

Tornadoes, 1882-1884

by Martin Knapp

The evangelist's work was characterized by the Holy Spirit's power, resulting in numerous conversions and a higher life experienced by many.

Scripture: Psalm 126:5, Proverbs 11:30, Isaiah 55:11, Matthew 9:37, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, Romans 1:16, 1 Corinthians 3:6, 2 Corinthians 2:14, 1 Thessalonians 1:5

Topics: "Revival Ministry", "Holy Spirit"

Description

Martin Knapp, as an evangelist, experienced great victories in his own state, with remarkable conversions and powerful displays of God's work. From Republic to Marseilles, many souls were reached, including a drunkard transformed by the Spirit and a blacksmith and his wife saved through prayer. In Wauseon, over 150 conversions occurred, demonstrating the faith plan's effectiveness. At Findlay, a genuine revival led to over 530 conversions, showcasing the Holy Ghost's power in transforming lives. Martin Knapp's midsummer revival in Marysville resulted in over 400 conversions, proving that God's work can flourish even in unexpected seasons.

Transcript

Republic, Wauseon and Marseilles had the honor of being among the first fields to which the Holy Spirit directed Bro. Weber, in his work as an evangelist. The saying of a prophet being without honor in his own country, evidently has no application to him, as many of his grandest victories have been in his own state.

At Republic many evangelists had preceded him, without much apparent success, and the disheartened church was electrified, as by a shock from a battery, when, the "second night of the meeting sinners were crying for mercy." The pastor, C. E. Ruddick, "a man of faith, of the evangelistic type, gave his full sympathy to the work and it swept on for four weeks. The power of God was wonderfully displayed and great crowds attended, and people of all ages were reached, until one hundred and twenty professed conversion, and many came out in a higher life. "I started out," records the evangelist, "on the faith plan," and God, true to His promise, supplied his needs. Referring to the meeting, a secular paper said at nothing like it had occurred there for years and years; that it reminded of the days of smiting with the "flaming sword and thunder-bolts of fire;" at the evangelist was a "host in himself, bringing many bathed in tears of contrition to the penitential altar." "He came to us," it was written, "like a comet, and like the comet was brilliant and attractive."

It was here that a mother asked prayers for her boy in Kansas, and the next letter from him brought the tidings, "I am converted."

It was here that the man lived, of whom Mr. Weber writes, "He had been a drunkard for years, and was a terror to the whole town. Under deep conviction, he was out in the woods getting wood, and so powerfully did the Spirit work that he came to the parsonage in despair, saying, 'I want to be prayed for.' We got down on our knees, and in a few moments he was converted and shouting happy. His whole theme after that was 'Praise the Lord.'

Here, too, it was that he visited a blacksmith, who had not been to church for years, to see him about his son. The pastor had cautioned him not to speak to him about religion, as he was very sensitive and it would frighten him. "But," says Mr. Weber, "the second word I said was, 'Are you saved?' The pastor left abruptly, but before he got across the street the man was on his knees, in the shop, crying for mercy. He went over to his house and the wife also was crying, and both joined the church, happily saved.

One of the business men, a professed infidel, had opposed the meetings. His wife came to make fun at first, but the Spirit took hold of her heart. I called to see her, and had prayers. She said she 'wanted to be saved, but could not come to the altar.' After she became willing, her husband said she must not go. I gave her books and a little testament to read, and she was converted. The husband became very much alarmed. He tried to buy her, by offering anything if she would give up this subject of religion. He came also to meeting, was gloriously converted, and himself, wife and little boy all united with the church." Thus God honored the efforts of his servant, in this, his first field as an evangelist.

From Republic, Bro. Weber went to Bellevue, O., where there was a large church, "packed to overflowing night after night, and hundreds unable to gain admission." The pastor, a man of power and faith, worked with might, and the third night sinners came to the altar. When Mr. Weber gave his experience here, the Catholics, which are many, were greatly enraged. Over one hundred persons professed conversion. Among many incidents occurring at that revival is the following which is an excellent lesson for all. A little boy about twelve years old, noted for his quick temper and quickness to resent an injury, was converted. While coming home from school, another boy tried to provoke him by calling him all kinds of names, but failed to accomplish his purpose. The little persecutor was lame, and often would have to call on other boys to aid him home. This time they all refused him, when up stepped the noble little convert and kindly offered him his help. The wicked little fellow wept and asked his forgiveness.

