

Lynchburg, Va. Wednesday Oct. 5, 1966.

Dear Folks,

Annie is here cleaning today and I am going to take the clothes down to the Auto. Laundry and while they are running will go to the Bank and the hospital. I will have to get the attendant down there to take them out for me.

It seems that I am particularly lonely this morning. I do hope that the days and years will go by rapidly but I am trying hard to do my duty while here and I do see that God is using me. We had a wonderful day last Sunday. Both congregations were wonderful to me. Both churches were pretty near full. At Coolwell we took in 8 new members and when I gave the invitation there were 7 more professions of faith. I think that makes 15 in the last three services. Yesterday I went over there and had an interview with all but one of them. She lives near Rustburg but is a regular attendant. I had to park my car in one place and walk over a very muddy road to a cabin where two of the boys live. The people at Coolwell gave me a \$75.00 gift certificate with which to get a new suit of clothes. That I do not need so I am going to get some shirts and a hat and perhaps a help on my California trip. I had a talk with the treasurer and he agreed.

The congregation at ~~Amherst~~ ^{Amherst} was also very large. Brack and Margaret & the children were in it. We were all invited to Lucile Cox's for dinner. Graham III was with us. On Monday night were invited back, including Margaret's family to a supper at the church given in my honor. They presented me with the nicest suit case I have ever owned. There was a crowd at the supper. Those are two good churches and I pray God they may continue to prosper. Much of the credit goes to Mother for she certainly worked and was one who drew everybody. How great her reward will be on the crowning day of her crowning I Cor. 3:13 ~~if~~ Thank God I will be there to see her get those crowns which she will cast at the foot of the Throne in Heaven Rev. 4:10. She is just about the greatest Christian I have ever known. At times the longing to see her again is overwhelming. I try to cultivate more the desire to see my Saviour who still in His glorified body bears the marks of His suffering in saving me from my sins. I just do not see why He gave me so wonderful a Companion. I am inclosing in this letter a copy of the speech that Lucile Cox read to the Amherst Congregation. I think it is very clever.

Well, I understand that I am to go to Pisgah next Sunday. It is a very small church, only 37 members. I have been appointed as Stated Supply only until the end of this year. When I return from California it will probably be renewed. Just think of 37 new people to get acquainted with all at once and my Wonderful Companion not with me to help me remember. I will just have to look to God the harder.

I have not had very many home groups but I cannot take too many. Tonight I have one and was going to talk to them about the Saviour who can meet every need. My hostess called me up and asked if I were going to bring Ed Martin. I had told a similar group about his remarkable conversion. I told her that I had not asked him. I then called him up and he agreed to forego prayer meeting. I am glad he always does me good. Now I HAD BETTER STOP and look after the sick people in the hospital while the clothes are laundered. I realize that I often make these letters too long. I reckon I do it because I do not have Mother here to pour out my feelings to. Beverley, I certainly appreciated your call of a few nights ago. We are delighted that you and family are coming up Thanksgiving. I was wondering what to do with that turkey in the freezer. I will do my best to get Agnes and she will make things in the kitchen and dining room as much like Mother would make them as possible. I had better be phoning her within the next few days. Rather I will go over to see her. She promised to get a group in her home to talk to about the Lord.

It is now afternoon and Annie has given me my lunch. I have just read two splendid letters, one from Graham, Jr. and the other from my brother Wilbur. Both are favorites of mine.

Now let me tell you something very encouraging that happened to me a few days ago. There is an old negro man who lives across the road from me. He has the peculiarity of talking very loud. I think he is really a good citizen. I had asked him to come over and cut the grass in my front yard. When I went out to pay him I asked him if he knew Christ as his Saviour. His answer was very positive that he did. Then the old man stopped in his work and said, "I want to tell you something. Thirty years ago I was the yard man for Mr. Jim Gilliam. I saw you come up there several times and you spoke to me. One day you said 'Do you know Christ as your Saviour?' I was a very wicked man but your question turned me. I accepted Christ as my Saviour and joined the church and with His help I am living a Christian life." God had me wait 31 years to know that splendid news. I hope there will be much like news when we get to Heaven. How selfish I am to want so much to go on to Heaven now when God is using me here now as much as He ever did! I do have an intense longing but that is wicked of me. Devotedly, *Father*