

Lynchburg, Va. Sunday Jan. 16, 1966

Dear Folks,

If I can be used in any way through the medium of these letters that I write to hold together our family I want to do so. My brother William says that I do help, so I will keep trying. I find, however, that there is so little in our lives that is of interest to many of you. All throughout the week I think of things that will be of interest to you.

Well, the first thing to write about is some much needed moisture in the form of snow. It began snowing very gently about four o'clock yesterday afternoon. The Weather Bureau had predicted it exactly. As soon as it began I was rather certain that I would not be able to preach today. We went to bed about ten o'clock when it was still snowing. I do not know when it stopped but there was none coming down at 6 o'clock when I got up. I began at once to try to find out whether or not I could safely get to my appointments. I first phoned to the State Police and asked about the road between here and Ashurst. I was told that they were "very slick and dangerous." I at once made up my mind that we had better not attempt to go. I then began trying to call up the five radio stations that we have asking them to announce the closing of our churches for today. I was able to get all except one of them. It is asking right much to have them make this announcement but I heard one of them doing so. I did not spend much time in trying to listen to them but I did happen to hear one of them make the announcement just as I had given it to them. I then began calling up a few of my members to ask them to help me get the word around that I was snowed in. Some of them I can get thru the Lynchburg exchange. I did have to make two long distant calls to Ashurst, one to Ashurst and one to Coolwell. The lady at Coolwell said, "I was expecting you to call." They promised to get the word around so that I would not have to make any more long distant calls. I went out and found that the snow was about 4 inches deep. If I had decided to go I would have had trouble getting up to the road. As you know it is quite a slope, but I had done what I could to take care of that. When the Weather Bureau began to predict snow a few days ago, I had gone to a service station and had them put on my snow tires. If a fellow gets stuck without snow tires are chains and blocks traffic he gets fined besides all of his other trouble. I did not want that to happen. Last night I phoned a negro man who lives just down the road asking him to plow me out as soon as the snow stopped. He came along soon after breakfast and soon had the driveway clear to the tune of \$4.00. That is quite reasonable, however, as he had to come about a mile to get here with his machinery. The snow is beautiful out my window here and it seems to be melting. I hope that it will melt slowly enough to go all in the ground. We certainly need it. I see in the paper that the high school over at Lovington is probably going to have to close. They use about 14,000 gallons of water a day and their wells have just about given out. They seem to be shallow wells and this snow will no doubt help. Mother and I could probably have gotten to church here in Lynchburg but as we did not go to our own we thought it best to stay at home. We listened to a TV program. It was a Baptist Church in Roanoke. Mother said the sermon was helpful. I am afraid I did not get much help. I tried to get my brother, William, over the radio this morning but I could not pick him up. We are usually so busy getting off to Coolwell on Sunday morning that we cannot get him. This morning we had the time but did not succeed.

Just there we phoned Thomas to tell him that we would not run down to Hampden Sydney as we had hoped to. He seemed to be out of breath. Said he had been shoveling out a place for us to park.

A few days ago Brack told me that he had been in communication with Bud Noberg in regard to our children getting together and sending us to Palestine, I mean mother and me, this summer. I think Wilbur Smith is leading a party to that land and I have an idea that he had made suggestions along that line. Well, it would be wonderful to see the land where our Lord Saviour and where he died for our sins but I do not expect to see it before His return. We appreciate the love of our children for us but we do not believe that any one of them is financially able to help in sending us on a trip like that. Then too we must remember that the trip is to be made by air and Mother still says she is not going that way until the Lord comes. Then and then only she will be caught up in the air. Then too as the years advance we both feel more like staying put. We do want to go to California and that is not very far short of that in distance. We are trying to close our preaching career first. That is slow going.

By the way, how many of you have read World Aflame by Billy Graham? Mother and I have just finished it and it is wonderful. He believes about the Lord's return very much as we do and it is full of wonderful illustrations to enforce his teaching. By all means get it and read it. It will put you to work for the Lord, O Lord as I am I want to be a better witness.

I read in the paper the other day an article which was very short but it certainly startled me. It said that Kaiser Wilhelm had died in Holland in the city Doorn. The last I had heard of him he had been chopping wood in the city. But could it be that he had just died? I looked him up and found that he had been born in 1859. I did not think that chopping wood would keep him alive that long so I called up the paper and asked why this was in their publication. They said that had just put it in to fill up space. I think that there are things going on today which would much better fill up space. Talking of chopping wood I have some nice wood in the back yard for our fire place but some of it needs splitting but Mother positively forbids my doing that. I met one of my negro friends who is pretty husky but the trouble he spends most of his time working for the Telephone Company. I asked him if he could come by and split up some wood for me. He came yesterday just before the snow and very soon had a good supply of wood split and under the back porch.

Well the wood was split and I am trying to keep the family from splitting. Hope that this letter will do a little toward binding it together. By the way my brother, Thomas, sent us a wonderful letter about their trip to England and Holland. It was very interesting. I took it down town to get it copied. Did not succeed. We are sending it on a round. Keep it