

DIARY OF AMANDA WADSWORTH SMITH

Entered in MS Word by Richard A. Sims,
great-great-grandson of Amanda W. Smith

May 2004

Note: Diary entries before January 7, 1897 are typed according to the edition of the diary originally typed by Lester Smith in 1980. Beginning with the January 7, 1897 entry, the diary is here typed according to a copy of the original in Amanda's handwriting.

EXPLANATION ABOUT DIARY BEING REWRITTEN

GRANDMOTHER LIVED AT THE FOOT OF A HUGE MOUNTAIN. THERE WAS A SPRING AT THE FOOT OF THIS MOUNTAIN WHERE SHE WOULD GO FOR WATER. WHEN SHE WENT FOR WATER SHE WOULD WRITE IN THIS DIARY AND THEN PUT IN A HOLLOW TREE. SHE BECAME ILL AND DID NOT GO TO THE SPRING FOR SIME TIME. WHILE SHE WAS ILL SOME ANIMAL TORE BOOK ONE UP. SHE HAD TO COPY IT THE BEST SHE COULD, AS STATED IN THE DIARY. SHE REWROTE THIS FOR HER SON WILLIOM ZION (W.Z.) SMITH, DIARY BEING SO SCATTERED SHE HAD THE DATES IRREGULAR. I LISTED THE DATES AND PUT THEM IN SEQUENCE THE BEST I COULD.

I DO NOT REMEMBER EITHER ONE OF MY GRANDPARENTS ON THE SMITH SIDE OF THE FAMILY. BOOK ONE BEGAN IN THE YEAR 1881 AND BOOK TWO ENDED IN THE LAST MONTH OF 1904.

ALL I CAN SAY, IS, THAT IT IS WONDERFUL TO KNOW THAT YOUR GRANDMOTHER WAS SUCH A WONDERFUL CHRISTIAN AND WHO RAISED SUCH A GOOD MAN AS MY FATHER, W.Z. SMITH.

I HOPE TO MEET THEM IN HEAVEN IN THE SWEET BY AND BY.

LESTER C. SMITH, GRAND SON

August 23, 1891

In looking over my old books, I find so many comforting thoughts that I had, I will write them here. Sweet promises that would come to me when I was cast down and cried to my Redeemer for help while striving to walk in his footsteps yet so often on the way, I can't get them together, it is here a little and there a little, scattered here and there; on the fly-leaf of an old book, that February 26, 1890 I said: The Lord is my strength, he is my Shield, Jesus is my Surety, my Redeemer, my Saviour, my very best Friend.

July 16, 1890

I cried, create within me a clean heart oh my Lord, and renew within me a right Spirit.

(Beginning here, I tried to get the dates as sequenced as near as possible. LCS)

April 16, 1881 (Page 2 in Diary)

The Lord is my Shepard I shall not want for He saw me ruined in the fall, yet loved me notwithstanding all. He saved me my lost estate His loving kindness how great.

April 21, 1881

The Lord is mine, he has put me in the clift of the rock and covered me with His hand, therefore, will I sing His praise for He will save me for He loves sinners and will save all that trust Him.

June 24, 1881

The Lord is my high tower, He is my strength, in Him will I trust, I will call on Him, for His mercy endureth forever.

June 5, 1881

I could say that I love the Lord, He heard my cry and pitted every groan, long as I live when trouble rise I'll listen to His throne.

July 19, 1881 (Page 1 in Diary)

I now find the Lord is my righteousness, give me Thy Spirit that I may serve Thee in a right manner.

November 26, 1883 (Page 9 in Diary)

I rejoiced in hope of the Glory of God, saying the Lord is my refuge a present help in time of need, He is the rock of my salvation my fortress, my high tower, in Him will I trust. I love the Lord and He heard my cries and filled every groan long as I live, when trouble rise I'll hasten to His throne.

January 30, 1885 (Page 10 in Diary)

I said my inheritance was kept by the power of God and reserved in Heaven for me. Thank the Lord for giving us such great and precious promises, behold the Lamb of God.

February 28, 1885

It is the desire of my heart to glory the Lord by my life, by doing the things he has commanded me, for Jesus said herein is my Father when ye do the work of God, in the world ye shall have tribulations, in Him we might have peace sweet peace.

May 2, 1885 (Page 4 in Diary)

Oh, my Savior, help me to do Thy will, give me strength, forsake me not, Oh, my God. Dear little book, how I love to look over the dim pencil marked pages and find a few times out of the many when I've been able to sit at the King's table or cried to the Lord from Lodebar as on July 3rd, 1886. As the heart panteth after the water brook so panteth my soul after Thee, Oh, God. When shall I appear before Thee.

July 6, 1885 (Page 11 in Diary)

Teach me, oh God, know my heart, try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

August 22, 1885 (Page 6 in Diary)

I cried unto, save me, oh God, by Thy name and judge me by Thy righteousness, be strength unto me, for I am weak and there is no strength in me. Thou art my strength and my portion forever.

August 29, 1885

My prayer was, Lord, save my children.

September 4, 1885

My God and Father, while I stray far from on life's rough way, Oh, teach me from my heart to say, Thy will be done. Let but my fainting heart be blessed with Thy sweet Spirit for Thy guest, My God, to Thee, I'll leave the rest, Thy will be done.

September 15, 1885 (Page 7 in Diary)

Lou and Maggie¹ professed faith in Christ and I find that W. Z.² professed August 15, 1883 and neglected, or it is destroyed, the day when Nannie³ professed. But, they have all taken on them the name of Jesus and I am so glad. Oh, my Savior keep them near Thee, give them the Holy Spirit to guide them all through the journey of life. I have three sweet babies already saved.

November 22, 1885 (Page 10 in Diary)

Oh, Lord, give me strength and grace to serve Thee according to Thy revealed word.

December 1885 (Page 8 in Diary)

My cry was, Oh Lord, give me Thy Spirit, enable me to conquer self and that I may have a meek and quiet Spirit, give my patience, for Thou has said that in the world we shall have tribulations but in Thee we may have peace.

¹ S.J. Pike and Maggie Smith, Amanda's daughter and son-in-law.

² William Zion Smith, Amanda's son.

³ Nannie Smith Willingham, Amanda's daughter.

December 13, 1885 (Page 2 in Diary)

I search the Bible for the duty of women, for I had scruples about it being right for them to vote in the church. I found that wives are to be in subjection to husbands, not to speak in the church but are to be in obedience and learn at home, to adorn themselves in modest apparel with shamefacedness and sobriety, not to work usurp authority over the man, to be grave not slanderous, sober, faithful in all things. They that live in pleasures are dead while they live, they are to be the wife of one man well reported of for good works, they are to lodge strangers, washed the Disciples' feet, relieve the afflicted, be diligent in every good work, not be idle, wandering about from house to house, to give no occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully to be in behavior as become holiness, not false accusers, nor given to much wine, teachers of good things, that they teach the young women to be sober, Love their husband and their children, to be discreet, chaste keepers at home, good obedient to their own husbands and to have a meek and quiet spirit. Help me, dear Lord, to do and to teach my children to do all their things.

December 18, 1885 (Page 10 in Diary)

Create within me a clean heart, oh Lord, and renew within me a right spirit, that I may glorify Thy name, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

December 30, 1885 (Page 6 of Diary)

Again, my cry was help me Lord for my strength faileth me, Thou art my strength.

February 15, 1886, Monday night (Page 5 of Diary)

I could say the Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want, Jesus is my righteousness, my all, all my strength, my hope. Oh, give me Thy spirit to guide me along the dreary pilgrimage way of life and keep me low at Thy feet, help my unbelief for Thou art all I want, yea more than all in Thee I find.

March 21, 1886 (Page 6 of Diary)

I cried unto the Lord and He heard me, He is all my trust. I have no other hope only the imputed righteousness of Jesus blessed be His name.

April 26, 1886 (Page 8 of Diary)

My Lord is my all, my trust in Him my hope is staid.

July 3, 1886 (Page 9 of Diary)

I was hungry and wanted to sit at the King's table, my cry was Lord feed me with the bread of life, Thou knowest how my soul hungers for Thee, Thy love.

August 26, 1886

For poor old Mephibosheth cannot get to the King's table without help, being lame in both feet.

November 26, 1886 (Page 9 of Diary)

Although I walk through the valley and shadow of death, I will fear no evil for the Lord is my Shepard, I shall not fear; I was sick and did not expect to live long.

December 3, 1886 (Page 5 of Diary)

Oh Lord, take not Thy loving kindness from me, restore unto me the joys of Thy salvation.

December 9, 1886 (Page 5 of Diary)

Oh Lord, I know that thou are unchangeable and unto Thee I look for help, for Thou alone are able to help one of the weakest most unworthy of any children. Lord, help me, I am so weak and sinful I cannot serve Thee as I wish I could.

February 2, 1887 (Page 8 of Diary)

I was poor and needy, I cried unto the Lord to have mercy on me, the most unworthy of Thy children, so cold, so careless, and so unconcerned about my duty, what shall I do? Shall I lie down in deep despair? Will He forever wear a frown nor hear my feeble prayer, No, he will put His strength in me, He knows the ways when I've been sufficiently I shall come forth as gold.

March 1, 1891 (Page 8 of Diary)

My Lord is all my trust, I have no other hope, Jesus is all my righteousness, bless His name.

August 23, 1891 (Page 8 of Diary)

3 O'clock Eve. I wrote the foregoing, how scattering I have got you down dear old thoughts.

August 25, 1891 (Page 11 of Diary)

Now I have got those things down here and looking back into the past I can see where the devil and my own sinful has cheated me in a measure out of the joys of my salvation, but by the Grace of my God, I will press on to the work of the high-calling in Christ Jesus. But, I know that I am lame in both feet as poor old Mephibosheth was, but my Master will help me if I will only trust Him.

August 27, 1891 (Page 12 of Diary)

I realize the fact this morning that I am poor and needy lame in both feet but bless the Lord, I can sit at the King's table and while there I'm beginning the Master for Mattie and John Ragland. How I do want them saved, and there are others that I am so anxious about. Oh, that they and believe on Jesus, they are stiff-necked and blinded by the follies of this world. How, that they could see the dreadful end of procrastination, poor Lou H.

August 29, 1891 (Page 12 of Diary)

Oh, how weak and helpless I feel. I have a dear friend and I felt so impressed yesterday to let him know that I was interested in his salvation and I felt so weak and unworthy to speak a word for my Master that I did not do it. Today I will do the best I can and leave the results with my Master, help me I pray.

September 10, 1891 (Page 13 of Diary)

Aunt Julia Wadsworth fell asleep today, her work is done, she has gone to her reward.

September 12, 1891 (Page 13 of Diary)

Went to Aunt Julia's funeral today, I feel like she has just passed over and in the morning of the resurrection, she will in her allotted place, that when my Saviour comes He will bring her to him. Brother Trotter preached the memorial sermon, his text, In Everything Give Thanks. How I wish I could live so that my life would be one continual thanksgiving unto my Redeemer.

September 13, 1891 (Page 13 of Diary)

Wallie and Maggie⁴ married today. Oh, Lord bless and keep them and keep them near Thee I pray, the children all came home today, how they are getting scattered. Oh, help them dear Saviour to glory Thy name wheresoever their lot may be. S.A. King⁵ came with them, she and I had a feast of good things, talking of how the Master had led us along of life and our hopes and fears, joys and sorrows and of our hiding place, how I love her.

September 14, 1891 (Page 14 of Diary)

Went to Brother Pike's today, how I did enjoy myself there, met several that I love, Cousin Margaret Castleberry⁶ was one of them. It seemed that the Spirit was with me and made my heart overflow with love, and bless the Lord the Sweet Comforter is with me yet.

Cousin Paul Castleberry told me Saturday that I had not gotten to the King's table but would when I got home. I told him that poor old Mephibosheth was lame in both feet and he was to sit continually at the King's table and I don't think we will be lame when we get home. Oh, no, we will be like Jesus then.

September 15, 1891 (Page 14-15 of Diary)

The children have all gone home and I would be very lonely if I did not hold such sweet communion with the sweet Spirit which my Saviour has sent into the world and I don't feel the least lonesome. Thank Thee Lord for His continual goodness and mercy. Help me dear Lord to stay at Thy feet and learn of Thee, and to be willing to do or suffer Thy will, only Father do not hide Thy face from me, and if you do still let me cling to Thee let me hide in Jesus, my blessed Redeemer.

September 19, 1891 (Page 15 of Diary)

Promise for the day, These things have I told you before it came to pass that in Me ye might have peace, in the world ye shall have tribulations, be of good cheer, I have overcome the world, when I read the precious promises it makes me glad and he commands us to love one another, and I am so glad of that.

⁴ See footnote #1.

⁵ Sara Ann Drummonds King, wife of William Walter King, Sr., mother of Arie King, first wife of W.Z. Smith (Amanda's son).

⁶ Mary Margaret Blakely Castleberry, third wife of Paul Castleberry, pastor of Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.

September 20, 1891 (Page 15 of Diary)

Went to Mt. Pleasant today and heard an humble discourse by Brother Whit Inzer, subject and I, If I be Lifted Up will Draw All Men Unto Me, what a blessed privilege to be fed with such sweet gospel truths. Seen several of dear Pisgah sisters, how I do love them and all who reflect my Saviour's light, how glad I am that Jesus said, "Love one another," bless the Lord, oh, my soul.

September 24, 1891 (Page 10 of Diary)

And, to my Saviour, I always go when days are dark and troubles come and He has never disappointed me yet, He always gives relief or gives me grace sufficient to bear it all, bless the Lord, oh, my soul.

September 26, 1891 (Page 16 of Diary)

Have been sadly disappointed this week, did not get to attend the meeting at Mt. Pisgah, but heard good news from there this morning. Jasper Masters⁷ had professed faith in Christ and I am so glad.

September 28, 1891 (Page 16 of Diary)

Went to church today and heard Brother Lawley from the Text. He that is on the Lord's side come over to me, oh, that sinners would come. September – had a fight with an evil spirit this morning and it got me down and caused me to speak rashly and fret. Forgive me, oh Lord, and give me a watchful as well as a prayerful heart, for I do want to glorify Thy name by living Christ-like.

October 4, 1891 (Page 17 of Diary)

Went to Coosa Valley Church today, Brother Trotter commenced to preach but was not able to finish and Brother Law concluded the service. Taken dinner with Brother and Sister Willingham, Old Grandma was there and S.A. King, we sure did have a pleasant time. We talked of our trials and temptations and our deliverance from them and our hopes. Thank the Lord for the Communion of Faith.

October 6, 1891 (Page 17 of Diary)

8 O'Clock night – After prayer had the promise verified where Jesus said the Father would manifest Himself to His children but not to the world and how He would do it, and had sweet consolation in the new commandment that all men were His disciples.

October 11, 1891 (Page 18 of Diary)

Went to Church today. Heard an old discourse on the church and its mission. Oh, for a heart to understand my duty and strength to do it. Help me oh my Lord. Went with Sarah Ann [King] to Brother Jack Drummond's, spent a pleasant night, I do want him and William Smith to be reconciled. I could not use my poor stammering tongue to tell the love of Jesus, like I wanted to. And, of their duty, how they were crippling the cause of the Master by living out of duty and not loving one another. Lord, help me to live that love.

⁷ Jasper Albert Masters, son of Delilah Masters (sister of Sarah Masters Sims).

October 12, 1891

Brother Trotter's theme was Be Ye Temperate in all Things.

October 15, 1891 (Page 18-19 of Diary)

How weak I feel this week. Oh, Lord, give me strength and help to live for Thee. Manifest Thy self to me and help me to work out my salvation with fear and trembling knowing that it is Thee that worketh in me.

October 16, 1891 (Page 19 of Diary)

Oh, Lord, my God, help me I am in trouble, be my deliverer and strength, help me, give me wisdom. Teach me how to live so as to be a living epistle seen and read of all me, especially my own family to the honor and glory of Thy name. My hopes are fixed on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness.

On Christ the solid rock I stand all other ground is sinking sand.

October 19, 1891 (Page 19-20 of Diary)

I do not that always my pathway shall be light, I would that Christ would guide me through the darksome night. That in Thee, He, leadeth my blinded eyes may see. The enfolding cloud of love He spreadeth wherever His children be. Mine be the strength that overcometh through Christ who walks with me. Amen, bless the Lord, for his goodness to me.

November 2, 1891 (Page 20 of Diary)

Now, oh, Father, the way is rough. I am so tired, help me for Jesus sake. I am trusting Thee, my King and my Redeemer.

2 O'Clock – how sweet the name of Jesus sounds in a believer's ear. It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds, and drives away his fears.

November 13, 1891 (Page 20 of Diary)

The Lord is my Shepard and I shall not want, His mercy endureth forever.

December 2, 1891 (Page 20-21 of Diary)

Heard yesterday that one I love said I was a two-faced person. If it is so am I so deceived, am I so living that anyone can truthfully say it? Oh, Lord do help me to search myself and to know myself and remove iniquity far from me. Help me to keep my body in subjection to Thy will. Help me to keep the door of my lips lest I sin against Thee and help me so live that I will not give the adversary any occasion to speak reproachfully, nor cause one of Thy children to stumble. Oh, Lord send Thy spirit into my heart to guide me, Lord, help or I perish.

