

Friendly Endeavor

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(Quakers)

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A FRIENDLY ENDEAVOR

VOLUME III.

JANUARY, 1921

NUMBER 7

JOHN.

By Thomas Clark Henderson.

John the Baptist was one of the most rugged characters in sacred history. He was a man of keen mentality, strong convictions, great courage, sweet humility, and utter self sacrifice, and he was true amidst almost universal opposition. At the close of his life—which should have been but the middle of his life—he was put into prison because of his faithfulness. His beautiful courage won for him what that courage often wins—imprisonment. The prisons of that day were not like the prisons of today; they were too vile to describe. But in that prison John had occasion to face some questions that he couldn't quite answer. When he heard of the works of Jesus, he sent two of his disciples to ask, "Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another?"

Some say that John was not doubting when he asked this question, but simply wanted to strengthen the faith of his disciples.

Others interpret this to mean that some questions were bothering him, and he sent to headquarters to get them answered.

You have no doubt observed that children are disposed to believe, but you may also remember that you didn't live many years till that easy faith of your childhood got some jolts.

I was the smallest of eight brothers, and like other small boys I wanted to fish, so I borrowed my big brother's pole and went at it. But first I prayed that I might catch one, and I did—caught a ten-inch perch. When I returned, the home-folk said, "Tom has got a fish." I answered "yes, God gave it to me." I will say here, that that incident saved me from throwing away my faith later.

There are two kinds of doubters. 1. Those who don't want truth. There are men who won't accept the truth no matter how it is brought to them. We have an example of this class in Matthew 11: 16-20. For such as these Jesus never had a kind word.

2. There others who are like John. They are disposed to find the truth, and accept it, but sometimes they come face to face with questions that they cannot answer.

It is to this second class that I bring this message.

John was of this class for four reasons. His doubting was not bitter, he came in a frank and open way. No, there was no bitterness in that heart cry

of John. It was a dilemma, confusion—he was seeking after right. Then he went straight to Jesus about it. In his perplexity there was no pulling down of the flag. He went to the place where he believed he could confirm his fluttering faith. Third: Jesus didn't scold him. He recognized the character of the doubt. God always purposes to help such as these. And last, the circumstances show it.

Let us look at some of the things that may have contributed to his doubting. Notice his physical condition—John accustomed as he was to the free air of the wilderness—stalwart John cramped up in that foul prison. When our physical powers are low, our moral powers tend to be low. There are preachers who say, "If you get to such and such a place you'll never have any trouble." Say! You just tell that preacher to change places with you. Oh, John, I know why you sent that question to Jesus. And I'm glad God was good enough to record it in these pages. Oh, friend, in those blue, dark, perplexing times just snuggle up to Jesus.

Then John had such an abundance of opposition. There is one thing that even the most stalwart can have, and that is opposition. No one seemed to care about John, he had always stood it alone, and out in the old free life it had been easier, but here alone in that awful prison, how naturally had come the question, "Art thou He?"

Another thing we will mention was the seeming neglect of Jesus. John's great mission had been to introduce the Bride to the Bridegroom. Now, here he is in prison.

Friend, have you prayed when God didn't seem to hear? Sometimes the heart cries out "oh, Father, I'm not doubting Thee, I am not losing faith in Thee, but have you forgotten me?" Battle on, dear friend, God hasn't forgotten you. Oh, we will battle on.

Then, John may have had a mistaken conception of Jesus' mission. He might have thought "Why doesn't He do something? Why doesn't He revolutionize things?" John, I wonder if you hadn't been expecting too much, too soon! Oh, you spirited, ambitious folk, let God take slow steps but long ones. Don't curb your zeal. Keep going on, but be patient. John, we can sympathize with you. Disappointment, dark out-look, but Oh, if you don't succeed as you want to, if you see no light ahead, hold steady. God will pull you through it somehow.

But don't coddle your doubts. Coddling is a hot house to make them grow. Pull them up by the roots and take them to Jesus. Don't go to scribes and Pharisees. Take your questions right to headquarters.

Again, notice that Jesus wasn't impatient. The strongest and biggest of us will have troubles. Take them to Jesus. He is patient, always patient. Notice the answer Jesus sent. He didn't say, "Yes I am the one." He sent back word of the same old evidence he had before he was sent to prison. He sent the right kind of an answer. Jesus won't always fix up your head, but He will always warm your heart. He warmed John with a blessing. It seems to me it said, "I haven't visited you I know, but I know you'll keep true. I don't have to call you up everyday—you will understand, and blessed art thou John."

