

Pastoral Letter.

MY DEAR PEOPLE,

I make a new departure this year by addressing to you this pastoral letter in the hope that I may be able thereby to speak to you more confidentially and affectionately.

First of all, permit me in a word (but a word that has my whole heart in it) to again express to you my gratitude for your exceeding kindness to me during my illness. My feeling is that where sympathy and love are most felt they can be least readily expressed, and therefore my hope is that you may be thanked more heartily by my services than by my words. My long months of separation from you were spent in spirit with you more fully than I can tell. It was an advantage to be able to look so long over my past eight years' work. I came back with two great longings in my heart: to make Christ better known to you, and to give the Holy Spirit His rightful place of honor in our midst. How far these desires have been fulfilled, it is not for me to say; but there are signs that give good cheer. There is a marked increase in Church attendance. I am encouraged especially by our evening services. You seem to understand the value of this service as an opportunity for the presentation of the gospel. And yet we ought not to be satisfied till we see evident tokens of the Spirit's power through His word in our midst. May I, therefore, affectionately urge upon all who long to see souls saved to come, if they can, to our evening service, not so much to be profited themselves as to pray in faith that God would glorify His Son in the salvation of souls.

The Session in their report refer to the prosperity of the agencies under their care. This is no forward statement. It is seen in every department. It is, however, with special joy we point to the splendid work of the Missionary Committee in doubling our missionary contributions in ten months. I am sure that we all trust and pray that the late president, Mr. Phymister, to whom is largely due this success, may come back to us in restored health.

I am sorry that there is one Church service only indifferently sustained—our weekly prayer-meeting. I am well aware of the many claims upon your time, but I am also aware that in many cases this is no reason for non-attendance at the prayer-meeting, because claims far less important find time in the busiest week. I shall never forget the impression made upon me as letter after letter that reached me in my exile referred to the earnest prayers that were offered each

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