December 19, 1891

Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things. Oh, Lord, forgive me, give me strength that while I serve, I may do it cheerfully, and not fret as I often do when the task is hard. And the burden heavy. Help me to do my duty cheerfully and like

Mary, choose the good part which shall never be taken away. I thank ye oh, Lord, for showing me by Thy spirit, showing my be that scripture that I was not living as I should, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

January 13, 1892 (Page 22 of Diary)

Today I feel the everlasting Arm of Jehovah around me, bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all His benefits for His mercy endureth forever. How unsearchable are His judgments and His ways past finding out. How precious are His promises, how He loves and cares for me, even me.

January 15, 1892 (Page 22 of Diary)

Oh, that I could be completely filled with the Holy Spirit so that Satan could find nothing in me. Oh, that I could so live that others might glorify the Lord in me.

January 18, 1892 (Page 22-23 of Diary)

Yesterday, went to see Sister Lucy Beavers and her little babe laid away to rest. How sweet too, we shall meet again. God bless her children and raise them up, friends who will bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, bless Brother Beavers in his troubles, be with him and may he feel the everlasting arms around him in this hour of need. Bless Sister Ella Beavers for her strength in weakness, give her faith that she may put all her trust in Thee, Thy afflicting hand is laid heavy upon us, sickness and death and sorrow on every hand. Help us to humble ourselves before Thee and glorify Thy name in us knowing that Thou hast said these things shall come to pass, but in thee we should have peace. Glorify Thy name in us and help us.

February 2, 1892 (Page 24 of Diary)

Help me Lord, to abide in Thee, I am so weak. Be my strength, I am so hungry, feed me with the "Bread of Life." I am thirsty, give me to drink of the water of salvation. Let me hide in Thee, then I will have all good things. I know I'm not worthy, but Thou hast promised and I do need Thee and desire Thy presence. Bless my dear old Sister Masters⁸, be her companion and stay until Thou will call her to meet her husband in the sweet beyond. Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly while the nearer billows roll, while the tempest still is high. Hide me, oh my Saviour, hide till the "Storm of Life" is past.

February 5, 1892 (Page 23 of Diary)

How good the Lord is to me in the midst of sickness and death. He has spared me and mine, oh, abide with me and glorify Thy name in me. Be with Brother Watson while he is passing through the fires.

March 7, 1892 (Page 25 of Diary)

My dear husband is so sick, Oh, Lord, hear my feeble cry and remove the cloud that intervenes and hides Thy love from him. Oh, let me feel Thy strong arms around me, give my Thy spirit that I may glorify Thy name, in affliction I am trusting in Thee, I pray for the Holy Spirit through the darksome night that in the way he leadeth my blinded eyes

⁸ Talisha Robertson Masters, on the death of her husband, Jesse T. Masters.

may see. The enfolding cloud of love He spreadeth where ere His children be. Take me, Oh, my Father, as an empty vessel to be of some use to Thee. Help me for I need Thy help and teach me patience.

March 8, 1892

The Lord has heard me and given me my husband from the very "Jaws of Death." Blessed be His Holy Name, he has caused me to see. Oh, that I could always pray and not faint and wait on the Lord.

March 22, 1892 (Page 26 of Diary)

Oh, that I could see Jesus, could realize the fact that He is near me. I believe help my unbelief, restore unto me the joys of Thy salvation as the heart panteth after the water brook, so panteth my heart after Thee, Oh God, help me to abide in Thee.

March 27, 1892 (Page 26 of Diary)

For Thou wilt light my candle, The Lord, my God, will enlighten my darkness, as for me I will behold Thy face in righteousness, I shall be satisfied when I awake in Thy likeness. Restore unto me the joys of Thy salvation and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Then will I teach transgressors Thy ways and sinners shall be converted unto Thee.

Oh, Lord, open Thou my lips and my mouth shall praise Thee. Lead me to the rock that is higher than I. I want to see Jesus, I shall not be satisfied until I do. By night on my bed I sought Him when my soul loveth but I found Him not, Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him.

April 26, 1892 (Page 27 of Diary)

I am trusting alone in Jesus. Oh, help me. Just as I am without one plea, but that Thy blood was shed for me and that Thou bid'st me come to Thee, oh, lamb of God, I come, I come.

May 23, 1892 (Page 27 of Diary)

The Lord is all my trust, help me, oh, Lord, and be my strength. The way is rough and dark but Thou art my life. Give me a faith that shines more bright when tempests rage without, that when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt.

July 30, 1892 (Page 28 of Diary)

The Lord is my righteousness; therefore, I will praise Him. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, help the poor that cry unto Thee, break into pieces the bands of the oppressor and redeem the poor among the people. Help us to say Thy will be done. I love the Lord, He has kept by His loving kindness until now my soul doth magnify the Lord my God.

August 18, 1892 (Page 28 of Diary)

Blessed Saviour, help me to live close to Thee, abide with me and hide me. Be my portion forever.

August 19, 1892 (Page 28 of Diary)

Hear my prayer, oh Lord, and give ear to my supplication, in Thy faithfulness answer me and enter not into judgment with Thy servant. Shall no man living be justified, I stretch forth my hands unto Thee, my soul thirsteth after Thee as a thirsty land. Hear me speedily, oh Lord, my spirit faileth. Hide not Thy face from me, cause to hear Thy loving kindness in the morning for Thee do I trust, cause me to know the way wherein Thou wouldest have me to walk. I lift my soul unto Thee, teach me to do Thy will for Thou art my God. Thy spirit is good, lead me into the land of the uprightness, quicken me by Thy Spirit, oh Lord, for Thy name's sake, for Thy righteousness sake, bring my soul out of trouble how that Psalm expresses all my desire, blessed Saviour help me.

September 7, 1892 (Page 30 of Diary)

Now, dear old diary, I will have to lay you aside praying that the future may prove to all that I am kept by the power of God. Help me, oh Lord, to be consecrated to Thy service, to commit all I am or have into Thy hands, help me to abide in Thee as a living branch and always remember without Thee I can do nothing.

September 8, 1892 (Page 30 of Diary)

Let me testify morning that the Lord is good, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

July 19, 1893 (Page 30-31 of Diary)

Although the Fig Tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be on the vines, the labor of the olive shall fail and the fields shall yield no meat, the flocks be cut off from the folds and there shall be no herds in the stalls, yet will I rejoice in the Lord, I will joy in the God of my salvation, The Lord God is my strength, he maketh my feet like hinds feet and he will make me walk in my high places.

Praise the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits, of what shall I be afraid since the Lord is mine and in Him all fullness dwells, no I will trust in Him alone for His word is sure and He is mine. Oh, wonderful thought blessed hope. Help me abide in Thee and keep all my children.

August 7, 1893 (Page 38 of Diary)

Mrs. Jane Ritch, in writing I missed August 7th. Went today to see another cousin laid to sleep till we awake and sing. We that dwell in the dust for Thy dew is as the dew of herbs and the earth shall cast out her dead for the Lord has said come thou My people, enter thou into thy chambers and shut thy doors about thee, hide thyself as it were for a little moment until the indignation be overpast for the Lord cometh out of His place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for thy iniquity. Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord.

August 23, 1893 (Page 33 of Diary)

Oh, send out Thy light and Thy truth, let them lead me and bring me unto Thy Holy hill and to Thy tabernacle. In my distress I cried unto the Lord and He heard me, and He gives me that peace such as the world cannot give nor take away.

August 29, 1893 (Page 32 of Diary)

Lord, all my desires are before Thee and my groanings are not hid from Thee, hear me, oh Lord, lest they should rejoice over me when my foot slippeth. They magnify themselves against me for I am ready to halt. I will declare mine iniquity, I will be sorry for my sins, make haste to help me, oh Lord of my salvation. I said I will take heed to my ways that I sin not with my tongue. I will keep my mouth a bridle, Lord make me to know mine end and what is the measure of my days that I may know how frail I am. Oh, Lord, I could be a faithful witness for my Saviour, help me, oh Lord, my Redeemer.

August 31, 1893 (Page 33 of Diary)

Lord, thou hast delivered from death, wilt Thou deliver my feet from slipping that I may walk before thee in the light of the living. I will cry unto god most high, unto God that performeth all things for me.

September 21, 1893 (Page 34 of Diary)

Oh, my Saviour, thou knowest how weak and sinful I feel. I realize that I am so unworthy so prone to sin, so ungrateful, oh, help me I do need Thee so bad. Oh, remove everything from me that hinders me from serving Thee with my whole heart, guide my children in the way of truth and righteousness.

Oh, Saviour, save my little boys, bring them unto Thy fold, give me wisdom that I may know how to bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, help all Thy children to live near Thee oh, forbid that we should cause a sinner to stumble into an awful hell. Lord, I am trusting Thee, help me again, I thank Thee for the manifestation of Thy love.

December 24, 1893

Spent the day with Brother and Sister Beavers, it is always a treat to be with them. Brother Carden was with us they all came and spent the night with us. How good the Lord is to allow such sweet association with His children, those that love to talk about Him and His dealings with the children of men and what He has promised to do for his children. Help me to love and serve Thee better than I have ever done.

December 28, 1893 (Page 35 of Diary)

Callie Turner spent the night with me. We talked about Jesus and our trials and conflicts and fears, of our hopes which is alone in Jesus. How it helps me to talk with those whose experience is so like mine. Saviour, guide us through these troublesome times. Help us to let our light so shine in these dark days that the world may know we've been with Thee. Help us that we may not walk in forbidden paths, nor bring a reproach on Thy name. Thou knowest the way is rough there are so many things to draw our minds from Thee, and we are so weak and sinful that of our selves we are not able to stand. Guide us by Thy Spirit make us willing to follow Thee. Help everyone of Thy children that belong to dear old Mt. Pisgah to put on the whole armour of God and stand fast on the Lord's side.

Give Brother Pike, our pastor, wisdom that he may know to feed Thy sheep, help him that he may so live that his life may testify for Thee. Help us all contend earnestly, contend for the Spirit. Thou art acquainted with all our ways, Thou knowest our helplessness, be our help, our shield and our deliverer and keep me by Thy power.

January 1, 1894 (Page 39 of Diary)

Another year has come, who can tell what it will bring forth, how good to be willing to trust all into the hands of the Lord. Having the assurance that he will do all things well, He has told me to commit my ways to Him. Saviour, be my guide through all the coming days, be my strength and my shield, help me that I may keep Thy word, increase my faith, help me to watch and pray, give me wisdom that I may understand Thy word, that I may know how to live, give Me Thy Holy Spirit to enlighten me for I can do nothing without Thee. Oh, help me my Saviour.

February 2, 1894 (Page 40 of Diary)

For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong in behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him, but they mocked His messenger and despised His work and misused His prophets until the wrath of the Lord rose against His people, till there was no remedy. Help, oh help us to keep Thy word, keep Thy children near Thee, oh merciful Father, be with My children and keep them from the evil of the world. Thou knowest the trials each one has to encounter, help to cast all their care on Thee, guide them by Thy spirit, choose their changes for them. Save my children and my children's children, bless the Lord, oh, my soul.

March 18, 1894 (Page 42 of Diary)

Smithie Dunlap⁹ was taken from us and our hearts are sad but the Lord does all things well, know He is saved, yes safely housed from the snares of the devil and the delusions of the world. He is waiting with our loved ones on the other side, sweet little boy we will meet by and by, I am glad, little boy, that you are resting and will never, never know how rough the way is, while I loved you and will miss you too, I am glad the Master has saved another of my loved ones.

Dear Saviour, comfort Jim and Julia, give them that peace which is found alone in trusting Thee. Help them to glorify Thy name in this their sad bereavement, I know how they will miss their darling boy, may they ever look to Thee for help. Keep all my children near, cause them to know the way wherein they should walk, give them wisdom that they might train their children in the way they should go. Save, oh save, my little boys and girls, I do not regret my prayers because Thou hast taken one. I still beg Thee to save them although I love them so I had rather give them up in infancy than for one to be lost. Help us to commit our ways with all we are into Thy hand, help us that we may be living witnesses for Thee, oh, that we may be consecrated to Thee. The way is rough and dark, guide us in the right way, help us to walk by faith, taking Thy word as our way all through life, help us to understand its teachings.

⁹ Aiken Smith Dunlap, Amanda's grandson and son of Julia Smith Dunlap. Based on the marriage date of Julia and James Dunlap, Smithie would have been 8 years old or younger.

April 5, 1894 (Page 44 of Diary)

Rejoice not against me, oh mine enemy, when I fall I shall rise, when I sit in darkness the Lord shall be a light round about me, I will bear the indignation of the Lord because I have sinned against Him. Until he pleads my cause and executes judgment for me, He will bring me forth to the light and I will behold His righteousness, sweet promise.

May 10, 1894 (Page 44-45 of Diary)

A sorrow caused by a letter from W.A.W.¹⁰ oh, Lord, Thou knowest oh, Lord, how weak and sinful I am. Help me to do my duty Thou knowest all my troubles and vexation, give me strength, oh, give a quiet spirit and patience for this day and every day. Remove a selfish spirit far from me I am so troubled. Thou knowest the trouble help me oh Lord, I am in darkness, I don't know what to do, plead my cause, oh my Saviour, and bring me forth to the light, let me see Thy righteousness.

May 12, 1894 (Page 45 of Diary)

My Saviour, my troubles are great, the burdens heavy my enemies are those that are so near and dear to me. Thou knowest that I have not wronged him would not do so or say anything that would alienate those whom Thou hast joined together, watch over them and forgive him and forgive him his hard words and give me patience, help me, my Saviour, to bear this cross and glorify Thy name. Oh, how it does for my children to say unkind words.

June 25, 1894 (Page 46 of Diary)

My Saviour, my best friend Thou only source of life and light, how gloomy would this be if it was not for the sweet assurance that things work together for good to them that love Thee and I do love Thee. I prize Thy love above any earthly love or pleasure, let friends and children forsake, let foes despise, still Thou wilt not forsake me for where sin abounds, grace much more abounds. Grace unmerited, favor unmerited on my part, I do not deserve such love, Saviour help me to bear my reproach in such a manner that it may rebound to Thy honor, help me to silently and quietly bear it, save my children and my children's children, how I love them with a Mother's love.

August 25, 1894 (Page 41 of Diary)

Heavenly Father, I thank Thee for Thy goodness and tender mercies while I have trouble and sorrow Thy good spirit has supported and comforted me. Although still surrounded by trouble I will trust Thy loving kindness. I have been so bothered about Lula C. she is without a home. I feel like we ought to take her but oh the responsibility. Oh, help me to do my whole duty. I will take her with fear and trembling, help me oh Lord, to raise her as I would my very own. I will do the best I know and leave the results with Thee whether it be joy or trouble. I leave it all in Thy hands. Bless and save her, give Lou and I wisdom that we may know how to guide her, help us to do our whole duty. I cannot get things down in from my old diary is so torn.

¹⁰ Alphus Willingham, Amanda's son-in-law and husband of her daughter, Nannie.

September 1, 1894 (Page 47 of Diary)

How good is the Lord to me, I feel His everlasting arms around me, Praise the Lord, oh my soul, for He has brought me in to His banqueting house and His banner over me is love, bless the Lord oh my soul, my Lord and my King and my Saviour.

September 25, 1894 (Page 47 of Diary)

Robert and Lula¹¹, give them Thy spirit, help them live for Thee, I have one little boy yet to be saved.¹² Oh, save him, help me and keep me from saying or doing anything that would cause them to stumble, may they not be deceived in their hopes, help us to keep Thy statutes and ordinances as Thou hast commanded and obey Thy concepts.

October 9, 1894 (Page 48 of Diary)

Why art Thou cast down, oh my soul, why art thou disquieted within me, trust in the Lord and deliver thee, commit thy ways unto Him and He will guide in the right way. Trust Him and He will send deliverance, He will never leave me nor forsake, nor take His loving kindness away, then why art thou cast down? Why am I so fearful? Has He not always kept His word and kept me from harm? Am I doing right to be so despondent? Is He not able to keep all my children? Even in Texas, as well as here? Then leave them to him, do enemies trouble? Pray for them. Do hard times confront and alarm? Remember the Master had nowhere to lay His head and has promised to care for you. Then your murmuring, oh my soul, I will carry all my troubles to my King and ask Him for grace to help and for His spirit to guide you through this darkness and He will surely help for He is good. Why art thou cast down? Oh my soul, do sins grieve? Yes, remember your advocate, He says come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest, am I not willing to take His yoke and learn of Him? Was He not forsaken by His friends, spit upon, scourged, crowned with thorns, and crucified by His enemies? Then why do I murmur and repine? At the things that come upon me, oh, why can't I bear them patiently? Help me, oh my God, give a spirit of love for those that despitefully use me, help me to keep me unspotted from the world. Bless the Lord, oh my soul, and forget not all His benefits for His mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

November 16, 1894 (Page 50 of Diary)

Surely the goodness of the Lord has followed me all the days of my life.

December 18, 1894

Brother Trotter's text for the day "Contend Earnestly for the Faith Once Delivered to the Saints."

Sunday, December 9, 1894

Bear ye one another and so fulfill the law of Christ how faithfully He admonished us and impressed the thought for us to take the word of God alone for our waybill through life and heed its teachings.

¹¹ Possibly two of Amanda's children, Robert (born 1-18-1879) and Louise (born 1-17-1869).

¹² Joseph Graves Smith, who at this time would have been 10 years old.

December 19, 1894 (Page 50 of Diary)

How weak I feel tonight, the Lord will be my strength. How I wish I could commit all my ways to Him and rest in Him and not be so uneasy restless. Lord, help to cast all my cares on Thee with all my troubles and cares, help me to rest in Thy promises, my Redeemer and my God.

