

HOW WE MISSIONARIES KNOW GOD ANSWERS PRAYER



AN EXAMPLE OF HOW TO PRAY AND GET ANSWERS

1 CHRON. 4:9-10, "AND JABEZ WAS MORE HONOURABLE THAN HIS BRETHREN: AND HIS MOTHER CALLED HIS NAME JABEZ, SAYING, BECAUSE I BARE HIM WITH SORROW. 10 AND JABEZ CALLED ON THE GOD OF ISRAEL, SAYING, OH THAT THOU Wouldest BLESS ME INDEED, AND ENLARGE MY COAST, AND THAT THINE HAND MIGHT BE WITH ME, AND THAT THOU Wouldest KEEP ME FROM EVIL, THAT IT MAY NOT GRIEVE ME! AND GOD GRANTED HIM THAT WHICH HE REQUESTED."

ELEMENTS OF JABEZ'S MODEL PRAYER FOR THE MISSIONARY

- BEGAN WITH **CHALLENGE** IN LIFE (SOMETIMES COMES FROM PARENTS – “SORROW”)
- BUT ESTABLISHED A **REPUTATION OF HONOR** – ABOVE OTHERS, EVEN HIS OWN BROTHERS
- ABOVE ALL **WANTED GOD'S BLESSING** UPON HIS LIFE – **PRAYED** SPECIFICALLY FOR THAT BLESSING
- **SPECIFIED THE BLESSING – ENLARGEMENT OF CAPACITY AND OPPORTUNITY** TO SERVE THE LORD.
- **PRAYED ALSO FOR THE GRACE (GOD'S HAND)** TO BEAR THE RESPONSIBILITY AND DEMANDS OF THE ENLARGEMENT OF MINISTRY.
- **PRAYED FOR PROTECTION FROM EVIL,** KNOWING THAT IT WOULD CAUSE PAIN OF CONSCIENCE AND IN THE MINISTRY.
- **GOD ANSWERS SUCH PRAYERS!**



Arctic Ocean

Arctic Ocean

North America

Europe

Asia

Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Tropic of Cancer

Africa

Pacific Ocean

Equator

Indian Ocean

Tropic of Capricorn

South America

Australia

Pacific Ocean

Atlantic Ocean

Antarctica



**PRAYER:
PUTTING IT
INTO PRACTICE**

Kim Melton



Persevering in Prayer



DAVID BRAINERD'S PRAYER WHEN NOTHING SEEMED TO BE HAPPENING

JUNE 25, 1745

- WAS SOMETHING BETTER IN HEALTH THAN OF LATE; WAS ABLE TO SPEND A CONSIDERABLE PART OF THE DAY IN PRAYER AND CLOSE STUDIES. HAD MORE FREEDOM AND FERVENCY IN PRAYER THAN USUAL OF LATE. ESPECIALLY LONGED FOR THE PRESENCE OF GOD IN MY WORK AND THAT THE POOR HEATHEN MIGHT BE CONVERTED. AND IN EVENING PRAYER MY FAITH AND HOPE IN GOD WERE MUCH RAISED. **TO AN EYE OF REASON, EVERYTHING THAT RESPECTS THE CONVERSION OF THE HEATHEN IS AS DARK AS MIDNIGHT;** AND **YET I CANNOT BUT HOPE IN GOD FOR THE ACCOMPLISHMENT OF SOMETHING GLORIOUS** AMONG THEM. (P. 166)



BRAINERD'S PRAYER WHEN NOTHING HAPPENING (ABOUT 1 MONTH LATER)

JULY 22, 1745

- PREACHED AGAIN TO THEM IN THE AFTERNOON AND OBSERVED THE INDIANS WERE MORE SOBER THAN BEFORE, BUT STILL SAW NOTHING SPECIAL AMONG THEM. FROM WHENCE SATAN TOOK OCCASION TO TEMPT AND BUFFET ME WITH THESE ACCURSED SUGGESTIONS, THERE IS NO GOD, OR IF THERE BE, HE IS NOT ABLE TO CONVERT THE INDIANS, BEFORE THEY HAVE MORE KNOWLEDGE. I WAS VERY WEAK AND WEARY, AND MY SOUL BORNE DOWN WITH PERPLEXITY; BUT WAS MORTIFIED TO ALL THE WORLD, AND **WAS DETERMINED STILL TO WAIT UPON GOD FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE HEATHEN, THOUGH THE DEVIL TEMPTED ME TO THE CONTRARY.** (P. 174)