November 30, he began at Wauseon O. As usual the church soon became too small. At the second meeting there was a seek. This church had no altar. When the pastor on the first night of the meeting asked for money to build one, Mr. Weber said, if they did not give the money, he would, and it was quickly raised. The work here was chiefly among the young people, members of the Sunday School. In a Saturday afternoon service one hundred and twenty-five cried for mercy and seventy professed conversion. The names of over one hundred and fifty were taken at this revival and most of them professed conversion. Many were the servants of Satan, who threw stones at this tornado, but it was to their own shame. Howbeit the son of one of them was converted.

During the early part of the meetings, some young folks had a social at a private house, after church, "at which they held a mock revival, one imitating Weber and the other Charles, his helper in song. Mourners were brought forward and a general mock revival prevailed, until the pastor appeared and put an end to it. The participators in this were converted, and at last account were doing well.

The following incident occurring here illustrates forcibly the fact that honest seekers, who are not afraid to use the means of salvation, will not long be left in the dark. "A number of youngmen from the high school came to the evangelist one night and said, " Mr. Weber, we are honest and want to know the truth." He asked, "Are you willing to let the people know that you want to know the truth?" "Yes." They came to the altar, and ere long were rejoicing in the consciousness of salvation. "Seek and ye shall find."

The next place which this tornado struck was Defiance, O., December 20 The pastor, Rev. S. L. Roberts, had engaged brother Weber at Conference, but kept it from the people until about the time he wished the meetings to begin. Some objected to beginning meetings then, as the holidays were at hand, and they were preparing for a Christmas tree. Brother Weber told them that his time was precious, and at the first service, with the air thick with doubt, he announced that he had come to stay until there were from two hundred to three hundred conversions. The people derided it; many criticized; and some got mad because the truth was preached so plain. Soon the first gales of the tornado had passed, and there was a cloud-burst of revival rain which poured steadily, until about three hundred had professed conversion. The church woke up, and a spirit of labor came upon them, so that even children, from ten to fourteen years of age, would go out in the congregation and plead with sinners to be saved. The other churches remained aloof from the meetings, and the result was that nearly all of the converts united with the people who had labored for their salvation, about two hundred and fifty being received on probation and by letter.

One evening, just before time to preach, the fire-bells began to ring; the people were alarmed and a panic was threatened. Mr. Weber mounted the chancel-rail and warned the people of the fire eternal with such earnestness that soon they had forgotten the flames of earth that threatened, and there was a wonderful meeting that night. Some days the air seemed charged with almost resistless convicting power, as the Holy Spirit, in answer to prayer, fell upon the people. In one single day eighty-two in the Sunday School and other services professed conversion. "I never," wrote Mr. Weber, "saw such a day; men, women, and children bowing before the same God, and being saved." the last day of the meeting, a man about seventy years old, who had not attended a single service, but for whom prayers had been offered, was so arrested by the Spirit that he sent for the pastor to come and see him. He was preparing to go when who should come but the man himself, his face radiant with smiles, sing, "I am saved, I am saved!"

A minister's daughter, who was a teacher in the public schools, when spoken to by Mr. Weber about her soul, repelled him with a look of hatred, that seemed to say, "You cannot get me." The last night he succeeded in getting her to promise that she would pray every night for two weeks that God would show her her heart, and give her a new one. She was shortly after converted. A farewell service was held Monday morning, January 15, and was attended by hundreds who came to bid the evangelist good-bye. Brother Weber in his journal says, "One not knowing we were leaving, would have thought there was a funeral, as almost everybody cried. I never before met at one time so many that loved us." Such scenes in his life were to become frequent. He who leads souls to Christ forms friendships deeper, tenderer, and more lasting than any other.

Taking advantage of every event, and turning it to the glory of God and the salvation of souls, Mr. Weber has been quick to see the value of watch-night services, and appropriate them in his work.

1883, full of hope, and early crowned with victory, broke upon him in one of these watch-night services, at Defiance, O., in the midst of his meeting there. Renewing the solemn vows of the past, and with humble dependence upon him for future victory, he began what proved to be one of the most eventful years of his life. During this year he was the cyclone center of blessed spiritual reformations in many places, laboring at

Defiance, Marseilles, Findlay, McComb, Marion, Bridgeman, Clyde and Marysville; also at Bayshore, Lakeside, and Franklin, Penn., camp-meetings, then at Jackson, Mich., Williamsburg, O., and Fort Wayne, Ind. At each of these places overflowing houses and success continued to attend him.

