

1 Peter 4:12-29

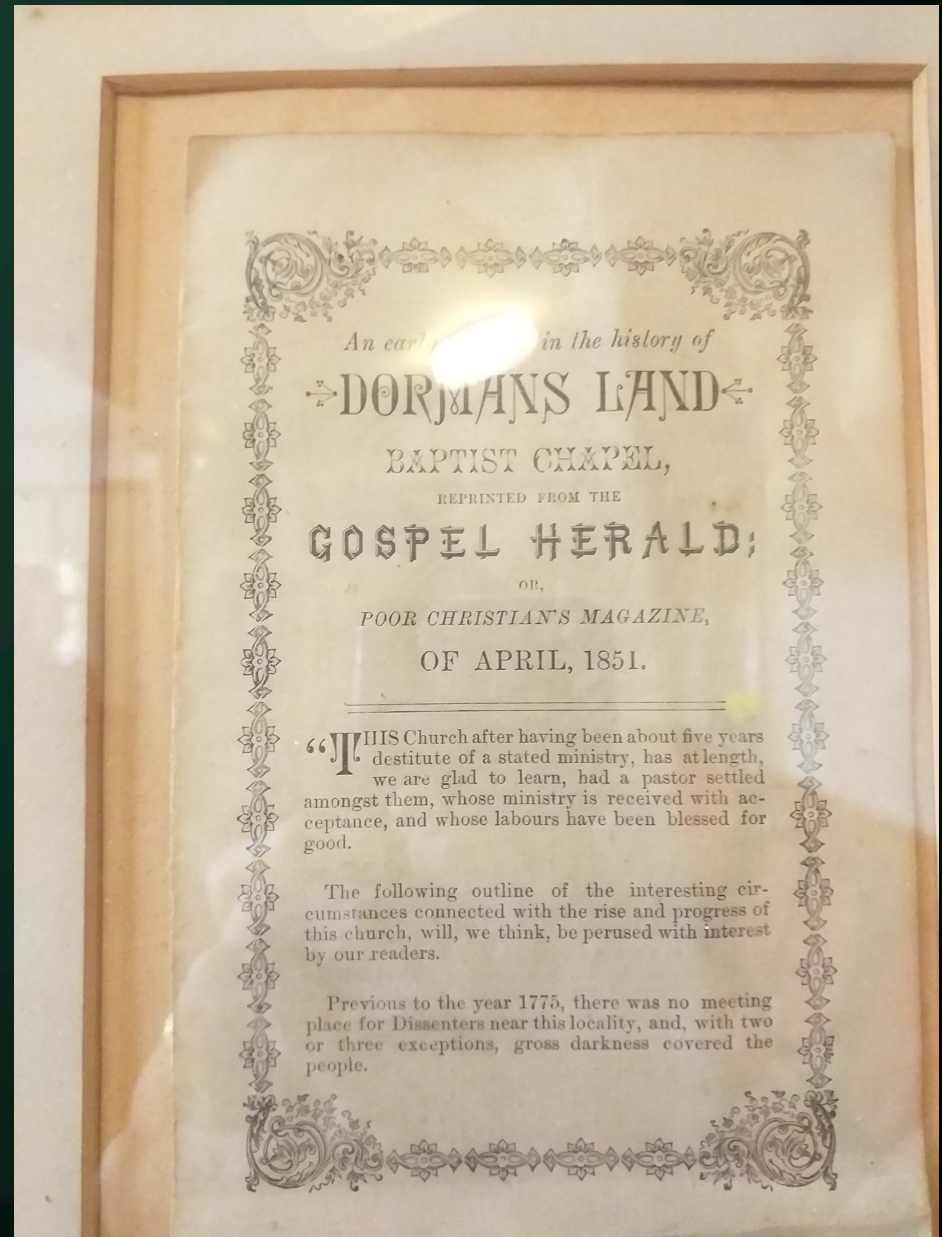
the persecuted church

1 Peter 4:12-19

- Don't be surprised...

