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From: George F. Raines

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John Allen Chalk  
542 N. Washington Avenue  
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear John:

I have been intending to write to you for some time and tell you that I am glad the elders at Highland have engaged you for the Herald of Truth radio sermons. I think you are doing a good job with your work and am confident that the Herald of Truth will be even more effective now than it has been.

The Newton church is a small congregation of 29 people. I am trying to develop a program of work that will be equal to the challenge that faces us; and that is somewhat hard to do with so few members. The Hillsboro church in Nashville has been of very great help to us, and also the Union Avenue church in Memphis.

I am now writing to a few preachers in whom I have confidence asking that they prepare sermons on tape to be played on the local radio station and procure from the churches for which they preach money to pay for them. WBKN in Newton charges $6 for 15 minutes, and covers parts of 9 counties in Central Mississippi. I know you are busy and it is with reluctance that I request of you to send us a series of about 7 sermons on subjects of your own choice. A bill can be sent from the station directly to the church, if the elders are willing to pay for them; or, of course, if they prefer it could be handled between the Broad St. church and the Newton church. We can send you the tapes if you prefer. I thought that since you have done radio preaching for so many years that you might have some already prepared which could be used very profitably in this area.
Please do not lay this aside without giving it serious thought.

Newton is a nice town with good public schools. In addition, there is a Baptist College here (CLARKE MEMORIAL COLLEGE) and another college (EAST CENTRAL JUNIOR COLLEGE) eight miles from here in Decatur.

We are beginning to make progress here now, and the time to strike with the best we have is while conditions are as they seem to be now.

At the present time, we are having a singing school, which we needed very badly. The local band director, an unusually talented musician, has been teaching this without charge.

We hope to hear from you soon and assure you that we need your help very much and will appreciate any that you can render.

Best wishes to you for continues success in your work there and elsewhere.

Fraternally yours,

George F. Raines
101 Pecan St.
Newton, Miss. 39345

P. S. The station has offered to sell us time for brief "sermonettes" for $1.00 each, and we have been using a few experimentally. Most of them are put on at 6:45 in the morning, just before the first newscast of the day. I am sure that you will agree that a lot of teaching can be done with brief items if properly prepared; at least, they open doors of opportunity. Booker T. Washington once went from Boston, Mass. to Atlanta, Ga. solely for the purpose of making a five-minute speech. Cecil N. Richardson, one of the elders at Hillsboro, has paid for these up to now. The Newton church can pay for them for three weeks. We operate "on a shoestring" and can do only a little of that nature just now. It would be of great help to us if the church there would send us money to keep
these on the air for awhile. I would appreciate your mentioning this to them and see what they think.