Oh friend, let us live so that Jesus can say, when the dark day comes, and some things can't be understood—"I can trust you to be true—blessed art thou."

BE YOURSELF.

Be natural (B), for if you don't be natural you'll be flat (Bb). Don't tune your prayers to the sound of someone's else. Don't measure your testimonies by another's. Fill your own place. For, "concerning spiritual gifts brethren, I would not have you ignorant. There are diversities of gifts, but the same spirit. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. For as the body is one and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing, and if the whole were hearing, where were the smelling. But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body as it hath pleased him."

Do we try to use our hands to walk on? Yet one member of the church who has the office of hands, will be discouraged because they are not the feet. Be what God wants YOU to be, and not what he wants some one else to be. He will show you your place if you have your eye on Him instead of what some one else is doing. If the eye tried to be the ear see what confusion would follow. Any number of ears couldn't make up for the loss of the eyes. The whole body would be crippled and its usefulness almost gone. The Lord wants you just to be natural. If you are not, all your

efforts will be absolutely flat. Be yourself. Put yourself so completely in the power of the Spirit, that you can say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me, and the life I now live in the flesh, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me." Be yourself.

—Grace Cook James.

SOCIETY NEWS

SCOTTS MILLS.

The monthly C. E. business meeting and social was held at the home of F. W. Bartholomew, Friday evening, December 3, 1920. It was re-election of officers. John Brougher was re-elected as president.

Our C. E. Prayer-meetings have been very well attended and much blessed of the Lord.

A Junior C. E. has been organized with Mrs. Clarence Gidley as Superintendent. Much interest is being shown among the children.

While our pastor was away in revival effort at Lents, Mrs. Elizabeth Ward and Mr. Mills, of N. P. E. I., preached for us on the Sundays of December 5 and 12, respectively.

Miss Olive Merry and John Brougher are home from Willamette University for a two weeks' vacation.

Mrs. T. E. Kirkhart, one of our faithful members, is very ill at her home. We miss her very much.

We were glad to have our pastor and wife with us over Sunday, the 19th. At the evening service two souls were definitely blessed.

Mr. and Mrs. Sims are now engaged in revival at Highland.

SPRINGBROOK.

Dr. Gertrude Minthorn visited our Sunday School and morning church service December 4th. She gave a very interesting talk to the children at the opening of S. S. Miss Eunice Lewis accompanied her, dressed in the native costume of India.

The church service was given to Dr. Minthorn in which she told of many of her experiences in India as a medical missionary. She brought to us very forcefully the need of Jesus brought to India as the only hope of salvation to these people, who are so rapidly receiving civilization as the world gives it. Her message was very helpful and instructive.

A very impressive and well rendered missionary program ("Voices from Everywhere") was given by the young people of Springbrook at the auditorium the evening of December 14th. The numbers

given consisted of plays representing scenes in China, readings, dialogues, a Japanese drill by eight little girls in costume, music; one number sung in Japanese tongue by small girl; a sextette of young men and a mixed quartette. We were especially favored with a reading by one of Dayton's little girls, whose reading was very unusual. The program was very impressive and carried the true missionary spirit all the way through to a large audience.

Prof. Perisho, of Newberg, brought out the college lantern, Sunday evening, December 19, and showed the pictures of Palestine, while Mr. Miller gave the lecture, which goes with the pictures. The pictures are very good. They make one feel he is there, and the lecture explains them well. Both lecture and pictures are very interesting and instructive.

Mr. and Mrs. Justin Haworth left December 20, for California, where they will visit with relatives for a month or six weeks.

Myrtle Newby entertained seven of her friends at a surprise birthday dinner given in honor of Estelle Stroud, whose birthday was December 19. Estelle was thoroughly surprised after arriving from church, to have Stella Hubbard, Marjorie Brown, Lucile Johnson, Grace McCollough, Myrtle Green, Daisy Bisbee and Ethel Cowgill slip in just in time to get a plate for the chicken. The surprise was not complete until, in the afternoon, Paul Brown, Richard Haworth, Roscoe Stroud, Clio Mardock, Sanford Brown and Vernon Newby came in for a "sing."

HIGHLAND.

Revival services began here December 19, with Edgar Sims as evangelist. We are expecting that many of our young people will receive experiences in these meetings that will be permanent. We thank God for the number who have already paid the price of complete consecration and are being used of God in the initial services of the campaign.