December 22, 1894 (Page 51 of Diary)

Spent the day with Cousin Sarah Ann and Margaret, how it rested me. How sweet is the company of such loved ones. How refreshing to talk with each other of our weaknesses and sinfulness and helplessness and know all our help comes from the same source, while each heart knows its own bitterness, our feelings, our thoughts, and we trust our actions, are governed by the same rule and our help from the same Heavenly Father through Saviour. How I love to be with those that love to tell the old, old story. Dear Jesus, help us to live like we want to live that is near Thee. Increase our faith that we may feel Thee near us all even in the darkest hour; keep our dear ones from the evil of the world. Save our children Jacob like, may we wrestle till break of day, help them that they may withstand and in Thy name stand firm, Thou hast promised to hear and answer of faith, oh, give us a faith that will not let Thee go, give us Thy Holy Spirit to go with us and lead us and direct all our goings.

The year 1894 is at its close, I thank Thee oh Father for all the blessings it has brought, forgive me for all I have done amiss and lead me on the rest of my journey.

March 3, 1895 (Page 53 of Diary)

Another year is gone and I am still hobbling along, stumbling at every difficulty instead of committing my ways unto my faithful King, how slow I am to believe all His word, while in my life I have had so many manifestations of its precious truth, He has never yet failed in His promises to me when I would lay hold on them and claim them at the mercy seat. This is my infirmity although I am so weak and sinful, yet I trust by the tender of my Redeemer to reach my home at last, where I shall be free from weakness and sins of the flesh which I hate and cheats me out of the joys of my salvation, although I fall and stumble all along the journey of life my face is set towards my home. The place my Saviour has gone to prepare for me, sometime it is rough, sometimes it is dark, sometimes it is both lonesome and dark, but His tenderness led me on and kept me till this day and I will trust Him to keep until He calls me home. For I am so weak, sinful and carnal but nothing but His great love and tender mercy can keep such a sinner in the way, but Jesus Christ came to save sinners of whom I am chief, precious fact Lord, keep me in the way, hear me in behalf of my children.

April 28, 1895 (Page 54 of Diary)

The Lord is my Shepard and I shall not want He maketh me to lie down in green pastures, he leadeth me by still waters, bless the Lord, oh, my soul. This is the end of the first book.

October 1, 1895 (Page 64 of Diary)

Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me and ye shall find to your soul, my Saviour I come to Thee now, heavy laden with an ungrateful heart, I bring it to Thee, give me a heart of love and gratitude to Thee for all Thy blessings and mercies, remove every thing from me that will keep Thee from coming and taking up Thy abode in my heart, work in me to do Thy will and do Thy pleasure, make me Thine indeed and in truth, Thou art my Redeemer Thou knowest how I desire to love Thee, help me.

October 2, 1895 (Page 64-65 of Diary)

For He hath made Him to be sin for us who knew no sin that we might be made righteousness of God in Him. Oh, Lord, help me to realize the height and depth of such wonderful love, give me a mind to comprehend the great plan of salvation, sometimes it seems so plain that I wonder why I can't comprehend it all the time so that my heart would be filled with joy and love all the time. Oh, thou who hast been touched with a feeling of our infirmity, help me to walk by faith, help my unbelief Thou knowest that I desire Thy love more than anything on earth and to feel Thee near, is more than all the world to me for Thou art my trust, my high tower, my rock of defense, and my hiding lace. Saviour keep me near Thee, and do not let me wander from Thee, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

October 3, 1895 (Page 66 of Diary)

I have got my old burned up. However, I will rewrite you down:
But let us who are of the day be sober putting on the breastplate of faith and love and for a shield, the helmet of salvation for God hath not appointed us to wrath but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ.

Oh, grant Heavenly Father, that I may be sober and have faith and love, may my hope grow stronger as the shadows lengthen, I thank Thee for Thy continual blessings for me and mine, especially do I thank Thee for spiritual blessing which Thou giveth me my Redeemer and my God.

October 4, 1895 (Page 60-61 of Diary)

And all things whatsoever ye shall ask faith, prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Lord, help my unbelief, Thou art all my hope, give me wisdom that I may believe aright, that I may know how to believe for the heart is desperately wicked and deceitful above all things.

October 5, 1895 (Page 62 of Diary)

This I say then walk in the Spirit and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh and these are contrary one to the other so that ye cannot do the things that ye would, I know that is true, help me Lord to walk in the Spirit, I cans't believe only through the Spirit, I can't do any good things without Thee, let me praise thee for all Thy goodness to me blessed Redeemer help me for Thou art all my trust. Lead my children, bless my church, bless our pastor (Brother Trotter) in his work and in his home, keep us from evil blessed Saviour.

October 9, 1895 (Page 62 of Diary)

For we are saved by hope but hope that is seen is not hope for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Oh, Lord, Thou art all my hope. Give me patience that I may wait patiently on Thee, Lord, and hear me for my church and my loved ones.

October 10, 1895 (Page 62 of Diary)

Therefore be ye also ready for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh. Blessed Saviour help me to watch, I thank Thy continual goodness to me. I thank Ye for the manifestation of Thy love, Oh, help me to walk close to Thee, help me to keep myself unspotted from the world. Abide with me.

October 12, 1895 (Page 63 of Diary)

See that none render evil for evil unto any man, ever follow that which is good among yourselves and to all men. Oh, help me to follow that which is good and to shun that which is evil, help me that I may not have evil thoughts, help me to keep the door of my mouth that no corrupt communication proceed there from. I thank Thee for the privilege of coming to this old tree and having sweet communion with Thee, Dear old spot, how I love it here. I have often come feeling so cold and unworthy to approach my Saviour and He would give His spirit and I would rejoice in His love, how often I've bowed down with sorrow and found help. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

October 15, 1895 (Page 66 of Diary)

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for Brethren to dwell together in unity. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard that went down to the skirts of his garments. As the dew of Herman and as the dew that descend upon the mountains of Zion. For there the Lord commanded blessings for ever more. Again a new commandment I give unto you that ye love one another as I have loved you that ye also love one another, by this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if ye have love one for another. God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. Precious promise. Oh, that Pisgah Church was so united that it could be said of her, she is like that precious ointment that was poured upon Aaron's head that she might be as the dew of Herman, but we are not, there is strife and confusion among us. We cannot claim the blessings of life forevermore. Some of her members have fallen out on the way. Forgive them, oh Lord, and give them Thy spirit which is love and then they will be willing to forgive one another. Thy spirit can remove stubbornness and strife. Help each one of us to remember Thy word. Love one another. Let not your heart be troubled ye believe in God believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many mansions I go to prepare a Place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you I will come again for you. Sweet thought.

October 24, 1895 (Page 68 of Diary)

And, He said unto them why are ye so fearful, how is it that ye have no faith, even so it is with me I do not comprehend for I am slow of heart, help me Lord to commit unto Thee, help me to rest in Thee. Increase my faith, I come to Thee with such a cold unfeeling

heart it is a burden to me because it is so hard. Help me pray, make me just what Thou wouldst have me be. Give me light that I may let it shine. Help me to bring my body in subjection to Thy will, bless us as a family, give us wisdom that we may so live as to glorify Thy name. Give Mt. Pisgah wisdom that she might glorify Thee. It is a trying time may she yet come forth gloriously.

October 26, 1895 (Page 69 of Diary)

The beginning of the gospel of JESUS CHRIST, the Son of God, in Him was life, and the life was the light of men, as many as received Him to them He gave power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. Oh, wonderful salvation, how full how complete, wonderful in its greetings and grandeur, all the learning of ages has not been able to exhaust the theme wonderful in its simplicity, the weakest child can tell of its power. Believe on Him, believe that He came to save sinners, it is a fact Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief, help me dear Lord, to love, and love for Thee.

November 18, 1895 (Page 55 of Diary)

Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye might be able to withstand all, in the evil day and having done to stand, help me, oh Lord to do as Thou hast commanded me. For without Thy help I can do nothing. I am so prone to sin that I stray before I know. Oh, help me to watch and pray. I am so easily drawn into forbidden paths, forgive me and help me to keep my loins girt about me with truth and my light burning. May I have on the breast plate of righteousness and be shod preparation of the Gospel. Oh, give me the shield of faith that I may quench all the fiery darts of the adversary. Help all Thy children to let their light so shine that others may see, save our boys from strong drinks. I am troubled about them. Take those out of the way that are leading our young boys and men to ruin. Help Thy children to rebuke and stand firm on Thy word.

November 21, 1895 (Page 56 of Diary)

But, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy and peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance against such there is no law Christ is become of no effect unto you. Whosoever of you who are justified by the law ye are fallen from grace. This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. Help me, oh Lord, to understand Thy word. I know that in me that in my flesh there is no good thing. I pray Thee, oh Lord, remove those from our midst that are selling whiskey, drive them away for they are ruining our boys. May Thy children arise and in Thy name and strength and drive the cursed monsters from us and be not afraid of their threats, but may they with one mind and one purpose do all in their power to put it away from our midst before our boys are drawn into its deadly coil.

November 29, 1895 (Page 57 of Diary)

Let us therefore go forth unto Him bearing His name for here we have no continuing city but we seek one to come. Saviour show Thy poor servant the way, so many have turned away, and bring a reproach on Thy name, oh help me that I may let my light shine. Help

Thy children to take heed to their way, save my children. Bless our dear pastor that he may know how to feed Thy sheep.

November 30, 1895 (Page 57 of Diary)

For the son dishonoreth his father and the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, a man's enemies are those of his own house. Therefore, I will look unto Thee Lord, I will wait for Thee God of my salvation for He will hear me, help me that I may give no occasion to speak reproachfully of Thy way suffer me not to be tempted above that I am able to bear, my Redeemer help me.

December 28, 1895 (Page 70 of Diary)

This I say, walk in the Spirit for he was a man of sorrow and acquainted with grief and he was made sin for us who know no sin, then oh my soul, why art thou cast down, why so restless and troubled, although the days are dark and dreary did not Jesus suffer and know how to deliver thee. He knows all my wanderings, all of my weakness, return unto Thy rest, oh my soul, and thy hiding place. Hide me, oh my Saviour, receive my soul at last. Another year is almost gone and I am still here, still wishing I could be more like Jesus, help, oh help me my Saviour.

February 4, 1896 (Page 71 of Diary)

He will swallow up death, victory and the Lord God will wipe tears from all faces and the rebuke of His people shall be taken away from off the earth for the Lord hath spoken it. Blessed promise help me, oh Lord, to wait patiently for it and not faint by the way.

April 4, 1896 (Page 71 of Diary)

I will rejoice in the Lord, my God, and joy in my salvation for He is my hiding place, my Deliverer, He is all my trust.

May 1, 1896 (Page 71 of Diary)

How long, oh Lord, shall I live at this poor dying rate, so cold and sinful cause me to awake, give me strength, cause Thy face to shine upon me and help me for I am poor and needy.

May 14, 1896 (Page 72 of Diary)

"Now I find" Written when Sam and Ella Ragland had their difficulty, Oh Lord, help me now give me Thy Holy Spirit to guide me and cause me to know how to act if I am not willing to do right, help me to get willing to do right, help me to follow Thee and not follow the lust of the flesh. Oh, my Saviour, help me to follow Thee in this trying time. Oh, may I not give the adversary any cause to speak reproachfully of Thy cause, nor bring a reproach on Thy church. Teach me when to speak and how and when to be silent, fill me with Thy presence so that the adversary will find nothing in me. Oh, help me I am so weak. Hide me, be a high tower and rock of defense round about me. Help me to do right I pray Thee. Help me to love my enemies, bless them that curse me. Do good to them that hate me. Pray for them that spitefully use me, and persecute me, help me I pray. I do need Thy help now, I feel so weak and helpless before this mighty storm. Oh, give me wisdom and strength and a quick understanding of Thy will in this time of

trouble that is now upon me. I want to follow Thee and do no wrong. I want to glorify Thy name. Help us all to be willing to lay aside evil speaking and malice and come together and glorify Thy name.

Lord, I don't know what to do under the circumstances, show me the way and give me grace and strength so that I may be willing to take up the cross and follow Thee, my Redeemer and my God.

The Lord is my Shepard, I shall not want. He will take care of me and help me because I want to do His will and be known, I do therefore, I will put all my trust in Him.

May 20, 1896 (Page 74 of Diary)

Lord, and Thou alone, knowest how I am tossed about and how hard it is for me to bridle my tongue when I have so many things. Oh Lord, evil thoughts will come into my mind and I am so weak and helpless, before it all. Oh, give me Thy spirit that I may watch and pray, that I may be able to quench all the fiery darts of the enemies of my soul. He tempts me so often to speak evil and stir up strife. Thou knowest how often He prevails. Oh, help me that I may keep the door of my mouth that I sin not against Thee nor cause a soul to stumble. The enemies have sown the seed of discord among the children and what a small thing it is about, but what will be the end Thou alone knowest. Help those that are so angry, help us all to know that it is dishonoring Thee to act so foolish about such a frivolous matter and saw so many hard things, give us wisdom and a right spirit. Thy word tells us plainly how to act, help them to be willing to do what Thou hast commanded.

May 28, 1896 (Page 72 of Diary)

The Lord is my refuge, I will trust Him to bring my soul out of trouble, I will commit my ways unto Him for He is all my help. He is my strength, my life, my all. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

November 22, 1896 (Page 76 of Diary)

My heart is in deep trouble about my darling boy. Oh, I am trying to wait patiently to see the salvation of my God. How weak and helpless I feel, unto Thee, oh Lord, I do lift up my soul, I trust in Thee. Let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea let none that wait on Thee be ashamed. Show me Thy way, lead me in Thy truths for Thou art the God of my salvation. On Thee do I wait all the day. Remember, oh Lord, Thy tender mercies and Thy kindness for they have been ever of old, remember not the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions. According to Thy tender mercies hear me, for Thy goodness sake, oh Lord, good and upright is the Lord.

Therefore will He teach sinners the way. Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord. For He will pluck my feet out of the net. Turn then unto me, oh Lord, for I am desolate and afflicted, the trouble of my heart is enlarged. Oh, bring me out of my distress look upon my afflictions and my pains and forgive me my sins. Consider the enemies of my soul for they are many, and they hate me with cruel hatred. They say unto me continually where is thy God, he will not hear you when you pray for your boy.

Oh keep my soul and deliver me, let me not be ashamed, for I put my trust in Thee. Save my children, I pray Thee. I pray Thee hear my prayer for them and be not angry with me for bringing them to Thee for I have no helper but Thee. There is none able to help me but Thee, oh Lord. I am trying to commit all things unto Thee. Help me, give me a submissive heart, give my patience, let me learn of Thee and help me for I am so weak, my Redeemer and my God.

December 4, 1896 (Page 78 of Diary)

Blessed be the name of the Lord, my God, I love the Lord. He heard my cries and pitted every groan. Long as I live when trouble rise, I'll hasten to His throne.

December 26, 1896 (Page 79 of Diary)

How unworthy and how helpless I feel today, how miserable because I am so sinful and unthankful and unmindful of the goodness of God. If He was to enter into judgment with me regardless of mercy, what an awful condition I would be in. But, I am trusting in my Saviour and His imputed righteousness as my only hope of salvation, of my self I can do nothing, my righteousness is as filthy rags in His sight.

Oh, how weak and helpless I feel in the midst of the storms and tempest of life. I look on the right-hand and on the left and I find no rest. I cry unto the Lord, my God, but I find Him not. But, I will trust him though He slay me. Perhaps when He has tried me sufficiently He will show my His salvation. I don't know how to act so that I will do right, I have come to where two ways meet. Oh, Lord, show me my duty, help me to commit all into Thy hands, and wait patiently for Thy salvation. My soul cries out, How long, oh Lord, how long? Why art Thou cast down, oh my soul? Why art Thou disquieted within me? Hope Thou in God and wait patiently for Him. Oh Lord, my God, give me Thy spirit that I may know how to live. Open my blinds eyes that I may see. Unstop my ears that I may hear, make me willing to follow where Thou ledest. My soul thirsteth after Thee, help me. How I loathe myself, how I hate all the evil thoughts I have, they continually come to me and say the Lord will not hear your prayers when I cry to him. Why do such thoughts arise, he says in His word, he will hear, oh Lord, drive evil thoughts far from me. Forgive me of all my sins. How prone I am to forget all His goodness to me. Help me, Lord, to believe Thy word. Help me to look up to Thee, and help me to so live that I may not stand ashamed when Thou comest.

December 27, 1896 (Page 82 of Diary)

Oh, Lord, increase my faith, help my unbelief, come, oh Lord, ere my child die. Save my children I pray Thee. I ask not long life nor riches for them, but something far better and greater, even life eternal. Thou knowest all my wants, Thou knowest how hard it is for me to bear this great trouble cheerfully. Help me to be patient in tribulations, give me a faith that shines more bright when tempest rage without. That when in danger knows no fear, in darkness feels no doubt. In looking over my old Journal I see how the Lord has been with me and been helper all through the old year. Yet I am so weak and full of sin so forgetful of past mercies, that at the approach of danger or trouble I almost faint until I can have time to think of my refuge, and my hiding place. Help me, oh my Saviour, to abide in Thee, give me wisdom that I may abide in Thee and understand Thy word of

truth, in darkness may I not be afraid nor of the terror by night. Help me to wait patiently for Thy salvation. Increase my faith for I am foolish and slow of heart to understand Thy word and believe Thy promises or accept them as my own.

