Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON DOCTRINE

We your committee on Doctrine. 1. Advise that all our ministers preach the full Doctrine of our church as set forth in our Treaties.

2. Ye recommend that all our churches discipline their members against worldly amusements on the Lords Day. 3. That we recommend all of our ministers to attend the business meetings of our church, and adhere to its teachings in regard to the support of the church and its works.

S. M. BALLARD,

MARY FULLER

J. H. HARPER.

Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MINISTERIAL STANDING

We your committee on Ministerial Standing find that the following named ministers are entitled to a certificate of standing for the coming year: Rev. John H. Wolfe, Rev. Delia S. Wolfe, Rev. Leona Mack, Rev. Ada Grover, and Rev. S. M. Ballard.

J. W. FINK,

M. L. MORSE

Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON MISSIONS

In as much as we have no regular foreign mission work we the committee on missions, recommend that our mission money and efforts be used in enlarging the evangelistic work and placing pastors on the field, and otherwise strengthening our local church work.

We further recommend that we stand by our College at Tecumseh, Okla., and give our support financially and otherwise.

MISS ADA E. GROVER

MRS. ALTA HURLBUTT,

MRS. NELLIE GOODELL

Committee.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATION

We your committee on publication recommend the following:

1. Star campaign committee.

2. That 3 special correspondents to the Star to report at least once a month be appointed by this body.

3. That 1,000 of the Chairmans recommendations for last Year along with the 4 recommendations for this year be printed for free distribution.

4. We recommend further that the paper by Mrs. W. T. Gibbs on the cottage prayer meeting be printed in pamphlet form in sufficient numbers for free distribution not only in our own State, but in Kansas and Missouri, also.

5. That we recommend that the Star office publish of the Butler-Dunn Theology, as follows, one or two chapters at a time to be used in the college and correspondence school, then lay away 500, 1,000, 2,000 copies, and when it all shall have been printed, then bind into a book as may be needed.

6. That the Yearly Meeting have the minutes of this meeting printed by the secretary at the expense of the Yearly Meeting left to the discretion of the secretary as to the number.

7. We further recommend the Yearly Meeting put in \$500.00 or more into the Star mortgage.

G. S. LATIMER,

J. H. GOODELL,

J. W. FINK.

Committee.

TRI-STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL

Because of our close proximity and condition of the field and close identification, and the co-operation of the three States consisting of the Missouri State Association, Nebraska Yearly Meeting and the Northern Kansas Yearly Meeting and the larger work that is just before us that the three States, carry together in a united way.

We recommend that an organization be effected to be known as the Tri-State Advisory Council, to consist of two elected members from each State, whose office shall continue as follows one member elected for one year, from each State. One member for two years, and one member each year thereafter.

That a copy of these recommendations be sent to the Missouri and Kansas Brethren.

PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORTS

The following is the report of Miss Ada E. Grover, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church of Grandview, State of Nebraska for the year ending August 1st, 1922. Number of Sermons preached 33. Number of religious services held 35. Number of pastoral visits made 19. Number dismissed two. Amount raised for pastor's salary \$137.00. Amount raised for Education \$25.50. Total \$162.50.

MISS ADA E. GROVER, Pastor.

The following is the report of S. M. Ballard Pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church of Union center and Bunavesta, State of Colorado, for the year ending August 1st, 1922. Number of sermons preached 125. Number of Weddings attended 5. Number of religious services held 139. Number of pastoral visits made 15. Number of funerals attended 5. No. received into church by baptism 21, otherwise 3.

Amount raised for pastor's salary \$47.50.

S. M. BALLARD, Pastor.

The following is the report of John H. Wolfe, pastor of the Free Will Baptist Church of Long Branch State of Nebraska for the year ending August 1st, 1922: Number of Sermons preached, 93. Number of religious services held 117. Number of pastoral visits made, 50. Number of funerals attended 4. Number received into church by baptism, 1. otherwise 2. Number dismissed 6.

Amount raised for pastor's salary \$500.00.

Amount raised for building and repairs, \$135.00.

Amount raised for incidentals, \$40.00.

Total \$695.00.

JOHN H. WOLFE, Pastor

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON CLOSING RESOLUTIONS

We your committee on resolutions beg to report the following:

Be it resolved that inasmuch as the Spirit of Christian fellowship, has prevailed during the entire session of this Yearly Meeting, and be it further resolved that we extend to all the brethren and sisters of the Long Branch church and to all others who have so kindly entertained us in their homes and in many other ways have welcomed us among them.

