

EXCERPTS FROM

OCTOBER – DECEMBER
1972

THE
LINK

The Quarterly News Letter of
NORTH ROAD CHAPEL
(EVANGELICAL)

Internet Edition

A Christian worker visiting this country from a nation where the path of a faithful believe often leads to persecution and sometimes death, found himself on the platform of a crowded missionary convention. The chairman announced the opening hymn, the refrain of which was "Toiling on, toiling on". He looked into the faces of some 3,000 people as they heartily sang, and the words of 1 Cor. 14 v. 15 - "I will sing with the spirit, I will sing with the understanding also", impressed themselves on him, till he said "I felt like crying out over that vast audience 'Understandest thou what thou singest?'" Have we not all sung farce songs? Toiling is labouring, and one of the things that the Lord definitely told us to pray for was that "He would thrust forth labourers" - yes labourers, men and women who will get their coats off and get down to a bit of real God-glorifying toil. Have we never heard His voice saying: "Son, go work today in My vineyard"? Perhaps in our moments of quiet thinking (although we would not admit it) we have heard His voice of rebuke saying "Why stand ye here all the day idle?" Then why do we remain spiritually lethargic? Is not our laziness a direct result of failing to really appreciate the toil, the sweat, the labour of our Lord and Master - He was the Master Toiler;

Oh how He toiled for others, no leisure time for Him, often not so much as to eat, frequently wearied with His journeying, snubbed and jeered as He brought His message to men. Finally, a busy life ended in agonizing toil. See Him struggling in the darkness of Gethsemane, labouring in sweat of great drops of blood until, literally exhausted, an angel came to strengthen Him as He prepared for the greatest toil of all. Standing on the pavement of Gabbatha with all the taunts and the indignities, He never flinched. He had set His head and hand to the work, so bearing His cross He went forth to labour in agony of soul and body beneath God's fearful judgement and man's accursed sin. A victim without help, without mercy, unspared by God or man until He cried "It is finished". The work completed; the toil ended.

Surveying afresh His toil and travail, are we not smitten with shame? Is not some cord touched? Is there still no response? God help us to say in the language of Isaiah "Lord here am I, send me - send me now", and He will certainly take us at our word if we are sincere. It will mean toil and labour, but it will result in deep satisfaction of life, and great promotion in the eternal world.

Work and toil should precede reward in material things, but when we come to the spiritual, there certainly is no reward if there is no toil.

In Matt 14 v 22-33 and Mark 6 v 45-51 we have the account of the Lord Jesus walking on the sea. Both of these writers say that "The Lord constrained the disciples to enter the ship". He knew full well that by entering the ship they would enter the storm - which they did. Matthew says "They were tossed with waves, the wind was contrary", but Mark says "He saw them in the midst of the sea, in the darkness - TOILING IN ROWING". He not only saw them but came to their aid, striding in power upon that which was causing them fear and trouble. "It is I", said He, "be of good cheer". What a word to ring through the gloom, and our Glorious Lord is just the same today. Was not this voyage ordained that the power and glory of the Lord might be manifested?

As we seek to row against the stream of this present evil world and toil on in the things of God, He knows full well that things will not go with a swing, for there is an adversary. The winds are contrary - the thrust is in another direction, we may be tossed with waves, and this can be

frightening, but He has constrained us to take this voyage and His eye is ever upon us; His presence is so near, in the darkness He draws alongside and reassures, beneath His feet is trampled the adversary. Is not our voyage through life for the express purpose that WE might glorify Him, that His power might be manifest in US? So whatever the circumstances are in church life, or our individual life, we TOIL ON AND ROW.

We turn our thoughts for a moment to our sick and elderly members, sometimes the waves seem very high for you, the gloom and mist is thick is it not? You feel so isolated and cut off at times, the wind is certainly contrary. Remember He sees your toil, He knows the adverse current - beloved, this is just another aspect of life where the glory and power of the Lord can be manifested, in submission to His will, and patience in suffering. Ever remember that He sees, and knows, and standing in the shadows with you, is your Lord and Saviour. May you constantly be hearing His voice "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid". May the Lord richly bless you.

W.H.M.

ANNOUCEMENTS & INFORMATION

The "Drive-In" church has proved a very successful means of reaching a lot of people. We can only be thankful to God for the liberty which we have both on a national and local level which makes such a witness possible. The quietness and hush, as God's servants have preached, have been most marked. We can only thank our God for such a privilege, as we have sought to fulfil the commission - YE SHALL BE WITNESSES UNTO ME. So we continue to bear witness to The Truth, perfectly content to leave the results in the hand of "A SOVEREIGN GOD".