

Lynchburg, Va/ Friday Sept. 30, 1966

Dear Folks,

I am out here at my house all alone. Every now and then the telephone rings. I told Margaret that I would take my lunch here today. She insisted that she did not want me to do that but I told her that I had plenty of food here and I wanted to stay here and work. I am preaching my last sermons as Pastor at my two churches. It is World Wide Communion Day and I ought to do my best. Some how I just cant get at it, so I thought I would stop and start this letter.

Now for some of the news from this part of the country. The most startling piece of news is that as Margaret Gilmer was either going to work or coming from it much more than a week ago she was hit by a tractor trailer I know very little about this but I do know that Margaret was not hurt. At least not much. This happened some time in the week of the 18th. Brack in some way had found it out so he talked to them over the phone. As soon as I found it out I called them up but I still have a very confused idea of what really did happen. I think Margaret was on the speed way around Washington. The tractor trailer was going in the opposite direction and came clear across the speedway and hit her car. I understand that the car was done about \$800.00 damage. Margaret and George were both talking to me at the same time the other night so I did not get a very clear idea of what happened. They got a lawyer but from what they tell me they will not get full damage payment for what was done. This I do not understand at all. I offered to help them financially if they needed it but they said they did not. I do not have too much but I want all of my children to know that I stand ready to help whenever they need it. I would like to find out more but do not see how that can be done without going up there. Margaret Stovall has been talking about running up there but so far no date for that has been set. I am going up to the Peaks to meet William and Thomas on the 14th. They wanted me to stay all night but I told them that I could not. Some how I could not bring myself to stay in a room alone in the place where just a year ago Lena and I had such a lovely time. Perhaps some day I can be eased of some of this lonely feeling but just now it is quite painful. I try to stay busy and that helps most. Margaret has promised to go up there with me and take supper with the rest of us. Then about 9 o'clock we will start back to Lynchburg.

Now for another bit of very good news. Graham III is going down of the plane from Baltimore tomorrow and will stay until Sunday afternoon. He said he wanted to be with me in my last services at Coolwell and Amherst. That has spurred me on to more dilligent preparation. It is communion service and on these days I do not have much opportunity to preach. Besides this there will be a congregational meeting at Amherst to accept my resignation as pastor. Lucille Cox has invited me and Margaret and her family & now Graham to take dinner with her. I have to have a meeting of the session afterwards but will make that very brief. Will try to hold the one at Coolwell before the service. We have 8 and perhaps 10, to receive into the Ch. at Coolwell. I have been waiting on a clear day a ll week (we have had some more rain) so that I could go over and have a talk with each one who had made a profession of faith. It cleared up about noon yesterday and I went over there. The first one I intervied was a young lady about 20 years old and I soon found why. It developed that last spring she had tried to take her life. I explained the Gospel to her, of course telling her that what she had attempted last spring was a great sin. She said, "I will never try that again. AFTER TALKING TO SOME OTHERS AT Amherst I went on over and parked my car at Coolwell and started out on foot. I knew that two whom I had to see lived in places where the rain had made it almost impossible for me to go. I had to walk over a very rough road picking my way around mud holes. I finally got to the first house where I encountered two dogs. The little one insisted on taking a piece out of me. I finally got in the house and had a very satisfactor interview with a young girl who was married. Then I had my most difficult walk. It was through weeds and briars, over barbed wire fence and through wet weather streams. I finally got to the last house and had my interview with a little boy and his parents. I hope that this new preacher will look after these dear people.

I have been doing some of my night teaching. I was in the home of a dentist last night who is quite old and like me has lost his wife recently. I had only six in my class but they seemed interested. One of the families asked me to their home next week. I have about decided that I must not invite myself to these homes. I believe that I can get in without actually doing that. Robert Cox has invited me over to his place, I will not call it a home. I believe that he is really interested. He seems to have gotten a letter that you, Graham, sent him mixed up with my having sent it. The Mrs. Scott called me up awhile ago. Dr. Has some books he wants me to see. I