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FREEBORN GARRETTSON'S EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS

**Compiled by Duane V. Maxey
From the January Through October
Issues of The Arminian Magazine
For The Year 1794**

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Part 1

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETTSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- January, 1794

I was born in 1752. My parents were of the Church of England, and brought up their children in that way of worship. My great-grandfather emigrated from Britain, and was among the first settlers in the Province of Maryland. My father was a moral man, and esteemed by his neighbors as a good Christian. I have reason to believe my mother truly feared the Lord, but she was removed into a blessed Eternity when I was young. I remember one Lord's day, about the seventh year of my age, I was sitting by her side while she was reading the two last chapters of the Revelation. When she came to the description of the Water and Tree of Life, she made a full stop, and lifting up her weeping eyes to Heaven, cried out, "O that I may be so happy as to eat of that fruit, and drink of that water, in my heavenly Father's kingdom!"

From my infancy I was prone to pride, self-will, and stubbornness; which afterwards I sensibly felt, to the sorrow of my heart; but by the watchful care of my parents, I was happily restrained from outward sin. One day, when I was about nine years old, being alone in the field, it was suddenly and powerfully suggested to my mind, "Ask and it shall be given you." I knew these words were in the Bible, but having no knowledge of spiritual things, I immediately ran home, and childishly told my brother, it was revealed unto me, that I should be rich. Soon after, the following question was proposed to my mind, "Do you know what a saint is?" After a short pause I replied, "There are no saints in the world in these days." The same voice answered, "A saint is one that is

wholly given up to God." Instantly the appearance of such a person was presented to the view of my mind. I was greatly affected with the beauty and excellency of religion; a strong desire sprung up in my soul, and I prayed earnestly, and with some measure of hope, that the Lord would make me a Christian indeed.

About this time, the Lord was pleased to visit our family with the rod of affliction. My sister was the first that died, then my mother, and afterwards two servants. On the ninth day of my sister's illness, she called the family together, and said, "Weep not for me, for I am not afraid to die. I am going to my Jesus, who will do more for me than any of you can do." She then desired to be laid down, bidding us all "Farewell," and with a smiling countenance dropped into eternity. These awful scenes affected me much; a melancholy gloom hung over my mind, and I frequently wept in secret. I was conscious I wanted something. The Spirit of the Lord often strove with me, and melted me into tenderness; but I knew not the way of salvation, and had no one to take me by the hand, and lead me into the narrow path. Our unhappy minister was a stranger to God, and most of his flock, I am afraid, were in the way to ruin.

When I was twelve years old, I threw off all seriousness, and became as wild as the rest of my school-fellows. From my fourteenth year, I was engaged in learning bookkeeping, the mathematics, and astronomy. Between the 17th and 18th year of my age, I left school, and entered upon business. But alas, I was fond of pleasure, and loved this world more than God.

About this time the Methodists engaged the conversation of the inhabitants of Baltimore county, where I lived. I went along with others to hear them, but the place was so crowded, I could not get in. However, from what I could understand, I thought they preached the Truth, and durst not join with the multitude in persecuting them. Not long after, the Holy Spirit began to strive again with me powerfully. One day I met a young man, who had been hearing the Methodists, and his serious conversation was so engaging and edifying, that I was constrained to believe that there was a reality in religion; and that it was high time for me to seek the Lord.

Reading in Russel's Sermons, that it was highly expedient for a penitent sinner to make an exact estimate of all his sins, I endeavored to follow his advice; and upon a careful examination, found them to be innumerable. I now began to see myself in the gospel glass, and was deeply affected with the discovery of my wretchedness and lost estate; and I promised a thorough amendment of life; but alas, my repentance was like the morning dew, that quickly passeth away; I was not truly humbled, and my will rebelled against the Most High.

One day as I was crossing a rapid stream, a log on which I had frequently gone, suddenly gave way, and I was in the utmost jeopardy of being carried down the torrent. After struggling a while, with much difficulty I got out, although much wounded among the sharp rocks. This question struck my mind with great weight, "What would have become of our soul, if you had been drowned?" I wept bitterly, and prayed to the Lord, under a sense of guilt. Nevertheless, my stubborn heart was not yet willing to submit to God, though I felt a little Hell within me.

In the month of May, 1772, as I was riding down a descent, over a large broad rock, the horse threw me. With the violent fall I lost my senses. Being alone, I know not how long I continued in that situation. When I recovered, I found myself on my knees, with my hands and eyes

raised to Heaven, and crying to God for mercy. It was strongly impressed upon my mind, that if I had then died, my soul must have dropped into Hell. I praised God for my deliverance, and promised to serve him all the days of my life. Before I arose from my knees, all the pain was removed, and I felt nearly as well as ever I did in my life. I was sensible of the drawings of God's Spirit; and, in a measure, saw the amiableness of Jesus; and was determined; through grace, to follow him in the way of regeneration.

I now procured the best religious books I could meet with; particularly the writings of Mr. Hervey, the "Travels of True Godliness," Allein's "Alarm," &c., for as yet I had not seen any of Mr. Wesley's publications. As I lived a retired life, I frequently read, prayed, and wept till after midnight; and often retired into the woods for prayer and meditation. My name began to be cast out as evil, although I was ashamed to let any one know the exercises of my mind; and in order to conceal them, when in company, I have too often grieved the Holy Spirit, by joining in trifling conversation; for I was much afraid of being thought a hypocrite. However convictions still followed me, and I attended strictly to the duties of the family over which I was placed. As yet I had heard very few Methodist sermons, and the enemy strove hard to prevent me from going among those people.

Some time after, Mr. F. A. [Francis Asbury] came into our county. I went to hear him one evening. The place was much crowded, however I got to the door, and listened with attention. The word was sweeter than honey, or the honeycomb; I could have tarried there until the rising of the sun. I returned home with gladness, fully persuaded that he was a servant of God. I followed him to another preaching place: the discourse penetrated to the center of my soul, and all the secret operations of my heart were laid open. I was ready to cry out, "How does this stranger know me so well?"

My father was troubled on my account, and came to see me. We sat up talking till near midnight. "I have no objection," said he, "to your being religious; but why do you turn from the "Church?" I replied, "I have no intention of leaving the Church, but the case is really this: it is impossible for any one in these times to be truly serious, but they will be called Methodists, and their names will be cast out as evil."

In April, 1773, my brother John was taken dangerously ill, so that his life was despaired of. One Lord's Day, many friends came to see him, expecting every moment he would breathe his last. I was greatly concerned on account of his soul, having much reason to fear he was not prepared for a happy eternity. I went round to the back part of the bed, and kneeling down, earnestly besought the Lord to have mercy upon him, and spare him. When I arose from my knees, perceiving his lips were moving, I put my ear close to his mouth (to all appearance he was just dying) and heard him say, "Lord, thou knowest I am unprepared to die; have mercy upon me, and raise me up again, and give me a longer space, and I will serve thee. Thy Spirit has often strove with me, but I have rejected thee, &c." He thus continued pleading with the Lord a considerable time. We both knew the moment when the Lord answered our prayer, and granted him a gracious reprieve. I immediately informed our weeping friends, that they need not be uneasy, for the Lord would restore him again. The disorder instantly turned, he fell into a doze, and within a few days was able to walk about the room. After his recovery, I conversed with him on the subject, and he told me that he saw Death; -- that he was summoned to appear in the world of Spirits; -- and that if

he had died at that time, Hell was his doom; -- but the Lord had lengthened his days on condition that they were devoted to his service. Some time after he experienced an entire change of heart, and enjoyed the favor and blessing of God for near three years, when he died a happy witness of perfect love.

After the recovery of my brother, the Lord was pleased to exercise me with affliction; and I was brought nigh unto the grave. During my illness, I was in a very strange way; lay on my bed singing praises to God, without any fear of Death. I felt my mind perfectly easy. I thought if I died, I should go to Heaven, I was even willing to die, although I did not know that my sins were forgiven; but I felt a strong hope that the Lord would save me. Who can tell what state my soul was then in?

In the month of August following, it pleased the Lord to take my father to himself. From my earliest knowledge, I did not remember to have heard an oath in the family, although it consisted of about twenty persons. And it was a rare thing for him to correct either children or servants, notwithstanding we stood in the highest reverence of him. I often visited him during his illness, which was long and tedious; and he was much delighted with my company. I have great reason to believe that he died in the Lord.

The care of the family now devolving upon me, and the settlement of my father's business, I was surrounded with many difficulties, and troubles, which were no help to the affairs of my soul. The enemy strove hard to drive away all my good desires; but still I attended constantly to secret devotion. I contracted an intimacy with the new parish minister, who was a very clever man, of a moral character; and much respected in the neighborhood. I constantly attended upon his ministry, and frequently conversed with him on religious subjects. He told me, the Methodists carried matters too far; -- that a man could not know his sins were forgiven; -- and all that we could attain to, was a hope springing from an upright life. This doctrine exactly tallied with my experience, and was food for my fallen nature. I imbibed his sentiments and spirit, and began to seek after literary qualifications for the ministry of the Church; and for purpose applied myself to read and study, often consulting my new counselor.

But the Spirit of the Lord, at times, strove very powerfully, and I was frequently afraid that all was not well with me, especially when I was under Methodist preaching. To these people I was drawn, but it was death to me; for I thought, I had rather serve God in any way than among them; at the same time something within told me that they were right. Being greatly agitated in mind, I at last concluded to give up my former pursuits, to turn all my attention to the improvement of my worldly property, and to serve God in a private manner. In consequence of this resolution, I set out in full pursuit of business, expecting to accumulate riches in abundance.

During the time of my self-secure state, I had the form of godliness, attended the church constantly, and sometimes went to hear the Methodists. I fasted once a week, prayed frequently, strictly regarded the Sabbath, reproved open sin, and denied myself of what the world calls pleasure. The way that I was now in seemed so perfectly right in my own eyes that thought, most certainly I should go to Heaven. If at any time I was overtaken in a fault, I endeavored to mend my pace, and prayed more frequently. I cannot say, I was entirely free from doubts; for often under the Methodist preaching, my poor foundation was terribly shaken; and it was several days before I

could recover my hope. Sometimes was tempted to think that the Methodists were a deluded people, and almost resolved to hear them no more. I stood, in a manner, between the children of God, and the children of the world; when I was with the former, I endeavored to confute them; but when in company with their enemies, I pleaded the cause of the Methodists.

One day I happened to meet with a zealous Methodist exhorter; he asked if I was born again. I answered, that I hoped I was. "Do you know (said he) that your sins are forgiven?" No, I replied, neither do I expect that knowledge in this world. "I perceive (continued he) that you are in the broad road to hell, and if you die in this state, you will be damned." I pleaded, that the tree is known by its fruit, and that our Lord condemns rash judgment; and asked him, What have you seen or known of my life, that induces you to judge me in this manner? And to prevent his reply, I turned my back upon him. But, however, I could not forget the words of the pious young man, for they were as spears running through me.

In this state I continued till June, 1775. One evening I went to rest as usual, and slept till daybreak. Just as I awoke, I was alarmed by an awful voice, that to my apprehension seemed as loud as thunder; "Awake, sinner! for you are not prepared to die!" I was smitten with convictions in a manner I had not known before, and instantly starting from my pillow, cried out, "Lord, have mercy on my soul!" This was about the commencement of the late unhappy war [the Revolutionary War], and that day there was a general Review near my house, at the sight of which I had promised myself much satisfaction. But my mind was now engaged in matters of much greater importance, and instead of attending upon the Review, I spent the time in solitude. For several days I labored under such distresses, as no one can form an idea of, but those who have passed through similar exercises of soul.

On the Tuesday following I went to the preaching. Returning home about nine o'clock at night, I alighted from my horse in a lonely wood, and bowed my knees before the Lord. I was perfectly sensible of the presence of two different Spirits, who were striving with me. The good Spirit represented to my mind the beauties of religion, the blessedness of the righteous, and the necessity of receiving Jesus Christ the Lord, by faith, in order to my soul's salvation. On the other hand, the evil Spirit set forth religion in a most odious garb; and the world, its pleasures and gratifications, in brilliant colors; assuring me, that all these things should be mine, if I would give up my notions, and serve him.

At length I began to stagger, and yielded to the reasonings of the Enemy. The tenderness of my conscience abated, and penitent tears vanished away; but I still continued on my knees in a kind of meditation, and at last cried out, "Lord, spare me one year more, and by that time I can put my worldly affairs in such a train, that I can serve thee." -- I was answered, "Now is the accepted Time!" I then pleaded for six months; -- for one month; -- for one week; -- still the answer was, -- "This is the time!"

The enemy remained silent till I was denied one week in his service, he then insinuated, "The God whom you are attempting to serve, is a hard Master; and I advise you to desist from your endeavor." My heart instantly rebelled against my Maker; and I arose from my knees with these words, "I will take my own time, and then I will serve thee."

I got on horseback, but had not rode above a quarter of a mile before the Lord met me with, -- "These three years have I come seeking fruit on this fig-tree, and find none. Now I come once more to offer you Life and Salvation; and it is the last time! -- Choose, or refuse!" -- Immediately a divine power surrounded me; -- Heaven and Hell were disclosed to view; and Life and Death were set before me. I verily believe, if I had rejected this call, mercy would have been forever taken from me. I am fully persuaded, that man has power, through divine grace, to choose, or refuse, in religious matters, otherwise God would have no reasonable service from his creatures.

I was conscious of the very moment when I submitted to the Lord, and willingly yielded that Christ should reign over me. I threw the bridle upon the horse's neck, and closing my hands together, cried out, "Lord, I submit!" -- and now, for the first time, I was reconciled to the justice of God. The enmity of my heart was slain; the plan of salvation was opened to full view; I saw an unspeakable beauty in the perfections of the Deity, and felt that power of faith and love which humbled me to the dust before him. I felt a Heaven within me, and wished for wings to fly away to the Heaven of Heavens. Although alone, in an unfrequented wood, I was constrained to sound forth the praises of my great Redeemer. I thought I should not be ashamed to publish his Name to the ends of the earth. As I drew near home, the servants heard me, and came to meet me at the gate in great surprise. I called the family together for prayer, but my prayer was turned into praise.

[To be continued]

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Part 2

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- February, 1794

On the evening in which I found peace with God; I was so exceeding happy, that when I lay down to rest at midnight I scarcely wished for sleep. However at length I closed my eyes, and when I awoke about break of day, the enemy suggested "Where is your religion now?" I started from my pillow, and recollecting the time and place where I received the blessing, was enabled to repel the temptation. The enemy then insinuated that, "it was till delusion, and as I did not feel so much happiness as I had done, I began to entertain perplexing doubts and fears, till my soul was involved in great distress. I retired into the fields and woods, and frequently bowed my knees before the Lord; and he graciously condescended to manifest himself again to my soul, in a powerful manner. At the same time, it was strongly impressed upon my mind to go to a certain place, and declare to all who might be there, the great things which the Lord had done for me. When I came to the place, I found a Methodist Preacher, and several of my acquaintance there; but although I had a great desire to deliver my message, yet I staggered at the cross, whereby I grieved the Holy Spirit, and returned home in deep distress.

For some days I was continually harassed by the Enemy. I fasted and prayed till I was almost reduced to a skeleton, but did not open my lips to any one. I began to sink into despair. Although all nature was clothed with beauty and verdure, yet I could discover no charms anything around me. I was overwhelmed with floods of atheistical and diabolical thoughts. The Adversary

suggested, "Where is your God now? You see you have been deluded. If you will take my advice, you will deny every pretension to this religion. The Methodists are a set of enthusiasts, and you have now a full proof of it."

At the same time he presented to my imagination, the world in all its pomp and glory; adding, "And all these things will I give you if you will deny that God, you have been attempting to serve, and pray to him no more!" My soul was compassed round with dreadful darkness, and penetrated with severe anguish and distress, I was afraid my lips would be forced open to deny the God who made me. But glory be to his Name, he mercifully looked upon my affliction; he opened Eternity to my view; and gave me such a discovery of his tremendous Majesty, that I sunk into the dust before him, and prostrated my face to the ground, crying out, Lord, if I perish, it shall be at thy feet, imploring mercy!" Here I lay till a gleam of hope sprung up in my soul, that I should be saved at last.

