

A letter sent to the congregation at his first church in 1946

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD IN GT. BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

THE FULL GOSPEL TABERNACLE
STAND LANE.
RADCLIFFE.

"Holding forth the word of life" Phil. 2:16.

Minister:
PASTOR STANLEY SMITH,
125, Outwood Road,
Radcliffe.

Hon. Secretary:
N. ASHWORTH,
230, Ainsworth Road,
Radcliffe.

Hon. Treasurer:
J. ROUSE,
22, Robertson Street,
Radcliffe.

Please reply to _____

31 / 8 / 1946

My dear Friends

Hearty greetings in Him, we love
and serve.

For the space of some fifteen years it
pleased God that I should serve Him in Ramsbottom. It
is not for me to dwell on the success or failure of that
ministry. Those years are now history, and history is
'His-Story'.

But I do wish to dwell for a moment
on the service of those, among whom I served. In sunshine
and in rain I could count on the support of the little flock
to whom I was called to minister the Word. With what
patience they ~~listened~~ listened to my early efforts, & with
what appreciation they heard my humble words in later
years. They were the last word in tolerance. They would even
listen when I tried to sing.

In former days when friends spoke of
'hard places' - I thought of Ramsbottom. If someone spoke of
an uphill fight - I used to think of the little town 'taint the

two Towers, one of which collapsed. - Unlike the Lancaster Pentecostal Mission it has been unable to keep on its feet. But nowadays when folk speak of "A Good Solid Work" or of "Staunch friends" - yes I board the train at Knowsley Street and alight at the second station on the line. (in imagination).

The appreciation of the saints has been expressed in practical ways on many an occasion. There's a Lloyd Loom chair in which I sit out in the garden on sunny days, preparing my messages or reading the Book. That chair you bought for my wife & I on the occasion of our marriage. I have a Bible Satchel you gave me when I was 21. It is with joy I handle the Young's' Breviary and the Chain Reference Bible you gave to me.

Not satisfied that you had done all you should, my good Brother John today has brought me a beautiful electric clock - and you've given it without show or ceremony - and you've broken my heart with your goodness.

There are other things too I remember - hot coffee on foggy nights. An oven where my shoes were dried after I'd walked through slush and snow. I still see your homes and sit at tea with you. Ah and some who sat with us then sit round another table now.

We worked together you and I - you were my first love and you will always hold that place in my heart that a brave assembly should in the heart of its Pastor.

To mention a name would be invidious - but there are names indelibly written in my mind. Friends for whom I thank my God.

May the years that remain to us be just filled with the same devotion for the Christ as were the years that are fled. Some have spoken of my faithfulness. I think of yours. Some speak of the years I have given - I think of the sterling loyalty I found in you my friends.

It is with great gladness that I learn of continued

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*blessing
under the Good Hand of God through the loving ministry of
Your new Pastor.*

*My wife (whom by the way I found in
the Ramsbottom Assembly — God Bless her!) joins
me in expressing sincere thanks for this very beautiful
present.*

God be with You,

Stanley Smith