

Lynchburg, Va. Monday Dec. 12, 1966

Dear Folks,

Here it is after three in the afternoon and I had intended to get much done today. I came away from Margaret's this morning very much depressed. The way seemed so long before me and the days so dreary. It is impossible for any one to explain this feeling to one who has not gone through a similar experience. My longing to see my Loved One at times gets overpowering. The way ahead seems so long. I turned the TV on for just a few moments last. Some old scientist was talking to a younger man, also a scientist. The younger man said you are only 78 (just my age) and you probably have many years ahead of you for research. I thought, "is that the way the Lord is going to lead me. I am just that age, do I have many years ahead of me." Then I thought "no the Lord will surely come for me before long." I unlocked the door at the back and came on up and was putting some soup in the refrigerator which Margaret had given me. My telephone rang and a voice said, "Dr. Gilmer, this is Jerry Falwell. I am sitting in my car in your back yard" I glanced out of the window right by me and sure enough there was Jerry's car just below me. I hastened down to let him in thinking that he had only a few minutes to speak to me. Instead he said, "Come on and ride with me." Surely the Lord sent him for I was very lonely. First we went to the post office and he came out with an armful of mail. People on every hand were speaking to him and saying, "I am glad to see you, Jerry." Then we started out down toward Rustburg. He took me up to a very plain but comfortable house and opened the door. He said, "Mother, I wanted you to meet my friend Dr. Gilmer." I found that she was a very earnest but very quiet Christian. She with the help of Dr. Fuller on the radio led Jerry to the Lord. We had a nice conversation with the old lady and then I led in prayer. By the way he wants me to persuade Dr. Fuller to come East and sit in his pulpit even if he does not feel able to say very much. He will arrange for his transportation even if he is not able to say much. I want to see Dr. Fuller when I am West and give him the invitation. After quite a visit with his Mother we left. I had no idea where we were going. As we drove along through the traffic he picked up the phone and said, "I want to speak to so and so in Norfolk." Very soon the man was on the line and Jerry had quite a conversation with him as he drove through the traffic. Then he called up a man in Bottertout County and had quite a conversation with him. He was trying to get a lead on a principal who will take over very soon as the school will probably start in the fall. Our Board meets tonight. We drove on over into Amherst County and he stopped at Town and Country Restaurant. The waitress who looked after our needs said in a very nice way, "I have not seen you since Mrs. Gilmer left." We both ordered soup, which got cold while Jerry spent much time in talking over the phone. I paid for the lunch and then he brought me home. He has a program which is called "Dial a prayer" that keeps two telephone lines busy and he has to have a new message each day. I suggested that he use some of the old messages which I sent to you from the Missouri Synod of the Lutheran Ch. They are fine so I gave him several of the old copies. Jerry is on about four TV stations for a telecast each week. He is making plans now to have the messages all the way to the West Coast. You will soon be hearing and seeing him. I really was pepped up by his visit.

He came so unexpectedly and brought such wonderful cheer to my fainting heart. It brought a wonderful thought to me. I thought if the Rapture comes before I lay aside this mortal frame, my Loved One will appear to me in just as sudden a way. All at once she will be here and I will be talking to her. It will be far more wonderful than having Jerry speak to me from my back yard. He brought wonderful cheer to my lonely heart but She will bring cheer that is infinitely more wonderful than that. I spend much time in wondering how the Rapture will be. But I keep telling myself that I must be faithful now as a witness to His saving grace. I want to win souls and I am trying hard to lay my life open fully to the power of the Holy Spirit in my life. If I have to stay a long time while I wait for His coming I want to be faithful. I love to get with my grandchildren and talk with them about the wonderful things that are going on the world today. Jerry this morning had much to tell me. I do not see how he gets all of this information.

The Government sent a woman by here today to get some information. She said that her instruction were to stop at every third house. I answered her questions and then was glad when she was gone. She was from the Dept. of Commerce.

Friday 4.00 PM.

I expected to get much done today and now very little of it has been done. I came back here soon after breakfast and was laying out the day. My phone rang again and the voice said, "This is Jerry. I just thought that you might like to go with me to Roanoke. I have to go up there to arrange these broadcasts that we are putting on over TV. As I told you they will be all the way to the West Coast. He is a splendid driver and his car is excellent