

FRANKLIN FERGUSON'S HOMECALL

BORN November 22, 1866

SAVED BY GRACE in 1881

FELL ASLEEP September 21, 1957



OUR New Zealand brethren sent us word immediately of the homecall of our beloved and esteemed brother and fellow servant, Franklin Ferguson who "fell asleep" September 21st. We think we could not do better than give the gist of the message we received from our brother R. G. Lawson of Palmerston North, as follows:

"You may have heard ere this reaches you that our beloved brother Franklin Ferguson is at home with the Lord. I felt that a few first hand particulars would be of interest to you and those who may hear through you.

On the 10th, inst., our brother took a faint turn after standing for some time, packing up his booklets ready for post. Since then he had felt much weakness and prostration and loss of appetite but had no pain or suffering or any distress, and talked to us quite a lot concerning the comfort of the love of God and the prospect of the glory land.

Yesterday morning (September 21st) he woke brightly as Mrs. James brought him a little food but, on her return, he sank into a coma and she quickly called a few nearby helpers but we realized that this was no ordinary turn and the doctor arrived shortly only to confirm the fact that he was sinking. As we watched through those moments Mrs. Southgate drew a "promise" from a box on his dresser and read to us . . . "His left hand is under my head and His right hand doth embrace me." The sweetness of it filled our souls, whether for him in proof of the Scripture he had so often quoted to us—"My times are in Thy hand," or for us as we bowed with a sense of heavy loss and left here for a little longer to fight the good fight of faith; the reality of that "Hand" was borne in on our souls. In a few moments he was at home with the Lord. We knelt round the bed and thanked the Lord for the privilege so long of our dear brother's sweet fragrance and counsel and godly example and for the portion he had looked for so long and which was now his happy experience—to see Him—to be with Him—to be one day like Him and he laughed with holy joy as he came to that last filling up of it all.

How often we have heard him pray that the Lord would keep him to finish well and he did. We felt that the key to his long, steady, faithful, fruitful life has been his godly simplicity and childlike obedience to what the Lord had taught him. He has indeed left the testimony of a Nazarite to God—an Enoch testimony that he "pleased God." May the Lord give us grace to follow for that "little while." How often he told us—"I'm praying for you before God" and how we thanked God for the consciousness and value of those prayers!

Some experiences with him stand out with me. Once down in Woodlands he was staying with us and coming home from a good, solid Gospel meeting, he was very heavy and quiet. We all felt it and the sisters and his wife slipped away to bed, leaving us two. Then he began to speak and told me what a failure he felt himself to be. He failed so in preaching the Gospel and there was dear brother Le Coutier—how real he was and how much God used him, and so on. To me it was a hushed moment. I was younger then and what could I say to such an honoured soul? After a pause I said I just felt that up in the North Island somewhere Watson Le Coutier was sitting in a room with his head on his chest and his hands between his knees and groaning before God that he was a big failure and was saying . . . 'there is Franklin Ferguson, see how strong he is and how the Lord makes use of him' and he looked at me and a smile broke over his face and he said . . . 'I think we will get to our knees.' We did, and felt the Lord was indeed in the room.

Yes, indeed! I learned to love him as a father in the Lord!
HOW HE WILL BE MISSED!"

We feel that our dear brother was so well known throughout the world that further comment, at present, is unnecessary. Likely our New Zealand brethren will have other comments of interest to make known to the saints but we would just say that dear Franklin Ferguson (whom we met even in Scotland around 1912) has been a loyal supporter of WORDS IN SEASON by his prayers and pen and influence all through the years. We came across, in our files, a letter of his when dear brother Samuel Keller went home and the full responsibility of the Magazine fell upon us, from which we quote : -

“Will you please accept my heartiest thanks for your letter of the 18th., inst. It was so thoughtful to so quickly acquaint me of the homecall of our esteemed brother S. C. Keller. When hearing of his ill health, I purposed writing, but had no idea he would be gone so soon. His departure is a heavy loss, especially in U. S. A. and Canada. He conducted ably WORDS IN SEASON and many will miss this ministry. Upon you has the mantle fallen; but the God of Mr. Keller is your God, and He will uphold and help you in this added ministry. Many will remember you in prayer, and I have no doubt some will assist you with article matter. Occasionally I have contributed articles both in the time of Mr. Keller and his brother, now I hope to do the same to you . . . Rest assured of my prayerful interest.”

With Christian love to your wife and yourself,

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Franklin Ferguson

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His last letter to us, enclosing an article, mentions in closing . . . “Our day of service may soon be over; let us serve in view of the Judgment Seat of Christ, where true values are given, and deserved rewards bestowed.”

With warm love in Him,
Franklin Ferguson

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We came across the photo recently in our files, taken years ago and felt it would be of interest to our readers. Truly the memory and fragrance of such a life is sweet and we commend to all our readers and saints generally a life lived “in the simplicity of Christ.” Only thus shall we all be preserved and kept useful and happy till the Lord comes.

Wm. H. Ferguson - Editor