INDIAN TERRITORY MISSION

THE MISSIONARY JOURNAL OF BYRON HARVEY ALLRED, JR.

by

Byron Harvey Allred, Jr.

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Byron W. Allred Jr.

Bowen St., St. Charles, Utah
March 31, 1876

Called by the First Presidency

Prayed for Joseph's Child
January 27, 1877

Left home, started west
March 15, 1877

Blessed at Salt Lake City Jan. 27
Under the hands of
Orrin G. Ferguson, President, and
B. H. Roberts

Left Salt Lake City Jan. 18, 1877

Reached St. Joseph, Mo., Jan. 27

Left for Chehalis, Ohio... 27th
Arrived at Madison, Ind., March 31.
March 27th, Indian Territory Mission

March 27th

During the forenoon we again worked on grounds and at noon Elders Loran C. Wooly and Francis M. Stewart arrived from Indian Territory. Bro. Wooly to return home and Bro. Stewart to continue his labors. I studied during the P.M. Elder Knight received permit for 1/2 fare for me to Indian Territory at Fort Gibson, but desired that I should stay and preach Sunday.

March 28th

We all attended Sunday School at 10 A.M. and studied during the day. I fasted until 5 P.M. and in the evening we attended Church. Elder L.C. Wooly spoke of the power and authority of the Priesthood bearing a great testimony to the people of the Divine calling of the Prophet Joseph Smith; saying that he had seen him personally since his, the Prophet's death. I spoke upon the subject of Memorials set up by various men of God from the days of Abraham until Christ. Particularly upon the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper as a Memorial and the sacredness of the ordinances. I being blessed with the Holy Spirit.

March 29th

No train left in the morning so I studied and helped to arrange blinds and fixtures in the office. I then left St. John, Kansas at 5 P.M. reaching Hutchinson at 7 P.M. I took a bed at the Reno Hotel and hope to rest good and in the care of my Heavenly Father.

March 30th

I awoke after a good nights rest with a very bad headache and cold which continued all day and the next night. I left Hutchinson, Kansas at 9:30 and reached Wichita at 11:10 A.M. where I had to wait until 9:10 P.M. During this time I strolled round the city passing the time as best I could. It rained very hard during the evening.

March 31st

The day on which I was born. I am today twenty-seven years old. I reached Yatescenter at 1 A.M. and had to wait until 3:20 A.M. then left for Ft. Gibson, Indian Territory where I arrived at 10:15 A.M. I rode in company with two gentlemanly Negroes to Manard, a distance of eight miles for fifty cents and called at Sister Wm. H. Hendricks' where I was most kindly received and entertained. Elder Richardson is absent so I must wait his return or further orders. I had a good bath this evening and changed my underclothes.

April 1st, 1897

I received word from Elder Joseph J. Richardson last evening to join him at Illinois Station, twenty-two miles south. So this morning I took breakfast with Uncle and Aunty Hendricks, as they are familiarly called, left one of my grips and some things and leaving Manard at 7:05

Indapn Trritory Mission

April 1, 1897

A.M. walked alone to Ft. Gibson, a distance of 8 1/2 miles where I arrived at 10 A.M., purchased a ticket for 65 cents, took train for Illinois where in a few moments I met Elder Richardson and one of the Elders, viz. White, Turner, Hulett, and Dixon. They were just starting out upon their journey to preach. We bid them good-by, then Elder Richardson and I journeyed on. I mailed a letter to dear Wife and one to Secretary Knight informing him of our welfare. We took dinner with Mr. Creekmam then walked 6 miles and held meeting in the evening with some saints, Copples, there were about 18 present. We both spoke but were so very hoarse that it was with considerable of an effort. We here stayed over night.

April 2nd

We administered to Bro. Eli Copples, then walked to Blackgum, 8 miles where we met some good saints. We put up with one Bro. Jol Allen.

April 3rd

This morning we administered to one of the brethren sick with agrip. I then went with Brothers Allen and Linos Felton to Vie Station, eight miles, to help them get the District Clerk to sign some certificates of Colonization, as this group of Saints intend moving our colonies in Old Mexico. All was well arranged and today I met the poorest, and dirtiest people I ever saw. They were mostly Negroes, then returned on a nice mule. We administered to a Sister Walker and her infant. Today I met the one administered to yesterday. He nearly well, and would soon be sound if he would wash away some of his filth and dirt. We held meeting this evening. I spoke to them on the administration of the Sacrament, enjoying a goodly portion of the Spirit. Elder Richardson spoke with the same good spirit endorsing my talk.