When I arose from the ground, I came to this determination, that I would exclude myself from human society, and live in a cell upon bread and water, mourning out my sins, for having grieved the Lord. Next day being the Sabbath, I did not intend to go to any place of worship, nor desired to see any person, but wished to spend the day in solitude. I continued to read the Bible till eight o'clock and then, under a sense of duty, called the family together for prayer.

While I was giving out a hymn, this thought powerfully struck my mind, "It is not right for you to keep your fellow creatures in bondage! You must let the oppressed go free." I knew this was the voice of the Lord. Till this moment, I never suspected that the practice of slave-keeping was wrong: having neither read anything on the subject; nor conversed with persons respecting its sinfulness. After a minute's pause, I replied, "Lord, the oppressed shall go free."

I then addressed the slaves, and told them, "You do not belong to me. I will not desire your service without making you a sufficient compensation." I now found liberty to proceed in family worship. After singing, I kneeled down to pray. But if I had the tongue of an angel, I could never fully describe what I felt. All that dejection and melancholy gloom, which I had groaned under, vanished away in a moment. A divine sweetness ran through my whole frame. My soul was admitted into the depths of the Redeemer's Love, in an inexpressible manner! Praise and Glory be to his Name forever!

I had now no desire to consign myself to a cell: but wished to spread my Redeemer's glory to the ends of the World. I bless the Lord for bringing me safe through such fiery trials. My late affliction of mind was for my good. It was God, and not man, that taught me the impropriety of holding slaves and I shall never be able to praise him enough for it. My very heart bleeds for slave-holders especially those who make a profession of religion.

In the forenoon I attended the Church [of England], but could not find what I wanted. In the afternoon I went to hear the Methodists, and was fully persuaded, that they were the people of God. I was so happy at the time of preaching, that I could conceal it no longer. I therefore determined to choose God's people for my people; and returned home rejoicing.

A few days after, I attended, for the first time, a class-meeting, at Deer Creek: I was convinced it was a prudential institution, and my heart was more than ever united to this community. I now began to be pressed in spirit, to visit my friends and neighbors: especially some particular families, that lay with weight upon my mind. The first visit I made, the man of the house was much enraged against me: however, the Lord was pleased to convert one or two of his children. In another house, about twenty miles off, I declared what the Lord had done for my soul, and desired the master to send, and call in his neighbors, and I would pray with them. When the people got together, I gave them an exhortation, and the Lord sent his arrows of conviction to the hearts of three sinners, one of whom followed me fifteen miles the next day.

The next time I attended class-meeting, being informed, that some were afraid I was come to spy out their liberties, I stood up and declared what the Lord had done for me. A divine fire was kindled in every heart, and we had a blessed meeting; and I returned home praising God.

Being upon a visit to my brother, whom the Lord had wonderfully raised up from the jaws of death, while I was speaking to about forty persons, the power of God descended upon us all. Near one half of the congregation were shook to the ground, and cried for mercy, so loud, as to be heard at a great distance. Next morning, a neighboring gentleman came to the house to beat me. He swore, I should spoil all his Negroes. I told him, if he did not leave off swearing, he would send his own soul to Hell. This highly enraged him, and he struck me several times. Through the blessing of God, my mind was perfectly calm, and I was so happy that I scarce felt his blows. I continued speaking to him till he was as quiet as a lamb: and he, and his man, bidding us a good morning, went peaceably away. Not long after, he was taken into an awful Eternity.

I now began to hold evening meetings in different places, several times in a week: and united those who were awakened into a kind of society; several of whom, I trust, were happily united to Jesus. Frequently we continued in prayer and praise till after midnight. Many of my relations were sorry for me. But, glory be to God, I delighted in the cross of my Saviour. I had many inward conflicts with Satan, and the corruptions of my own heart:* but the grace of Christ was sufficient for me. [That Freeborn Garrettson later found deliverance from the carnal mind, is clear. In addition to this document, see hdm0013 = Nathan Bangs' biography of Garrettson, near the beginning of which I have placed excerpts about how he obtained and preached the second work of grace. -- DVM]

Having an appointment one Lord's day, before I got to the place, a company of rude persons were assembled together, to prevent the meeting. But through divine assistance, I was enabled to speak boldly; and although they raged, and threatened me, yet my faith was so strong, that I was persuaded they could not hurt me. It was a day of rejoicing to my soul. O may I always give the glory to my great deliverer!

I was determined to have nothing to do with the [Revolutionary] War. It was contrary to my mind, and grievous to my conscience, to have any hand in shedding human blood. This brought me into some trouble. I was taken before the rulers at the general meeting. But the Lord was with me, and gave me words, which my opposers could not resist. I was so happy, even when surrounded by my enemies, that with tears flowing from my eyes, I told them of their danger, and entreated them to turn to the Lord. They laid a fine upon me, but were not permitted to take a farthing of my

property. On being dismissed I withdrew, and found great freedom to pray for them; I returned home with a glad heart.

Mr. W____, the minister of our parish, had been the instrument, for a long time, in keeping me from God, and his [God's] people: I had a great desire to have some conversation with him, and accordingly met him in the vestry chamber, before the vestry, where I told him what God had done for my soul. He answered me, by asking, "Who gave you authority to keep meetings in my parish?" and added, "You have no right to do it, unless you are ordained." I replied, "The Love of Christ constraineth me; I do it not for money, or honor and while there are sinners in your parish, I shall endeavor to call them to repentance: for having tasted of the Lord's goodness, I have a longing desire that all my neighbors should likewise be happy." We continued in conversation near two hours, and I then withdrew, after telling him, in a plain manner, what I thought of his doctrine, and the effect it formerly had upon me.

Being at this time but young in the ways of religion, and meeting with many to weaken my hands, and but few to strengthen and encourage me, I was sorely tempted to give up my confidence in the Lord, but in the time of temptation I applied to my never-failing Friend, and wrestled in fervent prayer, till he graciously answered, "Fear not, I am with thee, and will support thee under all thy trials." The streams of divine consolation overflowed my heart; I felt strength from above, and was enabled to go on my way rejoicing.

Mr. T. R____, being informed that I was under great exercises with regard to the work of the ministry, desired me to meet him at a friend's house. And although he was a stranger to me yet I found in him a Father; his advice was seasonable and salutary, for I had been wading through deep waters. Soon after my acquaintance with Mr. R____, and at his request, I traveled with him a short time. I found myself happy at times, and had freedom to speak; though the cross seemed very heavy, and I was often ready to start back.

After my return home, I fell into great temptations, and concluded it would not do, to commence a traveling preacher. The enemy insinuated, that the only way to prevent it was to alter my condition; and a suitable object was presented before me. I took some steps in this affair, but was prevented from proceeding in it, by a clear conviction that I was going to do my own will, in opposition to the will of God, who called me to go out and preach the Gospel. Mr. R____, desired me to meet him at Baltimore. When I came there, he forced me into the pulpit: but my temptations were so great that I could scarcely support myself under them. However, the Lord opened my mouth, and I found it a precious time both to myself and others.

After I had traveled with Mr. R____ a few days, he sent me onto a circuit alone. This was the Autumn after my conversion. The Lord was with me, and the Word was blessed to many souls, Here I might have been truly happy, if I had guarded against the Adversary; but listening to his suggestions, I concluded that I was not called to the work, and at the end of fifteen days, I returned home under deep dejection.

For four months my time was chiefly spent in prayer, reading, and religious exercises. It was not uncommon for me to preach in my sleep. One night it seemed as if the whole world of sinners were presented to my view, suspended in the air by a single thread, and hanging over the

horrible pit. I saw they were polluted with all kinds of ungodly practices, and perfectly careless and unapprehensive of the danger beneath them. In my sleep I begin to cry aloud to them, in order to apprise them of their dreadful danger. When I awoke, I was sitting up in bed, trembling, and as wet with sweat, as is I had been dipped in a river.

Although I lived an abstemious, self-denying life, yet I had very little happiness, except at those times when I felt a degree of willingness to labor in the Lord's vineyard. I have frequently stood astonished, wept and mourned in secret before the Lord, and entreated him to send some one else, that was more sensible, and better qualified for the work; mentioning such and such persons, whom I looked upon to be more fit for the ministry, than such an unworthy, ignorant creature as myself.

When on the way to my occasional appointments, I promised the Lord, that if he would attend the Word with great power, I would yield to give up myself to labor for him. At such times I have seen great displays of the divine goodness, and sinners weeping all around me. And although my mind, at the present, would be resolved, yet unbelief again assaulted, and overpowered me.

In the month of March, my conflicts were so great, that I almost sunk under them. My irreligious acquaintance knew not what was the matter with me. Some asked, if I was sick; others would say behind my back, "He will come to nothing." I believe I went through a more severe travail of soul, before I submitted to be an itinerant preacher, than what I endured while seeking for justifying grace.

One day, being almost weary of life, and under deep dejection, I thought, if the Lord would but manifest his will, I would, through grace, obey it. I then kneeled down, and entreated the Lord to make a clear discovery of what he would have me to do. I arose from my knees, much burdened, and sore distressed. I threw myself upon the bed, and in two minutes was in a sound sleep.

I saw in a dream, the Enemy approaching towards me. I likewise thought a good angel was present, who said to me, "Will you go and preach the gospel?" I answered, "I am unworthy; I cannot go." Instantly the enemy laid hold of my hand, and I began to struggle to get from him. I saw but one way to escape, and that a very narrow one. The good Angel said to me again, "There is a dispensation of the gospel committed to you; and woe unto you, if you preach not the gospel!"

For some time I struggled in vain to get from the Enemy; and at length cried out, "Lord, send by whom thou wilt: I am willing to go and preach thy gospel." When I awoke, the love of Christ filled my soul, and dispelled every cloud of darkness and evil reasoning.

[To be continued]

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Part 3

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- March, 1794

The day after the Lord delivered me from the clouds of darkness and evil-reasoning, I received a letter from Mr. R_____ requesting me to take his circuit a few weeks, while he went to Philadelphia. The enemy again strove to hinder me by representing that it was only my own fancy, or the vanity of my heart. And even when I set out on the journey, I was tempted to that degree, that I was almost ready to wish that the horse might throw me, and put an end to my life; or maim me so, that I might not be able to go on. In the evening I got to Mr. R_____ 's, in Cecil, where he had an appointment for me, but my exercises were so severe, that I could say but little. However, the two next places I went to, the Lord powerfully assisted me, and good was done. I was now willing to be an exhorter, but averse to take a text, and when one was opened to my mind, I refused to preach from it, till I almost lost my gift of exhortation; this brought me again into great distress.

One Sabbath Day, I came to a place near Chopton Bridge, where I again refused to give out a text, and the Lord hid his face from me, so that I was unable to speak with any freedom. I went to my afternoon's appointment very low, both in mind and body; having taken very little refreshment for several days. I determined, if a text opened to me, I would give it out boldly, and trust in the Lord. These words occurred to my mind, "Behold the Man!" and while I was speaking from them, the power of the Lord rested upon me, and many others.

Next day I went to my appointment with some willingness to be a preacher. I gave out this text, "The great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" I endeavored to show, how awful that day will be, and who would, and who would not be able to stand. The power of God descended upon the people, and hard-hearted sinners cried mightily for mercy. When I was almost exhausted, I ceased speaking; but the people still continued praying. I was now willing to be a preacher, and thought, surely I shall never doubt any more.

When Mr. R_____ returned, he took the circuit, and I went to open a new one. As I passed through Tuckey-hoe-Neck, I called at a house, and asked the mistress if she wished to hear the Word of the Lord preached. She assented, and invited her neighbors to the preaching. The Lord gave me liberty to speak to them; and I published preaching for the next day. The master of the house was an officer of rank, and it being the general muster day. He marched up all the company, and I spoke to hundreds with freedom. Many tears were shed, and several sinners were convinced, one of whom has since become a preacher. I continued some days at this place, and my labors were attended with success.

I again met Mr. R_____ in Cecil county, where we had a quarterly meeting; and from thence we set out for Hartford; he desired me to attend the Baltimore Conference. On the Lord's Day following I was appointed to preach in my native place; and a multitude of people assembled on the occasion; among whom were many of my old friends and relations, which made the cross very heavy. Just as I began to preach, I fainted; but upon recovering, I resumed the subject, and we had a solemn season.

On Monday I had a severe conflict about attending the Conference; the exercise of my mind was too great for my emaciated frame. However I got there at the time appointed, went through examination, and was admitted on trial. I still felt an unwillingness to be a traveling preacher, and my mind was so agitated, that when I went from the preaching-house, I again fainted. When I

recovered, I found myself in an upper room, surrounded by several preachers. I inquired, where I had been, and seemed lost to all things below. I thought I had been in a place from whence I desired not to return. The brethren joined in prayers. My soul was so happy, and everything wore so pleasing an aspect, that the preachers appeared to me more like angels than men. And I have blessed my gracious Lord ever since, that I was united to this happy family, though unworthy of a name among them.

I was appointed to labor in Frederick Circuit, with Mr. R____, and on Saturday I got into the circuit. On the Lord's Day, I preached, but with little freedom. The enemy still pursued me with his fiery darts. At times I had sweet communion with the Lord; but a consciousness of my weakness and inability for the great work in which I was engaged caused my hands to hang down. I was a young soldier, and knew but little about exercising the Christian's armor. The goodness of God was indeed great to me, in opening the hearts of the people to receive me, and bear with my weakness.

One day, being on the way to my appointment the difficulties seemed so great, that I turned my horse three times homeward. I was in a lonely wood by myself. I wept and prayed at the feet of the Lord, till I obtained encouragement to go forward; and we had a very lively meeting. Sometimes, when I have seen the people assembling to the preaching-house, I have been tempted to hide myself, or wish that I was sick; but I have constantly found, that the greater the cross it was to speak, and the greater the blessing, both to me and the people.

I remember one time, the congregation were gathered, and I was alone, under great exercises. I could not find one verse in all the Bible that I could speak upon. But in an instant, while I was at prayer, the following words were powerfully applied; "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach glad tidings to the meek, to bind up the brokenhearted," &c. Isa. lxi. 1. I immediately went into the assembly and gave out that text. The power of the Lord descended upon the congregation. Many were cut to the heart, and cried out aloud for mercy. We continued singing and praying till near sunset; my voice being almost lost amidst the cries of the distressed. We had only four members in society in this place, but twenty were that day added to them.

Some time after, I was requested to keep a Watch Night. A considerable number of persons assembled at the time appointed; but the children of Belial were very angry, and stoned the house. Notwithstanding which, the Lord's presence was among us. I have reason to believe that several souls were born of God that evening.

I continued six months in Frederick Circuit; the children of God were much quickened; many were added to the society, and many brought into the Kingdom of Grace. My heart was closely united to the people, and they were remarkably kind to me in every part of the circuit.

In November, I was sent into Fairfax Circuit, where I continued three months, and preached the gospel with freedom. I cannot say I had much success, neither was I so greatly harassed by the Enemy. Indeed, I was better acquainted with his devices, and had a more steadfast confidence in the Lord; neither was I so easily shaken with respect to my call to the ministry. I was now perfectly willing to be an itinerant preacher, and the Lord gave me favor in the sight of the people.

As there were many doors open for us in New Virginia and several small societies formed, Mr. R_____ judged it expedient to send me into that part of the country; and, through the divine blessing, I found a willingness to go anywhere, or do anything that would be for the glory of God.

During my stay in this circuit, the Lord enlarged my desires, increased my gifts, and opened the hearts and houses of his people to receive the word. Many were added to the society. I visited Shepherd's-town, on the Potowmack River, and on the Lord's Day attended the church [of England].

