

Christian Newcomer's Diary, June 1809

Sunday [May] 28th [1809]— I attended a Methodist Quarterly meeting at Linanore creek; Enoch George, Jefferson, and some other Brethren were present; we had a heart-melting time: glory to God for all his mercies, my soul was exceedingly blessed. 29th —Returned home 30th— This morning I set out in company with Br. Sch., to Redstone; arrived in McConnell's Town and lodged at a public house, 31st— We came through Bedford to Matthew Smidt's, where we were joyfully received.

June 1st— I rested here, read my bible, and some of Lavater's writings. Br. Joseph Hoffman, my travelling companion, arrived to-day: may the Lord be with us. 2d This day we had a blessed meeting here, preachers and hearers were revived, and had their spiritual strength renewed. Rode in the afternoon 10 miles to Henry Sneider's, where we were entertained very friendly. 3d~We crossed the Allegheny; at night we had meeting at Jacob Guth's.

Sunday 4th- -This morning at family prayers, a woman fell to the floor in a fainting fit; we rode to Jacob Blanch's, where I preached from Luke 16, v. 12; in the afternoon we had meeting in Berlin, Br. McDonald spoke in the English and myself in the German language. 5th— We preached at Weimer's, near Somerset. 6th— We preached at Jordi's, and lodged for the night. 7th— We crossed Laurel hill, and had meeting at Henry Kraus's; I spoke from Matthew 5, v. 3 to 7, but saw little or no impression made. 8th— We had meeting at Conrad Pfirsing's. 9th— I preached at Mr. Swartz's, from Luke 18, V. 29, 30; rode through Greensburgh, and staid tor the night with Mr. Pittal. 10th— This morning I am happy in God my Saviour. O Lord! let thy kingdom come, let Zion be built up, and many souls be converted unto thee. We rode to Br. Berger's, where we had a blessed meeting, and tarried for the night.

Sunday 11th— This forenoon we preached in Mount Pleasant, to a numerous congregation; I spoke from Psalm 125, Hoffman followed me: glory be to God, it appeared to make some impression. In the afternoon we had meetings at old Brother Draksel's, where we remained for the night. 12th— We visited Br. Bonnet's and other families; I lodged with J. Funck. 13th— We came to Connellsville; stopped with a Methodist

preacher. He immediately made an appointment, we preached at night in the German and English languages, I believe not altogether in vain. 14th— This day we rode through Uniontown, could find no place to preach at; at night we tarried with Mr. Benjamin Bauman. This family was rejoiced to see us, and entertained us with pleasure. 15th— We preached here, went home with Mr. Baker, an old acquaintance, and lodged with him. 16th— We had filled and attended to all our appointments, were therefore at liberty to go where a door opened. I prayed that the Lord might point out some work in his Vineyard. In a section of country where we were absolute strangers to the people, trusting in Providence we travelled joyfully and leisurely along. We stopped at a house, the owner of which was an old Dunker preacher. I asked the lady of the house why she had not attended last evening with her husband at meeting? She replied, O! I should have attended cheerfully, if my husband had suffered me to do so. I soon perceived that discord and uncharitableness reigned in the family; I exhorted them to love each other, spoke to them and also to the children; they were all very much effected. After commending them in prayer to God, we pursued our journey; rode through several small villages and lodged with Lewis Bricker. 17th— Last evening we visited a young preacher named Peter Manusmidt. This morning he came and attended us to Washington: here I parted from Br. Hoffman, and rode to Daniel Reis's, where I lodged for the night.