January 7, 1897 (Page 1 of Diary)

God, in mercy, hear my prayer
 For the children Thou hast given
 Let them all Thy blessings share
 Grace on earth and bliss in heaven.

In the morning of their days
 May their hearts be drawn to Thee
 Let them learn to lisp Thy praise
 In their early infancy.

When I see their passion rise
 Sinful passions unsubdued
 Then to Thee I lift mine eyes
 That their hearts may be renewed.

Cleanse their hearts from every stain
 Through the Saviour's precious blood
 Let them all be borned again
 And be reconciled to God.

For this mercy Lord I pray
 Bend Thy ever gracious ear
 While on Thee my soul relies
 Now my prayer in mercy hear.

I love the Lord, He heard my cry
 And pitied every groan
 Long as I live when trouble rise
 I'll hasten to His throne.

Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

January 10, 1897 (Page 2 of Diary)

Sam¹³ married today, and (missing) expecting all the children to come home. I anticipate a pleasant time. Dear old friend S.A. King, is with me tonight and we have spent a pleasant evening telling each other our hopes and fears and how we stumble and fall into so many snares and doubts and of our sins, and how we do and think wrong, and say so many things we ought not, and how our Saviour chastises us to bring us back. Surely we are led by the same Spirit, we are so much alike in our warfare. Saviour help us to be more faithful, help us fight a good fight and put on the whole armour of God that we may come off more than conquerors through Thy name. Oh give us more of thy Holy Spirit.

¹³ Samuel Tilden Smith, Amanda's son, who married Nancy Caroline Martin.

January 12, 1897

All of my children and grandchildren came home yesterday. I have seen them all at home one more time, and considering everything we spent a pleasant day. Heavenly Father, if any of us sinned against thee forgive us, while I thank thee tonight for thy goodness to me and mine. Yet I feel that all is vanity and vexation of spirit for I would see Jesus when the flowers
Of life adorn my way
When Sunshine and when joys attend
My path from day to day
When friends I cherish most are near
And hearts encircle mine
Then Father would I turn from all
And lean alone on thee.

Yes Dear Lord I desire Thy presence more than any earthly blessing. Help me to live more like Thee. Help me to be transformed by the renewing of thy spirit to thy will. Oh come and abide with me that I may overcome the lust of the flesh, for the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh and these are contrary one to the other. Drive sin and iniquity from me, oh my Saviour, for I see so much of it in me. Help, oh help us that we may love one another better and grant oh Father for Jesus sake that we may all meet in the home thou hast prepared for thy children. I pray thee in mercy save us all.

January 22, 1897

The Lord is my Shepard I shall not want, He maketh me to lie down by still waters. He has strengthened me. He leads me in green pastures. He makes me hope in Him, he gives me faith. His everlasting arms are around me, His mercy endures forever, How precious are His promises to me. Bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not his goodness and mercy to thee.

February 12, 1897

Yes, I delight in Thy law in the inward man but I find in me an evil spirit of unbelief which torments me continually. Oh, Lord, cast it out and help me to overcome it. Increase my faith, help me to believe Thy word in spite of all the demons of darkness and my own sinful weak nature. I long to be like Thee, my precious Redeemer. Oh help me, for of myself I can do nothing, forgive me for all my sins and miss deeds and help me to come of more than conquer through thy name. Bless each one of my dear Brothers and Sisters, help every one of us to be more like thee, that sinners may know that what we profess is the living truth. Oh may we not be stumbling blocks in any one's way, help each one of us to take heed to our way and walk uprightly. O Lord save my children.

February 15, 1897

Heavenly Father help me tonight to lay aside all the harassing cares of this life and believe thy word, help me to abide in thee and believe that what I need, food, raiment and all I need will be given me if I will trust thee and believe thy word. Help me to show to all around me by my daily walk that I do believe what I profess. Thou knowest oh Lord

that I do want my children saved. Help me to pray and not faint. Bless all my brethren and sisters, may we love one another with that love that comes from thee. Bless our dear Pastor and grant oh Father that sinners may hear his message of thee and come to thee and live.

February 19, 1897

Awake my soul in joyful days
And sing Thy great Redeemer's praise
He justly claims a song from thee
His loving kindness, oh how free.

He saw me ruined in the fall, yet loved me not withstanding all.
He saved me from my lost estate, His loving kindness, oh how great.

March 16, 1897 (Page 5 of Diary)

Dear Saviour help me to bear and overcome the vexations that beset me now, help me to rest in thee oh help me to watch myself and bring my body n subjection to thy will. Oh Lord I need thy help, help me and guide me I pray.

April 18, 1897

Help me oh my Saviour give me wisdom that I may know more of thee and thy will concerning me, open my eyes that I may see, unstop my ears that I may hear thy loving voice, come in the power of thy spirit and guide me, for the way is dark and rough I am so weary of waiting, I desire thy spirit more than any earthly good, oh hear me I pray and answer in peace.

May 30, 1897

Surely the Lord has been good to me, his goodness and mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Bless the Lord oh my soul, and forget not all his benefits. Trust him and he will give thee the desire of thy heart. He has brought my boy back again. Grant that it may be for his good, give us wisdom and understanding that we may know how to walk before our children that they may know that we are led by thy spirit. Heavenly Father save my children, let me see them followers of thee, thou Lord hast heard my cry therefore I will praise thee and trust thee to give me the desire of my heart in the salvation of my children. The Lord has lighted up my pathway, his banner over me is love. I realize this morning the precious fact that he is my Redeemer and my God.

June 1897 (Page 6 of Diary)

The Lord is all my trust, He is the God of my salvation. Bless the Lord, oh my soul. He is my Shepherd I shall not want. Oh give me faith to take hold of Thy promises. Help my unbelief give me a spirit of prayer. Help me to let my light shine. In the Lord is all my strength in the Lord is my help. Lift upon me the light of Thy countenance glorious reconciled.

July 4, 1897

To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God. Oh for help to overcome, Oh for faith to lay hold of the promises, for strength and wisdom to know how to fight the good fight of faith. Where is help found? Only in God's word outside of it there is none. It tells of a Saviour, in my Redeemer all fullness dwells. Help me to look to Thee, increase my faith. Drive all the dark clouds that come between my soul and Thee. Help me to ever look to Thee and trust Thee, help me I pray.

July 8, 1897

The Lord is my portion forever in Him alone is all my trust. He has been so good to me, He is my helper and my deliverer worthy of all praise, and glory and honor. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

July 11, 1897

The Lord is my strength, I will rejoice in the Lord my God. In Him only will I trust.

August 3, 1897 (Page 6 of Diary)

Of a truth I can say this morning, the Lord is my helper, all my help comes from Him. He is my strength. My sure hiding place, my rest, my all. Bless the Lord, oh my soul. Bless His holy name.

August 6, 1897 (Page 7 of Diary)

Oh Lord, be with us in our meetings of days, forgive us all our sins, give us a spirit of love for one another. Drive all malice and every evil thing from among us. Help each one of us to examine ourselves and see whether we are in the faith. Help us I pray. Help my unbelief, drive away my fears and help Thy weak servant to serve Thee. Thou knowest all my hopes and fears for Thou, Oh Lord, art acquainted with all my ways. Thou knowest all the desires of my heart, how I do want to be transformed in Thy likeness. Thou knowest all my ways and how I do crave the salvation of my children. Thou knowest how long I have been burdened on their account. Pity me, oh Father, if it can by Thy will, save them now. Take care of me for I am so weak and helpless. Mine eyes are ever towards Thee for Thou art the God of my salvation, I have no helper but Thee.

September 5, 1897

Have written Banner a letter today. How I do desire that she may be a lively Christian. Glorify Thy name through her and help me to live so that I may not cause one of Thy little ones to stumble.

September 10, 1897

Oh, my Master, how weak and helpless I am. Come and take up Thine abode in my heart. Help me, oh my God, to lean on Thee and to commit all I am or have into Thy hands. I look to Thee, I am trusting in Thee. Oh, help me I pray.

September 19, 1897 (Page 8 of Diary)

Although surrounded by so much trouble and sorrow today about my dear ones. Trouble on the right-hand and on the left and none that can comfort nor help. How good it is for me to know that the Lord my God is King. He is my helper, He will deliver me from all these things in his own good time and He will give me grace and strength to bear it all. Oh help me to bring my body in subjection to Thy will and save my children I humbly beg Thee. I have nothing but Thy promises to bear me up under all those trials that I have to pass through. Oh Lord, give me wisdom and strength that I may glorify Thy name. Be with my companion¹⁴ and give him wisdom and strength and bless him in his declining years. The road is rough, oh may he feel Thy everlasting arms around him. Oh, for Jesus' sake, help us.

September 25, 1897

The Lord is my helper, He is my strength all of my trust is in Him. Oh give me faith to believe that Thou will yet save my darling boys. They are dead in sin but Thou didst come to give life and remission of sins. Thou didst come to seek and save lost sinners, help Thy children to learn of Thee and be living witnesses for Thee. Help us to let our light so shine that sinners may see the way. Bless our pastor in his home and in his work.

October 3, 1897 (Page 9 of Diary)

The Lord is my helper, He is my strength, He is my all. Oh for words to praise His holy name, He has inclined my heart to praise Him and trust Him. How precious are His thoughts toward me. He is my portion, forever my Redeemer and my God.

October 13, 1897

I thank thee my Father for Thy blessings to me and mine. Bless the Lord, oh my soul. Yes, bless His name.

October 15, 1897

And the word that no law has shaken
Has the future pledge supplied
For I know that when I awaken
I shall be satisfied.

Yes, precious thought, sweet promise when I awake in His likeness I shall be satisfied, and not till then. For here I am a stranger and sojourner in a strange land away from my Father's house. The home my Saviour has gone to prepare for me. Oh, help me to be a faithful witness for Thee. Keep me by Thy power. Help me to understand how frail I am. Guide me by Thy Holy Spirit, and leave me not alone. Deliver me from all my adversaries and my fears for Thou art my God. I look to Thee, help me to commit all I am or have unto Thy hands and rest in Thee. I am clinging to Thy word of promise. Save, oh, save my children.

Bless my church, grant that we may dwell together in unity and love and thus fulfill Thy law. Help us to watch and pray lest any root of bitterness spring up and many be defiled.

¹⁴ James Aiken Smith

November 17, 1897 (Page 10 of Diary)

Last Sunday I went to my old home. What painful yet pleasing recollections cluster around the old home. How each loved form arose in memory as I lay upon the bed. Father, Mother, brothers and sisters, each dear face seemed so near. And uncles, aunts, and cousins that seemed almost like brothers and sisters for we had never been separated then. How each loved form arose as memories' page unrolled to my mind and for a time I mingled with them again. And there was old Uncle George, a Negro who had been with us all of my life. I recollect how he used to get us children around him and tell us about the bad place which he wanted to shun, and about heaven, his home. He would sing to us over and over the good old songs he knew about the Saviour and His love. He would get us children around him and tell of the Saviour and His love long before I could understand what he meant. I distinctly recollect his face and how we wondered at his story so simply told with animation. But now, thank the Lord, I know why, because he loved the Saviour. Soon I expect to meet Uncle George and the rest of my loved ones who have gone on before. Some of them lie close by on the Hill, some lie at Mt. Pisgah, some on the Battle Field, some in Texas. But we will meet again, thank the Lord for the hope of a Resurrection. Of the 23 that lived there at the old home, six remain, myself, two sisters, one brother and two cousins.¹⁵

November 26, 1897 (Page 11 of Diary)

In the Lord is all my trust. I have no other helper but Him. He is my strength, He is my deliverer my all. Blessed be His holy name for all his goodness to me.

November 29, 1897

Oh Lord, help me today. Leave me not but help me to all my trust in Thee. Deliver me from all my fears, help me, oh my God.

December 11, 1897 (Page 12 of Diary)

Brother Lovell's text for the day, These things have I spoken unto you that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full, precious thought sweet promise, my Saviour's joy to remain in me. Oh, how full and complete it is there is no earthly joy so sweet. How good my Redeemer is to me. How He comforts me and gives me sweet rest amid all the conflicts of life. How He feeds me with the bread of life, how sweet to drink of the waters of salvation. How can I ever forget His loving kindness. I will rejoice in the Lord, my God and joy in the God of my salvation. For He is all my help, my King, my High Priest, my Redeemer and my God. Bless the Lord oh my soul, for His mercy endures forever. He leads me in ways that I have not known. He smiles on me and all darkness flees away. Oh, my God, help me to praise Thee and glorify Thy name. Bless Brother Lovell in all his works. Give him wisdom and understanding of Thy word that he may feed Thy sheep. That the old may be confirmed, the young may be strong and be ready to fight the battles of our God. May he feed the lambs that they may grow in the knowledge of the Lord and His word.

¹⁵ One of the sisters would be Amy, the brother is John. The others are unknown at this time.

And grant, oh Lord, that we may stand united by him, and sustain him and be ever ready to help him. May we love him dearly for his works sake. Bless our dear old Brother Paul Castleberry that has contended for the faith so long among us. May he yet do much good in the vineyard and oh Father, grant this also that a mighty awakening may take place among us.

Help Thy children to awake out of sleep and begin to earnestly inquire, watchmen what of the night? Our enemies are wide awake, our children are being led to destruction and they don't know it. Help us, oh Lord, to arise in the strength and not be afraid. Help us to put on the whole armour of God. Oh, cause Thy people to awake, help us to inquire earnestly for the old paths and walk therein, help us to love Thee and Thy word and work and to love one another, and I pray Thee, oh Lord, save my children and neighbor's children for Jesus' sake hear me I pray.

Bless the Lord for the Bible, the Word of God. Bless the Lord for causing me to love the Bible. Bless the Lord for giving me the Holy Spirit that I can claim the promises of the Bible. Bless the Lord for the church founded on the truths of the Bible. Bless the Lord for the ministers that contend for the truths of the Bible. Bless the Lord for the love of one another commanded in the Bible. Blessed word of God, I love it.

December 15, 1897 (Page 13 of the Diary)

Awake my soul in joyful days
And sing Thy great Redeemer's praise.
He justly claims a song from me
His loving kindness, oh how free.

December 21, 1897

How good the Lord is to me. His love who can measure it? Oh, for a heart to understand the height and depth, length and breadth of His unspeakable love. I thank Thee, oh Lord, for Thy word, the Bible. Its precious promises, its light is my life, my meat and my drink. I thank Thee for the Holy Spirit that lightens up my pathways and comforts me. Oh Lord, accept my praise and keep me near Thee for Thou art my Lord and my God. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

December 26, 1897

Help me today, oh heavenly Father, to do Thy will for Jesus' sake. Give me Thy Holy Spirit to bear me up amidst all the little vexations that so easily beset me. Give me a spirit of love and patience. I want to be filled with Thy love. I want to glorify Thy name today. I thank Thee and Thee alone for all the blessings of this life. Bless the Lord for all His blessings to me and mine. Thou hast brought me safely thus far, long as I live I will praise Thee.

January 2, 1898 (Page 14 of Diary)

Blessed Redeemer, Thou hast brought me safely through another year and art still with me giving rest and peace. Oh, keep me from the evil as I journey along through life, Thou art my all.

January 7, 1898

My thoughts today continually run back to the old year. Where is any fruit that I have borned to my Master's name? Alas, the foxes, the little foxes, the sins I fear have eaten all the tender grapes and I have nothing but withered leaves to bring as a thanks offering to my King. For all the blessings to me and mine. Oh how unsearchable are His judgements and His ways past finding out. His mercy and loving kindness endures forever, even unto me His rebellious, yet a child as I trust I am. I am trusting only in the imputed righteousness of His son, my Saviour, whose shed blood cleanses from all sin. He is my redeemer and my all. Oh, keep me by Thy power for the enemy presses my on every side. Oh, keep me I pray.

Sunday, February 6, 1898

Blessed Saviour be my refuge today, help me. I commit all into Thy hands only. Grant to lead me by Thy spirit. May I trust Thee willingly.

Thursday, February 10, 1898

Oh, Lord, I lift my longing eyes to Thee today. Give me wisdom that I may know how to do my whole duty in all things and glorify Thy name. Blessed Saviour hide me.

Friday, February 11, 1898

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, for all His goodness.

Saturday, February 12, 1898

Oh, Lord, be my shield today.

Friday, February 18, 1898

Blessed Saviour, be my refuge today. Help me to understand Thy word, be with me guide me all the day.

Sunday Night, February 20, 1898 (Page 15 of Diary)

I thank Thee, Lord, tonight for all Thy goodness to me for Thou hast given me power to lay hold of Thy promises and claim them as my own for Thou are my God, my all. Oh, that I could find words to express His goodness and His love and tell how good He is to me. He has brought me into His banqueting house, His banner over me is love. Oh, how good it is to have Jesus come and abide with me. Yes, I do put all my trust in Jesus. Oh, keep me by Thy love and power. Bless and save my dear children. Bless Mt. Pisgah Church. Oh, Lord, it is a dark time for her. Forbid, Oh Lord, that the enemy should prevail against her and her light become extinct. Bless our pastor, oh, help us I pray.

Monday, February 21, 1898

Thank the Lord for His goodness to me. This morning I feel the everlasting arms around me. I do thank Him faith to trust Him and words of promise. Oh, how good He is to me my Lord and my God. Blessed be His holy name.