April 4th

Sunday Fast Day. This morning Elders Lund and Hawkley arrived. After walking all night. Sunday School was held at 10 A.M. with about twenty-five in attendance. At their request I read and explained the parables of our Savior. The Sower, The Net. We held meetings at noon at 4 P.M. and at 8 P.M. in which everyone of the four Elk enjoyed a goodly spirit. At our evening meeting we instructed people as to preparation for their journey to Mexico.

After speaking some little time as dictated, I prophesied that they would keep the commands of our Heavenly Father that everyone left their present home for Mexico should live to reach their destination. During the day we administered to Elder Richardson, two chills of Bro. C. Allen's and one of Bro. Walker's.

April 5th

Today we rode to Vian with Brothers Allen and L. Elton. My cle
April 5, 1897

were not at the station so we walked three miles Southeast, called on four families, administered to one baby whose head was in an exceedingly badly condition with sores and scabs. Then we called on one Mr. Sanders who treated us very kindly giving two good meals and a bed, but seemed to manifest no interest in the Gospel.

April 6th

We walked back to Vian. My suit had not come, we wrote to Sec. Knight. At the Post Office we met Bro. Davis and walked four miles with him to his home. While we were at the office, Elder Richardsen had a tight chill and was very weak and faint on his walk. Bro. Davis and I administered several times to him. Toward evening he felt better and we held meeting with twenty or more present. I spoke as directed by the Spirit on the first principles of the gospel for one hour and a half and bore my testimony. Elder Richardsen then bore a strong testimony and added to my remarks. On closing meeting Mr. Spencer offered himself for baptism for which our hearts were filled with gratitude to our Father in Heaven.

April 7th

We walked one mile and took dinner with Mr. John Huff, then went to Mr. Spencer's. He had a bad cold and the weather being stormy he desired to have us to put off baptism until our return and one or more would join him. Elder Richardsen had another light chill and fever. I retired alone to the woods for prayer. We stayed the night with Mr. Spencer. Had heavy rain.

April 8th

We called on Mr. ___ of Bro. Davis then walked through much mud to Tamaha, a distance of eight miles. We paid a man 20 cents, received by Elder Richardsen for a book sold, to take us over the Arkansas river. The wind blew hard, the river was high and rough. We called on a merchant Jew, Mr. Isaacson, who gave me crackers and cheese. We then took supper and breakfast and spent the night with a Mr. McGee who treated us very kindly and said, "call again".

April 9th

We left Tamaha at 8 A.M., at 9 called on Mrs. Forkner who's very kind to the Elders. Then walked fifteen miles to Ironbridge. Calling on four families and teaching them of our faith. Elder Richardsen was again taken with a chill and fever on our road. I administered to him and after considerable exertion and suffering we reached the ferry across the Big Sandboy River. We explained to the ferry man our mode of travel and asked him to put us over but he would not do it. Saying he didn't want any religion, but wanted money. The owner of the boat then came up on the opposite side in company with Mr. Williams, a friend to the Elders. We asked the owner if he would take us over and he said,

Indian Territory Mission

"No, not without the pay, it's money we want, not religion". We then asked Mr. Williams and he kindly offered to pay our fare and we could in the future pay him. We thank our Father Above for our help and asked him to bless this kind man who then invited us to his home where we enjoyed a good supper and bed.

April 10th

We stayed all day and rested with Mr. Williams. Elder Richardsen received mail but none came for me. In his letter we were informed that Pres. Kimball was released as President of this mission and we think Elder Loran C. Wooly is called to fill his place. Elder Richardsen had another hard chill and fever. This is today my loneliest day since I left home. I am really homesick, I guess. I hope and pray my Father in Heaven will supply this vacancy in my heart caused by being absent from Wife and Children that are dearer than all else on earth beside. This evening we held meeting with eighty in attendance. We were blessed with a good spirit and at the close of meeting we announced two meetings for Sunday and slept at James Williams'.