BRAINERD'S OBSERVATIONS WHEN GOD BEGAN TO WORK

DECEMBER 29 1745

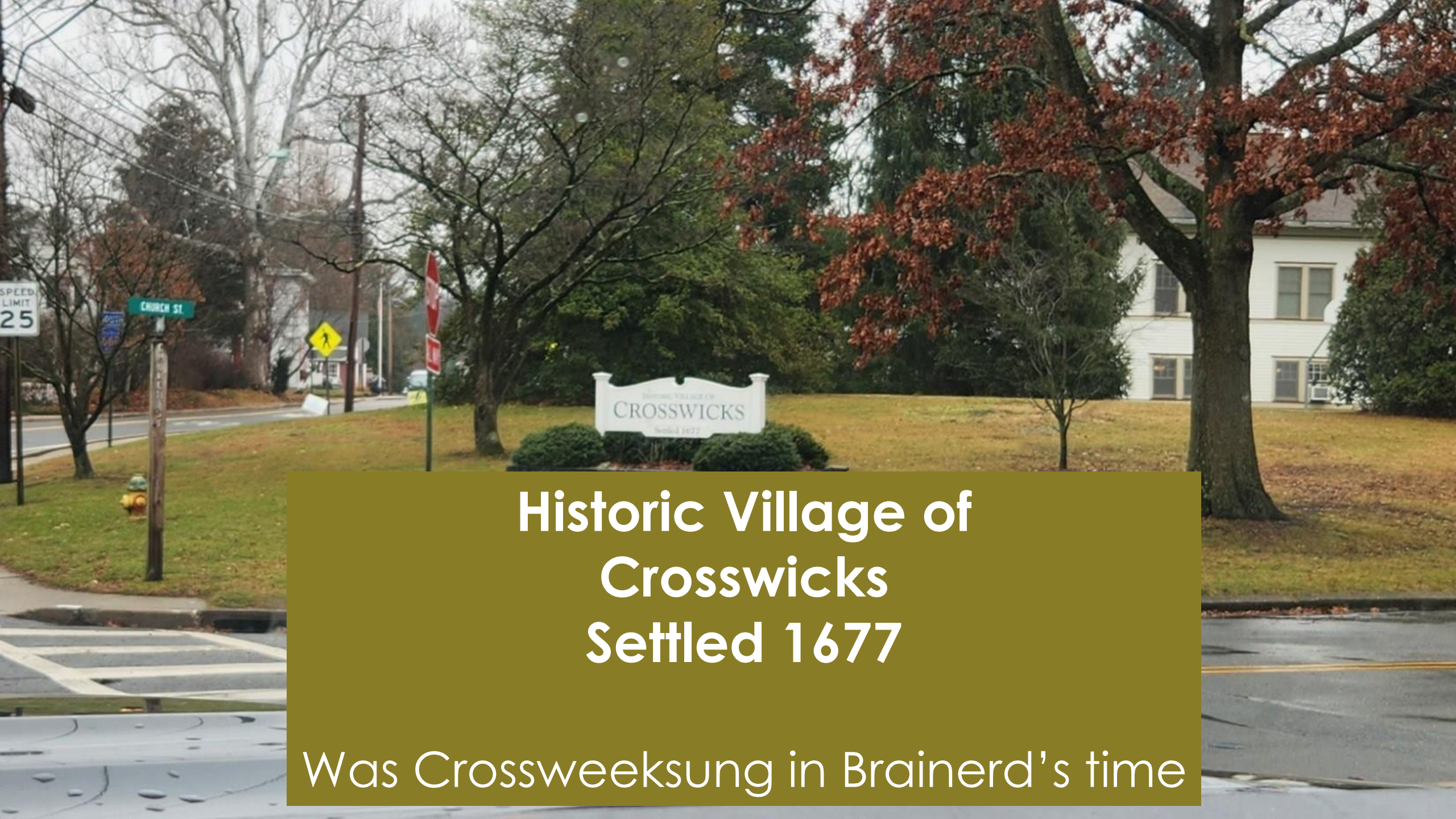
- THE DIVINE SPIRIT IN SUCH A MANNER SET HOME UPON THEIR HEARTS WHEN I SPOKE TO THEM THAT THE HOUSE WAS SOON FILLED WITH CRIES AND GROANS. THEY ALL FLOCKED TOGETHER UPON THIS OCCASION, AND THOSE WHOM I HAD REASON TO THINK IN A CHRISTLESS STATE WERE ALMOST UNIVERSALLY SEIZED WITH CONCERN FOR THEIR SOULS. IT WAS AN AMAZING SEASON OF POWER AMONG THEM AND SEEMED AS IF GOD HAD "BOWED THE HEAVENS, AND COME DOWN." SO ASTONISHINGLY PREVALENT WAS THE OPERATION UPON OLD AS WELL AS YOUNG THAT **IT SEEMED AS IF NONE WOULD BE LEFT IN A SECURE AND NATURAL STATE, BUT THAT GOD WAS NOW ABOUT TO CONVERT ALL THE WORLD.** I WAS READY TO THINK THEN THAT I SHOULD NEVER AGAIN DESPAIR OF THE CONVERSION OF ANY MAN OR WOMAN LIVING, BE THEY WHO OR WHAT THEY WOULD. (PP. 265-266)