February 23, 1898

How sweet the voice of Jesus comes to me this morning, saying I am the resurrection and the life. Blessed Saviour, I thank Thee for Thy promises and I thank Thee for faith that enables me to lay hold of them and claim them as my own. Help me to honor and glorify Thy name by my daily walk and conversation. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

Saturday, March 5, 1898 (Page 16 of Diary)

He that taketh not up his cross and followeth not Me is not worthy of Me. Oh, for grace to take up my cross not another's. My own cross and follow where my Master leads. Help me, oh Lord, to take it although it be heavy and the way rough. Help me to bear it day by day trusting Thee and believing Thy promises. Feeling assured that I shall awake in Thy likeness and be satisfied.

Monday Night, March 7, 1898

The Lord is my strength, He leadeth me, He is my Redeemer, my God, and all my trust.

Monday, March 28, 1898

Help me, oh help me, my Saviour to take my cross today and follow Thee. Oh, give me Thy spirit, my Redeemer and my God. Thou knowest all my wants and my troubles, help me to lean on Thee and believe Thy promises.

Monday, April 5, 1898

Sister Peggy Davis fell asleep today, how fast the dear ones are gathering home.

April 8, 1898

Mary Castleberry¹⁶ was found sleeping, how peaceful seemed her rest, after all her toil and care. Oh, Lord, help us all so live that we may hear Thy well done good and faithful servant and not stand ashamed before Thee.

April 13, 1898 (Page 17 of Diary)

Blessed Saviour, abide with me today. I was in deep water, I cried unto the Lord and He delivered me out of my trouble. Blessed be His holy name, His mercy is over me. Why should I fear? I will trust in the Lord, my God; and, try to commit it all into the hands of my Redeemer. Yes, all I am or have, help me, oh Lord, to make a full surrender of all unto Thee.

April 14, 1898

Oh Lord, help me today, my mind is tossed about, unsettled and full of evil. Help, oh help me to be quiet, give me patience, give a meek and quiet spirit, come and drive out the evil and abide with me today. Give me wisdom that I may know how to act to do right.

¹⁶ Not the wife of Paul Castleberry. Paul did have a daughter, Mary, born in 1856, who was married to Jim Dycus. Her death date is unknown at this time.

May 13, 1898

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down by still waters, He leads my into green pastures. His love and tender mercies are my portion. Blessed be His name forever and forever.

May 30, 1898

All hail the power of Jesus' name
Let angels prostrate fall
Bring forth the royal Diadem
And crown Him, Lord of all.

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him, should not perish but have everlasting life.

June 18, 1898

In Him all fullness dwell with Him. [Christ], He, [the Father], will freely give us all things. Oh, for a heart to praise my God for such love and mercies, for such promises as He has given me and enables me to lay hold of them and claim them. He is my righteousness my strength, my all. When I awake in His likeness I shall be satisfied. For I shall be free from sin. Oh, such wondrous love that would come and save such a vile, weak, helpless sinner as I am. Oh, it is wonderful but true; therefore, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

June 22, 1898 (Page 18 of Diary)

The Lord, my God, is my strength my salvation, my all – praise Him, oh my soul and rejoice in the God of Thy salvation for His love and tender mercies are to me and all that put their trust in Him.

July 1, 1898

Leaning on the everlasting arm of the Lord, my God. Trusting in my Saviour as my only hope. What peace what rest for He maketh me to lie down by still waters. He feeds me on His word, He gives me His Holy Spirit and I can say, My Lord and my God.

July 14, 1898

If I knew this would be the last time I would write a line here, what would I say concerning my life and my eternal destiny? What have I ever done to show that I am a child of God, or to glorify His name. Oh, how I have crippled and have nothing but ashes to bring Him, but I am leaning on the perfect righteousness of my Saviour to save me for His precious blood cleanses from all sin. He knows that with all my heart I cling to Him and desire to glorify His name. Oh, Lord, forgive me for all my sins and help me to be more like Thee. Give me the comforter and may this be the time when my boys may repent and believe on Thee and live.

Morning, August 3, 1898

Someday when all lessons have been learned
When no more problems vex the weary years
Some old time truth not till that hour discern

Will teach our hearts the foolishness of tears
 Some day when God has kindly closed our eyes
 That they may open in a clearer light
 Earth's blindness gone beneath heaven's clear skies
 We shall behold all seeming wrong made right.

Evening, August 3, 1898

I heard today that one of my boys, Robert¹⁷, had professed religion. He had made a profession and joined the church but I knew that he was not living a Christian life. Oh, if I could see him following my Saviour, how happy I would be. Dear Saviour, help him I pray. Bless the Lord, oh my soul for His goodness is from everlasting to everlasting and it reaches even to me.

August 27, 1898

Help me today, oh Lord, that I may have my loins girded and my light shining. Without spirit I can do nothing, help me to be in earnest about my work whatever I do or say. May it be to the honor of Thy name. Help me to remember that I am not my own and that this day will not return. Help me to do or endure all things with an eye single to Thy glory. Help me, I pray.

September 12, 1898 (Page 20 of Diary)

How sad and lonely I feel today. The Lord has taken from me my dear companion. How dreary and desolate life is without him. Oh Lord, help me now to trust Thee. Help me for the days are dark and dreary, help me to look to Thee and trust in Thee. Help me to commit all into Thy hands. Lead me in the right way. Be my companion and strength. Help me to honor and glorify Thy name. Oh, my Saviour, help me now. J. A. Smith fell asleep September 7, 1898.

Asleep in Jesus blessed sleep.
 From which none ever wake to weep.
 A calm and undisturbed repose.
 Unbroken by the last of foes.

Farewell my beloved. Till Jesus bids me come, farewell.

October 6, 1898

Help me, oh Lord, in this my time of great need. Help, oh help me to discharge all the wearisome duties and obligations that I daily encounter, duties that I am so ignorant about and that rest so heavy on me. I need wisdom and strength, oh help me that I may know how to act to glorify Thy name.

October 27, 1898

My Lord and my God, what a blessed privilege to lean on Thee and to know that Thou art a friend that sticketh closer than a brother, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

¹⁷ Robert Aiken Smith, 7/18/1879 – 9/15/1969

November 19, 1898

Heavenly Father, help me to follow Thee. Help me, make me willing to take up my cross daily and follow Thee. I am so weak, be my shelter in the storm, be my rock of defense and sure hiding place for I look to Thee for help.

Friday, May 26, 1899 (Page 21 of Diary)

Little Porter¹⁸ went home, yes home left all the pain and suffering of this life clean. Escaped all the cares and trials and sins of this life. Happy, happy little boy how peaceful his sleep until the Lord his God bids him awake. It is hard to give thee up thou little household pet. I know all the anguish of Pappa's and Mama's heart. But, we will meet again by the grace of God we can come to you after the warfare is ended. May we all be ready. Grandma is so tired now if it was the Master's will, she would, she would gladly come now. By and by when the dross is all consumed she will come, by the grace of God. Till then farewell sweet boy, farewell.

June 3, 1899

My troubles for the last days have been so great that I have well nigh sunk beneath the load. Robert has gotten into trouble with Ben Ritch, and I am again passing under the rod. The deep waters of affliction have gone over me. Help me, help me, oh my God to hold fast to Thy words of promise. Sustain me, give me wisdom and strength. Help me to be willing to do or suffer anything that Thou in Thy wisdom sees fit for me to bear. Oh, give me a submissive heart, help me, oh Lord, I pray. I am so weak I look to Thee thou God of my salvation. Let me not be ashamed increase my faith. Strengthen me deliver me. Oh, my God, help me, I pray.

June 16, 1899

How precious are Thy promises to me. Oh, my God, how sweet to know that Thou are my Redeemer and my God and to feel Thy everlasting arms are under me, how sweet to rest in Thee. How good it is to be able to say the Lord is my helper, in Him is all my trust. For He has given me songs in the night of trouble and darkness, bless the Lord, oh my soul.

July 23, 1899

Today I am so weak and helpless. I try, I want to trust the promises of my God, but in my weakness, and sinfulness, and blindness, and coldness, I can't get hold of them like I want to. Oh, send Thy spirit, my Saviour, help me. Oh, help me to know and feel that all is well. I am distressed and fearful and perplexed about this trouble that lies so heavy on me. Enable me, oh Lord, to bear all things patiently and with a heart submissive to Thy will. Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake, forgive me for all my sins and strengthen me in my helplessness. Give me Thy Holy Spirit to guide me through all the troubles and vexations of life. Thou, oh Lord, have been so good to me, how can I have a fear or doubt. Forgive me and help me to overcome this weakness in Thy name. Help me to know that all things will work together for my good, and if this trouble does not terminate as I want it, help me from my heart to say Thy will be done. Help my boy to look to

¹⁸ Eugene Porter Smith, 4 year old son of Amanda's son William Zion Smith and Ara Lee King.

Thee. I will go in the strength of the Lord, my God, I will make mention of His righteousness and His only, now when I am old and grey headed, oh my God, forsake me not until I have shewed Thy strength unto this generation. Thou who has shewed me great and sore trouble, quicken me again and bring me up again from the depth of the earth.

Thou shalt comfort me and increase my greatness, bless the Lord, oh my soul, for such words of comfort and of hope, how little I deserve such blessings, but the Lord is good to me. Why do I ever get discouraged like I do?

Lord, help my unbelief
 Give me a faith that shines more bright
 When tempests rage without
 That when in danger knows no fear
 In darkness feels no doubt.

July 24, 1899

Lord, help me today abide with me.

August 24, 1899

The Lord is my helper in Him is all my trust.

October 9, 1899

Beloved think it not strange concerning the fiery trials which await you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. How sweetly, how comforting this word of my Saviour came to me today, when I was feeling so helpless and unhappy under the burden I was compelled to bear. The spirit whispered these words of consolation and rest, bless the Lord for all the goodness to me.

October 15, 1899

How good is the Lord to me, in my weakness and helplessness He comes to me and gives me rest and peace, and such peace as the world can never give. There is something in this world for me but trouble and vexation of spirit. But, the Lord my God, is my Shepherd, he leads me by His spirit, in His word I find peace and rest, sometimes when all around me is so dark and gloomy and the way rough, His spirit brings to my remembrance sweet word of promise, and, Lord, I am made to rejoice in spirit, and lean on Him and rest, because of hope He has given me for He has said all things work together for good because He has redeemed me by His own precious blood. He will never leave me nor forsake me, nor let me fight the battle alone, but will be with me even unto death. Yes, when the storm of life surrounds me and all is so dark and dreary He is with me. His strong arm is my support in my darkest hours. How sweet it is to be able to rest in the Lord and commit all. Yes, all into His hands. Bless the Lord, my God my King, my all, even mine.

October 27, 1899

How good the Lord has been to me, how pleasant has been the companionship of my children and friends, this has been mine for the last few days. How pleasant the time has past. Now how good to be at home and know that all has been well in my absence. Yes, it is His goodness that has led me in green pastures and permitted me to lie down by still waters. How sweet is rest to the weary. How I love my Saviour, how I wish I could be submissive to His will and always trust Him and commit all things into His hands, bless the Lord oh my soul.

December 19, 1899 (Page 25 of Diary)

Oh fool and slow of heart that I am, to believe and trust my Saviour after realizing His help so often and knowing His goodness to me. How can I be so easily troubled and sad about the things of this life. When He says, let not your heart be troubled neither be afraid, and that not a little sparrow shall fall to the ground without his notice, and His children are more in His sight than many sparrows. I pray to Him asking Him to take care of me and I think, I believe He will take care of me. Then I spend nearly all the night worrying over something that I am afraid will come to pass. Oh, what I want of faith. How I try, yet it seems I can never attain that perfect resignation to the divine will that I want to have. Even when I do get to where I can commit all into His hands an evil spirit or someone will show me a lion in the way, and make me tremble with fear. Dear Lord, pity me and help me to overcome this weakness and put all my trust in Thee. Help me that I may not be so easily moved. I wish I could wait patiently Thy will concerning me, my Saviour, help me I pray.

NOTE: I have lost some of my old book where Robert and Cora, and Pierce and Lou were married.¹⁹

April 15, 1900 (Page 26 of Diary)

Help us now, oh Lord, to bow with submission to Thy will. Thou hast taken two more of my sweet little boys. It has not been long since Earl was taken and Lummie and Ernest are both gone. Ernest crossed over the 7th and Lummie the 12th.²⁰ Yes, entered into the rest of the blest where there is no sorrow nor pain, nor aching hearts, not tear-dimmed eyes. Gone to the home of many mansions which the Saviour told us of. Darling little boys, how good to be able to escape the evil of this world. Grandma is only waiting for the Master to call her too. She often gets tired but the Master knows best. When her work is done, He will send for her. Till then, farewell sweet boys, farewell. Pierce has

¹⁹ Her son, Robert, married Cora Rich on Dec. 17, 1899; her daughter, Louise (Lou), married Franklin Pierce Lee on Feb. 3, 1900.

²⁰ Ernest is a son of William Zion Smith, died at age 3, April 10, 1900. Earl and Lummie are sons of Maggie Smith and S.J. Pike. Lummie died April 12, 1900, age 7. Earl's marker at Mt. Pisgah has dates of Aug. 13, 1899 – Oct. 13, 1900. With this entry being in April, this is a discrepancy that should be investigated.

also lost one of his dear ones.²¹ Help them all dear Saviour to look to and trust Thee, and comfort them with Thy love.

August 23, 1900

The Lord answered my prayer and saved my darling Joe.²² I pray Thee, oh Lord, keep him from the evil of the world. Give him wisdom and strength to fight the good fight of faith, and not be as so many are that have professed to love Thee and seem now to care nothing for Thy word, and are living so careless and have forsaken Thy way, and are standing in the way of sinners and sitting in the seat of the scornful. How sad it is. Oh, for Jesus' sake, help them to stop and consider. Help us at Mt. Pisgah, is there not a few names left that have not bowed the knee to bail. Lord, if it can be Thy will that she may yet be the city set on a hill, bless our pastor for he has faithfully preached Thy word. (Several lines unreadable).

September 10, 1900

How long, dear old Diary, since I have seen you and written a line? Not since my precious little boys passed over, how I love to think of my loved ones over on the other shore. Knowing it won't be long until Jesus will send for me. Such love and mercy, He loves me in spite of all my sins and weakness and helplessness. He gives me such sweet peace and rest in the sweet assurance that loves and cares for me. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

NOTE IN DIARY: Sometimes I have my paper wrong, hunt the pages.

October 21, 1900

Bless the Lord, oh my soul, how sweet the rest He gives me.

January 24, 1901

My darling boy, Joe, has gone home, he was saved August 23, 1900 and died December 28, 1900. How desolate I feel. Since my husband died, how I did cling to him, for all my children, he alone belonged to me. All had married and he was my all. But the Lord knows what is best and I have the sweet assurance that we will meet again. Until then farewell my darling boy, farewell.²³

(Several lines unreadable, date of following passage unknown)

There have been many things come to pass that are sad and are hard to bear, and nothing has hurt me like the way a few of us have been treated by our brothers and sisters of Mt. Pisgah Church. A few of us, myself, David Smith, old Brother and Sister S.R. Beavers and wife, Pierce and Lou, Will Z, Sam and David did not believe in the Board plan of sending missions funds. We believe in that the Board plan is unscriptural and is a

²¹ This would be a child of Pierce Lee and his first wife, Elizabeth Jenkins.

²² Joseph Graves Smith, born Nov. 20, 1883.

²³ Amandie is referring here to her son Joseph Graves. He died of appendicitis on Dec. 28, 1900. The family story is that he underwent surgery on the kitchen table but did not survive. Ten days after Joe's death, Amandie lost a grandson, Carl, son of Maggie. He was 3 years old.

departure from the Bible plan, assuming duties which belong to the church alone. We tried to get the brethren to show us where we was wrong, if we were and they would not. I begged my brethren and sisters individually and in conference.... Speeches made by some which has proven injurious to... and the progress of the church. Resolved and second that hereafter we will not allow any speeches or talks made by any so called gospel missionaries. Done in conference November 9, 1901
C.J. Pike, Moderator; N.B. Goss, Clerk Protem.

The Gospel Mission Brethren begged them not to pass them and for them to all agree to meet at a set time and search the Bible together in love and settle it by God's word and they would not. Even some voted that had been lettered for years and we thought had joined another church. I beg only Father to open their eyes, for the evil days are upon us and I think the time is here when the Saviour said, "WATCH." Help us Lord to watch and pray. We were not disturbing the brethren about our belief, we are only contending for the truth as taught in God's word in our daily conversation.

1902 (Page 31 of Diary)

The Saviour said before He came again there would come a falling away first. I believe we are now living in perilous times, and who shall be able to stand. I hardly ever hear a gospel sermon preached and I do get so hungry, nearly all preach a mixed gospel. The sinners must weep and mourn while father and mother are praying, and the church is at work shouting, singing and praying. They must come to the mourner's bench and weep and mourn, or they will be eternally lost, and the brethren and sisters must come and get down by them. And, as I heard a Baptist preacher say last summer, "come along and help the Lord convert these dear mourners." Such stuff made my heart ache. How I longed to hear them hold up Jesus as the way and point to him, and say behold the Lamb of God, whose blood cleanses from all sin. Believe on Him, for God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth on Him shall not perish but have everlasting life. I know I am weak and sinful but I believe on Him. He is my only hope. He is my righteousness my all, and I will contend for His word praying Him to give me wisdom to understand what He requires of me, and grace to enable me to stand firm on its teachings. Even if I stand alone and have to bear persecution for doing so, how it hurts me to see those I love blinded and can't see the evil that threatens the very foundation of church sovereignty being destroyed by man-made organizations, claiming the right to do the work of the church and Holy Spirit. Oh Lord, help Thy children who are contending for Thy word. Help them to so live that they may be living witnesses for Thee. Bless David in the work whereunto Thou hast called him. Mt. Pisgah has tried to kill him. Oh help him to contend earnestly for Thy truth. Give him great boldness in Thy word, open the eyes and unstop the ears of all Thy children. If there is hatred or malice in my heart against those who have so wronged us, dear Saviour, forgive me and help me blot Thou knowest that I do want to know what Thy word teaches. I want to do Thy will. Help me and help us all. Help me I beg again to understand Thy word for I know its truths will stand, and if I understand it wrong I will be loser. My Redeemer, my God, my all, help me, guide and lead me by Thy sweet spirit, blessed comforter. The way is dark and rough may it only lead me where Jesus is for when I awake in His likeness I shall be satisfied.

