Rebecca July 18th, 1854

Dear Brother Jones,

The ill state of my health did not admit of my attending the meeting at your place in June which I very much regret.

How mutable is everything in this world.

I came to this place last fall with my companion anxious to provide a good home for her as she was in very feeble health as you know.

On ten days she was restored to her long home.

I have since been a wanderer going about the streets, if I had not gone to the west I had it not have been for her very feeble health.

Another object I had however in coming here besides to comply with the unanimous call of the church, that was, to place my son Salushe on a farm as I hoped adapted to his talent strength the being not very strong physically.

He was not then a professor of religion, I have since Baptised him in the fellowship of this church as he feels a strong desire to preach the Gospel. And now what shall I do.
Perhaps no one is more able or willing to give me
of their Brother Jones.
He has a wife, I encouraged his getting married
before he became a believer, intending he should
stay and the farm.

Yet I have often had doubts, whether
his ought not to have been put to something else
some other occupation. He has no ambition
about property, but is inclined to read has great
self possession and naturally sober thoughts.
Prudent.
His age twenty-two years, has had a common country
school education; had advantages would soon
be a very good singer. Serves here as Chorister.
His disposition and character are such as secure
him the esteem and affection of his acquaintance.
Yet his talents are moderate.
Now if he ought to preach he ought to be instructed.
And how can it be done.
He has as I have already told you a wife.
She is at present a healthy active woman quick
with the needle. I have property, but no funds
available at present.
If I could sell this farm, I could help him what would be necessary. But if he ever goes into study, he has no time to lose. I regret exceedingly that I had not kept him in school instead of keeping him on a farm. There a fine lot of land of 120 acres near the plank road 13 miles south of the grand Rapids. Should I or could I trade that for a house in your vicinity for him, the farm has some improvement, it is worth 9 or 10 hundred dollars, and if he had a house with an industrious wife, I should expect he would of course need other help. But does Samuel Jones live and sustain himself there, or others?

There is one object I had in coming to this place in which I am not disappointed. To try in my weakness to preach the precious gospel of Christ in prosperity. Our large house is well filled from Sabbath to Sabbath, so few many drops have fallen upon us. I have baptized four this spring, there are two or three more converts, so that the Lord would open the windows of heaven and send us out a copious blessing.
Now Brother Jones if you can make any suggestions in regard to the best course to be pursued with the boy I presume expect your friendship enough to accept you will do so.

Perhaps if he should come there two or three and it might be thought inexpedient for him to continue, and what should be thought best could you lead him. What would be the charge for week? I confess I should be glad to leave a son engaged in the precious work of preaching the unsearchable riches of Christ when I am laid away by the side of my companion in the grave, but not without he could be better qualified than I have been.

I thank you for the kind letter of condolence you sent me when you heard of the death of my dear companion. I hope we may be prepared to die as the dying in the triumphs of the faith of Christ.

Your affectionate friend

Ebed Carpenter

Reply to