BRAINERD'S OBSERVATIONS WHEN GOD BEGAN TO WORK

FROM CROSSWEEKSUNG MARCH, 1746

- I KNOW OF NO ASSEMBLY OF CHRISTIANS WHERE THERE SEEMS TO BE SO MUCH OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD, WHERE BROTHERLY LOVE SO MUCH PREVAILS, AND WHERE I SHOULD SO MUCH DELIGHT IN THE PUBLIC WORSHIP OF GOD, IN GENERAL, AS IN MY OWN CONGREGATION; ALTHOUGH **NOT MORE THAN NINE MONTHS AGO, THEY WERE WORSHIPPING DEVILS AND DUMB IDOLS UNDER THE POWER OF PAGAN DARKNESS AND SUPERSTITION. AMAZING CHANGE THIS!** AFFECTED BY NOTHING LESS THAN DIVINE POWER AND GRACE! “THIS IS THE DOING OF THE LORD, AND IT IS JUSTLY MARVELOUS IN OUR EYES!” (277)



Historic Village of Crosswicks Settled 1677

Was Crossweeksung in Brainerd's time

WHY DO YOU THINK BRAINERD'S JOURNAL AND LIFE ARE STILL BEING PUBLISHED 270 YEARS LATER?

No doubt it is because of his transparent passion in prayer for (1) his own pursuit of God and (2) for the salvation of the Indians.



*Yours in Royal service
Mary Slessor*

MARY SLESSOR:

**“MY LIFE IS ONE LONG
DAILY, HOURLY RECORD OF
ANSWERED PRAYER.”**

MARY SLESSOR'S TESTIMONY

My life is one long daily, hourly, record of answered prayer. For physical health, from mental overstrain, for guidance given marvellously, for errors and dangers averted, for enmity to the gospel subdued, for food provided at the exact hour needed, for everything that goes to make up life and my poor service, **I can testify with a full and often wonder-stricken awe that I believe God answers prayer. I know God answers prayer. I have proved during long decades while alone, as far as man's help and presence are concerned, that God answers prayer.** Cavilings, logical or physical, are of no avail to me. It is the very atmosphere in which I live and breathe and have my being and it makes life glad and free and a million times worth living. I can give no other testimony. I am sitting alone here on a log among the company of natives. My children whose very lives are a testimony that God answers prayer, are working round me. Natives are crowding past on the bush road to attend palavers, and I am at perfect peace, far from my own countrymen and conditions, **because I know God answers prayer.** Food is scarce just now. We live from hand to mouth. We have not more than will be our breakfast today, but I know we shall be fed, **for God answers prayer.**

HUDSON TAYLOR (1832-1905)

DEEPER PREPAREDNESS NEEDED BEFORE PRAYER ANSWERED



It was not until many years later when Mr. Taylor could look back over all the way in which the Lord had led him, that he was impressed with the fact that every important advance in the development of the mission had sprung from or been directly connected with times of sickness or suffering which had cast him in a special way upon God. It was to be so now; as though a deeper preparedness of spirit were needed, before he could be trusted with the answer to this prayer. (Vol. 2, p. 253)

“OUT OF WEAKNESS MADE STRONG”

