

him if he would give my horse something to eat, I would go without my breakfast. Said I, the Lord will provide for me. Yes, said he, the Lord provides for us all, but we have to work for it. This I knew to be the truth. The provisions of life are common to us all, through the means which God has ordained. The age of miracles is now past. But we will look back at this preacher and his wife, a little while, in order that you may see how preachers have preached, without being sent. We will say he lives in a country congregation, where the brethren, with himself, are in moderate circumstances. He visits the sick, and attends funerals at every call. He spends some time in trying to keep order in the church, and for the time he thus loses, he has to labor early and late, lest his business should fall behind. But some twenty or thirty miles from home, he remembers that a few brethren have settled, with some of his acquaintance, perhaps his old school-mates. He being filled with the love of Christ, desires to see them, and call their attention to the unsearchable riches of Christ. Accordingly he arranges his business at home as well as he can, and makes a visit to the new settlement. His old acquaintances are glad to see him, especially the few brethren who reside there. They call a meeting, and the preacher proclaims to them the good news of the kingdom of heaven. They are delighted with it; they say to him they wish to have meetings, and be religious, when can you come again and have meetings with us? The preacher now feels his spirit moved within him. He gives them an appointment some weeks hence, as soon as he thinks he can well leave home again. He leaves them and returns to his home. He now has to labor hard, in order to get his business done up against his appointment. The time comes. He hires some person to stay with his wife and children, and goes to his appointment.

The news of the meeting has been circulated throughout the thinly settled country, and the people come for miles to the meeting. The preaching takes effect, and converts are made. And among them some reside in distant settlements, from six to ten miles off. The very soul of the preacher now becomes overwhelmed in love toward his converts, and his converts toward him. They say to him, you must come again soon. Those from a distance say, you must come and preach in our neighborhood. We have no meeting there. The preacher now, without thinking what he has to do at home, or caring for the things of this world, gives out several appointments, which will soon come on, and leaves for his home. He tells his brethren at home of the success of the meeting in the new settlement. They are glad to hear the news. They say to their preaching elder, that he must go, by all means, and if he from thinking of his business, which must now be neglected, should happen to say, I don't know how I can get time to go so much, they say to him, trust in the Lord, brother; the Lord never left his servants to suffer; and never once think that they ought to help the preacher bear the expense. The preacher is now urged on by the brethren at home, and almost compelled by the earnest entreaties of those abroad, until it takes so much of his time that he begins to fall behind in his living. It frequently takes him a week at a time to attend all his appointments, besides two