January 15th, beginning at Marseilles, O., he asked for one hundred and twenty five souls. The second night "twenty-one came forward" and fifteen professed conversion, and the work swept on, until one hundred and forty professed conversion in ten days. As victory followed victory, no wonder that Bro. Weber wrote, "Oh, how blessed to see souls coming to Jesus! I would rather see souls converted than have all the riches of this world!" While here, he went out to McKendree chapel, talked a little while, "and seventeen came forward and eight were saved. Glory to God." The people, to get seats, would sometimes come four hours before time.

That salvation is a mightier moral lever than reformation alone, is evidenced by the fact that the temperance people had tried in vain to dislodge a saloon at this place, which the "revival drove out of town." A very rich moralist came out to the meetings, and was struck with conviction. Mr. Weber visited him at his home and prayed that he might "sell out his interest in the devil, and take an interest in heaven." At this he "got mad," but soon became reconciled and was converted. To God be the glory!

An old man of about seventy years came to the meeting, so feeble that he could not kneel. Mr. Weber led him to the altar and he was converted. It was here that, when the meeting began, many of the members would look at Mr. Weber, "and stare, and then look away, as they were not used to seeing a man red hot all over." The pastor and people went to work after Bro. Weber left, and the revival fire spread in every direction, until over one hundred were converted. A pastor received the Spirit's baptism and went home, began meetings, and at once was blessed with a gracious revival.

FINDLAY, O., FIVE HUNDRED AND THIRTY CONVERSIONS

This work began February 1st. The second night the evangelist preached from 'Prepare to meet thy God.' He was so weak that he nearly fainted several times; but the Holy Ghost attended the Word with power, and thirty-five came forward and nine professed conversion. The following from a report of this meeting by Rev. J. R. Henderson was published in the Western Christian Advocate. --

"The pastor and official board of Findlay secured the services of Rev. J. H. Weber to hold a series of meetings. He commenced just before the great floods. After two nights' work, he was compelled to suspend for nine days, on account of the gas being cut off. February 11 was really the beginning of his meetings. He closed Tuesday morning, March 13. The results are five hundred and thirty conversions in a little more than four weeks. A more genuine revival I have not seen in twenty-five years. It commenced with the class with which our revivals should commence, namely, the Sunday School, and after the Sunday School was largely converted, it reached out, and up, and took hold of hundreds of adults of all ages.

"It was the general opinion of all interested in the meeting that if Bro. Weber could have remained three weeks longer the converts would have reached one thousand or more; but he was so pressed by other engagements that he felt that duty called him to other expectant fields.

"Bro. Weber insisted from beginning to end on Holy Ghost conversions. I never saw a larger proportion of clear conversions. I never heard so many shouts around a Methodist altar. The whole town was never so moved before. The auditorium was crowded with an audience of one thousand for a month. If the church had been twice its capacity it would have been filled for the last three weeks. All of the other evangelical

churches have been largely benefited by the revival. Nearly one-half of the converts have united with the Methodist Episcopal Church, and the other half have united with the other churches. The good work still goes on under the leadership of pastor Yingler, assisted by Mr. Starkey of the United Brethren Church. The pastor has been growing in the estimation and affection of his church ever since he commenced his pastorate, last fall. His coolness, and firm, earnest co-operation with the evangelist, contributed largely to the great results. The evangelist has the good sense of allying the pastor as prominently as he can to the revival and the converts. Singing was made to contribute all its power to the revival. The first fifteen or twenty minutes of each evening's service was devoted exclusively to singing; it filled the whole house, and thrilled all hearts. The singing was followed by prayer. This was followed by an earnest appeal to sinners, averaging in length from twenty to thirty minutes. The evangelist makes every word tell directly on sinners' hearts and consciences. After this he gives the invitation to the altar. He leaves the pastor in charge, and spends from thirty to forty-five minutes in the congregation, persuading sinners to surrender to Christ at once. By his own personal efforts, he has led hundreds to the altar. He has a sweetness of spirit that wins; has wonderful faith and courage; has a passion for saving souls that seems all-absorbing. His dash and bodily demonstrations and eccentricities are, at first, matters of general criticism, but after a while the people, sinners as well as saints, come to believe most profoundly that God is with him, and their criticisms give way to co-operation. Up to this time, this was the evangelist's greatest battle and greatest victory. The devil combined all his forces inside of the church and out to crush the work. Men were maddened as of old at the exposure of their sins, and in many ways gave expression to their spite."

