

Saturday March 4, 1957

Dear Folks,

Here I am getting started again. I realize that I make some of these letters entirely too long. I am pretty sure that some of you do not read to the end of them. I do not blame you if you do not. Most of you are real busy. If I were there you would talk to me. Well, this is the only way I have of talking to you unless I call you over the phone. That costs too much for me to do it often.

Well, my excuse for writing again is that I had something which I wanted to tell you.

Mary Spencer told me of a compliment that George Hunsberger paid me. He is one of the most earnest Christians I have ever known and I think that he meant this as a compliment. When I returned from California I noticed one of my English Greek commentaries up in his room. It is still there. I never did use it very much and will probably never use it again. I have very little time to talk to George. He usually comes along after I have gone to bed and he does not get up before I leave for breakfast at Margaret's. When I get back from there he is usually gone. So I have very little conversation with him.

I was talking to Mary Spencer over the phone one day this week. She tells me that he told her. "I have never seen so many 'dog eared' Bibles in any other home that I have ever visited. Only one of Mother's Bibles is here and her little Testament 'Fishers of Men' which she freely used. One of her Bibles is down at Margaret's and one Lena has. I have spent hours in going over these Bibles. I also spent much time in going over the one that Lena has. All of them except her last one are greatly worn and marked. I have been struck with how she dealt with the places that I tell of the way of salvation. Lena tells me that her favorite hymn was 'There is a Fountain Filled With Blood.' Until I began to read her Bibles and the markings in them I had wondered at this. I no longer wonder. Salvation by Grace meant everything to her. Most of the time I studied the American Revised Version. I regard that as the best English translation of the Bible in existence. Out here has always been one that honored Christ and His only way of salvation and one in which we loved search out these things. Mother and I have left a mark which I never expected any one to notice. That just shows that we should be careful how we live. Some one will be sure to take notice and I hope helped on the way to HEAVEN. So you see I could not help telling you this. Be careful how you walk. Some one is sure to be looking and find where you have pointed to Heaven where you least expected them to take notice. Now I must rest same.

I have just returned from Pisgah. The congregation was not very good. The field needs more care than I have the strength to give to it. There are no doubt many unsaved in the community. If I were a younger man I could go all out and seek to win them. I am trying hard to be faithful. There is a family where the husband is a middle age man and he is at this late period in life trying to be a brick mason. So far he is only a helper. The State has come along and taken their little home which is not much. They are taking it because they are four laning the road. The man's wife told me that she had gotten ready for me to eat dinner with them but she did not know whether or not I would want to come. She had a very bad cold. I told her that perhaps I had better come some other day. Then as I tried to preach I said to myself, "that is not the way to do. I should go in spite of conditions." So after preaching I told her that I would come if she still wanted me. She did. Dinner was a long time in being served because her nose was bleeding and the house was filthy and in a terrible mess. I thought "this is part of the way in being a good witness for my Saviour. She did have a very good dinner in spite of the difficulties. I want to go down to Rivermont tonight because I want to help all I can in the meeting which begins on Easter Sunday. I keep thinking, 'How would Lena meet this situation?' I know that she would do her best and she would expect the same of me. Now I must get a little rest. Margaret wants me to come down and her the rest of the tape that I brought back from California. We have at last gotten hold of a machine on which to play it. In this one Mother is singing some of her folk songs. It kind of tears me up to hear her and yet I want to too. I knew the time is not so very far distant when we will be together again. Lena, congratulations on your birth day which is tomorrow. I wish I had something better than that for you. Skinny Cobb said, 'You certainly have a wonderful daughter and son in law. We are traveling on and I do not think the road is very long.'

Devotedly,