Sunday 18th— This forenoon I preached in a church to a numerous audience; had more than common liberty to declare the counsel of God. After preaching I was surrounded by the people, several of them thanked me with streaming eyes; went home with Mr. Winter. At night I preached at Jacob Wolf's. 19th— Br. Hoffman joined me again, had an appointment to preach at the 10 mile meeting house. On our arriving we were refused admittance, so I preached to the people from under the shelter of an oak tree and the canopy of heaven, with great liberty, from 2d. Peter 1, v. 19; in the afternoon Br. Hoffman preached both in the German and English languages. The house was crowded full of people; many cried aloud for mercy, and the whole congregation was melted into tears: God grant that they may improve the grace given. We lodged with Mr. Horn, a pious family. 20th— We rode 17 miles to Mr. Stecker's; I spoke here, from Psalm 40, v. 1, 2, 3; in the afternoon we preached at Pigeon Creek church, and lodged with Lewis

Stecker. 21st— Rode to Pittsburg, crossed the Allegheny River into the Indian lands, and staid for the night with Benjamin Herr. 22d— Returned again through Pittsburg, and lodged with George Miller. 23d— We preached at Mr. Delphi's; I spoke from Psalm 32, v. 9, 10, 11; Hoffman followed me. 24th— A Sacramental meeting commenced in Mount Pleasant; we had to ride about 11 miles, found a vast number of people already assembled ; I spoke first, Brs. Berger and Bortsfeld followed me; in the evening we had meeting at Jacob Funk's.

Sunday 20th— This day the congregation was still more numerous; Hoffman addressed the people first in the German language, Br. Page, an English circuit preacher followed him. A great number partook of the ordinance of the Lord's Supper; In the afternoon I tried to speak to the people. Dr. Estep, a Baptist preacher followed me: I lodged with Mr. Shaub. 26th— This forenoon we had our Love-feast; at the commencement it seemed to be rather cold and lifeless, at last the power of God came over the assembly, some fell lifeless to the ground. The whole congregation melted into tears, and many desired to be prayed for; we did so for some time and several persons found peace and pardon of sin in the blood of the Lamb. Three of them desired to be baptised with water, may God also baptise; them with the Holy Ghost: at last we concluded the meeting-, many came with streaming eyes to bid me farewell, desiring I should pray for them: may God bless them all. Ultimately I had to leave these dear children, and almost tear or force myself away, to pursue my company who had started some time. After I had left the town some distance, I found about seven young people in the woods on their knees, praying and crying for mercy; another laid on the ground, and a girl was standing a short distance from the road side, crying. I had to stop again, got off my horse, and exhorted them to persevere in prayer until the Lord should have mercy on them and bless them ; assuring them that they would surely find Jesus; I then began singing and rode on to the next house where I overtook my company. After some time^ the young people whom I had left in the woods, also came along singing and praising God. One of them was so happy that she shouted and gave glory to God with a loud voice, declaring to all around that she had found Jesus precious to her soul; she was invited to take some refreshment, but declined the invitation, saying she had been fed on the bread of life; so she left us, pursuing her way towards her home, similar to the Eunuch when baptised of Philip. At

night I preached at John Weibel's, from Luke 15, v 10, and staid for the night. 27th— We preached at the Indian Creek, in Fayette County; the congregation was very numerous, and the weather remarkably warm, so we preached in the open air in a grove; the Lord was present in mercy. The word spoken was powerful in the conviction of sinners; the people requested us to preach again at night, but we thought it prudent to decline, the weather being warm, the nights short, and we stood in need of some rest. After going to bed, I could not sleep, which made me sorry I had not acceded to the request and held another meeting. I prayed to the Lord for pardon. 28th— We crossed Laurel hill, and preached at John Weimar's; here the grace of God wrought powerfully: bless the Lord! 29th—This morning we preached in Somerset, in the Courthouse; I spoke from Romans 8, v. 17; in the afternoon we rode 10 miles and preached at night in Berlin; we lodged with Wiegley. 30th— This morning my heart was drawn out in prayer, for a deeper work of grace in my heart. On the Allegheny mountains we alighted, and gave thanks to God for all his mercies bestowed on us on our journey. I feel ashamed of myself that I am not more useful in the hands of my heavenly master : O Lord Jesus! make me wholly thine, and submissive to thy will and pleasure. We came to Mr. Casper Stadtler's, fed our horses, then Br. Hoffman parted from me; he took the road towards Huntingdon, I rode to the widow Holl's, and staid for the night.