Weaker men than Weber would have been discouraged and have given up; but opposition but whets his determination, and by "SPENDING HOURS DAILY IN appointing a day of prayer and fasting, and using all the means at his disposal, the victory was won. The following, from his own pen, gives some idea of the contest, The devil is very mad, and many of the church members are on their dignity. If you ask them if they are saved, they get real mad. I mean to stick to the tenth if they tear my head off. Some said they would strike me. All right, dear Jesus, I am ready to bear anything for you. Glory to God, we can glory in tribulation. The devil knew we were going to have a good time, and that is the reason he gets so mad. Prayed most all day for power, and God sent it, glory to His name. I never saw a church in such an awful condition. 'If God be for us, who can be against us?' was my fortress text."

A little later he wrote, "The ice is broken; the officary say they will stand by and work."

After this the work swept on with mighty momentum, as high as ninety-two) professing conversion in a single day. Once, during the meeting, Bro. Weber wrote,

The devil is trying to get out Ties about me. I am innocent. How gratifying to look into the face of Jesus and say, 'Thou knowest my life.'" And again, when the "interest was rapidly increasing and fifty at the altar," "Our God does the work; not me. O God, keep me humble. Success often kills people."

It was here that an infidel, about seventy years old, was converted. Mr. Weber saw him, a man over six feet tall, in the congregation, visibly affected. He went to him and he began to tremble. Then he was asked to come; but he said, "No." Mr. Weber said, "You must," and commanded him in the name of Jesus to come. He came and was converted.

The people now loved the evangelist even more ardently than at first they had hated him. They, above compensation for labor, made him a present of a calligraph, valued at \$75.00, and to Charlie Blakeslie, an assistant in song who was with him at this time, a valuable watch.

A number of young men who were converted felt they were called to the ministry. Oh, for a host of men who will thus defy the world, the flesh and the devil, and claim the kingdom which already to our Lord belongs!

"From victory on to victory,

His armies He shall lead,

Till every foe is vanquished,

And Christ is Lord indeed."

McComb, Ohio, a town said to be "half a mile from hell," where many were so tinctured with Campbellism that they did not know they were saved, was the next place the tornado's flight scattered the host of sin. "The pastor, J. N. Smith, full of the Holy Ghost, worked with all his might to help on the work. Remaining here less than two weeks, eighty-five professed conversion, twenty the last night of the meeting, and five at the eight o'clock farewell meeting the morning he went away." The following warning incident occurred at this place. A young lady attended the meetings and was deeply wrought upon, but would not yield. Mr. Weber personally pleaded with her the last night, but she refused. She was taken sick that very night, on her way home, and died that week, unsaved.

Pressing invitations now poured in upon him from many places. He had fully committed his way to the Lord, and like Paul went where the Spirit led him. God said, Marion, and thither the evangelist hastened. The officary having invited him, were in a state of expectancy, and looked for great things. Rev. L. R. Belt, a "man of good intellectual power," was pastor. As usual, the truth was pressed, the Spirit worked, and all of the tornado attendants were manifest. It was declared to be the most wonderful meeting ever held in those parts. As high as fifty were converted at a single service. Here Brother Weber wrote, "I never was much more burdened for souls than this day, I felt like dying sometimes. It was so great that I had to leave the house and take a walk." Here he received letters from other places assuring him that "the converts are doing well all over." The gospel gales continued to increase, until over three hundred had professed conversion. He labored here about four weeks, and when he felt that he must close, many, even of the unconverted, urged him to remain, as so many more seemed on "the point of yielding." It was here that a secular paper sputtered, "Bro. Weber for breakfast, Bro. Weber for dinner, Bro. Weber for supper, day after day, for four weeks, has been a rather tiresome dish." It doubtless was to those who would not obey the truth, but to multitudes who obeyed the Gospel messages he brought, his name was next to that of the Saviour, to whom he had led them.