The minister preached on "Keep holy the Sabbath." He was a slow spoken man, and I believe his discourse took up about fifteen minutes. I have no doubt but the sermon was his own composition, for he did not mention a word about repentance or Faith. Having obtained permission, I went up into the pulpit, and gave out:-- "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation?"

After I had done, one of his hearers asked the minister what he thought of the doctrine the stranger had delivered? He answered, "Why, he seems to bring scripture to prove it. It may be so; but if it is, I know nothing of it."

I preached every other Sunday in the church during my stay in this circuit. The fourth time I was there, a great number of people were assembled. One woman cried so loud for mercy, that she alarmed the congregation. Many wanted to get out, but the aisles were so crowded, that they could not. In a few minutes, the Lord set her soul at liberty. She clapped her hands in an ecstasy of joy, praised the Lord, and then sat down quietly.

The congregation seemed lost in astonishment; and the power of God reached most of their hearts, and their eyes overflowed with tears. The Presbyterian Minister was present, and most of his congregation. Meeting him a few days after, he said, "I was hearing you preach; and I did not like your doctrine. It was a volley of fluff! You preach perfection; and that I do not believe attainable in this life." I answered, "Then you do not believe the doctrine which Jesus Christ and his apostles taught: for our Lord says, 'Be ye perfect as your Father in Heaven is perfect:' and the apostle declares, 'The blood of Christ cleanses from all sin:' When are we to be made perfect?"

"Not till death," said he. I replied, "Our Lord came to destroy the works of the Devil; and do you suppose that He will call death to his assistance? Death in scripture, is called the last Enemy; -- as Death leaves us, Judgment will find us and if we die in our sins, where Christ is, we cannot come. I want to know how Death is to accomplish this work?" The minister endeavored to defend his doctrine, by affirming, that at the article of Death, sin is done away, and not till then." To which I replied, "The Papists say, we must be refined by the Fire of Purgatory; -- the Universalians preach that the last farthing will be paid in Hell; -- and you declare, that Death will do it. But we bear witness to the doctrine taught in the holy scriptures, that Jesus 'shall save his people from their sins.'"

I then asked him, "Do not you believe that the Lord is able to cleanse the soul from all sin, one minute before death?" He agreed, at last, that it might be a minute before Death. I then added,

"If a minute, why not a month, -- a year -- seven years? The apostle says, 'Behold, now is the day of salvation!' How dare any man limit the Holy One of Israel?" The minister cried out, "I have done with you," and immediately went away.

A few evenings after, I preached near the minister's house; he was present again. We had a precious opportunity; and many of the stouthearted sinners trembled before the Lord. I believe the minister was affected; he came to me after the sermon. and asked my pardon, if he had said anything amiss.

The Lord enabled me to preach once or twice every day, while I continued in this country; and some days three or four times. The last discourse I delivered to this affectionate people, was a time not soon to be forgotten. I continued near three hours, and even then, found it difficult to break from them.

Being invited to the house of a Quaker, before I departed, we had family prayer. The Lord was truly with us, and touched the hearts of both the parents and their children.

On the month of May, 1777, I attended the Conference at Deer Creek, and was greatly respected among the servants of God, some of whom I have never seen since, nor shall again on this side Eternity. I was appointed to Brunswick Circuit, in Virginia. I had a lively hope that the Lord would be with me, and bless my feeble endeavors to promote his cause.

On the 7th of June I got into the circuit, and began my ministry among a lively people. I was attacked by an officer, who wanted to know my sentiments with regard to fighting. I told him, that God had taught me better, than to use carnal weapons against the lives of my fellow creatures. He intimated something about stopping me, to which I answered, that I was not afraid of man, and that if he did not learn the use of spiritual weapons, and fight the good fight of faith, he would never see the Kingdom of God.

Next day we had a lively meeting at Brother J___'s. I was fully satisfied that the Lord had sent me into this part of his vineyard. I met with a black boy at this place, happy in the Lord. I think he exceeded all the youths I ever saw for the gift and power of prayer. June 9, I preached a few miles off, to as many as the house could contain. The cries of the people were so great, that after speaking to them two hours, I was obliged to withdraw; and they continued the meeting a long time after. I trust several were set at liberty. Next day I preached again, and one soul was born of God.

June 12 -- I found much liberty in preaching at Dr. C___'s to an attentive congregation. At Colonel T___'s we held a Watch Night. The word was blessed to the colonel and his family; and they treated me ever after more like a son than a stranger. Next day I crossed the Roanoake River; after preaching, we had a love-feast, and many spoke freely of the goodness of God.

The people here wanted to gain me with kindness; but I refused their obliging offers, being fully persuaded that I should be more useful in wandering up and down the earth, without any incumbrances; and as for riches, I had sufficient for my purpose. The temptation was considerable, and pleasing to nature. Vain world, away with thy flattery! I rejoiced in the Lord, having the testimony of a good conscience, knowing the sacrifice I made was for the sake of the Church of

Christ, which he has purchased with his own blood. It was no time to think of houses, lands, &c. I passed on, greatly encouraged to devote my all to the service of my great Master.

But these peaceable seasons did not always attend me; I experienced severe buffetings from the enemy: however, through the divine blessing, my exercises proved profitable to me; my soul was humbled before the Lord; and I was, in some measure, sensible of the necessity of experiencing a deeper work of grace upon my heart, before I could be completely happy. [He found that deeper work of grace. See the first part of hdm0013. -- DVM]

June 22 -- I preached in Roanoake Chapel to above five hundred whites, and almost as many blacks. I found much freedom, and the tears trickled down the faces of many. In this way I continued round the circuit, till the Quarterly Meeting. The Lord blessed my labors, and increased my love to Him, and his people. I had opportunity of conversing with some deeply experienced Christians. By their humble walk, and heavenly life, I was much quickened to seek for full salvation. I believed there was such a thing as perfect love, to be attained in this world; I likewise knew that I was not in possession of it: I saw a beauty in the doctrine, and preached it, but it was at a distance.

About this time the State Oath began to be administered and was universally complied with; but I could not be subject to the rulers in this respect, as it touched my conscience towards God. I was informed, that I must either take the oath, or go to jail; or otherwise leave the state. I answered the persons who came to tender the oath to me, "I am a friend to my country:-- I can do nothing willingly or knowingly to the prejudice of it; if required, I will give good security for my behavior daring my stay in the state, but I think the Oath is too binding on my conscience. Moreover, I never swore an oath in my life; and ministers of the gospel have enough to do in their own sphere. I want, in all things, to keep a conscience void of offense; to walk in the safest way and to do all I can to bring sinners to the Lord. The Conference appointed me to labor in this state, and I am confident that my appointment is approved of by my heavenly Father; and therefore, I dare not leave the state. And as for going to prison, I leave that matter to the God of Daniel; being well assured he is able to defend my cause, whether in, or out of jail."

The various trials I had on this occasion drove me nearer to the Lord; and as it was generally expected that every sermon would be my last, many more attended than otherwise would have done. At a certain place, several of the rulers engaged to put me to jail when I came that way again. My friends endeavored to persuade me to decline going there; but I answered, "I cannot be clear, if I distrust so gracious a God." Before I came to the place, several of the ruling men who had threatened to imprison me, were removed by the hand of affliction, and another was lying at the point of death. From this time the persecution which had chased me several months, entirely subsided, and I preached with much freedom during my stay in the state.

Though I met with a number of inward and outward trials, yet I bless the Lord that he sent me into this part of his vineyard; and particularly for the conversation of many worthy friends, which was made a special blessing to my soul.

[To be continued]

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Part 4

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- April, 1794

In September 1777, I traveled in Roanoake Circuit, North Carolina. The cruelties which the poor Negroes suffered affected me greatly. I endeavored frequently to inculcate the doctrine of freedom, in a private way, which procured me the displeasure of some interested persons. I set apart times to preach to the blacks, and adapted my discourses to their capacity. These were refreshing seasons from the presence of the Lord. Often were their sable faces overflowed with penitential tears, while their hands of faith were stretched out to embrace salvation through Jesus Christ. Their captivity and sufferings were sanctified, and drove them to the Friend of sinners. Many of them were exceedingly happy, through the manifestations of pardoning mercy.

I was fully persuaded that Christian Perfection was attainable in this life, and contended for it both in public and private. But at this time the Lord discovered more fully to me, all the secret corruptions of my heart; I expected in a few moments, to be in Eternity, and had such a sight of the purity of God, of Heaven, and of the divine Law, that I was humbled to the very dust. I had no expectation of entering into Heaven, without a greater likeness to my adorable Redeemer; and the continual cry of my soul was, "Lord, save me from inbred sin." For more than a week, this earnest struggle continued. If my appointments had not been made, I am apprehensive I should have declined preaching, till the blood of Christ had cleansed me from all filthiness. The enemy strove hard to rob me of the consciousness of pardoning love, and at times I was brought very low; but witness of through grace, I retained the witness of my justification.

One day I went to my appointment, and while the people were assembling I withdrew at a distance from the house and wrestled with the Lord. I thought I could not meet the people, unless I was fully cleansed from all inward sin. After the congregation had waited a considerable time, I returned to the house; but my struggle seemed to be at a height. I intended to pray with the congregation and then dismiss them. However, after prayer, this text occurred to my mind, "Blessed are the pure in heart for, they shall see God." The Lord gave uncommon liberty while I described, 1. The impurity of the heart; 2. How it is to be purified; 3. The happy consequences following. While I was speaking of the travail of the soul for purity, all my inward distress vanished away, and I found myself unspeakably happy. I am conscious that the Lord deepened this work in my soul, but I did not embrace the witness of the Spirit. However, I found daily an abundance of divine peace and joy. From this time I preached the doctrine of Christian Perfection more than ever. The plan seemed as plain to me as the noon-day sun. Many of the children of God were convinced of the necessity of it, and some were brought into perfect liberty.

The Work of the Lord prospered in the circuit notwithstanding some were stirred up to persecute. One day, a very wicked man came into the house where I was preaching. He supposed my discourse pointed at him; and he stood for a considerable time swelling, and threatening in his heart, that he would pull me down, and beat me. Before the sermon was concluded, he gave heed

to the things that were spoken, and the spirit of conviction took hold upon him. Before he left the house, he professed faith in Jesus Christ. I trust he became a changed man.

From thence I went to the house of a friend, whose brother (who lived next door) was a violent persecutor. He came into the house, while I was at family prayer in the evening, with a loaded gun, and stood with it presented a considerable time, but had not power to draw the trigger. A few days after, being in a rage with his brother for receiving the preaching, he shot at him, and slightly wounded him.

During my stay in this circuit, sinners were daily convinced and converted; and at the Spring Quarterly Meeting we had some lively witnesses of perfect love; others were greatly excited to seek that blessed liberty. Glory be to God, I had many precious hours while traversing the forests of Virginia and Carolina, endeavoring to gather poor lost sinners to the Redeemer's fold. I often thought that the consolations afforded me were an ample compensation for all the difficulties and trials I met with, in wandering up and down; and with regret surveyed the backwardness which I felt at my first entrance into the Lord's vineyard. But thanks be to his blessed name, I now go willingly, and desire cheerfully to obey all his commandments, and do all the little good I can to promote his glory.

In the month of May, 1778, we had a comfortable conference at Leesburgh. Three preachers, and myself, were appointed for the Peninsula, including Delaware and part of Maryland. There was at that time great persecution against the Methodists. Brother H____ was apprehended by the rulers and put into confinement. Brother L____ thought it his duty to return to Virginia; and poor Brother C____ was too weak to travel much; so that for a considerable time I was left almost alone.

A company of men embodied themselves, with a backslider at their head. It was soon rumored through the country, that the Methodists were enemies to the American cause, and were going to meet the English army. Some time before this, the English preachers had embarked for Europe. All these circumstances united to render the prospect very gloomy. If the Lord had not been on our side, we should have been torn to pieces by our enemies. Mr. Asbury suffered very much, for near twelve months; but he found an asylum at the house of a good old Judge [White]; and we have since seen the hand of the Lord in his preservation and continuation among us.

My exercises, during these troubles, were very great. All my friends in Kent, entreated me not to hazard my life, by traveling at large. At first I hearkened to their entreaties, and tarried reluctantly some days among them. I applied unto the Lord for direction in this dilemma, and he graciously heard my supplication. He gave me such a consciousness of his paternal care, and almighty protection, that taking leave of my kind friends, I ventured out, without any dread of my worst enemies. I traveled through the country, and preached two or three times a day, to listening multitudes, who were frequently bathed in tears.

I went through Cecil, and part of the Delaware state. A blessed flame was kindled in the hearts of many and others were anxious to know the way of salvation. At Mr. W[hite]'s I found Mr. Asbury much indisposed. After some edifying conversation with him, I went on to Maryland, and

had great liberty in preaching among our persecuted friends in Queen Ann's county. Here I was threatened with imprisonment, but they did not lay hands upon me in the public congregation.

Next day, as I was going to Kent, John B_____ who was formerly a judge in that county, met me on the road. When I came near him, he made a full stop, as if he wanted something. Not apprehensive of any danger, I inquired the distance to Newtown. He answered, "You must go to jail;" and instantly seized upon my horse's bridle.

I requested that he would show me his authority for proceeding in this manner. He alighted from his horse, and taking up a large stick which lay in the way, beat me upon the head and shoulders for some time. Not being far from his quarters, he called out aloud for help. I saw several persons with a rope, running to his assistance. Providentially, at this moment, he let go his hold of my bridle, or in all probability they would have put an end to my life; for they appeared to be in the utmost rage.

I now rode off and got a considerable distance before he could mount, but being better acquainted with the country than I was, he took a nearer road, and came upon me again. As soon as we met, he struck at me with all his might. My horse made a full stop, the saddle turned, and I fell with violence to the ground. The fall, together with the blow I had received, deprived me of my senses. I was taken up insensible, and carried into a house not far distant.

Upon being bled, I recovered my senses, but every one expected I had not many minutes to live. Indeed, I can say truly, that the only thing which induced me to wish to stay any longer in this world, was to promote the salvation of my fellow creatures. I was so exceeding happy, that I could not contain myself. The heavens seemed to be open, and by faith, I saw my Redeemer standing at the right hand of his Father, pleading for me.

My persecutor walked to and fro in great agitation, and wishing that he had not molested me. I had a heart to pray for him, and desired he would sit down by me, and read such and such chapters. He did so. I then said to him, "If the Lord is pleased to take me away at this time, I have a witness within me, that I shall go to heaven. I truly suffer for the sake of the gospel of Christ Jesus. I freely forgive you; and entreat you to seek for the salvation of your soul, and never persecute any more the followers of the Lord." The poor unhappy man did not know which way to look. "I will take you in my carriage," said he, "wherever you want to go."

When he perceived I was likely to recover, his heart hardened again. He went to a magistrate, who was likewise a bitter enemy to the Methodists. They both came into my room in a great rage. The magistrate sternly demanded my name; he then took out his pen and ink, and began to make a mittimus to commit me to jail. I said to him, "Sir, as you are a justice of peace. How can you suffer men to behave in this manner?" He answered, "You have broken the Law." I replied, "How do you know that? And supposing I have broken the law, is this the way to put thine law in force against me? I am an inhabitant of this state, and have property in it: If I mistake not, the law says, For the first offense the fine is five pounds, and double for every offense after. The grand crime that I am charged with, is, preaching the gospel. My persecutor conducted himself more like a highwayman than a person enforcing the law in a Christian country. Be well assured, the matter will be brought to light in an awful Eternity."

Upon hearing these things, the magistrate dropped his pen, and made no further attempt to commit me to prison. By this time, the person who had bled me, came with a carriage; and I found myself able to rise from the bed, and give an exhortation to the two gentlemen and others who were present. I then rode to a friend's house, and in the evening, as I sat in bed, preached from the words of our Lord, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: But be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." John xvi. 33.