In spite of the 45-mile gale that swept over Salem, December 10, about a dozen Endeavorers met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Armstrong for the monthly business meeting. It was voted to dispense with the regular C. E. topics during the revival and devote the regular hour to prayer.

Our monthly missionary meeting of November 28, was devoted to the study of Friends mission work in Jamaica. These meetings are proving very beneficial and the most of us are finding ourselves exceedingly ignorant of the Friends foreign missionary work. The meeting was well attended. More than half of our missionary budget for the year has been raised and we expect the remainder to be in soon.

Edith Frazier, from the State Normal, Isola Smith, from O. A. C.; Gladys Scott, from P. C., and Melva Lull, from her school at Roseburg, are all spending the holidays at their homes here.

John Brougher is at his home at Scotts Mills for the vacation.

Lester and Fay McCracken have returned to Highland from Davenport, Iowa, where they completed a course in Chiropractic. They are opening offices in the U. S. National Bank building, as assistants to Dr. O. L. Scott, and will be ready for practice about January 1st.

Mrs. Mary Turner, who has not been well for several weeks, is able to attend regular services again.

Vera Lull and Alden White sang a special song at C. E., December 19, which was a real blessing to all of us.

GREENLEAF.

Our revival meetings closed on Thanksgiving, with Rev. Glascock, of Cincinnati, Ohio, as our evangelist. We can truly say that we had great success, and God was with us. All but three students were reached in the Seminary, and the greater number were sanctified. Also much work was done outside the school. Since the meetings we have taken about thirty-two new members into the church.

Miss Dilla Tucker, one of our C. E. members, who has been attending Pacific College, had to return home on account of illness.

We certainly had an encouraging C. E. business meeting December 10th at our church. We took in eighteen active members, four active student members and one associate member into our society, and they have proved to be a great help to the older members, especially in our weekly prayer-meetings. At this meeting we also decided to have two new committees. One is the deputation committee, which is to see what work can be taken up at out-posts, and the other will be an information committee, which will keep us informed of work of other Christian Endeavor societies.

Our pastor, Lindley A. Wells, is holding revival meetings at one of our out-posts. We feel that the Lord is with him, and through our Lord can all be conquered.

At our prayer-meeting last week, we accepted the suggestion of Mrs. Wells, to make some personal sacrifice this week, and use it for relief work.

SOUTH SALEM.

A business meeting and social were held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Miles November 27. The following officers were elected: President, Ethel Miller; Vice-president, William Wright; Secretary and Treasurer, Catherine Pember-

ton. After the business meeting we turned our attention to an enjoyable social hour. Games were played during which Ross passed a big basket of apples, which we ate heartily.

We were glad to have with us Pres. McGrew, of Penn College, who gave us an interesting sermon Sunday morning, December 12th. Also Dr. Coffin, of Whittier College, gave a helpful sermon at the evening services, on "Health" and how the world was growing worse because of our carelessness.

Our Sunday School gave their Christmas program Wednesday night before Christmas. A missionary offering was given by the classes, also an offering of food stuffs to be given to the poor of the city was a part of the program.

BOISE.

Evangelist J. L. Glascock was in Boise for 17 days, from November 28 to December 14, holding special revival services for us. The Holy Spirit was present to perform His office work, and there were made 58 professions of faith, some being reclaimed, some saved, and some sanctified. Praise the Lord for the good work that was done and for the word that was so faithfully preached by Brother Glascock. We, as a church, feel stronger because of these meetings and better fitted for the work the Lord would have us do here in Boise, and as a young people's society I believe we are better equipped for winning the young people for Jesus, and I hope we may keep the visions for service the Lord is giving us.

The revival spirit still prevails, and we are still holding onto God with faith for the salvation of others. There was one gloriously saved in the meeting last Sunday evening.

Mamie Allen, who has been with her sister at Challis during most of the summer, is with us again.

Our society wishes all the young people of Oregon Yearly Meeting a "Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year."

STAR.

I. G. Lee, of Salem, Oregon, held a two weeks' Revival Meeting here. His messages were very helpful, so clear and simple. There was quite good attendance most of the time. As a result there were a number taken into the church, several being young people whose names had never been transferred to the active member list. Then there were some who asked to join the C. E., as active members. They were Ethel McGrath and Marguerite Parks.