The pastor, reporting this meeting to the Advocate, referring to the evangelist, said, --

"He is a success. He has a level head, kind heart, social nature, a vigorous body and mind, all of which he works to the utmost ability for the promotion of his work. He has the gift of knowing people by name, on sight, and in a few weeks will know more of the personality of a people than many men will in as many years. He preaches a whole gospel, dwells largely on the doom of the damned, the trickery of the devil, and the deceitfulness of sin. He finds no houses large enough to hold his audiences, and he grows in favor with the people the longer he stays. Marion was loth to give him up."

One of the business men prided himself on his morality, and that he was as good as the church members, for when a poor widow needed aid it was he that would send the necessaries of life, which many

professors neglected; but God smote him on his sick bed, and there he laid with the streaming light of God's truth on his soul; and, when Bro. Weber arrived, the pastor and he visited him, and he was converted, joined the church, and since has gone to heaven.

An infidel came to the meetings, was struck by revival lightning, came penitently to the altar, cried for mercy and was saved.

As the evangelist was preaching on the Judgment, the people became terrified, and some came very near rushing to the altar before the sermon was done. When the invitation was given, it seemed a race as to who should get there first. The altar and the four front seats were crowded with earnest seekers; the presence of God filled the place, and forty professed conversion.

During this meeting Brother Weber was exposed to the mumps. He writes, "I was getting the mumps. In the midst of the meeting I asked the people to pray that, if it was God's will, He would cure me immediately." They did, and he recovered at once.

Among the many marked answers to prayer occurring here was that of a young lady convert who had a lover in the West. She asked the prayers of God's people for him, and when the next letter came he was saved.

Closing with victory in Jesus' name at Marion, he next labored a few days at Ridgeway, where, though feeling an unexplained indifference" and "tempted sorely," God gave him precious souls as seals to his ministry, and seventeen were at the altar on the last night of the meeting.

The last saloon was closed before he left the place, and among others the following incidents occurred, which should encourage workers to labor with the most indifferent. Mr. Weber approached a young man and asked him if he was saved. "No." "Do you want to be?" "I do not care to be." "Do you want to go to hell?" "I don't care." Mr. Weber then kneeled and prayed that the Holy Spirit would show him his need of a Saviour. The young man asked his prayers, and before he left was converted. Clyde, Ohio, was "noted for its wickedness." Among the young men "shocking licentiousness" prevailed and among the old Spiritualism and Universalism had been rampant and, as elsewhere, were the parents of many vices, making it the "most difficult" town to which the evangelist had ever been called. "The fourth night sinners came to the altar, and every night after that they were saved, until there were one hundred and fifty converted, and many came out into a higher life." Rev. G. W. B. H., 'a sanctified man, filled with the fulness of God,' was pastor. He declared this to be "one of the most powerful spiritual awakenings that ever visited Clyde."

The following incident occurred, illustrating faith and its reward, and is from Bro. Weber's pen, "We had a desperate fight with the devil. I got up, by being led by the Holy Ghost, and said a certain woman would come. Many declared the same thing, and we had to hold on till a late hour before she yielded; but God did hear. Glory to God."

Here Mr. Weber's "sister Emma came from her home, near Cincinnati, and was gloriously converted." Mrs. F., the wife of a spiritualist lecturer, was saved, and joined the church.

A young lady was saved on Thursday evening, and commenced at once to pray for the young man to whom she was engaged, and Saturday night of the same week her prayer was answered and he was converted.

Here Mr. Weber had a jubilee of two thousand saved in his work since New Year's. He invited the people to come in the afternoon and join in a jubilee street parade. The ministers led the van, and seven hundred fell in line, and they "went through the streets praising God and singing songs of Zion." "Oh, what consternation," wrote Bro. Weber, "it produced the people Saloonkeepers trembled, business men feared; but God was in it. We went back to the church, and the whole altar was flooded with penitents, and many saved."

A principle is here involved that will bear the careful thought of all who would be wise to win souls. Moses, John the Baptist, Jesus, Wesley and Whitefield engaged in frequent open-air services, and it is a suicidal policy that surrenders them to the "world, the flesh and the devil." The meeting was attended by one of the most fashionable ladies in town. At first she made sport. One night he gave her a card, on which was printed, 'Where will I spend my eternity?' She went home to her husband, all unconverted man, and said, sportily, "I have a ticket straight to heaven." Let me see," said the husband. He answered, "Wife, it is too solemn a thing to make sport of; you have a straight ticket to hell." That night, "a straight ticket to hell" would "ring in her ears, until she became so fearful she could not rest." She tried to find Christ at home, but failed. She was proud; and when her pride was renounced and she came to the altar, she was saved, joined the church, and became a devoted Christian.