April 11th

We attended the Union Sunday School after which we held meeting. Then had a good dinner with Mr. F. Burgamire. Elder Richardsen commenced with another heavy chill. I administered to him and through the blessing of God the chill immediately ceased and we held another good meeting in the evening. Stayed with Mr. Williams.

April 12th

We walked today eighteen miles from Ironbridge to Sans Bois calling on five families as we traveled and delivering tracts &c. Elder Richardsen had no chill today. We stayed over night with Mr. J.H. Bristow at evening a few friends called in and we talked of the Gospel until one o'clock.

April 13th

We engaged the courthouse, to hold several meetings in, from the Governor Green McCurtain, after being put-off by the priest when we asked for their church. It rained heavily during the evening so we had but 7 present. I spoke on the subject of the Godhead. We stayed during the day and night with J.E. Weaver, a good friend. No mail today.

April 14th

I went fishing with Mr. and Mrs. Weaver. We had a large attendance at our evening meeting. Elder Richardsen spoke on Faith, Repentance, and Baptism. I spoke on mode and proper subjects of Baptism, Faith and works and Man's punishment for personal sins. We then stayed with Mr. McDanel.
Indian Territory Mission

August 30, 1897

present.

August 31st


Children Blessed


We rode with Bro. Cowles 15 miles to his ranch where we remained overnight.

September 1st, 1897

We walked six miles to Chelsea and went to Mr. M.W. Couch's where we were kindly received and he gave us the use of his hall to preach in. We informed the people and held meeting at night with 20 present.

September 2nd

Fast-day, we remained at Mr. Couch's, studied and held meeting at night.

September 3rd

We visited a Mr. Garland who is really converted to the Gospel. Held meeting and stayed for the night with Mr. Garland.

September 4th

We walked four miles to David and to a Mr. Beck's, a Josephite. We were very coolly received by him, but given our dinner then returned to Chelsea and held meeting. Slept at Mr. Garland's again. Mr. Beck was visited on (the) 3rd, not the 4th. We met Elders Dixon and Hogensen who had walked in to see us. We instructed them as to field of labor until Conference. They then left us.

September 5th

We walked five miles East to a small school house near Catale and

Indian Territory Mission

September 5, 1897

held two good meetings. Then returned and held meeting at 5 P.M. and 8 P.M. We took supper yesterday and today with a Mr. Byrd who appears much interested. After meeting we were invited home by Mrs. D.W. Rogers. They were well pleased with the Gospel and we talked until very late. They said they felt that we were really the servants of God. I am sure they will yet obey.

September 6th

We talked again with Mr. and Mrs. Rogers then administered to their little girl who was troubled with lung complaints. We bid them good-bye and they give us one dollar, the thing we had been praying for to pay our railroad fare to Claremore as Elder Richardson's fees were very sure. We purchased tickets and reached Claremore at 3 P.M., found Judge Norwood who kindly rented the Opera House, four nights for $2.00, furnished coal oil and placed it at our disposal. Thus the Lord does provide. But we had to go without supper and sleep in the Opera House. We slept good after a short meeting.

September 7th

We were invited to breakfast by a kind Cherokee, then notified the people of our meeting and were invited to an excellent dinner by Hotel keeper Mr. Wrote to Pres. Jack as to Elder Wooly's C.P. that had been sent to me and lost, also telling him to meet Bro. Bristow at Redock on the 20th for Conference. Held meeting at night with very poor attendance and attention. The meanest people I ever tried to preach to. Only five persons remained to listen. We were left alone in the room but our prayers were heard and a man, name forgotten, returned and invited us home with him.

September 8th

We ate dinner with a Mrs. Chambers, niece of Uncle Jimmy Chambers. Held meeting with thirty-five in attendance and more interest manifest. Were invited out to sleep, name unknown.

September 9th

Fast day. We ate a late dinner with another Mrs. Chambers who invited us to return. Held a good meeting with same audience. We were twice refused entertainment, then walked twenty miles from the City to a Mr. Dimney's where (we) were kindly received.

September 10th

We went to town again, met Elders Turner and Hulett and borrowed ninety cents each from them, with which we paid our fare to Bluff. They rode to Wagner with us. There we took dinner with a kind old lady, Mrs. Burgess. Reached Mr. Smith's about 5 P.M. Elder Richardson had light chill on the way at Wagner.