

4
Fathers, Mothers, sisters, brothers, boys, girls, little children,

I stand before you today having completed one decade of service among you.

I came to you ten years, ^{feeling} feeling like a boy, ~~ten years ago~~ having been married only three months.

I can well remember the first day. about 170 in S.S. and most of them went home before preaching. They sat in the back. no one down in front. We didnt have enough to have a choir.

We have come a long way, from a relatively small church to the most talked of church in this county, and the most well known church in the entire Pentecostal Holiness ^{den}

We have the most popular Radio program on the local sta if

It is true we have had our ups and downs, But what of it so have you and your wife.

I have gotten mighty provoked with some of you and some of you have gotten so provoked at me until you could hardly stand it.

I havnt done like you wanted me to do. and you havnt done like I wanted you to do, so we are even there.

If some of the things that you have said about one another were true, nearly all of you ought to be turned out of the church. And if what ^{some of} you have said about me were so I ought to be shot before sundown.

My judgment hasnt been right every time, But I have been right more times than I have been wrong.

I have made many mistakes, but I did in my zeal trying to make this church go.

I suppose the biggest mistake I have made was building the blockwall in front of the church. I wasted a lot of money in that. It has cost you a lot to train me. I wouldnt let me leave you if I were you.

You know how these companies feel about training help and then them walking out on them.

I have not been as good a pastor as I should have been but I have carried this church on my heart night and day for ten years.

3

I have dedicated your babies. Married your sons and daughters, Baptised your converts and buried your dead. I have stood by the open grave and said the last words of many of your loved ones. I have preached the funerals here of some of the greatest saints I have ever known.

I have done everything I could to help you keep your young people interested in the church. I have tried to help you with your problems when you brought them to me. I have locked in my heart some of your deep secrets that I'll never tell.

But you have been better to me than I deserve. You have put up with my short comings and supported me in everything I have tried to do. When I go to your house you always give me the best chair to sit in. You cook the things you think I like to eat.

You have bought almost all of my clothes for ten years, and made me happy many times. You have given me so many birthday showers till I look forward to them like a spoiled child.

There has been dark hours for all of us. But God has been good to us all.

There is one thing in which I have tried to excell I have tried to preach to you a good gospel. After all that is the main issue. ~~I may be ashamed of some things, but I~~ have some things to regret. But I am proud of the Gospel I have preached unto you. I have preached a Gospel that will stand the fires of the Judgment, and will do to die by. I have no apologies for my gospel. It stands for itself.

Finally as the years hve come and gon e, I have gotten a little more attached to you, and have afeeling of belongi a little more, You feel a little more like my brothers and sisters. I have got my heart strings tied up in all o you mighty tight. We have coma a long way together and I hope and pray to God that we can travel a little longer this way.