MARYSVILLE, OHIO -- A MIDSUMMER REVIVAL -- OVER FOUR HUNDRED PROFESSIONAL CONVERSION

Many have become so accustomed to seeing the devil have his own way, so far as salvation is concerned, that a midsummer revival surprises them like a lightning-bolt from a clear sky. And yet God worked in such a wonderful way that Bro. Weber was able to write, "I have not been to a place where the work seemed so easy as here." There seemed to be less of the opposition than usually had been known. Perhaps the devil was off on a summer vacation. Marysville is a town of about three thousand people, with three churches, Congregational, Presbyterian and Methodist. The Congregational pastor worked faithfully in the meetings, and many of the Presbyterian people united to help the work along. The Methodist pastor was Rev. A. Harmont, full of zeal and earnestness to see a genuine work of God. Often the church would be full, and hundreds congregated outside to listen. The people flocked in from neighboring towns, and many of them were converted. At times "the heat was so oppressive that the penitents had to be fanned to keep them from suffocating." Sometimes it "seemed as if heaven was on earth." Fifty-four were saved in one day, and forty in another. The following is from the pastor's report of this wonderful work to the Western Christian Advocate, --

"Our meeting, under the direction of Rev. J. H. Weber, which commenced June 10, closed today, July 9. It has been full of blessing to the churches of this place. Many in the churches, but not saved, have become converted and wonderfully interested. The interest has exceeded all we most fondly hope. For five weeks, by day and by night, our house has been full, and the meeting has been the subject of thought and conversation through the city and community.

"God has wonderfully owned the labor of Bro. Weber, whose faith in God triumphs over all obstacles. During the meeting four hundred and two gave their names as converted. The altar has been crowded from night to night."

Was not that a summer vacation worth having?

June 27th was set apart as a day of fasting and prayer. Hundreds came, fasted, and were blessed. Twenty-two professed conversion on that day. In this meeting a young man, who said he had been a

"drunkard from his birth," was gloriously saved. A business man, tender oppressive conviction, started for Bro. Weber's room seven times, but "failed because of fear." On the night of the "fourth" he came to church, and as there were a number of business men present, Bro. Weber addressed his remarks to them, and three of them came to the altar. They had been there about twenty minutes when the "fearful" seeker forgot his timidity in the glad consciousness of salvation, and forgetful of everything else, he threw his hat toward the ceiling, and in tones that made the air ring, at the top of his voice shouted, "H-Y-P-I-E!"

A young man on his sick bed was visited, converted and went home to heaven. At one service, a space was reserved for the militia, who came in full uniform. When the altar invitation was given, one was 'so anxious to be saved that he would not take time to go around, but jumped over the seat."

On July 5th a jubilee service was held. "Meeting began at 10.30. Met at 3 o'clock and formed a procession of several hundred, and marched through town, singing. Stopped in front of a saloon and prayed. Went to a grove and about one thousand persons came. Two were forward."

At the last night of the meeting a young man, under conviction, was sitting on the fence, with others, talking about the meeting. He finally said, "Let's go to church." Jumping down from the fence, he caught his pantaloons on a nail and tore a great rent in them. At this he burst forth with an awful volley of oaths, but went home, changed his clothes, and came back to church, too late, however, to get in. While he stood by the window, the power of God came upon him, and his need of a present Saviour became so intense that he climbed through the window, saying, "For God's sake, let me get in to be saved," and was converted.

What human eloquence, reasoning and might, were powerless to accomplish, Mr. Weber, through the power of the Holy Ghost, was enabled, as elsewhere, to do at this place, demonstrating that a man, full of the Holy Ghost and led in everything by the Spirit, can have revival victory as great in July as in January. May midsummer revivals multiply, until earth is retaken for her lawful King.

Bro. Weber at Camp meetings. The time has now come when Mr. Weber is to have his first experience in conducting services at camp meetings, where,

"In the temple that ever was made by bands,

Curtains of azure, crystal wall

And dome of the sunshine over all,"

great multitudes were to gather.

