

CLOVIS G. CHAPPELL  
WAVERLY, TENNESSEE  
February 11, 1966

My dear Jeff,

Thank you for your gracious letter that came this morning. The prophet Ezekiel had a rather depressing word of how God sought a man to fill a gap at a certain desperate hour and failed to find him. It seems that you have been chosen for just such a difficult position. The gap that you have been called upon to fill was made by others before you came on the field. I think you have faced up to it bravely. You have had to suffer for it. That means that the man who follows you will have an easier time. It was Joshua who led the Israelites into the Promised Land, but his success was made possible by a far greater man who had failed. There are many fine people in that Church and community, but there have been enough afflicted with the rabies on the race question to make the situation next to impossible. Your victory has perhaps been far greater than that of the man who will follow you, though nobody may know it but God.

I wonder if your Bishop has taken you fully into his confidence. Has he settled on the man who is to take your place? Said man must have some sort of Church already. It should be of a calibre akin to the one you are leaving. That might afford the answer. Of the four recently elected Bishops, yours is the only one whom I do not know. I hope he does not have lockjaw, as was often the case with the Bishops of a few years ago. If he has escaped this malady, then you two together ought to be able to work out something.

If nothing prevents, I expect to drive in to Jackson some time Saturday afternoon, February 26th. The Motel Sun and Sand is new to me, but I am sure I will have no trouble in finding it.

Looking forward to seeing you at that time, and with every good wish, I am,

Sincerely your friend,

*Clovis Chappell*