Our Christmas exercises are to be "White Gifts for the King," and each class is to present a gift for some needy cause. A number are planning to give

to the Armenian work. The Builders' class of young people are planning to give personal gifts to each inmate of the Ada County Hospital. Christmas morning they are going to the Hospital to sing.

A new S. S. was organized December 19, at a school house about two miles east of Star, at Liberty Station. Wm. McKibben took an auto load from here. He was elected as superintendent of the school. There were about thirty-five present besides those who went from Star.

SECOND CHURCH—PORTLAND.

Yes, Lents has come back again. We are still alive, even though we seem to have no correspondence gift among us. Maybe we will develop other great men in time. We still have a president, although he has been in the hospital and lost his appendix. He is recovering rapidly and expects to be on the job soon.

Watch for news of a wedding in Lents items next month—(not the president.)

Ralph Repp looks like the full moon these days—mumps, that's all.

Jasper Ballou also visited the hospital, and when he came away he had left his appendix. This happened about ten days ago, and he expects to be back attending Institute next week.

Lurana Terrell, our beloved pastor, is seriously ill at the hospital, having undergone an operation there, Tuesday, the 27th, and will probably have a second one in a few weeks. We beg the prayers of all interested friends.

PIEDMONT.

Ralph Dodderidge is at home from Eugene for the holidays.

Miss Mary Allen and sister Grace, with their mother, have moved to Piedmont, and are only five blocks from the church. Mrs. Allen is critically ill at the present time.

Thirty-five of the Training school students are spending the holidays at their respective homes. It leaves us rather lonely with a family of only eleven.

The new dormitory is nearing completion, and we hope to occupy it by the beginning of the next semester, February 1st. The student body of the Institute have collected \$500 among themselves to furnish the third floor of the dormitory. They are now making \$1,000.00 their goal. We hope they reach it.

Our revival meetings are to begin January 2nd, the Lord willing, with Rev. J. L. Glascock as evangelist.

We are more than delighted to have the Morford family in our midst. They came to us from the east, and are a great blessing. Two of the young people attend the Institute.

PORTLAND—FIRST CHURCH.

Our regular C. E. business meeting was held this month, at the home of Carl and Audrey Swanson. After an extemporaneous program was given, we served candy, and sang a few hymns, thus ending our good time.

Dr. Gertrude Minthorn, a missionary from India, gave an interesting talk about her work, to the Endeavorers, December 19.

We are glad to report that Mildred Hadley is recovering from her operation of a few weeks ago, and expects to return to Pacific College soon.

Our Christmas program was given by the Sunday School. The complete story of the Christ child was acted out by Mary, Joseph, the wise men, shepherds and angels. Money was given for relief work in Armenia as a Christmas offering.

We have raised over \$1200 for relief work.

Our people have greatly enjoyed the recent visit of Pres. McGrew and Rev. C. O. Whitely, from Iowa. They gave inspiring and helpful messages, and we have been blest by their presence.

"WHAT DO YOU MORE THAN OTHERS?"

We, the followers of Jesus Christ, must necessarily be different from the world. Here are some of the ways:

1. We believe the Word of God as it stands and are not trying to explain away any part of it.
2. We are born again, and will live up to the standard of holiness.
3. We will be overcomers and more than conquerors.
4. We will be different from the world in our dress, and in our amusements.
5. We will be different from the world in our relation to all the things of the world.
6. We will be different in our attitude toward the program of God. It is one thing to put everything on the altar, and be sanctified, and another to leave it there and walk on with God.

(Notes from Carey Jessup's sermon to the young people Sunday afternoon at Portland Quarterly Meeting.)

Here is sort of revised version of Habakkuk 3:17-18, for those who lost their prune crop this fall:

"Although the prune tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the limbs, the labour of the prunes shall fail, and the acres shall yield no fruit, the crop shall be spoiled by the rain, and there shall be not a good prune in the orchard—Yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation."

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Happy New Year.

Accept sincerest greetings,
And Happy New Year too,
May all the good things in the world
Be showered over you.

You will notice the articles appearing in this paper recently by Grace Cook James. We are not calling attention to these, because that is not necessary, but we do feel that a few comments are in order.