February 12, 1902

How good to be at home again where I can get my mind composed, and gather in my scattering thoughts and get close to my Saviour. Here alone after all have gone to sleep, then I have close communion with my Saviour. Here I often bow myself before a throng of mercy and find help. Here I study my Bible closer and find the way to Jesus. Sweet home.

Here all my children have been borned, here four of them and my dear companion have died.²⁴ All of the joys and sorrows of 40 years cluster, and now Sam and Nancy with their three welcome me home.²⁵ Then I love to come home. One, Nannie, is in Texas, I never get to go and spend a few days with her. How I would love to see her and Alphas. Father in mercy, look on my children may they be close followers of Thee. Help them that by their daily walk and conversation, the children Thou hast given them may know that they are followers of Thee. May they all study Thy word and take it as the name of their council and obey its teachings, save their children I pray Thee. How I love them all. May they early learn to serve Thee. How sad solemn the thought that they will have to encounter all the evil that is coming on the world. There is so much evil being taught claiming to be the way to heaven when it is the way of death and eternal destruction. Oh, guide them in the way of life. May they learn to treasure Thy word the Bible. Help us who are not accounted worthy to belong to Mt. Pisgah Church to take heed to our ways that we may not bring a reproach on Thy name. May we be glad to suffer reproach for Thy name sake. Open the eyes of all Thy children that they may see where they are drifting. Forgive all those that so bitterly oppose us. They know what they do.

(Page 34 of Diary)

Bless David, he is suffering reproach for Thy word. May the enemy not prevail but in Thy name may he fight the good fight to the honor of Thy name. Help me, one of the least and weakest of Thy children. Thou art strong and Thou art all my hope. I can't see why Thou hast ever loved me so; but, I thank and adore Thee for such wonderful love. I can't comprehend it; but, help me to live it so that I can show it to others that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him shall never perish but have everlasting life. That with Him, He will freely give us all things. I will try and wait patiently for my inheritance. Bless the Lord, oh my soul and forget not all His benefits.

February 27, 1902

My dear sister, Martha Smith²⁶, is sick. They don't think she will live. How I want to go to her. Always if we were sick or I was in great trouble she would come and minister to our wants. It is raining so I can't go now. Bless her and her children.

²⁴ In addition to her husband, James Aiken Smith, Amandie here is referring to James Newton, born Mar. 24, 1873, died Nov. 3, 1874; Hester Florence, born Dec. 29, 1881, died April 4, 1883; an infant, born and died on May 28, 1887, and Joseph Graves.

²⁵ Her son Samuel Tilden Smith, his wife Nancy Caroline Martin, and three of their children, Joe Wheeler 3, Sallie 2, and Martin, 14 months.

²⁶ Martha Elizabeth Masters, wife of James Aiken Smith's brother, Zion Newton Smith.

March 18, 1902

Martha is better, I did get to her but was taken sick and went to Pierce's. How kind they were to me while there. When I got better I heard Maggie was sick and came to see her. Was not able to stay and wait on her and was not able to go again until Sunday. When I went in, death's cold hands was on her; but, she smiled sweetly on me and called me her old Ma. She did not think from the first that she would get well; but committed Wallie and her two little girls into her Savior's keeping. She fell asleep March 16, 1902. How sad for me to know that never again in this life will I see her. But, now my loss is her great gain. How she did love to talk about the precious truths of the Bible and how she wanted to live a Christian life and how weak she claimed she was, and could not understand it's (the Bible) teaching like she wanted to. But, she did trust in Jesus. I am not grieving for Maggie but I do grieve for Wallie and his two little girls, one a little helpless afflicted babe. How I wish I could do as she had done, commit them into the Master's hands, but I am so weak. I trouble about them, help Thy weak servant to do and suffer Thy will, my Redeemer and my God.

March 22, 1902

How weak I am both mentally and physically, my mind can't grasp nor retain anything long at a time. But, this I know, Jesus is my only hope. His word is the only thing that remains steadfast. In it alone can I find peace and rest. All of them I love pass away, slip from my grasp and are gone, and I am powerless, can't hold them from death's relentless hands. Now where, oh where, shall I go to find rest and peace. If I look around me on those I love, they too are in need of a strong arm to lean upon. If I look at the sun, moon and stars, they give me no rest. Now I will turn my eyes on God's word and ask, if a man die shall he live again? Yes, Jesus, says, I am the resurrection and the life and whosoever believeth on me shall never perish but have everlasting life. And, again, God shall wipe away all tears and there will be no crying nor pain nor death there. And, He said I go to prepare a place for you that where I am there you may be also. Oh, Jane, you need not think that I don't care when my loved ones die, because I don't cry and bewail their death. It's because I know they will live again, for Jesus said He would come again and take us unto Himself. Oh, yes, looking by an eye of faith through God's word I find rest and peace, yea joy. It grows brighter and brighter day by day. Precious word of God that shows the way from earth to glory. It is the only thing that tells us of a Savior's love without it all would be a blank. My loved ones who are gone loved it and trusted in Jesus, and ere long He will call and I too will go and rest till the end be, and stand in my lot at the end of the days. When I shall awake in His likeness till the end be.

Now dreary is the once cheery fireside
 And sad is the heart now alone
 While the old fashioned clock on the mantle
 Ticks out with its low measured drone
 And the fluttering glimmering embers
 Shine dimly and faintly as they fall
 And the hearth where the loved ones once gathered
 Whose shadows are missed on the wall.

March 23, 1902

Yesterday another little babe²⁷ came to Sam and Nancy and I am not able to do anything for them. I will go home with Will. Nancy and Sam don't want me to go but I think it best. I know Ara and the children will welcome the old Grandma if she is sick. How good and kind all my children are to me while I am sick. Bless them my Redeemer and God.

June 11, 1902 (Page 37 of Diary)

Have been with my Sister Amy²⁸ a week. Went from Mt. Pleasant where they had an all-day singing led by Mr. Bradshaw using only the old sacred harp. Olie, one of Amy's girls was married there that day and I thought Sister would be in the blues but she wasn't. How I did enjoy myself. I and her went fishing or visiting every day while I was there. Her and her children are all lovers of my Saviour and it is a pleasant place to visit. Charley brought me to Rehobeth where they had Children's Day. Sam and Nancy met me there and brought me home where I heard that another old and dear Christian sister was dying. Today I went and saw her laid to rest. They fall on my right hand and on the left and still I am kept here. Oh, for grace to wait in patience and humbly follow where my Master leads.

July 21, 1902

I know that my Redeemer liveth, when I awake in His likeness I shall be satisfied, He is all my trust, how sweet to rest in Him and trust His promises. He is my Redeemer and my God, my King. All that is within me bless His holy name.

How sad the thought that I am counted unworthy a place in dear old Mt. Pisgah. They think I am stiff-necked and rebellious, surely they don't know it is because I can't deny my Master's word as I understand it. It doesn't teach what is being taught there, that salvation is partly of works and partly of grace. The Bible teaches repent and believe on Jesus. His work and His blood is almost ignored or obscured by the work which they preach a poor helpless sinner must do. It seems they don't know how weak and helpless yea dead poor lost humanity is, and that the blood of Jesus alone cleanses from all sin. Oh, for grace to stand firm for my Saviour and his word. It seems to me there is a famine of God's word among us now. All kinds of false doctrines are being taught and believed. Jesus, Master, help me to stand firm on the teachings of Thy word. Give me wisdom and understanding to know Thy will. Give me Thy spirit to bring it to my remembrance, and testify to its truths. Make me strong enough to stand if need be alone and contend for its teachings. For the blood of Jesus alone cleanses from all sin. And, He is my all sufficient and only hope of a part in the first resurrection. Help me, oh Lord, to live a faithful consecrated consistent Christian life. Help all Thy children to understand Thy word and not be carried about by every wind of doctrine but may they study Thy word and contend for Thy truth.

²⁷ Perna Emily Smith.

²⁸ Amy was the youngest of Amandie's siblings, born about 1856. She married Titus Mundine, brother of Jesse H.W. Mundine. The daughter getting married is Olive Annie.

September 7, 1902 (Page 30 of Diary)

10 O'Clock Night: How peaceful, how restful to know that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sins and that He is the sinner's friend. That He does not impute sin. To me that by His stripes I am healed. That He was bruised for my iniquity, that the chastisement of my peace was upon that He was deviled up for my transgression, and that when He comes for His saints I will be among them. Amazing pity, grace unknown and love beyond degree, who can comprehend it, Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

October 12, 1902 (Page 39 of Diary)

Have been with Will Z. and family and Julia and family two weeks, and today brought Niece Castleberry to Walter Kings.²⁹ She has consumption. Father, help me to do my whole duty by her.

October 24, 1902

Niece had another chill. Sometimes she suffers terrible yet she is so patient under it all. How glad I am to know she has a better home than this, for she is trusting in Jesus. Bless, oh Lord, the kind friends who have given her a home where I can stay and wait on her and they are so good and kind to us. May their reward be great.

October 25, 1902

Niece had a bad spell yesterday. I thought she was going to leave us.

October 28, 1902

Niece grows weaker every day. How I wish I had her home, but she is too weak to go. Dear Lord, give me strength to wait on her. Oh, help me to do my whole duty.

October 29, 1902

Niece has been suffering terrible but is easier.

November 4, 1902 (Page 40 of Diary)

Niece is still here suffering oh so patiently and I am so weak and sluggish from so much watching. The grasshopper is a burden but when I am weak I will trust in the Lord.

November 5, 1902

Last night at 9:30 o'clock Niece fell asleep so peacefully and my task is done. I will go home. Saviour, bless all the kind friends that have been so good to me.

December 7, 1902

The Gospel Missioners met at Union Grove today to consult about getting help and organizing a church. Decided to meet the 15th at Mt. Pisgah as Brother J. D. Smith has promised to be with us then. The Lord willing, 10 O'Clock Sunday night, 7th. I have been looking over my old Diary. How well I remember many of the blessings that have called for thanksgiving to my King, or prayer for help in times of deepest trouble or sorrow and desolation. And now, nearing the end of my three score years, I can

²⁹ Identification of Niece is unknown at this time. Walter King is the son of Mrs. S.A. King and brother of Arie King Smith.

truthfully say it is good to trust in the Lord at all times and under all circumstances. For He is faithful and His mercy endures forever. Yes, even in the darkest hours of my life, and there have been many, His word of promise has been my support and comfort. Yes, He has even given me songs in the darkest hour. If any poor weak and doubting Christian ever reads these lines, be encouraged. Look away from self, look to Jesus and keep looking to Him. Don't be afraid to trust. I never could find anything in myself to give me relief. But, when I could look to Jesus as the author and finisher of my faith then I could lay aside every weight and the sins that beset me and run with patience the race which is before me. Oh, trust Him, believe He will do just what He says he will. Study His word, find out what He says and believe it. He will give you His Holy Spirit to make you understand if you ask Him. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners of whom I am chief. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

Last night, after I had gone to bed I remembered parts of some lines Uncle Hogan Wadsworth wrote for me when I was a child, about 43 or 44 years ago:

- (1) Amanda, live for Jesus, He has many gifts for those
Who trust His word of promise, He'll drive away their woes.
- (2) Amanda, He that's promised, has satisfied the law
Or else the wretched sinner would have no plea at all.
- (3) Although the blood of thousands were daily to be spilt
It would have no cleansing power to wash away our guilt.
- (4) Amanda, let me warn you, prepare for sad events
This world is full of trouble. How empty its contents.

Yes, I find it a great deal emptier than I thought it then. Now it is all vanity and vexation of spirit. There is so much strife and jealousy among the people, brothers and sisters fussing and speaking against each other and finding fault with and accusing me of being partial. They think they are right but I know I love every one of them too well to take from one and give to another. They don't look at things right. How empty it all is. I am going to cling to my Saviour and rest in His world. It is all that bears me up and it tells all these things must come to pass. Dear Saviour, help me to keep the door of my mouth that I sin not with my lips.

For then perhaps some, many whom we blamed
When foolish lips had learned the speech of scorn
Shall pass before us halting, bleeding and maimed
By walking where we sowed the thorn.

December 17, 1902 (Page 42 of Diary)

The Lord's time has not come for us to organize a church. The preachers did not come on account of the rain. We will wait patiently His time. Although it makes us sad to know we are cut off from church privileges, while we wait help us, oh Lord, to watch and

pray. Some of my children are so dissatisfied about my management of the old home, truly the grasshoppers are a burden. I have done and am doing the best I can but alas the foxes, the little foxes (jealousy) have got in and I fear will eat all the tender grapes (peace, love). Oh the spirit of the living God, drive them out and help be bear it all patiently, serving Thee with a true heart in humility and Godly fear.

December 21, 1902

Went with Sam and Nancy today to Mr. Martin's³⁰ and to Macedonia Church and heard a sermon by Mr. Reeves, the pastor's text: Ponder the paths of thy feet, thy ways may be established. He made a good talk but did not say much about Jesus the sinner's friend. I am so hungry for the gospel that Paul preached. How that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures and rose again to the Scriptures. He is all my trust, my righteousness, and my justification.

December 28, 1902

Today is another sad time with me. Robert has cut himself loose from his wife and little ones and started to Texas. Robert and Cora are both so foolish. I believe they love each other dearly, but they did quarrel so much. I have talked to them often and tried to get them to see the folly of it. Now, oh God, over rule this to the good of them both and bless them. Bless their two little boys. May they get together and learn through this separation the lesson of patience and forbearance. Oh Father, for Jesus' sake, help me now. Thou hast been my helper in all the dark days that I have past through and I believe that Thou wilt help me again in this trouble and that Thou wilt yet bring my boy into Thy kingdom. For this blessing, I pray.

January 1, 1903 (Page 43 of Diary)

The past week has been dark and stormy to me. My boy, a wanderer, my children hurt with one another and some hurt at me. Oh, for grace and patience that I may live as I ought so that the adversary should find nothing in me to cause the weakest to stumble, help me my Saviour. Remove envying and jealousy from among my children. Take care of my wandering boy. Bless Cora in her trouble, help her to lay hold of Thee and grant that they may get together again and live as becomes husband and wife according to the Scripture's way. Bless and help Thy children from the evil of the world. Help us not to grow weary and faint by the way. Knowing that the captain of our salvation was made perfect through suffering, help us also to endure suffering as good soldiers under Him. Jesus Master, help me.

January 10, 1903

Why art Thou cast down, oh my soul? And why art thou disquieted within me? Why am I feeling so desolate tonight? I try but can't feel quiet about my boy. I will take him to Jesus and beg him to watch over him and keep him from the evil of the world. And, I will commit myself, my children, and all that are so dear to me into His hands. And He will give me rest for He is my all, and His words of promise are sure and faithful.

³⁰ John H. "Jack" Martin, father of Nancy Caroline Martin Smith.

January 13, 1903

The Lord is my portion forever as long as I live I will trust in Him and try to be like Him in spirit and commit all things unto His hands.

January 16, 1903

Spent night before last and yesterday with my kind friends Mr. E. Gambrells and family. Mrs. G. and I went fishing yesterday. Got a letter from Robert yesterday, how glad I was to know he was well. How it hurts me to hear him so bitterly spoken about. I know he is not perfect. I grieve when one of my children does wrong, but oh how I love them. I will try and not speak evil of anyone, even if they do wrong, lest I grieve some innocent person. Heard this eve that old Aunt Lizer, and old colored woman that lived with us a long time, is passing away. Her warfare will soon be over. She has lost her husband and three children in the last few years. Death is no respecter of persons, all have to go with Him. Dear Saviour, may we all be found ready when He comes for us.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me.
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see.

Yes, the Lord has promised good to me
His word, my hope, secure.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

Blessed precious thought.

January 17, 1903

Aunt Lizer is dead, but notwithstanding some would have us believe the Negro has no soul. I believe I will meet her again in the sweet bye and bye, for the word tells me that the God that made the world and all things there, He being Lord of heaven and earth, that He made of one every nation of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, having determined their season and the bounds of their habitation, that they should seek God. If happily they feel after Him and find Him. Yes, unto the black man as well as the white was the word of this salvation sent, for they are also His offspring. When I went to bed last night, it seemed to me that heaven and Jesus was away off and I was here and so little, weak and unworthy that I could not approach the mercy seat, and the sweet spirit whispered to me that He said something about being nigh. Here it is and how precious it is. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon Him, to all that call upon Him in truth. He will fulfill the desire of them that fear Him. He also will hear their cry and will save them. Surely His salvation is nigh them that fear Him. But now in Christ Jesus ye that once were far off are made nigh in the blood of Christ.