The sufferings which I passed through, I can truly say were for my good; and I believe, they were useful to others for the work of the Lord greatly prospered, and I met with very little persecution in that country afterwards. In the morning I awoke about four o'clock, and desired our friend to prepare a carriage for me by six, as I had twenty-five miles to travel that day, and preach twice. Being disappointed in procuring a conveyance, though I was so bruised as scarce able to turn in bed, yet I looked up to the Lord for help, and obtained it. I was enabled to get on horseback, and traveled fifteen miles by 11 o'clock where I preached to above five hundred persons, most of whom appeared to be much affected. I then rode ten miles farther, and preached to some hundreds, with great freedom. O how precious was Christ to me! It seemed as if I could have died for him.

After a few days' rest, I returned to the place where I had been so ill-treated, and found that the spirit of persecution was, in a good measure, subsided. The way was wonderfully opened for the gospel. I had many hearers, and the word was blessed to their souls.

From Queen Ann's, I traveled through the Delaware state, and had many opportunities of enforcing the truth on attentive multitudes, who flocked together from various parts. In the neighborhood of Mr. S____ the people had been deprived of the Word for some time. While I was preaching among them, the divine presence so powerfully overflowed my soul, that I almost thought myself in heaven; and many of the poor persecuted people were exceedingly happy. Many were awakened that day. At the love-feast, the sanctifying operations of the Holy Spirit, were remarkable. Our happy friends returned to their habitations, rejoicing in the Lord, and praising him for the abundant consolations afforded them.

July 19, I visited. the people of Mashey Hope. Before the hour of preaching, I was sorely tempted, and greatly afraid that I should not be an instrument of doing any good. There was a large congregation. Soon after I stood up before the people, the powers of darkness fled before me; and the Lord gave me great liberty. The Word ran through the congregation, and many were thoroughly awakened. After [the] sermon, I spent some time in comforting, and praying for the distressed. In the afternoon, I preached in a place about four miles off with much liberty. A few months ago, the people here were fast asleep in their sins; but now, through the divine blessing, many are awakened, and turned from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan to God.

In July, I went into Talbot county, in Maryland, and preached among them about a fortnight. In this place I received a very extraordinary relation: For three evenings successively, the people were much alarmed by an uncommon voice. The last night that it was heard, there were several reputable persons present. The congregation were then engaged in solemn supplication; and they were exhorted to pray mightily. When one of them asked, who it was, he received for answer, "I am a good Spirit." At the quarterly meeting, a man who was awakened by hearing the voice; stood

up and said, "Curiosity that day brought me out; but I was cut to the heart, and rested not till I found peace to my soul."

In August, I went to Kent Island, where I frequently preached to a very gay, highminded people. But a great change for the better has since taken place in that island. At the quarterly meeting in Kent, I had only a few local preachers to assist me, but the Lord was present, both in public worship, and at the love-feast. The hearts of many were glad, and I spoke freely of the goodness of God.

One day after preaching, my brother John came, and looking at me wishfully, said, "I shall never see you again in this world." In a few days after, he was taken ill. The evening before he died, a physician who was with him, being asked how soon he thought my brother would die, answered, "He will not stay till the morning." My brother overhearing the conversation, cried out, "Doctor, I shall not go till eight o'clock in the morning."

He was greatly beloved by all the people of God, was a leader of three classes, and spent much of his time in public and private exercises of religion. He retained his senses perfectly to the last moment, exhorting his wife, and a brother who lived with him, to stand fast in the faith; and entreating the servants to seek the Lord. He then, in a very affecting manner said, "There is now but one thing which lies heavy upon my mind, and that is the case of my two unconverted brothers. Tell them from me, I never expect to see them in Heaven, unless they repent, and turn to the Lord."

At eight o'clock, he resigned his soul into the hands of the Lord, a faithful witness of perfect love. I got to my brother's house on the day of his interment, being a fortnight after he had taken his farewell of me. His message was conveyed to my two brothers, who lived on the western shore, and had a happy effect upon them. Both of them sought the Lord truly, and found him to the salvation of their souls.

[To be continued]

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Part 5

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- May, 1794

In September 1779, I returned to Delaware, and preached at Muskmelon, in the house of Mr. W____, one of the people called Quakers. For several days before, I had labored under great exercises of mind, especially while on my way to this place. The appointment was for Mr. Francis Asbury, which made my trial the greater. Near a thousand persons were assembled, many of whom came out of curiosity. I preached from, "One thing I know, that whereas I was blind, now I see;" John ix. 25. Glory be to the Lord, he makes use of clay in these days, to open the eyes of the blind. While I was describing the darkness of the human mind there were great weeping and mourning among the people. And the presence of the Lord was in a special manner among us, while I was

showing the way in which sinners are brought to Him, and the blessed privileges they enjoy. A great number were that day convinced and converted.

I shall mention one particular instance of the divine power at this meeting. A man, noted for wickedness, came cursing and swearing to the preaching, as he afterwards told me. Under the first head of the discourse, he felt the burden of sin, like the weight of a millstone upon him. "I would," he said, "have run out, but I was afraid to put one foot before the other, lest I should drop into Hell; for the pit was disclosed to my view, and I saw no way to escape it. I thought every moment I should fall; but I held myself up by the chair. Under the second head of the discourse, while you were describing the excellencies of Christ Jesus, I saw a beauty in him; and without any dependence upon myself, I cast my soul upon Him. At that moment, my burden fell off, my soul was happy, and I went home rejoicing in the Lord my strength and Redeemer." I knew this man six years after, and have no reason to doubt the soundness of his conversion.

There was likewise an officer cut to the heart; soon after he threw up his commission, and became a pious follower of Christ. After the meeting, many persons came and invited me to preach at their houses. I went to Mother-kill, a place, famous for wickedness. Here I met with a person of distinction, who had been awakened by an earthquake. She found peace with God soon after I came to the place, and in about a twelve-month [a quaint old term meaning "a year." -- DVM], died, a witness of perfect love.

When I first preached in this place, I had only a few hearers, but they gradually increased. Under the second discourse, a young man was awakened, who afterwards became a light in the church of Christ. I preached at his father's house, and the work of the Lord prospered. A large society was raised up in that neighborhood, who were an honor to their profession.

The inhabitants about Mother-kill were Presbyterians. Their pastor strove, by every means, to keep them from the Methodists, but his efforts were in vain, for they were convinced that there was more in religion than a mere form. Multitudes came to hear the word, and many large societies were formed in different places.

Sept. 12, 1778, I went to the town of Dover, a proverb for wickedness. An aged gentleman invited me to preach in the academy. Scarcely had I alighted from my horse, when I was surrounded by hundreds of men. Some cried out, "He is a good man;" others said, "Nay, he deceiveth the people;" he is one of Clowe's men; hang him! hang him!"

[The following excerpts from Bangs' M. E. History, hdm0008, and from Bangs' biography of Garrettson, hdm0013, explain who this "Clowe" was: "Another circumstance tended not a little to excite a spirit of persecution toward the Methodists. A backslider, by the name of Chauncey Clowe, succeeded in enlisting about three hundred men for the British standard, and before he was detected, was the means of shedding blood. He was, however, arrested, and finally hung as a rebel against the government. In the course of the examination, it was found that only two Methodists were engaged in this plot; and the remarks of Governor Rodney, who was friendly to our cause, to those of our enemies who had assiduously endeavored to fix upon them the foul mark of toryism, put them to silence, and obtained for our friends temporary relief." -- "...a backslidden Methodist by the name of Chauncey Clowe, who was once thought to be a pious man, of considerable note in

the society, laid aside his religion, and began to raise a company with a view to make his way through the country to the Chesapeake to join the British, whose fleet at that time lay in the Chesapeake bay. He succeeded in raising about 300 men. He did much mischief before he was detected and his plans frustrated. It was not, however, before some blood was shed, that this mob was dispersed, and the leaders brought to justice. His excellency, Cesar Rodney, at that time governor of the state, was friendly to religion. Our enemies were assiduous in their endeavors to prejudice his mind against us; inculcating the idea that we were tories, and ought to be crushed as a body. He insisted on knowing how many of these insurrectionists there were of each denomination, and when they found there were only two Methodists among them, the governor's remarks made our enemies look small before the court. They were all pardoned except C. Clowe, the leader, who was hung. This happened in the Peninsula, a tract of country lying between the Chesapeake and Delaware bays, comprehending a part of Maryland, part of Virginia, and the whole of the Delaware state." -- DVM]

I know not what the event would have been if the Lord had not interposed. The noise and tumult were so great, that I had no possible chance to speak for myself, and to all human appearance, I was in a fair way to be torn in pieces every moment. At this crisis, several gentlemen of the town, who were alarmed by the uproar, ran to my assistance. The chief of these were Mr. P____, a merchant, who was formerly awakened under Mr. Whitefield; Mr. L____, and the alderman of the town. They led me through the mob, and desired me to preach. I stood up at the door of the academy, and gave out, "If it bear fruit, well and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."

It was not very difficult for me to be heard at the distance of a quarter of a mile; many listened at their windows and gardens. One woman was convinced, who sat in her window above a quarter of a mile off, and had no rest in her soul, until she found the pardoning mercy of God. I have seldom seen such a weeping congregation in a new place; but the Lord's presence was remarkably among us. I believe upwards of twenty persons were that day truly awakened. The mob were confounded; many of them hung down their heads. Even their ringleader said, "I would go and ask his pardon, if I thought he would forgive me." From that day he took to the reading of his Bible; and no more officiated as a persecutor.

In the evening I lectured at Mr. S____'s, the gentleman who invited me to the town. Many of the chief inhabitants were present, and we had a solemn time. Upon returning to my room, I was severely assaulted by the enemy. I felt myself in a situation something similar to that of Jonas, when he was under the withered gourd; it seemed as if I had given all to the people, and had nothing left for myself. The enemy suggested that the Lord would make use of me for the benefit of others, and then cast me away, as a parent does a rod after correcting the child. I was under such exercises, that I scarcely closed my eyes all the night. I believe these temptations were permitted, in order to keep me humble at the feet of the Saviour; and I hope I shall always be thankful for every trial the Lord is pleased to permit for exercise of my faith.

Next day, I preached a few miles out of town, and returned to Dover in the evening, where I found many mourning after the Lord; and others endeavoring to persuade them that they were under a delusion. But through the blessing of God, truth prevailed, and became triumphant. I formed the penitents into a society, the work spread, and many were truly converted.

Among the rest who at this time embraced the gospel, were an aged lady, and ten of her children, with their husbands and wives. The lady had been a strict communicant at the church [of England] for many years, but now she was divested of her own righteousness, and groaned for acceptance through Christ Jesus. In a short time the Lord visited her with his forgiving love, and most of her children. Such a family I have seldom seen in America. The fields appeared white for harvest, but the laborers were very few.

This engaged me in strong cries to the Lord, to open the way, and send out more. The Lord granted my request. He raised up several young men, and sent others from the Western shore. I wrote to Mr. Asbury, informing him that the way was open into every part of the state, and requested him to visit Dover; which he did accordingly, and brought in many whom I could not reach.

The Lord gave us favor with Dr. M____, a minister of the church [of England], and he became a great blessing to many souls. Prejudice and bitterness were dispelled from the minds of the people in general, and there appeared a willingness in them to hear and embrace the truth. Some hundreds were enabled to rejoice in the kingdom of grace.

Sept. 19 -- I was present at the funeral of one of my brothers. It was a solemn season. My youngest brother, from Baltimore attended; he was a wild young man; but the power of God laid hold upon him, and he returned home a penitent mourner. After a few weeks, he came to see me again, and continued with me till the Lord set his soul at liberty.

Sept. 20 -- As I was walking in the fields alone, I heard the cries of a person on the top of a tree; looking I saw a man preparing to be his own murderer. He had tied a rope to a limb of the tree, with a noose in it, and was saying to himself, "O what a wretch I am! Once I had a day of grace, but now it is a gone case with me!" -- He then attempted to put the rope over his head, bidding the world, "Farewell!"

I instantly called out to him, to "Stop few moments;" and after some time, prevailed upon him to renounce his wicked intentions, and come down from the tree. In the course of our conversation, I learned that the good Spirit had striven with him from time to time; but he continually rebelled against the light that shone upon his conscience, till at last his heart was hardened; and the evil one persuaded him that the day of grace was past, and that it was better to plunge himself into Eternity as quickly as possible, in order that he might know the worst of his doom. I found great satisfaction in being the instrument of providentially preserving wretched creature from utter destruction.

Next day, I went to Queen Ann's, and found the work going on prosperously. Many were hungering thirsting after righteousness. I visited poor John W____, a brother of the doctor's. He was near death and in an unconverted state. While he enjoyed health, he was a great persecutor, but the school of affliction had taught him a better lesson. He was now a humble penitent, and entreated the prayers of those he once despised. He most frequently warned his old companions to flee from their sins and take example by him. I was greatly affected with his situation, and determined not to leave him in the, arms of the wicked one.

He cried out, "Oh! I am sleeping over Hell!" After praying with him frequently, I retired into a secret place, and wrestled with the Lord in his behalf, for a considerable time, till I found a hope that God would show him mercy. Returning to the house, I again called the family to prayer; many of whom were happy in the Lord. While we were at the Throne of grace of the Lord visited the dying man, and set his soul at liberty from the bondage of sin and Satan. He spoke freely of the love of Christ, which was shed abroad in his heart; and expressed a perfect resignation to the divine will. I preached his funeral sermon to a multitude of serious hearers.

Having a strong impression upon my mind to visit the inhabitants of Somerset and Sussex County, I arrived there on the 24th of October, and preached in a forest, to some hundreds, who had assembled together to hear this new doctrine. Many of them expected to be greatly diverted, for they were a people destitute both of the form and power of godliness.

My text was, "Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the World." The first sermon was only preparatory to the second, which I preached, after a few minutes intermission, from, "I saw the dead small and great, stand before God, &c." The divine power descended upon the congregation in a wonderful manner. I suppose above 30 persons were under deep convictions, and soon after joined the society, and I had invitations to preach from various parts of the country.

Next day, while, I was preaching, a woman came with a pistol, intending to shoot me. She made so great a disturbance, that I was obliged to stop, till the people put her out and shut the door. This was a precious season indeed.

After the sermon; I was surrounded by the people, who with many tears entreated me to pray for them, and not let the disturbance prevent me from visiting them again. The wife of Mr. N____, a merchant in Salisbury, was deeply awakened, and many others who came from a distance. This country was famous for gambling and dancing. But the works of darkness fled before the light of the gospel. I joined many brokenhearted sinners in society, who soon became acquainted with the power of religion.

Nov. 7 -- On my way to Talbot quarterly meeting, I preached at Mr. P____'s. Two very dressy young women, who came on a visit to their relations, were convinced, and began to cry for mercy. The love-feast at Talbot began on Monday morning. Many rejoiced in the Lord, and spoke, freely and feelingly of what he had done for their souls.

Nov. 10 -- I called again at Mr. P____'s, and found the young women dressed very plain, and in great distress. I lectured on the 16th of St. John. Afterwards we continued in prayer many hours, and the Lord graciously inclined his ear to our supplications. The young women were set at liberty, and likewise Dr. W____, and two of his sisters.

Next day, being greatly refreshed and strengthened, I returned to Somerset, and found the young converts growing in grace, and increasing in number. Mr. N____ invited me to preach at Salisbury, where a blessed work broke out; but the enemy strove to interrupt its progress.

The sheriff came with a writ to take me to jail. After he had served it, he informed me that I must be confined, to which I replied, that I was a servant of the Lord Jesus, and that if he laid a hand upon me, he must answer for it another day. The sheriff was afraid to do me any injury, and a great number of both friends and enemies followed me to the next preaching place.

I spoke from Acts xiii. 41, "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish, &c." The power of God was among us; the persecutors trembled like a leaf, and had no inclination to arrest me, so that I went on my way rejoicing in God my Saviour.

I preached at Quantico, where many were converted and formed into a society. Most of them were young persons.

In April, 1779 -- I went still farther into the wilderness, in order to enlarge the circuit, where I met with a variety of trials, and was sorely tempted by the enemy. I had none to converse with at first who knew the Lord; yet he was with me daily, and made the wilderness my closet, in which I had constant communion with him.