The key: more intimate connection with the Lord

“When I came home, I hoped to have done much for China. God soon put that out of the question, as you know, and for many months there was little I could do but pray. And what has been the result? Far more has been done *by God*, far more is being done, far more will be done *by Him* than my most sanguine hopes ventured to anticipate. And shall we learn no lesson from this? **Shall we not each of us determine to labour more *in prayer*; To cultivate more intimate connection with God by His help; thinking less of our working and more of *His working*, that He may in very deed be glorified in and through us?” (Vol. 2, 275)**

GOD'S ANSWERS IN "THE LITTLE THINGS OF LIFE"

The time had almost arrived for beginning the last preparations for the long journey to China, when one day Ruth came in from her play with her heavy coat almost in shreds, she having in some way torn it on a barbed wire fence. The coat was the only heavy one she had, and I had planned to make it do for the ocean voyage, intending to get a new one in England. I tried to find a new one in the stores, but the season was past and I could not; and I had no time to make another. I just took the need to the Lord and left it there, believing that in some way He would provide. A few days later a friend telephoned me that her mother had recently returned from a visit to Chicago, and wished me to come over to see a parcel she had brought for me. Oh, the relief that came when I found that the parcel contained, among other things, a handsome red cloth coat, which fitted Ruth perfectly. This fresh evidence of the Lord's overshadowing care touched me deeply. **Those who have never known such tokens of the Lord's loving care in the little things of life can scarcely understand the blessedness that such experiences bring.**

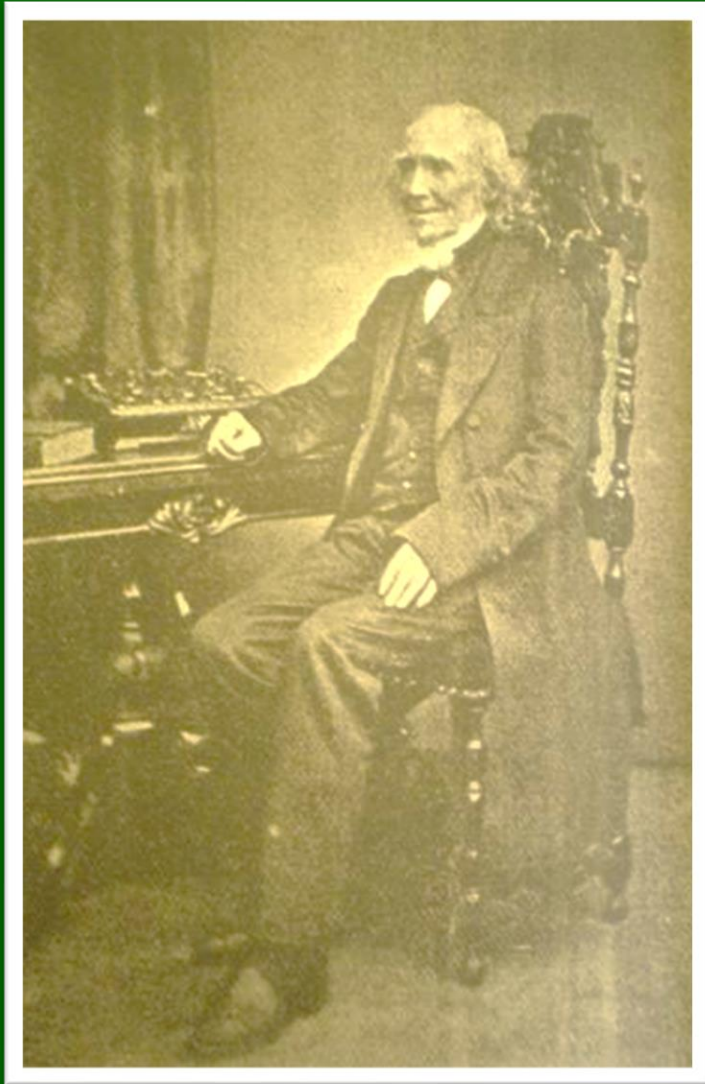
Rosalind Goforth

Whether it be so heavy that others cannot bear
To know the heavy burden they cannot come and share;
Whether it be so tiny that others cannot see
Why it should be a burden, and seem so real to me.
Either and both I lay them down at the Master's feet
And find them alone with Jesus mysteriously sweet.