Oh, how the Comforter does bring to my remembrance His word of promise and gives me rest such as the world cannot give nor take away.

January 18, 1903

Went today to see Aunt Lizer laid to rest. Found that they would not bury her until evening and we went to Rehobeth to preaching. Heard an eloquent discourse on the glory of the church, which is as A City Set On a Hill. He gave a glowing account of what the church or branches of the churches were doing in our day, the ground work which is being done now by her through her missionaries. Oh, it was thrilling. He was a good speaker and pictured the fine cities of our land into which all the wealth and all the intellect and every other good thing was flowing, taking it away from town and country and taking it into the cities. He said it was so now with the city of our God that all the wealth and intellect...

Zechariah 4th says, "Thus saith the Lord of host, if thou wilt walk in my ways, and if thou wilt keep my charge, then thou shalt also judge my house, and shalt also keep my courts, and I will give thee places to walk among these that stand by, but in chapter 4, verse 2, He says, and He said unto me, what seest thou and I said, I have looked and behold a candle stick of all gold, with a bowl upon top of it and His seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps which are upon the top thereof, and two olive trees by it one upon the right side of the bowl, and the other upon the left-side thereof. Verse 11, Then answered I and said unto him, what are these olive trees upon the right of the candlesticks and the left side thereof? And I answered again and said unto Him, what be these two olive branches which through the two golden pipes empty the golden oil themselves? Then said He, these are the two anointed ones, that stand by the Lord of the whole earth.

Revelation 20:4 and I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them. And I saw the souls of them that were beheaded, for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshiped the Beast, neither His image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands, and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.

Paul says, "Ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own that ye may show forth the excellency of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, who in times past were no people but who now are the people of God, that had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy." Beloved I beseech you as sojourners and pilgrims to abstain from fleshly lusts which are against ... Paul and Peter when preaching to the first gentiles, that we are witnesses of all things, He "Jesus" ... and that He charged us to preach unto the people and to testify that this is He who is ordained of God to be the judge of the quick and dead. To Him bear all the prophets witness that through His name every one that believeth on Him shall receive remission of sins. Now I conclude that God's children that who walk in the Spirit, and not in the flesh, they who contend for His word are one of the witnesses spoken of. And it does seem to me that their influence is almost dead. Oh, watchman, what of the night? Dear Jesus, help us to be faithful, give us wisdom, help us to watch and pray, guide us by Thy spirit, may we put on the whole armour of God and be willing to suffer reproach for Thy name and Thy word.

February 13, 1903

Went to see Gennie Wright Monday. She had been right sick. Brother Jack³¹ has been with us three nights and two days this week and I told him something that I had better left unsaid. I am always doing or saying something that I ought not. Will I never get so I can bring myself into subjection to my Master's will and word. Oh, help me my Saviour, for His eyes are upon the ways of man also. Doth not He see my ways and all my steps? For the ways of many are before the eyes of the Lord. He foundereth all his goings, for Thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men to give every one according to his ways and according to the fruit of his doings. Knowing these things are so, why can't I govern myself and walk as my Saviour has commanded me? For the flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh. For these are contrary one to the other that I may not do the things I would. But, if any man sin we have an advocate with the Father, even Jesus. What a precious promise. Love suffereth long as is kind, love envyeth not. Love vaunteth not itself is not puffed up. Doth not behave itself unseemingly, seeketh it not its own, is not easily provoked, taketh not account of evil, rejoiceth not in unrighteousness, but rejoiceth with the truth, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things. Oh, how I do wish I could attain to all these things. Help me, oh help me, my God, to put Thy armour on and overcome the lust of the flesh.

April 26, 1903 (Page 50 in Diary)

Since writing here last, I have been to Vandiver and spent four weeks as pleasantly as could be. How I did enjoy being with Sister and her children. While there I had the privilege of hearing three good sermons by Brother Hughes the Pastor of Pleasant Grove. The church there seemed to be on a drag and are not letting its light shine as it should. How deplorable is the State of Zion today. I have been searching diligently for the two witnesses spoken of in Revelation 11:3, 4, and I find that Jesus said, "When the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father. He shall bear witness of Me. (R.V.) and Ye also shall bear witness because ye have been with me from the beginning." Here are two witnesses spoken of and in the revised version the spirit and children of God are spoken of as witnesses and they are to testify to the word of God, the bible, that it is truth. But I have not found anyone yet that agrees with me that the spirit is one of the witnesses spoken of. But they are all I find. Oh, Lord, give me knowledge of Thy word, give me wisdom to understand and Thy spirit to bring to mind Thy teachings.

The 18th of April Little Lois, Maggie's afflicted little babe went home. I am glad she is at rest. Now little Ann is alone, three little brothers and one little sister and Mama all gone in so short time and she and Papa are so lonely. Oh, Lord, take care of them and lead them in the way of life. I did not get to see little Lois, did not know she was sick, intended to go and see her laid away but had to go to Lou's. Her little babe was laid to rest Monday.³² She has two little ones gone on before, for some cause the Master calls her little ones early. Soon we will know and this I know He does all things well and they are clean, escaped the evil to come. W.Z. and Sam went to Eden last night and taken first

³¹ Possibly her brother John Wadsworth, born about 1854.

³² Name of Lou's child is unknown at this time.

degree of Odd Fellows. Sam is complaining of his feet hurting. Nancy and I tell him it is because of the rough treatment they gave him.

Mrs. Gambrell spent the night with us. It is so cold today I have to hover over the fire. We are having a heap of rain, wind and cold weather, it is discouraging to the farmers.

May 10, 1903

Forty years ago today I was married, 39 years ago Nannie was born. How checkered has been my life. Of my eleven children only six are living and they all are scattered, and I am all alone. They all have families of their own and the old mother stays first with one and then another. Nannie is in California, Robert in Texas and I cannot be with them. Sam and Nancy had another little girl³³ borned to them the 29th of April at 3:30 o'clock eve.

Today I feel the need of the strong arm of my Master to lean upon. How glad I am that it is written, "Even as a Father pitieth his children even so pitieth He us." How restful to know that He has such tender care for me.

June 12, 1903 (Page 52 in Diary)

Since I have written here, Julia has found her another little boy, don't know the date of its birth, and Ara has a little girl borned the 1st inst. The 10. Little Martin³⁴ fell out of the doors and broke his leg. He seems to be getting along very well. Robert came home about the middle of last month. Him and Cora are together and how I do hope they will get along well and control their temper. Went to Union Grove Sunday to our little meeting. Heard a good gospel mission sermon by Brother David Smith. It did my soul good. Heard that Lou was in bad health. I wanted to go see her and Julia both but am tied at home for a time. Cousin Paul has left Pisgah Church. Got a letter of dismissal and Mr. Pike has resigned the Pastorate. Dear old Pisgah is left desolate. How I hate to know that she is in such deplorable condition. How long, oh, Lord, how long till Thou wilt send deliverance to Thy people. Help Thy children to follow Thee and show by their daily life that they are not their own, that they belong to Thee. That Thou are our king and Thy word is our guide; help, oh help, us to be faithful.

June 13, 1903

Cold enough this morning for the men folks to wear their coats to the field.

July 26, 1903

Again, I will pen a few lines here. The Lord has blessed this people with good rains and the prospects are good for a good harvest. All that is within me bless His holy name. Robert and Cora has a little daughter born the 18th. That makes four precious little lives added to my loved ones this year and one that passed away ere it seen the light of day. Oh, Father, give us wisdom so that we can be a light to them and point them to a Saviour's love. Death has also been in our midst and taken a young wife and mother.

³³ Mary Kathleen Smith, born April 29, 1903; died December 29, 1935.

³⁴ Martin Smith, son of Sam and Nancy.

Gennie Wright passed away a few days ago leaving two little babes without a mother's love and tender care.

August 2, 1903

Went to Union Grove today to our little meeting. David preached for us. Lord, give him wisdom to understand Thy word and be able to teach Thy truths to Thy people. I was made glad to know that Thy people at Mt. Pisgah are willing now at last to want us gospel missionaries to come back that they now see they are wrong. Oh, Father, for Jesus' sake, guide us now and help us that we may do Thy will and glorify Thy name. Give the Holy Spirit to Thy children and may we follow Thee and keep Thy word.

August 3, 1903

When I study the bible, I must understand about who God is. I must know something of His greatness, His wisdom and His love for His creation. And His peculiar love for His children. I have studied the bible and am studying it praying for wisdom to understand what God requires of me as one of His creatures. I have been tossed about and unsettled in my mind so long that now I have tried by the grace of God to lay aside all prejudice if there is any in my heart and hereafter to be guided by His word. Believing what it teaches, praying to be guided by His spirit in all things. I know that He is God the Creator and Upholder of all things, and it is He that sitteth upon the "Circle of the Earth" and the inhabitants thereof are grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in. And He made man in His own image and gave to him a law. And man violated that law and the penalty was death. Now here I stumbled for a long time to so live as to bring himself into favor with God, and some teaches that man can do nothing that he is dead spiritually, morally, utterly depraved, and lost so far so to his good works before God. I find that God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts in his heart was only evil continually, and it is written there is none righteous, no not one.

August 7, 1903

Went to and spent the night at Brother Beavers'. What a treat to be with them and listen to old Brother Beavers as he reasons and expounds the word of the Lord. How earnest he contends for God's glory in our salvation. God bless him and spare him to us many days.

Saturday, August 8, 1903 (Page 54 of Diary)

Went to Mt. Pisgah by request of some of the Brethren. The church met in consultation and agreed that we, the members of Mt. Pisgah Church, come together in consultation. We each agreed that if we have done wrong one to another we are sorry and are willing to come together as Brothers and live to the Glory of God. We furthermore agree to rescind the acts of conference of October and November 1901 terms also January of 1902.

W. P. Lovell

B. B. Nunnally

M. C. Frame

Those being the committee called to by the members of the church to aid them in their work. It being too late for the church to go into conference, it was postponed until

Sunday the 9th when the church by a vote endorsed the resolution as written above. And of course that placed the eight of us excluded members and the church in the same condition we were before that time, set aside the deadly resolution of November 9, 1901 which has caused such a lot of trouble, and as that is what we plead and worked against all the time, we are satisfied to go back and work together in love, but always and at all times contending for God's word.

And now, oh Father of mercy, help oh help us to work for the upbuilding of Thy cause in the way Thou hast commanded in Thy word. May we become united in love, read and study thy word of truth and contend earnestly the same. Help Thy poor weak old servant to walk before Thee in humility and fear. Be my strength in all my weakness and desolation. Bear me up on the wings of Thy love and mercy, choose all of my changes for me and guide me by Thy word and Holy Spirit, I beg.

August 17, 1903

Saturday 15 left home thinking to get to Mt. Pleasant Church but was disappointed as William and Sallie Masters could not go. Spent the day with them. Sunday 16th we came to church, heard a good sermon by Brother J. D. Smith, from the text, As Moses Lifted Up The Serpent in the Wilderness, Even So Must the Son of Man be Lifted Up, and Whosoever Believeth on Him Shall Never Perish But Have Eternal Life. What a treat to a poor hungry soul to hear the pure gospel preached.

In the eve came to Julia's. This morning will go back to church and then home. How sensible I feel my weakness and dependence on the strong arm of my Redeemer. This morning I pray for strength and the guidance of the Holy Spirit today and coming days.

August 17, 1903, Monday Night

Came to church today, heard a sermon by a Brother Churchwell from Gal. 6:14. While he said a lot of good things and things that are taught in God's word, he said some things that are not taught there or to my mind is misleading on the plan of salvation. He said in speaking of Paul's life that it was reasonable to suppose that he was well acquainted with all the prophets had said concerning the Saviour's coming into the world, how he should perform all His mighty works and that he already knew all about the miracles and mighty works He did do. And it was also reasonable to suppose knowing all this, that as he was on his way to Damascus that he was praying to God to show him whether he was right or not, and in answer to his prayer that Jesus appeared to him on his way. He also said that there was some that believed that the Lord would save some whether they were willing or no, or in other words, believed in election and he taken Paul's case to prove it, and by his reasoning proved it was not so. How I did want him to prove by scripture that Paul was praying before the Lord spoke to him as he claimed it was reasonable to suppose he was. I don't think the word teaches it that way. Now there is a great deal being taught and said on both sides of the question and from reading my bible I have been led to believe that it is even so. For it seems to me that it runs like a thread through God's word, while I don't understand it for it is a mystery to me. I have accepted it as a bible taught doctrine.

August 18, 1903

Now, today I begin to search the word for myself, looking, begging, believing that I will have the guidance of the Holy Spirit to direct me in my search for the truth. For I know that a false belief will profit me nothing. Now, Lord, confirm Thy promise to Thy servant where thou hast said that You would give Thy spirit to those that ask Thee. And that he should bring all things to our remembrance. Thou hast spoken, Thou knowest, oh Lord, that I don't want to be mistaken, heretofore, lead me into the truth. For I know Thy word will be established forever. Help me, oh my Redeemer and my God, give me the spirit. Enable Thy servant to understand Thy word aright, help me I pray.

August 30, 1903 (Page 57 in Diary)

Last Sunday, the 26th, went to Macedonia and heard two good sermons preached by a Brother Surndal. From the text, Thou therefore Endure Hardness as a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ. How plain he did make it that to be a good soldier, that we must be ready at all times, and under all circumstances, to obey our Leader, Jesus the Captain of our salvation.

In the evening, his subject was Consecration. Text: Romans 7:9 For I was alive with the law once, but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. How good it was to hear that good old gospel of salvation by grace without works, preached again in its purity and simplicity.

His next subject was worship, Text Worship Him That Made Heaven and Earth, and the Sea and the Fountains of Waters. Rev. 14, 7 I can't begin to tell how he showed us the greatness of our God in making it possible for us to worship Him in Spirit and in truth. His next subject was The Christian's Hope, Text, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope. By the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled. And that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you. Who are kept by the power of God, through faith ready revealed in the last time. 1st Peter 1:3,5. Oh, it was a feast of fat things, how my hungry soul was made glad to hear the good story told in such language, that it looked to me that all must understand it. That our inheritance is incorruptible and undefiled, and fadeth not away and is reserved in heaven, and how we are kept by the power of God, whom we worship. Oh, it is a glorious theme, and seemed the Master give it to him and he give it to the people. And for my part, I had a feast and will live off of the fragments or eat of them for many a day.

His next subject was Christian's Growth. Text But grow in grace, and the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. 2nd Peter 3:18. Now He showed us our duty and our privilege as children of God we were not prepared to do good works. That were well pleasing to God and that by being faithful witnesses for him we would grow; that we had everything necessary prepared for us and how necessary it was for us to use the means God has prepared for us, that we might grow.

His next subject was Opportunity. I must work the works of Him that sent me. For the night cometh when no man can work. John 4:4. He said while the Saviour said those

words concerning His work, it was applicable to us also. That He had a work here for His children, and they should always be ready to do the work assigned them, and whenever they felt impressed by the Spirit to speak or act, they should not begin to beg to be excused, for that was an opportunity, but oh often have I let good opportunities slip. Saviour, help me to be more faithful.

His next was Sons of God, Text John 1:11, 12 He came unto His own, His own received Him not, but as many as received Him, to them gave Him power to become the Sons of God, even to thee that believe on His name. How I wish I could put all he said here but I can't. I have only gotten the fragments, but how plain he did show us. That in obtaining salvation, that God gave it to us that we didn't nor couldn't do anything. That we had to be borned again, and we had no more to do in it than we did when we were born into the world. How we could not repent until the Spirit by its operation on the heart caused sin or the knowledge of sin to revive and kill us to the love of sin. He didn't say, but Paul did. Enabling us to cry Abba Father.

His next subject was The Honey Strown Path. 14th chapter of 1st Samuel. I don't remember the verse but it was where King Saul forbid anyone eating that day and Jonathan ate of the honey that dripped in a certain wood. He made Saul represent the devil and Jonathan God's children. And the devil would not let God's children have the sweets that He had prepared for them, if He could help it, and how he cheated and scared them out of it. I am so glad that I had the opportunity of hearing what I believe to be the gospel in its purity. In all I heard I think it in accordance with the word, except one thing and that was that God's children were taking the world for Christ, which I don't think is true. For the word says, Wicked men and seducing spirits will wax worse and worse and it is even so. But when Jesus comes for His saints, then he will take it, purify it and reign here on David's throne. Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly. I have much more, dear old diary, that I want to put here, but it is late and I will say good night. Soon I hope to be able to come again and finish.

September 7, 1903

Went today to Union Grove, David sure did preach a good sermon from the Text. Master, what good things shall I do that I may have eternal life, and what like I yet, the young man evidently thought he could do something to merit salvation. But when put to the test would not he say, he had kept all the Commandments, but proved when put to the test that he loved his riches more than he did the Lord, his God and his neighbors. After services, came home with Lida Masters³⁵, she said she sure did enjoy the sermon. Went over to see Jasper Masters³⁶, who is sick, and spent a few hours. Was glad to find him improving. I am so glad I went to preaching today, it was another feast. How good the Lord is to me. How he bears me up and enables me to drink of the waters of salvation. Didn't He say something to the woman at the well, that the water that He would give should be a well springing up into everlasting life? Oh, how I love to drink of the water of life and eat of the bread from heaven, which is the word of God. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

³⁵ Delila Masters, born 1847, daughter of Jesse T. and Talisha Masters.