April 3 -- I preached at a place called the Sound, near the sea-shore, to about 200 people. There were several Baptists in this place. One of their preachers, who spoke after me, deprecated infant baptism. I requested the people to attend next day, and I would preach on the subject.

April 4 -- A number of people assembled. I preached from Mark xvi. 16. "He that believeth, and is baptized, shall be saved, &c." The congregation, consisting chiefly of church men and Presbyterians, gave great attention, and were not displeased with hearing a vindication of Infant Baptism. If it was of no other service, it prepared their minds for matters of greater importance.

After a short intermission, I preached again, from 1 Pet. iv. 18. "If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" Though I continued more than three hours in the two sermons, yet the people were so greatly affected, that they seemed as if transfixed to their seats. From this time the work of the Lord began to prosper among them.

Next day, I preached at a place still nearer the sea, and the same convincing power rested upon the congregation. Many of them thought but little of walking ten or twelve miles to hear the Word. I appointed a day to read and explain the rules of our society, and many came together. I preached first, and then explained the nature and design of a Christian society. After examination, I admitted about thirty members.

While I was preaching at another place, some distance off, a man suddenly started up from his seat, and exclaimed, "Sir, it is a shame for you to go on as you do. Why, do you think you can make us believe that your doctrine is true?" I stopped immediately, and desired him to point out wherein it was false. After some conversation he was sorry for exposing his ignorance and asked pardon for the interruption he had given. As he was a person of some note, it proved of advantage to the people.

I returned again to the sound, and preached two or three times every day to multitudes of attentive hearers. A person of some consideration, set up a reading meeting in opposition to us; but the power of God reached his heart, so that he gave it up, and joined the society. Several persons agreed to hire a clergyman to preach against us. He came once, and appointed a second time. I happened to meet him, one day, upon the road, and informed him that I was the man against whom he preached in such a place. I asked, "Sir, have you ever heard a Methodist?" He replied, "No." After an hour's conversation, in which I explained our doctrine, he promised, that he would never do the like again. And indeed, the people could not prevail upon him to preach against the Methodists, all the time he stayed in that country.

[To be continued]

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Part 6

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- June, 1794

While I continued in the neighborhood of the sound, near the sea-shore, the Lord was pleased to bless my labors. I preached frequently to congregations of a thousand, or fifteen hundred people under the spreading trees: and notwithstanding many sinners were turned from the error of their ways, and obtained, through faith, an experimental knowledge of the pardoning mercy of God, yet I was greatly exercised in my own mind, and assaulted with distressing temptations.

I was often afraid, lest after preaching to others, I should become a castaway. Sometimes the enemy insinuated, that I did more harm than good; and that the people, after a time would be worse than ever; or that they were hypocrites. These exercises were permitted for their humiliation of my soul before the Lord, and proved of great advantage to me; though in the mean time, they were not joyous, but grievous. Frequently before I stood up to speak to the people, I felt a heavy burden upon my spirits; but at those seasons, I was sure to have a blessed meeting.

One day I was wandering through the wilderness in search of poor lost sinners, and called at several houses; but the people did not want me. At length night came on, and I was lost in a thick forest called the Cyprus Swamp. The night was dark and rainy, and I had been all day without any refreshment for myself and horse. Finding all my efforts ineffectual to get out of the forest, I came to a resolution to take up my lodging there, as well as I could; for which purpose I stopped my horse; but before I got down, I espied a light at a distance, which led me to a house, where I was kindly entertained.

The master of the house fixed his eyes upon me, and at last said, "What are you? -- For I am sure I never saw such a man as you appear to be." I informed, him that I was a follower of our blessed Saviour, and invited him to join me in prayer. I then read a chapter, and lectured upon it, and the presence of the Lord was with us. When I retired to rest, the woman said to her husband, "This is a man of God; one whom the Lord hath sent to reform the world."

In the morning, my kind friend offered his service to conduct me on my journey and I perceived that the Lord had touched his heart. I asked his wife if she ever prayed? and, if she knew her sins were forgiven? She answered, "I pray always, but I do not know that my sins are forgiven; however, I know that I shall go to heaven when I die. I likewise know that you are a servant of God; but you cannot teach me; for I understand all the scriptures; and I know what kind of death I am to die."

After breakfast, we got on our way, and the man asked me, "What I thought of his wife?" I answered, that she was a mystery to me. He then related the following remarkable circumstances concerning her: "Some time ago, she was taken in a kind of melancholy way, and no one knew what was the matter with her. For thirteen days, she would neither eat nor till she was so weak as to be confined to her bed. A number of persons were waiting around her, expecting to see her die, when all of a sudden she rose up, and said, 'You all thought mine was a bodily disorder; but it was not. Now I know that my Maker loves me.' They gave her food, and she ate heartily, and has been in a serious way ever since."

Some time after, I had an opportunity of visiting this family again, and conversed more fully with the woman; she still maintained, that no man could teach her; nevertheless, I have good reason to hope that the Lord has received her into his favor.

The inhabitants of this part of the country have scarce ever heard any kind of preaching; and know no more of the new birth than the Indians. One day I met with a man, and asked him, "if he knew Jesus Christ?" "Sir," said he, "I know not where the man lives." Supposing that he misunderstood me, I repeated the question, and he answered, "I know not the man!"

I preached in a number of places, all through the wilderness, and many were convinced and brought to the knowledge of the truth. They built a church, and the Lord raised up several able speakers among them. The change in the tempers and manners of the people was truly wonderful, and evidenced a real work of grace upon their hearts. The wilderness and the solitary places began to bud, and blossom as the rose; and many hearts leaped for joy. Hundreds who were asleep in the arms of the wicked one, awoke to righteousness, and inquired the way to Zion, with their faces thitherward.

As my fellow laborers relieved me in this part of the Lord's vineyard, I had an opportunity of visiting the societies in Maryland, and found it very profitable to enjoy fellowship with established Christians. I found great freedom of spirit in preaching a full salvation from sin; and many were brought into the perfect liberty of the children of God; while others were on full stretch for the Blessing. And although I was exercised with severe temptations, yet the hand of the Lord was with me, and supported me under all my trials.

June 7, 1779 -- Being returned into Suffex Circuit, in Delaware, I went to the place where I was appointed to preach, under great exercise of mind. A large congregation assembled under the trees, but I was so bewildered, that I thought there was not a text in all the Bible, which I could speak from with any propriety. However, in a few minutes, the light and power of God visited me. The scriptures were opened to my view, and the divine blessing descended upon the people.

After preaching, I set out for my afternoon's appointment, accompanied by about thirty friends. We were waylaid by a party of men. The ringleader, presented his gun, and commanded me to stop. Several of the women of our company instantly alighted from their horses, and seizing fast hold of the gun, held it while I passed by. The same man was afterwards a sincere penitent, and became a member of our society.

I proceeded peaceably on my journey, and preached to a great multitude of attentive people, from the Parable of Dives and Lazarus. It seemed as if hundreds of persons were that day wrought upon. We had met with but little encouragement in this place, in time past, and I intended to leave them if I saw no fruit; but, blessed be the Lord, he visited them who sat in darkness, and in the shadow of death; the obdurate hearts were broken before him; and I had the satisfaction of forming a society, which continued to prosper.

June 8 -- I am attacked on all sides; fighting within, and persecution without. After preaching, I spent a considerable time in reading and explaining the rules of the society.

June 9 -- My mind was greatly disturbed all the morning, so that I could not keep it fixed upon one thing, for a minute together. But though the enemy has power to tempt, he cannot force me to yield to temptation. I do not know that I have given way to sin, either inwardly or outwardly. Yet it is frequently insinuated that my communion is run out, and my labors will never be blessed again. I am conscious of my adoption into the family of heaven, but have many doubts respecting my salvation from all inward sin. [He later received the witness to his entire sanctification. -- DVM] I know that the Lord has given me power to serve him, and that I love him supremely; but these are comprehensive words, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy mind, with all thy soul, and with all thy strength."

June 10 -- This day I felt an inexpressible weight upon my mind. A large congregation assembled from all quarters, and many of the people were enemies to the gospel. As soon as I began to preach, the burden was removed. I had uncommon liberty in addressing the hearers, and a divine power reached, their hearts.

One circumstance was noticed by many. There had been for some time a very great drought, and it was apprehended that the crops would be lost if it continued much longer. This induced me to supplicate the Almighty to send refreshing showers. A few minutes after the congregation dismissed, the heavens were covered with clouds, and we had abundance of rain. While the Lord was watering the earth, I called the family together for prayer, and it was a refreshing time to all our souls.

Friday, June 12, was a solemn day of fasting. I find it necessary to keep my body under, lest after preaching to others, I should be a castaway. I visited one of Mr. Whitefield's spiritual children on her death bed, and rejoiced to find her soul happy in the Lord. In the evening I examined a large society, and we had a comfortable time. The predominant desire of my soul is, that every moment of my life may be devoted to God.

Next day I went to Quantico. An unexpected congregation assembled, and the Lord was with us of a truth. The cries of the distressed were heard, and many captives were set at liberty.

Sunday 14 -- I devoted this morning to solemn prayer for a blessing upon my labors. When I got to Salisbury, our friend said, "You had better leave the town immediately, for a mob is waiting to apprehend you. Last night they came to my house, expecting to find you, but being disappointed, they laid hold on me, and dragged me down the chamber stairs. They then hauled me along the street, till my arms, from the wrists to the shoulders, were as black as ink. I know not what would have been the consequence, if I had not met a magistrate, who rescued me. The mob is made up of what they call, "The best people in the county."

Notwithstanding this disagreeable intelligence, I was determined to preach, and trust my body and soul to the protection of the Almighty. Accordingly, I stood up before a huge congregation, and declared, "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptation, &c." 2 Pet. ii. 9. The mob sent one of their companions to the preaching, to inform them of the most proper time to apprehend me. He sat close by me. The truth reached his heart, and tears of contrition flowed plentifully down his face. When the service was over, he returned to his companions, and assured them that I had preached the truth, and if they attempted to injure me he would put the Law in force against them."

The remainder of the week I was employed in preaching and visiting the new societies. Glory be to God! he is carrying on a gracious work about this place.

Sun. 21 -- At twelve o'clock I preached at the sound, to about fifteen hundred people. After a little intermission I preached a second time, and the power of the Lord was present to wound and to heal. The people were in tears on every side; and I had great expectation that the whole country would be converted.

The rest of the week I spent in the neighborhood, preaching several times a day, and conversing with the awakened. I believe the work was greatly hindered by some ungodly professors, who insinuated themselves among the simplehearted, and set them on disputing about the decrees, and their method of baptizing.

June 28 -- At Muskmelon, I found that a Nicolite Preacher had been sowing his seed in the young society. He told them, "that it was a sin to wear any kind of colored clothing; that they ought never to pray, except they had an immediate impulse, and that it was wrong to sing."

Many people assembled to hear me, but I perceived a considerable alteration among them. Some would not sing at all, and others sat down both in the time of singing and prayer. Many had taken off the borders of their caps, and condemned those who would not do as they had done. Even some of my own children would scarcely hear me, because I wore a black coat.

I gave out my text, Rom. xiv. 17. "The kingdom of God is not meat and drink, but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost." The Lord made bare his arm, and his convincing power rested upon the people. After sermon I met the society, and removed from them those who had caused them to stumble, and the work prospered more than ever.

July 5 -- I preached four times this day, and traveled many miles. I enjoyed such union with the Lord that I scarcely felt the fatigues of the day, although I had taken no refreshment, except a little milk and water. I have seldom seen such a day as this; -- thousands are flocking to Jesus.

July 6 -- I went into a part of the Delaware state where I had never been before. After traveling about thirty miles, I attempted to preach at a friend's house, but was interrupted by his brother, who came with his firelock and a drum. After beating the drum awhile, he took the gun, and made as though he was taking aim to shoot me. This greatly terrified the congregation, and threw them into confusion, so that I was obliged to withdraw into a private room.

Soon after, some of the magistrates came to the house, and threatening to send the persecutor to jail, we had peace, and I found great freedom while finishing my sermon. One of the magistrates told me the court-house was at my service, and that I should be welcome to his house. I preached in and about the town day and night, and the Lord owned his Word.

June 8 -- While I was preaching in the court-house, Mr. Wolf again attempted to disturb us. Although the weather was very hot, he kindled a great fire in the chimney; but observing that this did not interrupt me, he rung a bell through the place, which obliged me to withdraw to a widow woman's house, where I finished my discourse, and the Word reached the hearts of the people.

On Sunday the court-house was crowded at nine o'clock, and we had a refreshing time. I had appointed to preach a few miles out of town, by the side of a river; and some declared that if I came there they would drown me. I found a large concourse of people, and preached with freedom, no one interrupting me. The greater the opposition I met with, the more diligently did the people search their Bibles to know whether these things were so. I preached in almost every part of the forest. The Lord enlarged my heart, and gave me many precious seals to my ministry.

July 18 -- I preached on the border of Dorset county, and the work of the Lord prospered. Soon after the discourse was finished, two persons desired to speak with me. I instantly discovered by their looks, that they had mischief in their hearts. One of them was a magistrate, and the other a great disputant, whom he had brought with him in order to confute me in points of religion, and then his intention was to send me to jail.

After the disputant had spoken a few words, I asked abruptly, "Is your soul converted? Have you peace with God?" The poor man was so confounded, he knew not what to say. He attempted to recollect some scriptures, but could get hold of none. I then exhorted him to repent, and turn to the Lord.

The magistrate seeing his champion defeated, was greatly enraged. "Sir," said he, "do you know the laws of the state? You have not taken the oath; and you have broken the Law by preaching: You must go to jail," to which I replied, "I bless God, I am not afraid of a jail."

They withdrew, and soon after I set out for my afternoon's appointment. I had not gone far, before the sheriff met me, and commanded me to stop. Many of my friends offered to be security for my appearance at court; but I told them, that I would give no security. I then looked the sheriff in the face, and said, "I am going on the Lord's errand; and if you have power, here I am, take me;

but remember, it is hard to fight against God; for I am on my way to Philadelphia, to preach the glorious gospel of my Redeemer." After conversing with him a few minutes, I perceived an alteration in his countenance, and he said, "It is a pity to stop you." He then turned back, and I went on my way rejoicing.

After attending several quarterly meetings, where we had large congregations, and glorious displays of the convincing and converting power of divine Grace, I pursued my journey to Philadelphia, accompanied by several friends.

In my way, I preached at Queen Ann's, where we had many violent opponents. It was expected the mob would surround the house which obliged me to travel the greatest part of the night, accompanied by a friend, in order to get into another county. Next day my friends met me. We then went on together and arrived safe at Philadelphia.

During my travels in the Peninsula on this visit, which was about sixteen months, several new circuits were formed, numbers were truly converted to God, and a great reformation evidently took place among the people. I suppose I preached in more than a hundred new places, where a gracious work from that time commenced. Indeed all manner of evil was said of me; but I bless God for a good conscience, for a heart united to my Redeemer, and for the friendship and prayers of thousands who were awakened by the preaching of the gospel.

I tarried about two months at Philadelphia. It was soon after the British troops left that city, and [those of] the society were in much distress, as well as the people in general. I met with many trials, and saw but little fruit of my labors. In my journey through the Jerseys, several were awakened, and some brought to the knowledge of the Lord.

One day after preaching, old man came to me in tears, and said, "This day I am a hundred and one years old, and this is my spiritual birthday." He was inexpressibly happy, and seemed ready to take his flight into the Paradise of God.

[To be continued]

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Part 7

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- July, 1794

I preached at a new place, where the congregation consisted chiefly of young persons. We were favored with an extraordinary manifestation of the power of God. When the sermon was concluded, the young people hung around each other, crying for mercy. I have no doubt but many of them will praise the Lord to all eternity for the mercy discovered unto them that day.

