

Lynchburg, Va. Sunday Nov. 13, 1966

Dear Folks, It is now half after five and Margaret told me to be down there for some lunch at 5:00 o'clock. I want to go to River mont to church tonight. Laurie went with me to Pisgah today. The congregation was down a little but not much. Hope it will be back up next Sunday. We took dinner with a Mr. and Mrs. Bryant who live near Timberlake. Then they took us to Bedford to see an old lady who had broken her hip. I was not able to get much response out of her. She was very old. Then they took us back to Timber Lake to see his father who had a stroke last May. He was very listless and did not say much to any of us. They said that he was a great deal better than he had been. When I look at these people who have had strokes and see the terrible condition that they are in I am glad that God saw fit to take Mother on to Heaven. I saw a man who had had a stroke and his wife was in to see him. They were both weeping so that I could get very little out of them though I tried hard to help them. When I go I hope that I will go quickly.

I had a very interesting experience this morning I was down at Margaret's eating breakfast. I was facing the TV as I always do. They turned on a TV program that Jerry Halwell has on that station. He is on about 5 TV stations. He goes to these places and records his messages. Jerry was speaking on the 14th of John-Heaven. He said, "I want to tell you about an experience I had with Dr. Graham Gilmer not long ago. I was out at his house and he was in bed with a cold. He quoted me as to what I said about Heaven. He said that I said that I did not want to tarry here but that I wanted to go to Heaven where my dear wife, Lena, was. He said that I wanted to do all the witnessing I could and help all the people I could and then I wanted to go to Heaven which is a place. It was all very real as we sat there listening to him and I dared not try to say anything to those sitting about the table with me. He really described the scene that took place in my room in a very vivid way. As soon as I get to Pisgah this morning people began to ask me about the broadcast. I do want to be a faithful witness and I am glad that Jerry put it that way and I am also glad my Pisgah people heard it. Now I must hurry on down to Margaret's.

Monday: I have just had a little nap but will try to finish out this page before I go back to Margaret's. I failed to tell you about Abe Cohen in what I wrote yesterday. Laurie and I went by to see them. He said, "Reverend, how much is your round trip to California?" I said, "It is \$359.60." He turned to his wife and said, "Honey, I think we had better give the Reverend \$375.00. He will have to have some money for tips." He went right in wrote the check and handed it to me. I went down this morning and deposited it, taking a tithe out first. Mother and I always tithed what we got no matter how small was our salary. I think that is one reason we got along. We always had money in a separate bank account to give to the Lord's causes. I have been down at Margaret's nearly all morning, yes, more than the morning. I defrosted her deep freeze for her. It was quite a job. Lena, you remember our defrosting the deep freez part of my refrigerator when you were here. I used that little electric heater as we did then. I do not know why I have not been using this all these years. It did a good job this morning. It took me most of the morning to do it, However. I like to do things for my children when they will let me. I can understand something now which I could not before. Old people do not like to be a burden. I have just gotten two letters, one from Mrs. Dolan, of Augusta. I told you about writing a paper on trees for her to read to some kind of a club. She was very extravagant in her praise of it but I think she had to draw on her imagination. Then I got a lovely letter from Lena which I have already read twice. You see how I love your letters. You asked when I was coming to Calif. I expect to leave here about Monday Jan. 2nd, stopping in Memphis until about Friday 6th and getting to Los Angeles about the 6th or 7th. I will return the first few days of Feb. as I feel that I must get back to Pisgah. I want to do all that I can for that little Oh. I will try to return to Calif. a little bit later as I am foot loose here. I do not make very much preaching, \$25.00 a week. The Treas. handed me a check for that amount yesterday as he does every Sunday and I handed him a check for a like amount from Mrs. John Dillard. I hope to get some more from Mrs. Pearson. She has been giving me \$10.00 per month for the Amherst field and said she wanted to continue it. I want to go down and talk to them about the Lord some night.

I thought I knew Mother fully but I have just been finding out something else about her. About every ten years I gave her a Bible but Dr. Ironside gave her one when I married him. It was that one that I have been using of late. I have been carefully noting the markings that she had made all through the N.T. As I read these markings I could see her Christian character standing forth. It was a new revelation of her to me. I knew she was wonderful but there I could see one of the reasons for her noble Christian character. Children, you have a Mother to be proud of. As I look at her life from every angle she grows more and more wonderful. There may have been times when I rebelled at her wonderful Christian character. I can hardly wait to get to Heaven. End of paper. Perhaps I will start another tomorrow. I love every one of you. Please write to me often.