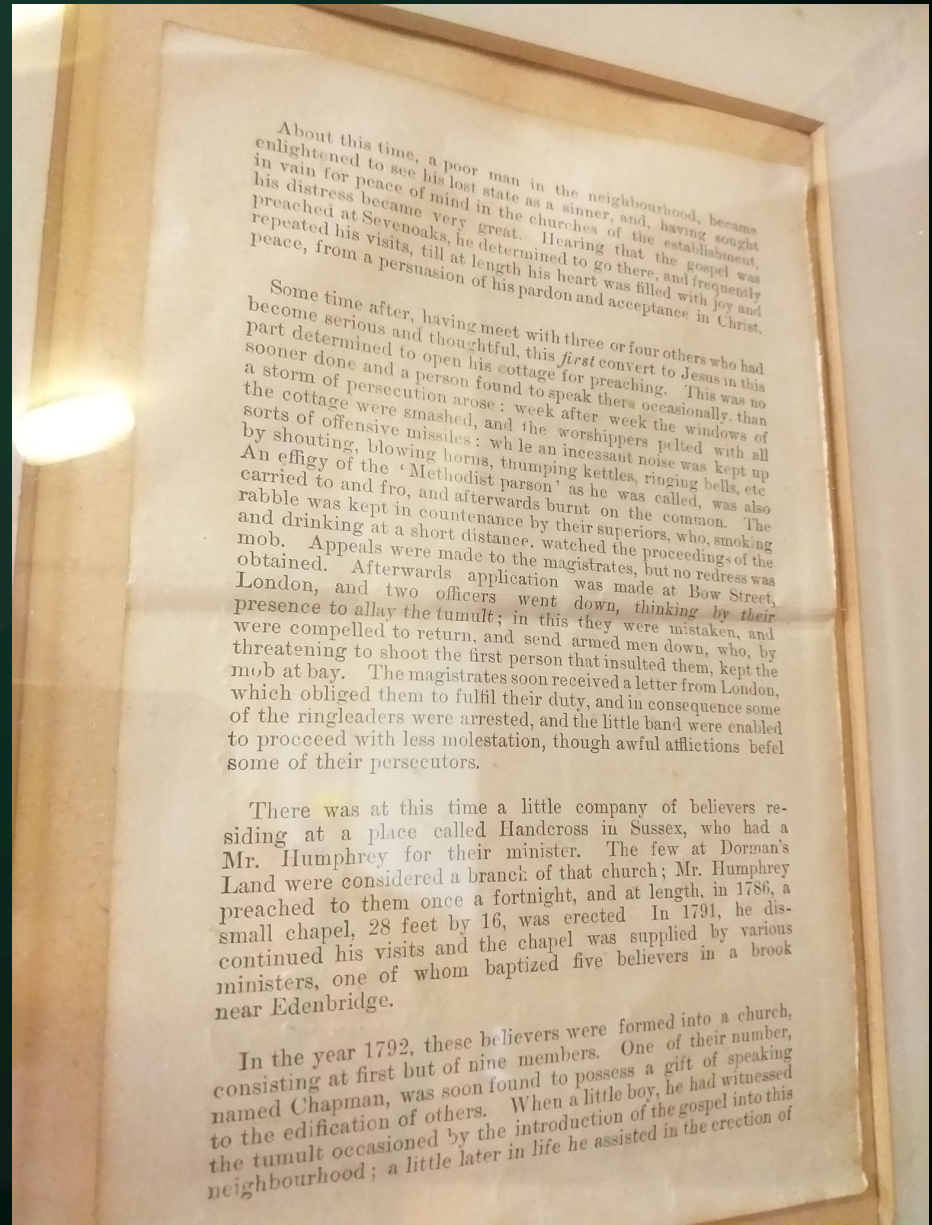
1 Peter 4:12-19

- Not far away in time



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- Not far away in time



About this time, a poor man in the neighbourhood, became enlightened to see his lost state as a sinner, and, having sought in vain for peace of mind in the churches of the establishment, his distress became very great. Hearing that the gospel was preached at Sevenoaks, he determined to go there, and frequently repeated his visits, till at length his heart was filled with joy and peace, from a persuasion of his pardon and acceptance in Christ.

Some time after, having met with three or four others who had become serious and thoughtful, this *first* convert to Jesus in this part determined to open his cottage for preaching. This was no sooner done and a person found to speak there occasionally, than a storm of persecution arose: week after week the windows of the cottage were smashed, and the worshippers pelted with all sorts of offensive missiles: while an incessant noise was kept up by shouting, blowing horns, thumping kettles, ringing bells, etc. An effigy of the 'Methodist parson' as he was called, was also carried to and fro, and afterwards burnt on the common. The rabble was kept in countenance by their superiors, who, smoking and drinking at a short distance, watched the proceedings of the mob. Appeals were made to the magistrates, but no redress was obtained. Afterwards application was made at Bow Street, London, and two officers went down, *thinking by their* presence to allay the tumult; in this they were mistaken, and were compelled to return, and send armed men down, who, by threatening to shoot the first person that insulted them, kept the mob at bay. The magistrates soon received a letter from London, which obliged them to fulfil their duty, and in consequence some of the ringleaders were arrested, and the little band were enabled to proceed with less molestation, though awful afflictions befel some of their persecutors.

There was at this time a little company of believers residing at a place called Handcross in Sussex, who had a Mr. Humphrey for their minister. The few at Dorman's Land were considered a branch of that church; Mr. Humphrey preached to them once a fortnight, and at length, in 1786, a small chapel, 28 feet by 16, was erected. In 1791, he discontinued his visits and the chapel was supplied by various ministers, one of whom baptized five believers in a brook near Edenbridge.

In the year 1792, these believers were formed into a church, consisting at first but of nine members. One of their number, named Chapman, was soon found to possess a gift of speaking to the edification of others. When a little boy, he had witnessed the tumult occasioned by the introduction of the gospel into this neighbourhood; a little later in life he assisted in the erection of

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- Not far away in geography



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The image shows a blue background with two overlapping white cards. The top card is a magazine cover for 'barnabasaid'. It features a photograph of a woman in a blue shirt and red skirt, smiling and holding a woven basket filled with rice. A large red sack of rice is next to her. The text on the cover includes: 'AFGHANISTAN Another 64 Christian converts helped to safety', 'FOOD.GIVES Providing for Malawi Christian cyclone victims', 'PAKISTAN New homes for flood-affected believers', 'barnabasaid', 'Life-saving rice aid for South-East Asia Christians', and at the bottom, 'barnabasaid', '30 bringing hope to suffering Christians barnabasaid.org | July/August 2023'. The bottom card is a prayer card titled 'barnabasprayer' with the subtitle 'Barnabas Aid - bringing hope to suffering Christians'. It includes the text 'To help you pray for suffering Christians', 'July/August 2023', and 'barnabasaid.org'.

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barnabasaid 30 bringing hope to suffering Christians
barnabasaid.org | July/August 2023

barnabasprayer
Barnabas Aid - bringing hope to suffering Christians

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- God's household