



THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

1957

Christmas

"There Is Room In My Heart For
Thee."

Dear Brethren:

Can it be that another year has fled by? It seems only yesterday that Christmas meant celebrating not only the coming of a Saviour, but also the coming of a full time pastor to Aimwell. "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice" Alleluia!! That was Christmas 1955. Your pastor was living with Mrs. J.W. Starnes and Catherine on Third Avenue, Ridgeway. While living here, the Sessions of Aimwell and Longtown Churches came together and at the next Presbytery meeting your pastor began work as pastor of the Longtown Church.

Christmas 1956 found your pastor living in luxury. He had been living in the new manse for two and one half months, enjoying the best Christmas present any preacher could receive. The old manse could be seen here and there in small piles of lumber, windows, doors, etc.

Soon I will be entering the fourth month of my third year with the Disciples of Aimwell and Longtown Presbyterian Churches. It is my heartfelt desire in this new year to recapture the enthusiasm I saw at Christmas time 1955. First I must be a better pastor than I have been. There is a tendency on the part of all of us to experience what has been called a slump. In Galatians 6:7-10 Paul writes "And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." An honest confession is good for the soul, therefore let us rejoice and awake from our complacency to join hands and hearts in a labor of love. The best Christmas present I could possibly give to God's people, would be more of myself representing His compassion and love. This I am pledged to do according to the call from this church for the spiritual services of your pastor.

In 1958 we will see our prayers answered as "Camp Congaree" becomes a reality. Aimwell will be known as the gateway to Presbytery's Own Conference Grounds. Longtown will become the biggest little church in Congaree Presbytery, being the host church for Camp Congaree. God has been good to us in showering all these blessings upon us.

Some have left us since last Christmas for a better land. They are really celebrating this year with those same angels who brought the good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

Your cards and letters have been a source of joy. Each one with a special individual word of love and encouragement. Sung Kyu Kim joins with me in thanking you for the cards and presents you have so kindly showered us with. This letter speaks of Past, Present and Future in putting God's Kingdom First, therefore your pastor and his Korean friend wish you all a Merry Christmas and a New Year filled with great service for a Great God.

Sincerely Your Pastor,

Joseph D. Beale