-- Rosalind Goforth (p. 92)

JOHN PATON'S PARENTS

HIS FATHER PRAYED *"THAT IF GOD GAVE HIM SONS, HE WOULD CONSECRATE THEM UNRESERVEDLY TO THE MINISTRY OF CHRIST."* -- 3 BECAME PREACHERS



**“The architect who planned that cottage had no ideas of art, but a fine eye for durability!”
-- from Paton’s autobiography, pp. 6-7.**

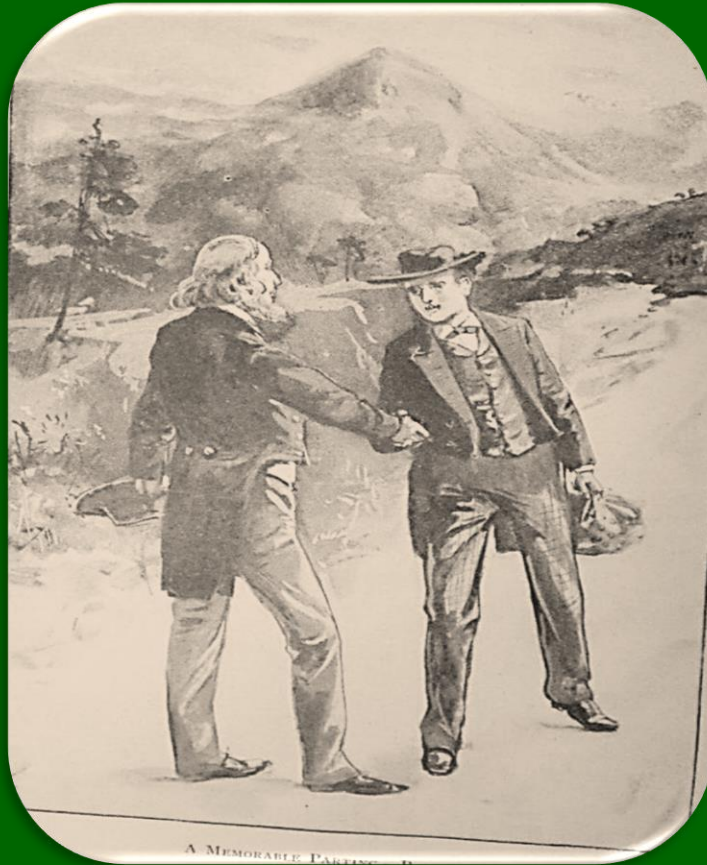








“GOD BLESS YOU, MY SON! YOUR
FATHER’S GOD PROSPER YOU, AND
KEEP YOU FROM ALL EVIL.”