The case of a young woman, who was brought up among the Quakers is remarkable. She was awakened when very young, by the operations of the Holy Spirit upon her mind, without any

external helps, and experienced the pardoning love of God. For a season she continued happy; but having none to strengthen her, and many to draw her away, by slow degrees she lost the spirit of watchfulness and prayer. At length she fell from God, and became as trifling as ever.

She did not continue long in a backsliding state, before the rod of affliction overtook her, and entirely deprived her of the use of speech; She continued dumb about two years; and at the same time was exercised with horrible temptations from the wicked one; who even persuaded her that it was sinful to do any kind of work, or even to dress herself; and if they gave her a book to read, she would not turn over a leaf.

In the midst of this distress it was impressed upon her mind that there were a people in such a place, who served the Lord; and that if she would go among them, they would be a blessing to her soul and she would be restored to her speech. She had never heard of a Methodist, and the place was 20 miles off. Notwithstanding she was unacquainted with the road, she endeavored to find that place and people. But the family missing her, pursued and brought her back again.

However she persisted in her intention and the second attempt was more successful. The society received her with great affection. They presently understood her case, and appointed a prayer-meeting in her behalf. The Lord graciously inclined his ear to the cries of his people, and set the young woman at liberty. At the same time that he visited her soul with his peace and love, he also loosened her tongue, and enabled her to speak forth the praises of her great Deliverer.

Shortly after, I came into the same neighborhood, and sent word to the young woman's mother, that I intended to preach at her house on such a day. At the time appointed, I took the young woman home, accompanied by many friends. We were received with the greatest cordiality, and many of the neighbors and friends who attended the meeting were greatly affected at the visible change which they perceived in the young woman. I was assisted much in speaking to them, and the word took place in their hearts, particularly the young woman's mother, who was unspeakably happy on receiving her daughter again, perfectly restored to health, and peace of mind.

After preaching in various places in Pennsylvania and the Jerseys, I returned in the Autumn to the Peninsula where I continued all the winter; and many souls were gathered into the fold of Christ. The people of Dorset county were great enemies to the life and power of religion; but it pleased the Lord to raise up a young woman to be the happy instrument of a revival. She was niece to Judge E____ of Dorset and her sister was married to the honorable Mr. B____.

Being upon a visit at a distance from home, she became acquainted with the Methodists, and was convinced and converted. When she returned to her uncle's in Dorset, they thought she was beside herself. However the Lord blessed her conversation to several persons; particularly three of her sisters, and Mr. B____ were soon awakened, and embraced the truth; and likewise two young lawyers who were under his tuition.

One of the sisters went to visit H. A____ esq., a man of fashion, but unacquainted with internal religion. Mr A____ being afraid that the conversation of his guest would drive his wife out of her senses, undertook to show Miss M____ that the Methodists were not in the right way; and for this purpose he took up an old book written by one of the Puritan divines; but he had not

read many minutes before convictions reached his heart and tears of contrition flowed from his eyes. He now determined to go among the Methodists with his book; and compare it with the doctrine which they taught; and finding them to agree in substance he sincerely embraced the gospel of Christ, and found that peace which passeth all understanding. I met with him, for the first time, at Mr. W____'s, and he earnestly importuned me to come into the country where he resided and preach the Gospel in those parts.

Feb. 10, 1780 -- I arose early in the morning and addressed the Throne of Grace. The Lord greatly refreshed my soul and I felt a willingness to suffer whatever he was pleased to permit to come upon me. I opened my mind to Mr. Asbury, and he encouraged me to accept of Mr. A____'s invitation. After he had commended me to the Lord, I set out upon my journey, with a strong hope that good would be done.

Next day, I was under great exercise of mind. I wept bitterly, and several times stopped my horse, intending to return back, but was still urged on my way. In the afternoon I got to Mr. A____'s. The instant I entered his house all my distress was removed. I rejoiced in God my Saviour, being conscious that I was in the place where Providence appointed me to be. In the evening the family assembled together for prayer, and the Lord was present among us.

Sun. 13 -- About one hundred persons assembled to hear the Word, and divine power touched their hearts; some who had been enemies, were convinced. and acknowledged the truth.

Next day I preached in another part of the county at Colonel V____'s, a gentleman of excellent sense. He afterwards embraced the truth, and became a great friend to the sincere followers of Christ. The fields are white for harvest, but the wicked rage, and invent lies and mischief. The county court was at that time sitting, and some of the members of it were determined to drive me out of the country. For a cloak for their intentions they accused me with Toryism, and encouraged a very bad man to lay snares for my life.

Receiving information of these proceedings, I judged it expedient to withdraw for a season to my friend Mr. A____'s. Here I tarried only two days and then went into another part of the county, where the word was attended with power, and many inquired the way to Zion.

I had a very remarkable vision about this time, in which was revealed to me the sufferings which I was to be exercised with, and that the Lord would stand by me. Hundreds flocked to hear the word, and received it gladly; and on the other hand, many were contriving methods to banish me from the place.

Feb. 25 -- My mind was under a solemn weighty exercise, and in expectation of being engaged shortly in some uncommon trials. I preached to a weeping congregation with much liberty. Mr. A____ accompanied me to the place, and after preaching we were preparing to return to his house, but a party of men surrounded us, and took me prisoner. They beat my horse, cursed and swore bitterly, but did not strike me. They then took me before a magistrate, who judged and condemned me for preaching the gospel.

The magistrate immediately wrote a mittimus, and ordered me to jail. I expostulated with the Justice upon the impropriety of his conduct entreating him to think seriously upon what he had done, and assuring him that I was not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, but considered it an honor to suffer imprisonment for his sake.

My horse was then brought, and twelve men were appointed to escort me to the prison; a man on each side holding my horse's bridle. We now proceeded on our journey, in a very dark night, but before we had got a mile from the magistrate's house, there was an extraordinary flash of lightning, and in less than a minute, all my opponents were dispersed, and I was left alone. I called after them several times, but received no answer.

I then proceeded forward, but had not gone far, when I met Mr. A____, who was a little before the company, and was returning to look for me. We continued our journey till we came to a little cottage by the roadside, where we found two of my guards almost terrified out of their wits, I told them, that if I must go to prison, that night, we ought to be on our way, for it was getting late. Soon after we joined the rest of the company, but they appeared greatly intimidated.

I reminded them of the awfulness of the Day of Judgment, and the necessity of preparing to meet the great Judge of men and angels. One of them happening to swear an oath, his companions immediately reproved him, saying "How can you swear at such a time as this?" At length they stopped, and one said, "We had better give him up for the present;" to which they all consented, and accordingly turned their horses and went back. But in a short time they pursued us again, and accompanied us a few minutes. They then left us, and we saw them no more that night. About midnight we got safe to my friend's house, and were received with great joy. I retired to my room, praising my great Deliverer.

Sunday 26 -- At eleven o'clock many came to the preaching. Some of them brought short clubs, to defend me, if necessary; for they had just as much zeal for religion as to fight for it. I stood up between the hall and doors, and was giving out a hymn, when about twenty persons, under the appellation of gentlemen, came up in a body. The ringleader rushed forward, presented a pistol to my breast, and laid hold of me. But in an instant the congregation rescued me from his hands, and shut me up in one of the rooms.

As soon as I could, I opened the door, entreating our friends to do no injury to the persecutors; that I did not want to be kept from them, and was willing to go to jail. If I had not acted in this manner, I believe much blood would have been shed. After exhorting the congregation to exercise meekness and patience, I gave up myself into the hands of my enemies. They conducted me to Cambridge, where I was kept in a tavern till near sunset, surrounded by the wicked, and it was a great mercy that my life was preserved.

At night I was thrust into prison, and the key taken away, in order to prevent any one administering to my necessities. I had a dirty floor for my bed, the saddle-bags for a pillow, and two large windows open, with a cold east wind blowing upon me, but my soul was filled with divine consolations, and I could say, "Thy will be done."

During my imprisonment, I found it a profitable season for prayer, reading, and meditation. Mr. Asbury sent me Rutherford's letters; and I likewise received from many pious friends, encouraging and reviving epistles. I had a heart to pray for my worst enemies, and sincerely desired for them the blessings of God, both in time and in eternity. My soul was so exceeding happy, that the prison was a real Paradise. I scarce knew how the days and nights passed away. The Bible was never sweeter to me, and I felt inexpressible fellowship with the people of God. I never saw myself more unworthy; nor did I ever behold so great a beauty in the cross of Christ. Indeed, I thought, if the Lord required me to suffer a violent death, I could go cheerfully to the stake. Now I understood the reason why the martyrs were so happy in the midst of the fire.

Many, both friends and strangers, came to visit me from far and near, and I had useful conversation with them at the prison window. The country was much alarmed, and the Methodists were greatly stirred up to pray. I believe I never was more instrumental of doing good, for the time, than during this imprisonment. I shall never forget the kindness of Mr. A____ and his family. They suffered much for the cause of Christ in Dorset county; but the Lord is All-Sufficient to recompense them, both in time and in eternity.

The crime of preaching the gospel was so heinous, that it seems no common court could try my cause; and it appeared probable that I should slay in jail till a general court, which would be near twelve months. Mr. A____ applied to the Governor of Maryland, who befriended me to the utmost of his power. Indeed, if I had been his brother, he could not have done more for me.

The manner in which he procured my release, was this: I was an inhabitant of Maryland by birth and property; and I could likewise claim a right in the Delaware, which state was more favorable to the cause of religion. Being taken before the Governor of Delaware, he received me with the greatest cordiality, and dispatched a recommendatory letter to the Governor of Maryland, upon which I was instantly set at liberty.

The people of Dorset raged most horribly, but the Word of the Lord spread through all that county, and many hundreds, both whites and blacks, experienced in their hearts, a comfortable sense of the pardoning love of Jesus. Since that time, I have preached to about three thousand in one congregation, not far from the place where I was imprisoned; and many who were once my enemies are now reconciled to the gospel of Christ. After release from prison, I was more than ever determined to devote myself to the service of God. I had great satisfaction in visiting the new-formed societies. Many came to hear, sinners cried for mercy, and believers were built up in their most holy faith.

Upon a particular occasion, my mind was greatly exercised with respect to the certainty of a place of punishment allotted to Satan and his angels. The enemy suggested, "Hell is not so bad a place as you represent it. How can God be a merciful Being, as you set him forth if he sends people to such a dismal place for a few sins, to be tormented for ever?" These temptations embarrassed me not a little, but the Lord condescended to afford me satisfaction by a remarkable dream or vision.

I imagined, that passing through a narrow gate into eternity. A person met me, and conducted me within sight of the place of torment; but I had only an imperfect view of it. I

therefore requested to be taken into a situation where I could see it better. My conductor then led me to a spot where I beheld a lake of fire as large as the ocean. I saw myriads of unhappy souls in every attitude expressive of the utmost anguish and woes.

The sight was terrible beyond all imagination. I said out to my guide, "It is enough." He then brought me to the place where I first met with him, upon which I requested to be indulged with a discovery of heaven, but he answered, "Not now, return, you have seen sufficient for once: be more faithful in warning sinners; and entertain no more doubts concerning the reality of Hell."

The Methodist Societies in America being generally united to the Church of England, and the ministers of that communion being dispersed in the time of the war, especially in Virginia and Carolina, a large body of people were destitute, in a great measure, of the ordinances. Our brethren in Virginia therefore, thought it expedient to have the ordinances among them. But this proceeding did not meet with the approbation of the preachers in the North.

In April 1780, we held a conference at Baltimore, where brother Asbury, W[atters], myself were delegated to visit our brethren in the South. After a journey of several hundred miles, we came to Manekintown, where we found the brethren assembled in conference. They were prevailed upon to accede to a suspension of the ordinances for one year, till Mr. Wesley was consulted on the occasion as it appeared to us all a matter of very great importance. Having obtained the object of our mission, we set our faces to the North with gladness of heart, praising the Lord for the unanimity and peace we were favored with.

May 18 -- I came to Baltimore, where I was appointed to labor. On Sunday, I attended the English Church, and heard my old parish minister. It is a matter of lamentation when congregations are entertained from the pulpit with compositions entirely destitute of repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. God grant that I may always be faithful in the great work whereunto I am called. In the evening I preached with freedom to a serious congregation. My trials are great, but I am borne above the world and sin. The remainder of the week I was comfortably employed in preaching, visiting our friends, and meeting the classes.

[To be continued]

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Part 8

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- August, 1794

May 27 -- I preached at Gunpowder Neck, (one of the oldest societies in Maryland) to many hearers; and in the evening to a stiff-necked people; but, I believe, some good was done. The week was chiefly taken up among my relations and old acquaintances; many of whom are lying in the arms of the wicked one.

June 3 -- A large congregation attended in Bush Chapel, among whom were many of my relations, and former companions. I found freedom in describing the privileges of the Church of Christ, and particularly in the application. I hope some of their hearts were softened. A few of my relations begin to think that I am not altogether beside myself. The week following, temporal business interfered with my spiritual concerns, but I trust the one thing needful was not neglected. I want to drink deep into the Spirit of Holiness. In general I find that the most profitable hour in the day is from four to five in the morning. I heartily recommend this hour to all who can receive this saying, especially if they desire close communion with the Lord.

July 2 -- I returned to Baltimore, having been once round the circuit; and although some of the societies are not so lively as we could desire, yet upon the whole, we have great reason to praise God for the work that is going forward among them. I preached a few miles from town, and the convincing power of God was present. Many sinners cried out aloud for mercy, so that my voice was almost lost among them. When I departed, I left a young man, who had been very wicked, struggling as for life, and his companions weeping around him. Many were set at liberty, and the people of God rejoiced with unspeakable joy.

In the evening I preached at Baltimore to a large congregation with much freedom. On Tuesday I was greatly refreshed and strengthened while meeting a class. Twelve of the members profess no enjoy purity of heart, and I have no reason to doubt the reality of their profession.

July 30 -- At seven o'clock we had a comfortable love-feast. Afterwards I preached in the Dutch church; and likewise in another Dutch church about eight miles farther, and at Mr. V___'s we kept a watch-night. The labors of the day were wearisome to the body, but the Lord strengthened my faith, and gave me a willing mind to devote all my powers, and all my time to his service. Next day we had a large congregation in the same place. While the people were assembling, my mind was uncommonly exercised; but the cloud dispersed, and the Lord gave me great freedom in explaining and applying the apostle's words, "Think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you," 1 Pet. iv. 12.

I retired to rest exceeding happy, but my visions in the night season were very extraordinary. I thought I was taken dangerously ill, and expected soon to be in eternity. I imagined that thousands of enemies surrounded me, striving to deprive me of my confidence, which for a time seemed almost lost. This induced me to enter into a final examination of my heart and life, both before and since my conversion, my call to preach the Gospel, the motives which prevailed upon me to engage in this arduous work, and the diligence and uprightness of my labors in the ministry. At the conclusion of this investigation, my fears were dispelled, every fiend vanished, and a band of holy angels surrounded me with the most melodious music.

I then imagined that I ascended an immense height with the heavenly host, till a bright cloud overshadowed me. In the cloud I saw a person most transcendently beautiful and glorious, and brighter than the meridian sun when shining in all its splendor. I ardently longed to be divested of my earthly tabernacle, and enter into eternal rest. When that glorious person said unto me, "If you continue faithful to the end, this shall be your place. But you cannot come now. Return, and be faithful. There is more work for you to do."

Immediately I awoke, but the powers of my soul were so elevated with a sense of eternal things, that sleep was banished my eyes. Indeed I am aware that there is danger in laying too much stress upon dreams and visions, and that everything must be tried by the infallible standard of God's holy Word, the sure and certain rule of our faith and practice. Nevertheless it must be acknowledged, that the Almighty can impress revealed truths upon the soul in a variety of ways, when he sees it expedient to encourage and strengthen us in the pursuit of grace and glory.

August 2 -- I preached with great freedom to a large congregation. Afterwards a minister of the reformed church of Holland, gave an exhortation in the German language, as there were several persons present who did not understand English.