You have doubtless been uniting with us in prayer for the paper. We have besought earnestly that the blessing of the Lord might be upon it. We have not allowed one issue to be sent out without first praying till we felt that God had it in hand, and would take care of it. Sometimes it has been easy, and the Lord seemed to give the assurance that hearts would be blessed that month. At other times it has been a heavy burden to pray through till we felt the seal of the Lord upon it. But we have cried to God these times, and wrestled over it, telling Him that unless the Holy Spirit spoke through the columns, and shone out through the pages, it would be a useless waste of time and energy, and a woeful waste of money to print the paper at all. But somehow God has always helped us to pray down a blessing on each month's issue before it left, and the letters that have come in have proved that the humble little messenger, "A Friendly Endeavor," has been an instrument used of God to help souls. We have prayed that God would use to His glory the articles that have been so cheerfully given us by the different pastors of the Yearly Meeting. There are still others from whom we would like to hear, but they have thus far been prevented by poor health or heavy responsibilities in their home churches.

But what we wanted to say at this time is this—that God has put a real definite call on the heart of Grace James, to write some things to our young people, and for this we truly and fervently thank Him. Mrs. James is a busy housewife just like hundreds of others of our

Yearly Meeting, but when the Holy Spirit spoke to her about this, she began saying, "Yes, Lord," and as fast as He talked, she wrote. She has three lively youngsters to care for, and the Lord knows all about that for He graciously gives her the messages by installments. She gets a thought while washing the breakfast dishes, and scratches it down, then while scrubbing the floor another comes, and so on until the whole plan of the message is laid on her heart and burned there. She does not pretend to be a "writer," but she is saved and sanctified and is obeying the call of God, and it is so definite and clear that she would not dare to disobey, neither does she want to.

We praise God for answered prayer. He is putting our young people and their needs, on hearts. We are not afraid to put in this paper any article that has come with such unction—the doctrine will be safe. They may be just simple little talks, but they will be illumined for somebody. God will talk to some one through them. Read carefully, that one may be you.

MEDITATIONS FROM A SCAFFOLD. (Continued from last month.)

Now, then, for some more meditations! It's really awfully poor business! The pastor is often, nay usually, the best equipped man in the church when it comes to brain work, spiritual work and organizing and executive ability; that is why he has been called. The thing that he can do that others can't do is to attend to the spiritual side of the church; surely no one will be bold enough to suggest anything of greater importance. What shot-sighted policy for a church to take a pastor away, even temporarily from this class of work even though through the self-sacrifice of the pastors this class of work can be "bought" (if such a term may be allowed) for less than the market price. How many a pastor could throw some light on the question of why they were not more successful the second year of their pastorate and why they left a field that still appeared to need them badly. When criticism of a pastor arises, as it sometimes does, how often it can be traced to improper treatment of the pastor resulting in unsuitable or half-cooked "food" for the flock.

After all, our God does know best, doesn't He? The Levites were to have no part nor inheritance with the others in the land, but they were to devote their entire time to God's worship. In return they were to be as well supplied with the necessities of life as those who enjoyed the material inheritances. We can't improve on God's plan, let's get back to it!

But isn't the pastor oftentimes to blame? Yes, undoubtedly. The system

has gotten such a hold on us that many pastors hold themselves too cheap. They have been paupers so long it is hard to lose the old habits. It's lots easier to do the job, and somehow slick through the preparations for services and do a lot of agonizing praying on the side for God to bless our feeble efforts in spite of lack of proper preparation, than to enroll others in the work and get the whole crowd to work, but it's lots harder on the pastor and not fair to the church, or if you like you can put it the other way, it's not fair to the pastor and it's hard on the church!

May God help the pastors to raise the standard high—and deliver the goods! May He help the people to rally to the standard—and quit robbing God. There's a lot of "dead" churches will wake up, a heap of "struggling" points will truly struggle to some advantage for God, a lot of discouraged church folk will be revived, a whole lot of indifferent sinners, seeing our "good works" will glorify God and be converted, while all along the line we'll see a real Move Forward.

A PASTOR.

A COMFORT SONG

When the day's so dreary
You can hardly force a smile,
And to go on living
Seems as tho it's not worth while,
When the sun has lost its shining,
And the clouds their silver lining,
Oh, nestle up close to Jesus.
When you are so weary
That it seems as tho you'd sink,
And your brain's so cloudy
You cannot pray or think,
You are weary too, and lonely
And your life seems trouble only—
Just nestle up close to Jesus.
Time spent in loving Jesus
Is time not spent in vain,
So the day need not be wasted
Though upon a bed of pain,
For in soul we'll be made stronger,
And our faith will hold out longer
If we nestle up close to Jesus.
G. C. James.

"Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of God . . . and I will write upon him my new name." Rev. 3:12.

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