Be it further resolved that we extend to them our sincere thanks. May God bless and keep them all until that happy reunion over there.

MRS. M. MYERS,

J. H. GOODELL,

J. F. HARPER.

Committee.

MARCUS L. MORSE,

Yearly Meeting Clerk.

1. THE BENEFITS OF THE FAMILY PRAYER.

By Mrs W. T. Gibbs

Prayer is the life of the soul. Prayer is the communion of the soul with Christ. Without this communion the life of the individual is void of relationship with Christ so far as the individual is concerned.

There is not one person in the whole wide world but what prays or communes with Christ at some time during their lives, and this reliance upon Christ strengthens our faith, encourages belief, and makes us more reliant upon Him whom we trust for saving grace.

Therefore each and every one of us should have our regular time to pray. Not only regular time but a special time set aside each day to commune with the Father. We

should not only have a special time but the heart, mind, and soul should be in an attitude of prayer at all times. Prayer is to the soul what the vine is to the branches. John 15:5.

Then if prayer is the life of the soul, how much more is Family Prayer to the home where the communion of all the members of the home are in the same attitude of prayer with the same abiding faith in Him who is father to the home.

There is no doubt the home with the Family Altar established and observed regularly is the happy home of today. Show me a home where there is no Family Altar or no gathering together of the family with one another, in one accord, taking Christ as their Savior, and you will undoubtedly show me a home where there is more or less discord, strife, and impatience and unabiding faith among its members. And why? Because if they have not learned the habit of earnest prayer, and the patient waiting upon Christ for His answer how much more could you expect them to have faith, patience, and love for each other?

Family Prayer not only strengthens the home love, faith and charity, but it also strengthens the individuals of that home and makes them better fitted to go out of the home among their fellow men; their lives filled with the love, faith and power of the Holy Spirit and set that Christ-like example as we of believers in our Lord should do at all times, "for by their works we shall know them." For if the mind and heart are filled with the Holy Spirit, so will the lips speak forth the message of our Christ through His disciples.

Family Prayer is a blessing to the church in that it prepares the individual at home to talk with Christ in his every day life. In other words it is a school for the soul, Christ being the teacher. It is our way of talking to Christ and the reading of the Word is His way of speaking to us through the Scriptures. So by reading His Word and by prayer we both commune with Him and He with us, and by this fellowship with our Christ at home makes us better disciples to go into church and perform the duties of the Master there that may come to our hands to do.

If we do not have communion with our Christ at all times how can we go into the church and do Christ's work there or set the example before our brothers in a way that Christ would have us to do? Where shall we get this communion or this training and cultivation of our spiritual faculties if not at the Family Altar? We feed our physical bodies three times a day, seven days out of each week, how much more does our spiritual bodies need sustinances. Can we survive spirituality on one service one day out of seven when it takes three meals a day every day in the week to keep us physically? I dare say we cannot. Let us then establish the Family Altar in each home and thus have more congenial homes, better citizens and our churches filled with the Holy Spirit of Him who gave His life for us.

II. BENEFITS OF THE COTTAGE PRAYER MEETING.

Cottage prayer-meeting has long since been the spiritual source and foundation of the church. It is a convocation of the members called at the home of some member of the church, or friend of the church to renew their spiritual strength in Christ and concentrate their minds in one accord for their church, their members and the good of their community for we have that promise that where two or more are gathered together in one accord and ask in His Name, it shall be given unto them.

One of the real benefits of Cottage prayer-meeting is that it reaches people who are really friends of the church, by taking the prayer-meeting into their home, (that is if you can get the permission to do so), that you can not reach any other way, in a word of worship. And by presenting Christ to them in prayer, word, and song in the home, it often times touches the hearts of those who perhaps, have been hardened and have not been in spiritual communion with their Father, whereas if the prayer-meeting had never been taken to that home or such homes, it might mean the loss of such souls.

And by the communion and fellowship of the members gathered in the home it strengthens that home in Christian Faith, and if the homes that constitute the church are endowed with the Holy Spirit, it keeps the church at all times in readiness to cast its influence abroad before the unconverted of the community.

Cottage prayer-meeting is to the church what the secret prayer is to the individual or the family prayer is to the family. The church without this spiritual strength grows weaker and weaker until death claims it, but with the spiritual strength coming from the prayer-meeting grows stronger and stronger and thus becomes a mighty power in the community making the church a living witness to the saving and keeping power of Christ.

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