After visiting Baltimore, I crossed the Chesapeake Bay, and traveled through the Peninsula. Thousands attended to hear the Word, and the Lord manifested his mighty power in our congregations. But the grand enemy of souls was not inactive. Many scandalous reports were spread abroad to my disadvantage, and even some of my own relations gave credit to them. My uncle T____ came to Fork Chapel where I was preaching with an intention of exposing me before the congregation, as he thought, but the Lord found him better employment. His heart, as well as many others, was melted, and tears flowed abundantly from his eyes. After the meeting was over, he said to one of his acquaintance, "Surely my nephew is belied." He came and requested me to go home with him, and next day accompanied me five miles. When we parted, he insisted on my accepting eighty dollars. I took them, and soon after gave them to brother S____, who had greater need of them than I had. My uncle said, "I expect to see you no more in this world." In a short time after he went unto eternity.

I continued in this circuit till the following Spring, and the work of the Lord prospered. Numbers were added to the society, and many were brought into the liberty of the gospel. Some likewise experienced deliverance from heart corruptions. I trust my own soul increased in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Indeed I felt myself a most unprofitable servant, and utterly unworthy of the many favors I received from God and from his people.

Jan. 24, 1781 -- I set out on a visit to Little York. The first night I lodged at a tavern about twelve miles from the town. A gentleman of Little York was convinced while we were engaged in family worship at the inn. Next day I arrived at the town, and preached in the Dutch church. The wife of the above gentleman was present, and the power of God reached her heart. When the gentleman returned home in the evening, he said to his wife, "My dear, I heard such a man last night as I never saw nor heard before, but if what he said is true, we are all in the way to hell!" She answered, I expect it is the same person whom heard this afternoon in the Dutch church, and I believe that his doctrine is true, and that we are all in the way to ruin!" "Well then," he replied, "let us set about our salvation," to which she readily consented.

On Wednesday I went about twenty miles further, and preached at Mr. G____s, the Lutheran minister. His mother and sister accompanied me to Berlin, where I preached to a large congregation. By this time persecution began to arise at Little York, occasioned by the following circumstances: My two friends at that place, being under great desires and sorely tempted by the enemy, were for a time deranged in their minds. During this temporary insanity, they threw some of their old clothes and other things into the fire, but the neighbors being alarmed, ran into the house,

and prevented further mischief. A minister was then sent for, and he ordered a doctor to be called. A Quaker woman coming in to see them, said, "I do not know of anyone that can be of service to them, unless it is the man who was the occasion of it." The neighbors answered, that such a man ought to be sent to jail, and not suffered to go about the country.

I was about twenty miles off when I received an account of this affair. I immediately mounted my horse, and got to them as quick as possible. When the neighbors saw me, several of them flocked into the house. The man was in bed, covered with several blisters, and the woman seemed greatly disordered. I took out my Bible, and after reading and explaining a chapter, I found the power of the Lord was present to heal. During the time of prayer, they were both of them perfectly restored to their senses, and filled with the peace and pardoning love of God, and even several others were brought into the way of salvation at the same time.

This affair, at first, involved me in great distress, but in the end it turned out for the glory of God, and promoted the prosperity of his work. Many were astonished, and brought under a serious concern for their souls. Indeed the church doors were shut against me, but a large school room was opened, where I preached a discourse on the occasion to many attentive hearers. My two mad people, (as they were called) rejoiced in the Lord, and the word reached the hearts of others. In a little time we formed a sincere, affectionate society in that place.

Feb. 15 -- I preached in Mr. G___'s church, to almost as many as it could hold; and in the evening at his own house, where many began to inquire after the way of salvation. But the enemy rages in the country, as well as in the town. The people exclaim against their minister, because (as they express it) I have turned him to be a Methodist.

Wed. 22 -- I preached at Colchester, where I found one family mourning for the Lord. Next morning I set out again for Berlin, but missed my way. Upon stopping at a house to inquire for the road, I heard dismal groans and lamentations. Immediately alighting, I went in, and found the woman of the house wringing her hands, and saying, "Have you never heard what has happened? I have sold my three little children to the devil, and on such a day he is to come for them!"

I assured her, it was out of her power to sell her children to the devil, for they belonged to God. The husband informed me that she had carried a razor in her bosom for three weeks, intending first to take the lives of the children (before the day arrived on which she imagined the devil was to come for them) and then her own life. I desired the husband to get a horse and take her with him to the preaching that afternoon, which he did accordingly, and the Lord was pleased in mercy to visit her soul. After preaching, she came to me in a rapture of joy, blessing and praising God for his astonishing goodness in delivering her soul from the snares of the wicked one, and from this time she became a woman remarkable for piety.

On Friday, I judged it expedient to preach at Mr. W___'s, a mile from Little York, on account of the persecution in the town. Many attended, and seemed deeply affected. Next day we had a blessed opportunity, and the hearts of some of our enemies were melted. On Sunday, the congregation was very large, and I never saw so many affected in any place where preaching had been so short a time. Some of them were so prejudiced a few days ago, that they thought it a sin to hear me.

In the afternoon I preached at Mr. W___'s, and one person cried out aloud for mercy. On Wednesday, I returned again to the town, and found the people very quiet. We had a solemn refreshing time, and I was greatly enlightened and assisted in opening the Scriptures. In this country there are sixteen different denominations of professors of religion, and some of every party seem zealous in their way.

March 1 -- I was desired to visit a person in great distress, who supposed he was troubled with an evil Spirit. Before sunrise, I called upon his minister, and requested he would accompany me. The poor man informed us that for a long time the devil had followed him, and that he thought he had seen him with his bodily eyes. I soon found he was under convictions for sin, but knew not what was the matter with himself. I therefore, after relating my own experience, gave him the best advice in my power. We then united our supplications in his behalf, and from this time he was no more troubled with those horrible temptations. Many souls, both Dutch and English, were awakened in the country, and turned from lying vanities to the living God.

At Little York there were many soldiers billeted and their officers declared that if I attempted to preach there any more, I should be sent to jail. My friends entreated me to decline preaching for the present, but through the divine blessing, I was enabled to disregard both threatenings and discouragements. In the evening a large congregation attended, among whom were a company of soldiers, with their officers. One of the officers stood on a bench with a staff in his hand, which he lifted up several times, as if he intended either to strike, or terrify me. After the discourse was concluded, all withdrew peaceably, and no harm was done. Next evening, I was surprised to see the same officers at preaching again, and they behaved with propriety and decency.

Sunday 21 -- In the morning I preached at Mr. P___'s, the Lutheran minister. Above one hundred of the congregation followed me to a place five miles further, where I preached in a large barn, at twelve o'clock. Many of the people cried for mercy. One man said to me, "O sir, can you tell what I shall do to be saved, for I am the wickedest man in the whole country?" Prejudice, in general, vanished away; and many were constrained to testify, "This is the right religion."

I rode five miles further, and preached at four o'clock, and in the evening returned to the town, where the Lord gave me another precious opportunity of discoursing to the people. During the two months in which I labored in this part of the Lord's vineyard, I preached in above twenty places. I believe there were upwards of three hundred souls under powerful awakenings, many of whom found the peace and pardoning love of God revealed to them. The last week I joined one hundred in society, and it gave me much concern that I could not stay any longer with them at that time, as I was obliged to attend the Conference at Baltimore, where I arrived on the 22nd of May.

[To be continued]

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Part 9

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- September, 1794

Our Conference at Baltimore, in the month of May, 1781, was attended with the blessing of unanimity and peace. I was appointed for Sussex Circuit in Virginia, where I arrived on the 4th of June. As soon as I entered into Ellis' chapel in that circuit, I saw a man in the pulpit dressed in black; perceiving that he was deranged in his mind, at my request the congregation withdrew for a few minutes and the preacher with them; they then returned, and we had a peaceable meeting. I afterwards learned, that the poor man, before this affliction, was pious, sensible, and useful; but that he fell into the snares of the wicked one, and thought more highly of himself than he ought to have done; he imagined himself to be a great prophet sent of God to teach the people; and even that day declared it was revealed to him, that a person was to interrupt him in his discourse. Upon his return home in the evening, he informed the family that he should go into a trance, and requested that they would not bury him, because at such an hour he should again recover. Next day I was sent for to visit him. Many were weeping around the bed, where he lay like a corpse, for I could not perceive that he breathed. However, at the time he predicted, he came to himself, and in a great measure was restored to his reason. I took him with me into the circuit, and had cause to hope that the Lord healed his backslidings. Some time after, he began again to preach, and I trust, was more humble and useful than ever.

I labored in Sussex Circuit about three months, and had many happy days, and some distressing ones. Being not far from [New] York, I heard the roaring of cannon day and night during the siege. Many of our pious friends were absolutely against fighting, and some of them suffered much on that account, being forced into the field, contrary to their consciences; for they would sooner lose their own lives than take the life of any human creature. I saw it my duty to bear a public testimony against these violent and cruel proceedings: and likewise against the practice of slaveholding. Several were convinced of the impiety of detaining their fellow creatures in bondage, and liberated their slaves; while others were induced to treat them with greater humanity and kindness.

I preached at a quarterly meeting at Maybery's chapel, to about two thousand persons; and being pressed in spirit, I cried out, "Do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God." Some of those who were without called for an officer to apprehend me. When the meeting concluded, I walked through the midst of the people, but no one laid hands upon me. Many backsliders were restored, during my stay in this circuit; and although I met with various trials, I had many refreshing seasons.

I preached near a place called the Desert. I am informed that this wilderness is fifty miles long, and twenty in breadth. In the midst of it is a lake five miles in length, and three in breadth, in which are abundance of fish of various kinds. When the Indians were driven from Carolina, many of them fled to this Desert, in which they found a small spot of high land, where they lived for a time chiefly on roots and fish; but at length they were compelled to forsake their asylum, by the multitude of wild beasts, that surrounded and attacked them. The panthers, bears, and wolves, are very numerous and of a large size.

I am now in my element, forming a new circuit, and have a hopeful prospect. In one place there was a great awakening among the people. Next day I preached there again, and the presence of the Lord was remarkable among us. Several fell down under the Word; and I was agreeably surprised to see some of the rich ones mourning for their sins, and penitently seeking the Lord. In a little time a large society was formed in this place, many of whom were persons of considerable property.

About this time Mr. Asbury informed me that he could not visit the South, and desired that I would attend to the stationing of the preachers. In November I began my autumnal visitation. At Brunswick quarterly meeting we had a blessed opportunity. About twelve preachers met, and had their respective appointments. At the request of the brethren, I traveled through the circuits, and the presence of the Lord was in the mist of our congregations.

In March, 1782, I crossed James River, and entered Fluvannah Circuit. My heart was closely united to the followers of Jesus, some of whom have emancipated their slaves. On the 23rd, I attended my brother Richard Garrettson's quarterly meeting, which was held at Colonel F___'s. The Colonel is an excellent man. He speaks boldly for his master, and has liberated many of his slaves. My brother traveled with me several days, and we had profitable times together. In the beginning of April I set apart some days for retirement, and felt an intense desire for more intimate communion with my heavenly Friend. I want to walk humbly and closely with him. It is not enough for me to preach to others, I need food daily for my own soul! Lord give me continually to hunger and thirst after Thee! When I got to Leesburgh, I found the small pox very rife; but at Baltimore Town, it was much more so. My scruples being removed, I submitted to inoculation, for which I have no reason to repent.

My labors in Virginia the last year, were not in vain. I bless the Lord for making me instrumental in uniting many of our brethren, both preachers and others, who had disagreed about the ordinances. It was a year of humiliation, and I trust that I increased in the knowledge and grace of God.

In the year 1783, I was chiefly employed in the Peninsula and the Lord manifested his lovingkindness and saving mercy in our assemblies. I never saw a greater meeting than we had at Barratt's Chapel in the autumn. Mr. Asbury requested me to go to Redstone, in order to form some circuits in that country. I was willing to visit them in the Spring, but felt a reluctance to expose myself in the back settlements in the dead of winter, where all were strangers to our doctrine and discipline. I have never been able to determine whether I was right or wrong, in refusing to go at that season. However I suffered much in my own mind, wishing many times I had taken up the cross.

In 1784, I labored in Kent, Sussex, and Talbot Circuits; brother M____, who was called the weeping prophet, traveled with me, and the Lord owned our labors. Several hundred persons were awakened, and the societies increased on every side. It was not uncommon to see at our quarterly meetings a congregation of three or four thousand people. Being at Dover, on my way to Charleston, I received information that Dr. Coke and Mr. W____ were just arrived from England. I immediately received them as welcome messengers, and next day accompanied them to the

quarterly meeting at Barratt's chapel. Fifteen preachers were present; and it was concluded that I should go through the continent, and call a general Conference at Baltimore immediately.

In six weeks time, after traveling upwards of twelve hundred miles, I settled the business, preaching once or twice every day. At the Conference, which began on Christmas Day, I was appointed to labor in Nova Scotia. About the middle of February, 1785, I embarked in company with brother C____ for Halifax in Nova Scotia. For two days the weather was very pleasant; but the wind shifted, and it became extremely cold and tempestuous, so that for several days we almost despaired of life. After being tossed fourteen days on the ocean, we landed at Halifax, and were kindly received by P. M____ esq; and a few other friends. Brother C____ went to Shelburne, and I remained at Halifax. Mr. M____ having hired a large room, furnished it with seats and a pulpit; and I preached almost every night in the week, and three times on the Lord's Day, with a degree of freedom; some were awakened and added to the society.

Having repeated invitations, in the latter end of March I set out on a journey through the country. Although the snow was deep. In a fortnight's time I traveled about three hundred miles, and preached twenty times, to many attentive hearers, some of whom I hope were brought under a serious concern for their soul's happiness. A few old Methodists, who were emigrants from Europe, rejoiced greatly to hear that gospel which they had been so long accustomed to in their native country. Upon returning again to Halifax, I was exercised with many trials; however, I found liberty to preach to the people.

On the 20th of May I preached at Windsor, to an attentive congregation. On Sunday I preached in the courthouse, to a people who seemed to be well pleased, but none of them were convinced of sin. At Cornwallis there appeared a small moving in the minds of the people, and I tarried several days in that town. Twelve persons who were deeply awakened joined together in society.

I traveled through Wilmot, Granville, Annapolis, and Digby, and had many hearers, but few were willing to give their hearts to the Lord. At Digby, they were entirely destitute of a minister, and, I fear, of religion too. And even at Annapolis, they were not in a much better situation; for although they had a minister, yet his discourses were not adapted to awaken the sleepy sinners. Many looked upon me as their enemy, and would not come to hear the Word. I had some sorrowful hours on account of the wickedness of the people, but the Lord upheld me with his divine consolations.

Tuesday, July 26, I embarked for Liverpool, where I landed on Friday, and had a refreshing time while preaching in the meeting-house. This town contains about one thousand inhabitants. I found that the Lord had blessed the labors of brothers M____ and C____ among the people of Liverpool, and they had joined twenty in Society. I continued in the town about a month, and when I departed there were forty in society, several of whom had found pardon, and some were under deep distress.

In August I arrived at Shelburne, where I found sixteen whites in society, and many blacks. We had a little preaching house built by Mr, W____ which contained about 100 people. In a little time, our house would not contain the congregation, and Mr. W____, minister of the Church of

England, invited me to preach in his church, which I did for three Sabbath days. I was then obliged to stand on a great rock in the street, and preach to the people. In a short time our friends enlarged the house, so that it would accommodate about four hundred hearers, but still it was too small, upon which I desired the blacks to build themselves a little house at the north end of the town, and I preached to them separately, in order to have more room for the whites.

In proportion as the work of God revived, the children of Belial were enraged, and they frequently stoned the house. The house stood on pillars on the brow of a hill, and one evening while I was preaching by candlelight to nearly four hundred people, the mob attempted to get away the pillars, intending to shove the house down the hill. In the midst of my preaching, I suddenly cried out, "Without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie." The rioters instantly ran off with hideous yells, and we were left to worship God peaceably.