After the Marysville meeting, he paid a short visit to his father's home, which to him was a season of great rejoicing, the source of which is seen from the following entry in his journal of July 11th: "Praise the Lord! This is a day of days at our home. My ma has decided to be a Christian; was saved with her head in my lap."

From home he paid a short visit to Defiance and Clyde, "confirming the converts," and passed from thence to the Bayshore, O., campground, which he reached on the 21st. Here he had been engaged to aid in the services, and here, as usual, the blessing of God was upon his labors. "A straight gospel was preached, and many hardened sinners fell beneath the strokes of the Holy Ghost. Many were saved and sanctified."

The trustees of the Lakeside, O., campground, Aug. 8-20, 1883, where he next led the hosts of God to revival victory, had early secured the services of evangelist Thomas Harrison, but finding that he could stay but a short time, Mr. Weber was secured in his stead for the entire meeting. "Oh, for a TORNADO AT LAKESIDE," had been the burden of the evangelist's prayer. He came expecting it, and, glory to God, he was not disappointed. Here he was greeted by the "largest audiences he had ever had," and was enabled to claim "power from on high" to sway them as the wind sways the forest leaves.

At the first meeting many manifested a desire to be saved. Pastors, people and the evangelist united their labors, and many were converted, and many others were wholly sanctified. Interest grew more and more intense, culminating in a sweeping cyclone at the closing Sunday service, when "the people surged from all parts of the auditorium to be saved, and the interest was so great that many stayed after the lights were put out, and were converted." "INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON."

Passing from Lakeside to his next appointment, an incident of interest occurred which would inspire others to look for God's leadings, even in disappointments. At Ashtabula, O., he met with an accident that caused him to lose the train which he felt that he should have taken. This compelled him to stay over in a little town by the name of Andover. He writes, The thought would come, 'The Lord could have held that train, but He has a work for you to do here.' So I said, 'What is it, Lord?' I started out, hoping to see some one whom I might help, as the Spirit said, 'I have a work for you,' but the people seemed to treat me so indifferently. Went and bought some taffy. Found some boys playing ball and gave them some, hoping that my work was talking to them, but they likewise seemed indifferent. I then went to the hotel, when a man came up and stretched out his hand, and said, 'How are you, Mr. Weber? I am from Marysville, O. I was in your meeting there.' After supper, I said to him, 'Would you like to go out for a little walk?' He consented. After walking some distance, I said, 'Are you a Christian?' He said, 'No; but I would like to be.' Then it dawned on me why God had me miss the train. As we walked, I unfolded to him God's Word. We walked a mile or so, then we came to the hotel, and sat on the porch. I urged him to make a surrender to God there and then, so I said, 'Let us go out to some place and pray.' He did not seem inclined, so I said, 'God will save you right here, if you will confess your sins, and accept Him as your Saviour.' So he prayed in his chair, and so did I; then I got up and got a drink, and came back, and said, 'Well, did you ask Him to forgive you?' 'Well, then, according to His word and not according to your feelings, what does He do?' 'Why, He forgives!' 'Are you lost or saved?' 'Why, Weber, I am saved! His eyes sparkled and his face lit up with heavenly smiles, and he left that evening a happy man. I met his wife, a short time after, who thanked me for saving her husband.'

The next morning he reached Franklin, Pa, where with the Ohio Campmeeting Holiness Association, he had been invited to aid in a campmeeting. This meeting "was carried on almost exclusively for holiness." But as genuine holiness always sets people to work on sinners, the work naturally took hold of them, and they, too, were saved. While here, the following fell from Bro. Weber's pen: "Had one of the most peculiar experiences in a meeting that I ever had. At the close of my talk, I got down and wept over sinners, and so did many of the people. Many came to the altar and were saved. Glory be to Jesus." Truly "they that sow in tears shall reap in joy." Here the evangelist would lay in his tent and "pray by the hour," and a "wave of salvation came, prostrating everybody."

This meeting closed August 27, and the time between that and September 30, when the great revival began at Jackson, Mich., he improved by visiting a number of the churches, where he had hitherto labored, being received as an angel of mercy, and everywhere praying the Father, "in Jesus' name," to bless the people.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/martin-knapp/tornadoes-1882-1884/>

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