³⁶ Jasper Albert Masters, son of Delila Masters.

September 15, 1903

Since writing here, I have had another week of traveling around with my dear sister, Amy. We have been to see nearly all the kinsfolk, besides a lot of friends. Also attended a meeting of days at old Mt. Pisgah. Brother Nunnely done most of the preaching, and Sunday baptized six. One that joined, Daisy Waller, was not there for her husband was not pleased and drove her off. Poor child, if she tries to follow the Master I fear she will have a troublesome time. Oh, Lord, in mercy watch over her and give her grace to stand firm, and to be her refuge in every time of need. Now, oh Lord, give unto Thy poor old weak servant understanding of Thy word while she searches for the truth contained therein. I want to know my duty as taught there, whether it is right for women to talk in a prayer meeting or not? Whether it is right for them to lead in public prayer or not? Give me wisdom to understand this also. Oh my God, help me.

October 19, 1903

Since I wrote last, I have been to see all the children that are near except Robert and Cora. I could not get to them. Found Will's little babe³⁷ right sick. I spent a week with Julia and had a pleasant time, but some how when I am traveling around so much my mind will get drawn off on the world. I can't read my Bible and grasp the glorious truth, like I can here. I can't hold such close sweet communion with my Saviour as I do here at home. I love to go and stay a while with my children and oh how I love to come home and lay aside every weight and cast all my care on Jesus, and look at Him and what He has done for me and get strength and help from Him, my Redeemer and my God.

Jesus, lover of my soul
 Let me to Thy bosom fly.
 Hide me, oh my Saviour, hide
 Till the storms of life be past.

Rev. 17:8 And they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, they whose names hath not been written in the Book of Life from the foundation of the earth, when they behold the beast, how he was and is not, and shall be, here is the mind that hath wisdom. Verse 14. And they also that shall overcome, that are with Him, called and chosen, and faithful. Rev. 20:15 And if any was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the lake of fire, and he said unto me these words are faithful and true. Blessed is he that keepeth the words of the prophecy of this book.

November 10, 1903

I have went through the Testament and have here written all that I found concerning the much disputed doctrine on election, except some passages in Acts which I have misplaced, but will get them another time, and how anyone can read the Bible with an unprejudiced mind can doubt unconditional salvation of lost men and women, is a mystery to me. And my knowledge of myself, knowing my utter inability to do anything to merit so great a blessing, is in perfect accord with the word of God. Yes, even now while I claim to know Him, and He has quickened me, and I claim Him as my Lord and my God. If it was not that He keeps me by His grace I would be lost. I have no strength

³⁷ Probably Louella, born June 1, 1903.

only as it come from Him and to Him belong all the glory. He is the Alpha and the Omega of my whole being and I grieve daily because I cannot be more like Him. By His grace I am what I am and when I awake in His likeness I will be satisfied, and not until then. Dear Jesus, lead me by Thy Holy Spirit. Till then help me to understand thy word aright, give me wisdom to know how to keep myself, to know when to speak, and when to keep silent, what to say and how to act, that Thy name may be honored and glorified through me, one of the weakest of Thy children, I am trusting Thee, my Lord and my God.

November 23, 1903

Since writing the foregoing, I have been staying with Lou a week and looking over what I have written and studying on the subject, it came into my mind to look again and see how great the Lord God was that had said these things. And oh how I have been led into green pastures and enabled to eat of the Bread of Life. I find that Isaiah asked this question. Isaiah 40.18. To whom then will ye liken God? Or what likeness will ye compare Him? It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers, v 19, that stretches out the heavens as a curtain and spreadeth out as a tent to dwell in. V 20, Lift up your eyes on high and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number. He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power not on faileth, hast thou not known? Hast thou not heard that the everlasting God, the Lord the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not neither is weary? There is to know in searching His understanding. What is man that he should dictate to God or wrest His word?

In Exodus 1, 14. He says I am that I am, and God said unto Moses, I am the Lord and I appeared unto Abraham and Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by My name Jehovah was I not known to them? I am the Lord thy God and again, thou shalt have no other Gods before me. I the Lord thy God, am a jealous God and again He say who is that darkeneth counsel without knowledge? Gird up now thy loins like a man, for I will demand of thee, and answer thou Me. Where was thou, when I laid the foundation of the earth? Declare if thou hast understanding who that laid the measures thereof if thou knowest? Or who hath stretched the line upon it? Whereupon are the foundations thereof fastened? Or who laid the corner stone? Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him he that reproveth God let him answer it. It was thus that He spoke to His servant, Job, after He had been tried by Satan. And, again God is clothed with honor and majesty. Covered with light as with a garment. He layeth the beams of His chambers with waters, He maketh the clouds His chariot, He walketh upon the wings of the wind, He maketh His angels spirit, His ministers a flaming fire. He laid the foundation of the earth. He covers the deep as with a garment. The waters stood above the mountains, at His rebuke they fled at voice of His thunder. They hasted away. He has set a bound that they cannot pass over. How great is the Lord my God. He sendeth the springs into the valleys. He causeth the grass to grow. He appointed the moon for seasons. They sun knoweth His going down. He maketh darkness and it is night. How manifold are His works. In wisdom he made them all. The earth is full of His riches, remember His marvelous works, oh my soul, His wonders and the judgements of His mouth. For He is the Lord my God and He satisfied longing, soul. And feed the hungry

soul with gladness. David says in Psalm 73, 11. And they say how doth God know and is there knowledge in the most high, and again the fool hath said in his heart, there is no God. But thou hast said, Thou hath searched me and known me, Thou knowest my down sitting and my uprising. Thou understandeth my thoughts afar off. Thou compasses my path, and my lying down and art acquainted with all my ways. There is not a word in my mouth, but lo, oh Lord, Thou knowest it all together. Thou hast set me behind and before and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me it is high. I cannot attain unto it. If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea even there shall Thy hands be. And Thy right hand shall hold me. If I say surely the darkness shall cover me, even the night shall be light about me. The darkness and light are both alike unto Thee. My substances was not hid from Thee when I was made in secret. And curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth. Thine eyes did see my substance. Yet being unperfect and in Thy book all my members were written. Which, in continuance, were fashioned when as yet there was none of them?

Now I have written down a few of the many places that tells of the honor, majesty and greatness of my God, and I shall prove from His word something of how He cares for His people.

Deut 7, 6. He says of Israel and let me remember here that Paul says, that all Israel is not Israel and that upon the Gentiles might come the blessing of Abraham in Christ Jesus. For thou are a holy people. The Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself above all people that are upon the face of the earth. Ch. 32, 9. For the Lord's portion is His people.

12, 22. For the Lord will not forsake His people for His great names sake. Because it hath pleased the Lord to make you His people.

2nd Sam. 7, 23. And what one nation in the earth is like Thy people, even like Israel, whom God went to redeem for a people to Himself, and to make Him a name and to do for you great things. And terrible for Thy land before Thy people, which Thou redeemest from Egypt, from the nation, and their gods. For Thou hast confirmed to Thy people Israel to be a people unto Thee forever. And thou Lord, art become their God.

Psalms 3, 8. Salvation belongeth unto the Lord, Thy blessing is upon Thy people.

29, 11. The Lord will give strength unto His people, the Lord will bless His people with peace.

33, 12. Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord and the people whom He hath chosen for His own inheritance.

Psalms 77; 15. Thou hast with thine arms redeemed Thy people. 89; 14, 15. Justice and judgement are the habitation of thy throne. Mercy and truth shall go before thy face. Blessed is the people that know the joyful sound. They shall walk oh Lord in the light of

Thy countenance. 94; 14. For the Lord will not cast off His people, neither will He forsake His inheritance.

45, 7. For He is our God and we are the people of His pasture. And the sheep of His hand.

100. Know ye the Lord, He is God. It is He that has made us, and not we ourselves. We are His people and the sheep of His pasture.

110, 3. Thy people shall be willing in the day of Thy power.

111.6. He hath showed His people the power of His works that He may give them the heritage of the heathens. See all of 121 and 125 Psalms.

Psalms 145; 15. Happy is that people that is in such a case. Yea, happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

148, 16. He that exalteth the horn of His people the praise of all His saints. Even of the children of Israel a people near unto Him. 149, 4. For the Lord taketh pleasure in His people. He will beautify the meek with salvation. Let the saints be joyful in glory. Let them sing aloud upon their bed. Let the high praises God be in their mouth and a two-edged sword in their hand. Bless the Lord, oh my soul. All that is within me. Bless his holy name. Amanda.

Isaiah 51, 52. Thus saith Thy Lord the Lord, and Thy God that pleadeth the cause of His people, behold, I have taken out of thine hand the cup of trembling, even the dregs of my fury. Thou shalt no more drink it again. But I will put it into the hands of them that afflict thee.

65, 17,18. For behold I create new heavens and a new earth. And the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create, for behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy.

Daniel 7, 27. And the kingdom and dominion and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven shall be to the people of the saints of the most high. Whose Kingdom is an everlasting kingdom and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.

Joel 2, 18. Then will the Lord be jealous for His land, and pity His people. 3, 16. The Lord shall roar out of Zion and utter His voice from Jerusalem and the heavens and the earth shall shake. But the Lord will be the hope of His people and the strength of His people, Israel.

Zeph. 3: 9, 20. For then will I turn to the people a pure language that they may all call upon the name of the Lord. To serve Him with one consent, at that time will bring you again, even in the time I gather you, for I will make you a name, and a praise among all people of the earth. When I turn back your captivity before your eyes, saith the Lord.

Even so, come Lord Jesus, come quickly.

Matt 1:21 And thou shall call His name Jesus. For it is He that shall save His people from their sins. Luke 1; 17 To make ready for the Lord a people prepared for Him. Acts 15; 14 Simon hath rehearsed how first God did visit the Gentiles. To take out of them a people for His name. Romans 11; 1. I say then did God cast off His people? V2 God did not cast off His people whom He foreknew. Know ye not what the scripture saith of Elijah? How He pleaded with God against Israel? Lord, they have killed Thy prophets. They have digged down thine altars. And I am left alone and they seek my life, but what sayeth the answer of God unto him? I have left for myself seven thousand men, that have not bowed the knee to Baal. Even so then at this present time, also there is a remnant according to the election of grace.

2nd Cor. 6; 16 And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? For we are a temple of the living God. Even as God said, I will dwell in them and walk in them. And I will be their God and they shall be my people. Titus 2; 14 Looking for the blessed hope and appearing of the glory of the great God and our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity. And purify unto Himself a people for His own possession zealous of good works. Heb. 4; 9. There remaineth therefore a sabbath rest for the people of God.

How good He is to His people.

Heb. 8; 10, 12. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel. After those days saith the Lord. I will put my laws into their minds and on their hearts also will I write them. And I will be to them a God and they shall be to me a people. And they shall not teach every man his fellow citizen. And every man his brother, saying know ye the Lord? For all shall know Me from the least to the greatest of them. For I will be merciful to their iniquities and their sins will no more remember. 1st Peter 2; 9. But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation. A people for God's own possession that ye may show forth the excellencies of Him, who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Who in time past were not people, but now are the people of God who had not obtained but now have obtained mercy.

Rev. 5; 9 And they sing a new song saying, worthy art thou to take the book and to open the seals thereof. For thou wast slain and didst purchase unto God with thy blood, men of every tribe and tongue, and people, and nations and madest them to be unto our God a King and Priest. And they reign upon the earth. Rev. 21; 3 And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men and He shall dwell with them. And they shall be his people and God, Himself, shall be with them. And be their God, and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anywhere. The first things are passed away and He that sitteth upon the throne said, Behold I make all things new. And He saith, write for these words are faithful and true. And He said unto me they are come

to pass. I am the Alpha and Omega. The beginning and the end. And this God is my God, my King and my Redeemer, my all. Bless the Lord, oh my soul.

November 26, 1903

I have searched the word sincerely, humbly and prayerfully for the truth, and have here written some of the many passages in the Scripture which are so plain that I don't see why every child of God, that will search for the truth will not say, Amen.

Surely anyone that denies it and says if it is so would make Him no God. Shall he that contendeth with the Almighty instruct him. He that reproveth God let him answer it. For my part I will remember His marvelous works that He hath done. And the judgement of His mouth, for he satisfies the longing soul. And fill the hungry soul with goodness.

God the Father committed all judgement to the Son. The seed of the woman who was to bruise the serpent head and he says, as the living Father hath sent Me and I live by the Father. So, he that eateth me, he shall live by me. Not that any man hath seen the Father, and again He says, no man knoweth the Father. And to whom the Son will reveal Him. He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life. I am the bread of life, no man can come to me except the Father which sent me draw him. And I will raise Him up at the last day. All that the Father giveth me shall come to me. And him that cometh I will in no wise cast out. And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which He hath given me I should lose nothing. But should raise it up again at the last day. It is written in the Prophets, and they all shall be taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard and hath learned of the Father cometh to me. It is spirit that quickeneth, the flesh profiteth nothing. The words that I speak unto you they are spirit and they are life. But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were who believe not, and of course who would endure to the end and be saved. And who would be faithful witnesses. To deny His teaching is to deny Him. He says their names are written in a book even the Lamb's Book of Life. Daniel says, At that time shall Michael stand up. The great prince, which standeth for the children of Thy people and there shall be a time of trouble such as never was, since there was a nation, even to that same time and at that time Thy people shall be delivered, everyone that shall be found written in the book.

Held services in the new house at Mt. Pisgah, December 20th, 1903. Brother Nunnally preached from the 2nd Kings, 6, 7. He preached us a good sermon. Brother Nunnally is our pastor for this year, 1904.

February 8, 1904

Have been gone again to Pierce's. He came for me January 1st. I was sick and seemed like I could not bear the noise of the little ones. So I went with him and stayed until today. Am so glad to get home, and find all getting along very well. And I am feeling much better. There are no little ones at Pierce's to make a noise, and when I have a headache so bad, I can hardly stand noise. I wish it was not so, but I can't help it. Joe W. is going to school. He is learning fast and likes to go and likes his teacher, Miss Mollie Box. Maggie Dunlap married the 17 inst to a Mr. Goodwin. I hope they will get along well and lead a happy life.

February 16, 1904

We are all well one time more. Robert came after me yesterday, but Mrs. Gambrell and I had gone to the creek to bait a place for succors and he did not find me. Little Alphas has gotten scalded and was very sick. I am sorry I did not get to go. I would have gone today but it is too far for me to go alone. I hope he is better. My cow found a calf last night. I heard Sunday that Lou was sick and Ader had a (missing portion).

I have not been feeling well this spring, my mind as well as body seem sluggish. I can't grasp what I read and when I try to write I can't think of anything to write. I suppose it is because the sound of the grinding is low. Oh my Saviour lead me in the right paths.

Wednesday, April 13, 1904

Charley Mundine came for me, his sister, Amanda, was very sick with pneumonia. When we got there we found her very bad, and all that could be done brought no relief. And Friday morning, about 1 O'clock 22, she fell asleep, age 16. But we do not mourn as those that have no hope. She had Jesus to go with her through the Valley. She was a lovely girl. How her Momma will miss her and her brothers and sisters, but none like her Momma. But she too leans on the everlasting arms and I know she will be given grace to bear it. I never will forget the good people of Vincent for their kindness to them during her sickness. I went home with Amy from the burial and staid a week. Come home Saturday and left her sick. Was not well myself. We thought she was better but I hear she is still sick.

Rev. 13; 7, 8. And it was given unto him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And there was given unto him authority over every tribe and people and tongues and nations. And all that dwell on the earth shall worship Him. Every one whose name hath not been written from the foundation of the world, in the Book of Life of the lamb that hath been slain. It seems to me if I was to say He does not know and did not always know His people, I would be in open rebellion against Him. He said to Jeremiah, before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee. And, before thou comest forth out of the womb, I sanctified thee and ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. He chose Abraham from His Fathers house to be His servant and His seed from among the nations of the earth to be His people. He chose Moses from among His brethren to lead His people to the land He promised for their possession. He chose Aaron and his sons to be priests to offer up sacrifice for them. He chose David to be their king. And I have not space to mention any more, if anyone wants to know, just take God's word and read. Let them search the scriptures and see if these things are so.

I am glad I studied it for myself. Truly it is a green pasture, I am so glad the Lord included me to search His word for the truth.

December 1, 1904

Another year has come and gone, with many pleasures and sorrows and opportunities and I am still among the living. And the Lord has wonderfully blessed His people with plenty. Will we praise Him with our substance? And He has been good to us as a family.

Taken two of my little ones home, little Lois and Louie's little babes and it is far better for them.

December 28, 1904

I've seen another dear friend pass away. Lou Drummonds, she left a kind husband and two little boys that will never know a Mother's love. Just before she died she called all her dear ones to her and bade them farewell. Begging them to meet her in heaven, and teach her little boys in the right way. Oh, it is sad to see a mother kiss her little babes a long farewell. Knowing that they will be thrown on the world without a mother's love. But the Lord knows what is best and we will soon too pass away. Dear Lord, grant that we may be ready. I am sick tonight and feel so weak. Wilt Thou not come and abide with me. Let me feel Thy strong arm beneath me. For Thou art all my strength and all my comfort. Oh, take me and lead me, guide my footsteps while I live. May I not become peevish nor selfish. Oh, quicken me by Thy spirit and cause me to walk in Thy ways and keep Thy word. Help me I pray. Bless my dear children, may they walk close to Thee. And teach their children the way of life, and salvation by precept and example.