**John Paton's
Father**



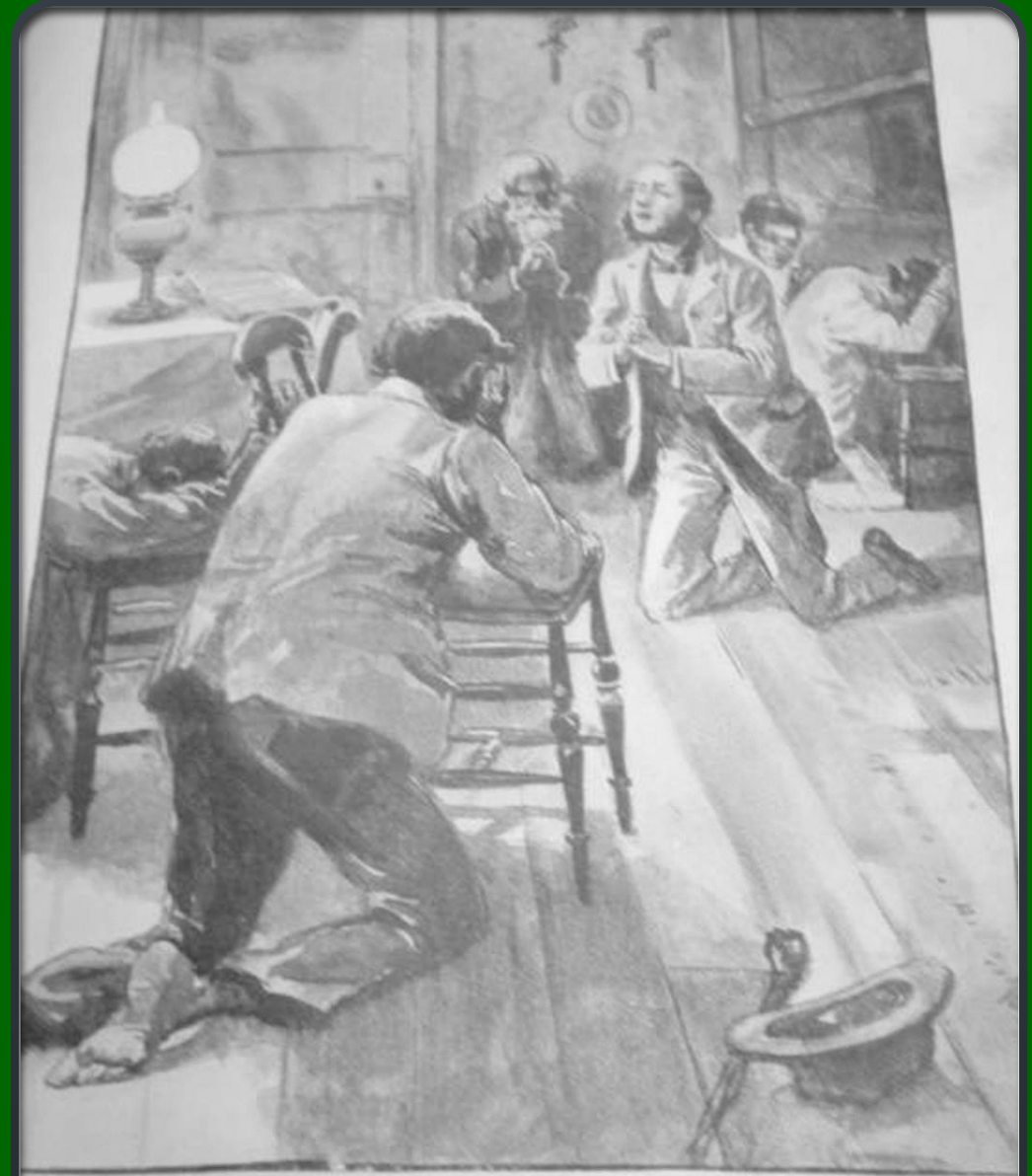
**“LOOKING UP IN
UNCEASING PRAYER TO
OUR DEAR LORD JESUS, I
LEFT ALL IN HIS HANDS,
AND FELT IMMORTAL TILL
MY WORK WAS DONE.”**

-- JOHN PATON

Next day, a wild chief followed me about for four hours with his loaded musket, and, though often directed towards me, God restrained his hand. I spoke kindly to him, and attended to my work as if he had not been there, fully persuaded that my God had placed me there, and would protect me till my allotted task was finished. **Looking up in unceasing prayer to our dear Lord Jesus, I left all in his hands, and felt immortal till my work was done.** Trials and hair breadth escapes strengthened my faith, and seemed only to nerve me for more to follow; And they did tread swiftly upon each other's heels. **Without that abiding consciousness of the presence and power of my dear Lord and Savior, nothing else in all the world could have preserved me from losing my reason and perishing miserably.** His words, 'Lo I am with you alway, even until the end of the world,' became to me so real that it would not have startled me to behold Him, as Stephen did, gazing down upon the scene."

Dangers again darkened round me. One day, while toiling away at my house, the war Chief and his brother, and a large party of armed men, surrounded the plot where I was working. They all had muskets, besides their own native weapons. They watched me for some time in silence, and then every man levelled a musket straight at my head. Escape was impossible. Speech would only have increased my danger. My eyesight came and went for a few moments. **I prayed to my Lord Jesus, either Himself to protect me or to take me home to His glory.** I tried to keep working on at my task, as if no one was near me. In that moment, as never before, the words came to me, -- **“Whatsoever you shall ask in my name, I will do it;”** and I knew that I was **safe.** Retiring a little from their first position, no word having been spoken, they took up the same attitude somewhat farther off, and seemed to be urging one another to fire the first shot. But my dear Lord restrained them once again and they withdrew, leaving me with a new reason for entrusting Him with all that concerned me for time and eternity.

“THE DEFENCE”



THE DEFENCE.—Page 123.

“THIS IS STRENGTH, THIS IS PEACE: -- TO FEEL IN
ENTERING ON EVERY DAY, THAT ALL ITS DUTIES AND
TRIALS HAVE BEEN COMMITTED TO THE LORD JESUS.”

John Paton

