

Levi Pennington

People

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## Pennington to The American Sunday School Union, August 13, 1947

Levi T. Pennington

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August 13, 1947.

American Sunday School Union,  
Spalding Building, Attention Raymond Targgart.  
Portland 4, Oregon.

Dear Friend:--

Perhaps there is nothing that I can do more than I have already done to help a situation at Woods, near Cloverdale, Oregon, but I wondered if there was anything that your organization can do to aid in the religious life of that little town.

There is a union church there, where a man whose name is pronounced as if it were spelled Resoncheck, though the pronunciation is only remotely related to the spelling, has been preaching for years, coming down from Neskowin, part of the time once a week for the Sunday morning meeting, most of the time twice a week, and much of the time three times a week, for a meeting Wednesday evening for bible study in addition to the two services on Sunday. And for a time there was a Sunday school with an attendance of a score of children, for a guess.

It is not by way of harsh criticism that I say that this preacher, however much may be said for his earnestness and persistency, was not the ablest sermonizer in the country; and the attendance at the church services fell off until it was almost nil. I have been there when there was only one man who lives at Woods in the audience, which that day had a total of less than ten. The day school teacher, who was always on hand while she was there, is teaching somewhere else; the Rogers family, who were the best help there, have moved to Ocean Lake; one woman who taught in the Sunday School has lost her health so that she is unable to be at the church any of the time now; the preacher is now preaching at least part of the time at "The Little Brown Church in the Wildwood" on the road a good many miles this side of Woods (he has painted the church white); and it seems that about the only one left to care what happens is a man named Michael B. Galloway, the one man who has been continually active in the work ever since he came to Woods.

And now he feels that it is almost entirely a lost cause, for he cannot find one person in the town to teach a class in Sunday School, though he says that there would be no dearth of children if the people could be found who would work at the job of conducting the Sunday School. For two Sunday that I know of there has been no service of any kind.

On our last visit out there (we own a little place at Woods where we go occasionally for a bit of rest) I wrote a letter to the pastors of the Protestant churches at Cloverdale, some five or six miles from Woods, suggesting that they see if some help cannot be sent from Cloverdale, in the way, perhaps, of two or three who could teach. Have had no reaction from that; indeed I found that one of the two Cloverdale churches is now without a pastor, and I sent the letter to one of their leading members. There are a good many Catholics in that neighborhood, and most of them come to the Catholic church at Cloverdale.