I labored in and about Shelburne six weeks, during which time numbers, both whites and blacks were added to the society, many of whom tasted the good Word of God, and felt the powers of the world to come. Being under an engagement to return to the new societies which had been formed, I embarked for Liverpool.

Soon after we hoisted sail, an officer of a man of war, which lay in the harbor, said to his fellows, "He is going;" when they cried amain, "Hail the Methodist parson! Hail the Methodist parson!" Our captain paid no attention to them; but they fired a cannon ball at us, which providentially passed by without doing us any injury.

At Liverpool I stayed a short time, and found the work of the Lord prospering under the ministry of Brother M____. From thence I went to Halifax, and had the satisfaction of finding that the labors of brother B____ were blessed to the people. Most of the winter I was employed in the towns between Annapolis and Halifax. In the Spring of 1786, I went again to Shelburne, and found that a black man from England had done much harm among the people. I left nearly two hundred blacks in society, but upon my return, did not find above half that number. I went to their town, and called them together. Many were convinced of their error, and united again with their brethren.

I had a great desire to visit Barrington, about 30 miles to the southwest of Shelburne; and accordingly set out for that place accompanied by Mr. E____. I preached at Port Roseway, where we have a small society. From thence we went to Cape Negro, and were kindly entertained by Mr. S____. A few families attended preaching, and a good work began among them. Next day we got to Barrington, being obliged to wade through mud and water a considerable part of the way. We sat down on a large stone in the town, not knowing any person who would receive us. Their minister, (who had left them) had written a letter, insinuating "That there was one Garrettson going through the country, who was a dangerous Arminian! and requiring that they would be upon their guard against him!"

I desired my companion to inform the inhabitants that a stranger intended to preach in the meeting-house an hour before sunset. At the time appointed I had about twenty hearers, and next day a few more. On Sunday the congregation increased to a hundred, but still the people looked very coldly upon me, and were greatly afraid of being deceived. At night I preached on a little

island about seven miles off, where I was kindly received by Mr. S____, a sensible man. On Friday, I went to another little island, to Mrs. D____'s, who has a friendship for religious people.

On Sunday morning I was greatly distressed, being afraid that I should not be able to profit the people at Barrington. I went to the meeting-house at the hour appointed for preaching, but no congregation appeared. Upon which I retired into a wood about a quarter of a mile from the place, and entreated the Lord, to send out the people, and bless his Word. Upon returning again toward the meeting-house, I saw the people assembling from every part of the town, and in a little time we had a large company. The cloud that had oppressed my mind instantly vanished; the Scriptures opened to me; and the Word of the Lord reached the hearts of the hearers. Between two and three hundred were awakened in a greater or lesser degree. After the meeting, it appeared, that their shyness and prejudices were removed, and they came around me on every side, with tears, inviting me to their houses.

Being obliged to attend my appointment at Shelburne, I went there for a few days; and then returned to Barrington, to take care of the awakened souls. I called at Cape Negro; and the Lord began a blessed work in several families there. When I got to Barrington, I found many thirsting for the Word. I took the town in rotation, and visited the greatest part of the houses. I found but very few families in which there were not some awakened persons. The people were now willing to be called Arminians, and to unite in society,

[To be continued]

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Part 10

THE EXPERIENCE AND TRAVELS OF MR. FREEBORN GARRETSON -- Minister of the Gospel, in North America, extracted from the Narrative written by himself, and printed at Philadelphia in 1791. -- From The Arminian Magazine -- October, 1794

At Cape Negro, I found several persons, and particularly Mrs. S____, under deep convictions. In a few days after, the Lord manifested his peace and pardoning love to her soul. Mr. A____, who had been at sea, and had never heard a Methodist preachers came home in the midst of this awakening season. The Lord touched his heart, and he began to seek for mercy. Mrs. D____, wife of a gentleman of fortune said, "I am afraid there is no mercy for me, for when I was eleven years of age, I was convinced under the preaching of Messrs. Wesley and Whitefield, in England; and Mr. Whitefield received me for a convert. But now I am a vile backslider!" A young woman, who was at that time in the house, in great distress, retired with the resolution never to rest till she found mercy. About three o'clock, the Lord manifested his forgiving love to her soul. Soon after they came to the place where I preached, and went round the house among the young people, exhorting and encouraging them to seek the Lord.

About this time the Lord raised up a young preacher, J. M____, who came to my assistance, and was helpful in the work. I continued at Shelburne, Barrington, and the adjacent settlements, till Autumn. But being obliged to visit the East, I left the new societies under the care of J. M____ and embarked for Liverpool. At this place I found a great alteration for the better. The

first time I visited the people here, we had only seven communicants, but now we have above sixty. During the Winter, I went to Halifax, Windsor Cornwallis, Horton, and a few other settlements. The Lord blessed my labors, particularly at Horton, where I preached in different parts of the town, and many were added to the society.

I received a letter from Dr. Coke, requesting my attendance at the Baltimore Conference. It was with reluctance I came into Nova Scotia, but now I feel a willingness to labor and suffer in the cause of Christ, among this people. During the two years I have traveled in the Province, the Lord had been with me, by land and sea. There are now about six hundred members in society. April 10, 1787, I bade farewell to my dear embarked at Halifax with Captain Wilson, for Boston in New England.

Sunday, April 16, I preached in the cabin with freedom. The wind being high and contrary, we were obliged, for the preservation of our lives, to come to anchor between two islands, which afforded me an opportunity of preaching on each island. I likewise gave a few books to the people, and left many of them in tears. On the 19th I landed at Boston, where I preached a few times, and then pursued my journey through New York and Philadelphia, to Baltimore.

We had a blessed time at the Conference, and I was appointed to labor again in the peninsula. May 28, I preached in Tuckahoe church to about a thousand people, and next day to nearly as many in the same place. The presence of the Lord was in the midst of us. At Talbot court-house, I was surprised to see the multitude of serious hearers. I suppose there were about five hundred more than our chapel could contain; but many were disappointed, for I had very little liberty.

The people in this part of the country seem as if they would be all Methodists. It is now a small thing to be a Methodist in name only, but to love God with all the heart, and our neighbor as ourselves, is a matter of very great importance.

On Wednesday, I preached to the persecuted flock at brother R___'s, and in the afternoon had a blessed time the Bayside chapel. Next day about four hundred hearers attended at Bollingbroke chapel. This society will not detain their fellow creatures in bondage, but freely liberate their poor slaves. They are likewise remarkable for peace and harmony among themselves.

Sunday, June 4 -- We had a large congregation at brother M___'s. Some time ago there was a great revival in these parts. The cries of those who were distressed for their sins, were frequently so loud as to drown the voice of the preacher. This gave offense to some calm, cold professors. They were afraid of wild-fire, and their well-meant efforts to prevent it have brought on too much dryness and deadness.

June 13 -- We had a precious opportunity at Hooper's Island. Many were awakened at this meeting, and notwithstanding the great cries of the distressed, I never saw less confusion on such an occasion. Five persons were brought into liberty, three of whom were sisters. I continued in the peninsula till May 1788, and preached in all the counties on the eastern shore, viz, three of

Virginia three of Delaware, and eight of Maryland. I cannot say that we had much increase, but I hope the societies, in general were edified and built up in their most holy faith.

At the Conference, I was appointed to the northern district, which included New York, Long Island, and New Rochelle Circuits. Twelve young preachers accompanied me, and our gracious Lord opened our way in a wonderful manner, notwithstanding all the invectives which were thrown out against us by ignorant and prejudiced persons. Before winter, we formed several large circuits, and most of the preachers were comfortably situated.

Multitudes of sinners began to inquire after the way of salvation, and the country was not a little alarmed at the sudden, and almost universal spread of the Gospel. Some cried out, "The King of England has sent these preachers to make the people disaffected to government, and to bring on another War!" Others exclaimed, "These are the false prophets spoken of in Scripture, who should come in the last days, and deceive, if it were possible the very elect!" Some candidly acknowledged, "They are good men, and do much good." While others vehemently declared, "Nay; they are deceivers of the people!"

The ministers of the various denominations were afraid lest we should break up their congregations. Some of them openly opposed us, and publicly declared that the doctrine we taught was false. Notwithstanding all these jealousies and clamors, the power of God attended the Word, a great reformation was evident among the people; many of whom were enabled to speak freely and feelingly of what the Lord had done for their souls. I went through the district (about one thousand miles) every three months, and then tarried a week or two at New York.

In June, 1789, I preached in the city of Hudson, where at first I met with some encouragement, but after spending much labor among that people I am afraid not many were profited by my ministry. However, I am clear in the matter, having warned, invited, and with many tears entreated them to embrace the blessings and promises of the gospel.

July 1 -- I went to Albany. Some time ago I petitioned the assembly, and obtained permission to preach in the city hall, which has been open for me ever since; but many of the inhabitants are greatly prejudiced against the Methodists. However a few are joined in society, which is gradually increasing.

July 6 -- In my travels this day, I overtook an old gentleman. After a few questions, he told me, "Sir, I am a follower of Christ, and know my peace is made with God. Indeed, I live in sin, for we are all sinners, but I have the imputed righteousness of Christ, and it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwells in me. Sometimes I swear; and have been drunk, too, many times since I was made a new creature. But my comfort is, I cannot fall."

I asked him, "What will become of your soul, if you were to die drunk?" "Die drunk!" he replied, "What would you think to see the sun fall? Was it ever known that a saint died drunk? Impossible!"

To which I answered, "According to your doctrine if you always keep yourself intoxicated with strong liquor, you will never die. Sin made man mortal, but I cannot learn from Scripture that drunkenness will "make him immortal."

"Sir," said he, "I perceive you are a rank Arminian, and hold out a very uncomfortable doctrine to God's dear children. You are an accuser of the brethren. I am an old Englishman, a convert of Mr. Whitefield's, and a New-light by profession, from the sole of my foot to the crown of my head."

After laboring some time to show this poor self-deceived Antinomian his danger, I wished him well, and pursued my journey. I traveled through the country, and preached to multitudes of attentive hearers, although many were greatly afraid of being deceived by the false prophet, as they were pleased to call me.

I preached at Ashgrove, where we have many kind friends, and they have built us a church. When I first came into this settlement, I found some emigrants from Ireland who had been acquainted with the Methodists in their own country; but alas, most of them were in a fallen state. They had lost the life and power of religion. The Lord was pleased to bless the Word to the awakening and re-converting of their souls. Backsliders were healed, and many who had never heard the gospel before, were brought to experience that faith which justifies the ungodly. At our love-feast were present about two hundred persons, most of whom were young converts.

July 14 -- I preached at Spence-town. In spite of all opposition, the work of God prospers in this place, and the country round about it. Next day, at Sheffield, I was greatly opposed. However, some brands are plucked from the burning. The day following I preached in the Presbyterian chapel at Canaan. The people of this place are of a mild, catholic disposition. Their former minister, Mr. T____, was a pious affectionate man, and highly esteemed all who love the Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity, even though they were called Arminians. A number of souls are converted in different parts of the town, so that at present we have several classes here.

Sunday 18 -- Our quarterly meeting began. Souls are flocking to Jesus, and the number of disciples increases. Many have been much troubled with Antinonianism in this part of the vineyard, but that pernicious delusion is now vanishing away.

July 24 -- I continued writing till two o'clock, when looking at my watch, and perceiving that I had scarce time to get to the place of my appointment, I rose in haste, and went to the meadow to fetch my horse, where he was tethered by a long rope. I took hold of the rope, but by some means the horse being frightened, began to run, and I was entangled in the rope. How it was, I cannot tell, but for some time I felt myself in great distress, and then lost the use of my limbs and senses.

I lay in this situation a considerable time, till at last seeing the initial letters of my name in my hat, I recollected who I was, and immediately calling on the name of the Lord. He strengthened me to rise and walk to the house. A doctor being sent for, he found my right shoulder dislocated, and almost every joint of my hands and arms much strained. After being bled, and the shoulder set, I perfectly recovered my senses. Many of the neighbors came in, expecting to see me die, to whom

I was constrained to cry out, as I lay on the bed, 'perfect love casteth out fear.' Now I most assuredly know that there is a reality in the religion which I have been recommending to others, for these many years."

I felt such a love for the cause of God, that I was willing to suffer anything for it. I had not the least repining thought, but cried out, "Lord, it is good for me to be afflicted." I never felt a greater degree of reconciliation to the providence and dealings of God, and was constrained, with a flood of tears, to exhort all around me, to flee to Jesus, for I saw a fullness of love in him for every soul of man. The only thing which induced me to desire a longer stay in this world, was to be instrumental in the Lord's hands, of spreading his glorious gospel.

Sat. 25 -- Being desirous of attending the Dover quarterly meeting, I went in a carriage as far as Oblong, and next day got to Dover church, where I was enabled to preach with great liberty. But as I could not ride on horseback, and the roads were too rough for a carriage, I was obliged to decline attending my New England appointments, and therefore retired to New York for a few days.

From thence I went to Long Island, and had a refreshing season among the sincere followers of Christ. I hope my affliction is sanctified to me, and with the other mercies of the Almighty, works together for my good.

Aug. 28 -- I set out on my journey through the district, and found an increase of members in almost every society. In my return I visited several towns in Connecticut where I had never been before, and found enlargement of heart while preaching among the people.

Nov. 19 -- I found such liberty in preaching at New York, as I had never experienced in that city, and conceived great hopes that there would be a revival shortly, which accordingly happened in a very extraordinary manner. The work first began in a prayer-meeting, and then spread through the great congregation. The church people, in general, do not oppose our doctrine, but one of that order in this place, has not only preached against us, but likewise printed and spread abroad books, in order to prejudice the minds of the people' against us.

June 2, 1790 -- I set out on my journey to Boston, and had large congregations in almost every place. On Wednesday, I declared to a serious people at Sing Sing, "Now, the just shall live by faith. At Oakley church, which was crowded with hearers, I felt much satisfaction in explaining the first Psalm, and likewise in the evening, while enforcing St. John's declaration, "He that is born of God, doth not commit sin." In Cornwall, I trust, several were awakened one man in particular, who never rested till he found peace with God. At Albany, I had many difficulties to encounter, in building a little preaching-house, which is now likely to be finished. I found the work increasing in most of the societies I passed through. In October I returned to New York, where the Conference was held.

I have met with trials of a peculiar nature, some of which I once thought I never should have to encounter. I wish at all times to be resigned to the will of my heavenly Father. Hitherto the Lord hath helped me, and I am truly thankful, that he gives me a heart to bless them that curse me, and to pray for those who persecute, and despitefully use me. It affords me the most joyful

satisfaction, that more than two thousand have lately joined the society, and I trust above one half of them are really born of the Spirit. Between eight and nine thousand are so far enlightened as to see, in a measure, the propriety of the doctrine and discipline of the Methodists. A great, and almost general reformation is evident in many places. Many thousands in the back settlements, who could seldom hear a sermon, have now the opportunity of hearing preaching every fortnight, or oftener. Some of the ministers are more assiduous in their labors, and their congregations are increased. Where they had only ten church members, they have now twenty.

With regard to the doctrine taught by the Methodists, I have had no reason to doubt of its veracity, and conformity to the Holy Scriptures, from the first day I embraced it. As for the principles taught among other denominations of Christians, I am willing to think and let think; only it appears to me unreasonable that persons should continue in this, or the other persuasion, merely because their parents brought them up in that belief.

While I have the use of my understanding, I can never embrace the doctrine of unconditional election and reprobation. It is unsupported by Scripture, as well as repugnant to sound reason, to suppose that the gracious and merciful Creator, should front all eternity, consign the far greater part of the human race to eternal fire! I have never yet conversed with the defenders of this horrible decree, but who frequently contradict themselves.

O why should any be angry with us for declaring that Christ tasted death for every man; and that the penitent prodigal who forsakes his wickedness, and humbly returns to God, through faith in Christ, shall he instantly received; and, that the Lord is faithful, not only to forgive our sins, but also to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Philadelphia,
Freeborn Garrettson
1791

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THE END