

March 31 /43

A Very remarkable Faith promoting Incident

In the fall of 1856 I was living with a brother being unmarried in what is now Whitney Ward in the Franklin Stake, then it was in Fairview Ward in the old Oneida Stake, there was considerable typhoid Fever around that fall and winter, Brother Joseph S. Sharp who lived on a farm about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile west from my brother, a place, was having a very serious seige of this fever, one daughter took it first, then both he and his son William about 19 years old took down about the same time, and lay for weeks between life and death, unconscious part of the time, as I was through with my summer work on the farm, I visited with this family and used to assist in doing their chores, and one day Bro William C. Parkinson, who was down there to visit the sick, asked me if I would move over to the Sharp home, and stay with them during the winter months, or as long as I was needed to help care for the sick and more especially to look after their live stock, and chop wood, as in these days coal was hard to get, and cost money which was not easily obtained, I accepted his invitation as a call, and at once took over the work that I had already been doing part time, and became one of the family, and enjoyed my labors there some 3 or 4 months, and I am sure my work was appreciated, the Relief Society furnished a great deal of help, and the Priesthood quorums, furnished help to care for the sick at night, the daughter (Minnie) soon recovered, and after several weeks William the son was able to get out but was too weak to do much work, but Brother Sharp while the fever left him could not regain strength, and went down almost a skeleton, he could cross his legs and put both feet on the floor. As I remember he was a member of the Seventy, a Quorum, they fasted as a quorum, and a great many of them came to the house, had prayer and administered to him, the Bishopric, and numerous other brethren that called to see him administered to him, and on some occasions when there were visiting brethren from S. L. at Conference and special occasions, they came down with the Bishop to give him a blessing, Dr Ormestry from Logan was called he came twice, but on the second trip, said he could not do any good, and advised him to put his affairs in shape to leave with the family, as he could not possibly live more than a few days.

About this time, right soon after the Dr, s 2nd visit, one A.M. about 9 A. M Brother Andrew Mortensen, who lived on Horn Creek, what is now Glendale, the father of Bishop Andrew Mortensen of Dayton, drove into the yard with his bob sled, all rigged for the canon, Will and I were sawing wood, he asked how Bro Sharp was, and said he had come down to give him a blessing, then told us of his experience in starting to leave home for the Canon to get a load of wood from his pile, when he got on the sled a voice said to him quite distinctly, drive to Bro Joseph Sharps place and give him a blessing, he sat and listened, and wondered if he could be mistaken, and not hearing more decided he must be mistaken, and proceeded to drive to the gate which was open, and his team wiled down the road instead of going up the other way as usual, he pulled and jerked on them and they very reluctantly turned around and started up the canon road, but did not want to go, he had to whip them, which was something unusual, he had not gone very far, before an audible voice again said, "Go down to Bro. Jos. Sharps place and give him a blessing, and before he had time to hesitate or think the team had whirled around and tearing down the road south, continued on down to the Sharp home and he had not used his lines only to hold them back from running, and he said here I am, I took him to the house, where he was welcomed by the family, and at the request of Bro Sharp I went out and invited William in to assist in the administration

There were no other Elders present, both Will and I had been Ordained priests, and I was asked to anoint the sick man, which I did, then Brother Mortensen sealed the anointing, and blessed him with the blessings of health and strength, and told him that he should be healed of all his afflictions from that very moment, and while I have had a great many very remarkable manifestations of the power of the Priesthood, none were more pronounced, than on this wonderful occasion, I seemed to be almost lifted from the floor, and as soon as William and I got outside, I said do you think your Father will get well now, he said I know he will, I have never experienced anything like that before, the cold chills ran up my spine, and I seemed to be lifted from my feet.

From that moment Bro. Joseph Sharp was a new man, he just gained in flesh and strength, and lived many years after, and became the powerful man that he always had been with an axe in the timbers.

About a week after this incident happened I was in Franklin, and met Dr. Ormesby, and he asked me if Bro Sharp was dead yet, and I told him he was very much alive, he said then instead of going to Logan, I am going to see him, I was riding a horse, he said tie your horse and get in the buggy which I did, and he drove to the Sharp home, Bro Sharp was out walking around in the yard, the Dr took him to the house, took off his coat & vest and made a n examination and told us that he certainly had a new pair of lungs.

P. S.

I am writing this out from memory, at the request of Andrew Mortensen Jr. and while this happened 56 years ago it is almost as fresh in my memory today as when it occurred.

Sincerely your Bro. in the Cause of Truth.

Joshua Ralison

Aged 78

*Sorry for the delay in getting this to you.
Hope all is well with you and that you
have a Joyous Holiday*