Report P.O. + Mrs Smith's Farm.

20TH CENTURY REFORMATION HOUR
Collingswood, N. J.

June 23, 1964

My dear radio friend:

The meeting on Mrs. Smith's farm in eastern Pennsylvania last Saturday night was one of the greatest, if not the greatest, that I have ever attended. God did something there to me and for this great cause. We gave our answer to the Russian Baptists. Mrs. Smith gave us her 110-acre farm that night to make the answer and 4,000 people gathered on a clear, lovely evening with a bright moon in the sky. The cars started coming in the early afternoon. People brought their suppers. The entire pasture set aside for cars was packed out. Some were unable to get in; others had to go and park behind Mrs. Smith's barn. The spirit and response of the people was electric. An issue was before us. A challenge had to be met. The Russians had come over here dressed up like clergymen and had been successful in deceiving thousands of people. One month earlier, the 20th of May the American Baptist and the Southern Baptist Conventions both gave standing ovations to the four men from Moscow coming as Russian Baptists, a part of the psychological warfare of the Kremlin. These Russians cried "peace." They offered "peaceful coexistence" in the name of Jesus Christ. Many were taken in by their line.

When they came to Blooming Glen, Pa., in the Mennonite country, and deceived hundreds of Mennonites some Independent Baptists said we must give them an answer. And when no halls were available in that section of Pennsylvania, Mrs. Smith, in response to a remark which I made on the radio, offered her farm. On every fence post around the field there was a red, white and blue streamer. An immense flatbed truck had been driven in and the cab removed, leaving a large platform, holding the piano, the American Flag, the Christian Flag; the large amplification microphones carried the music and the report throughout all that area. People seemed to come in a steady stream with their camp cots, their chairs, their blankets, and the pasture looked like an amphitheater, and when the evening sun set the moon gave us our light. Though the meeting started at 7:30 it did not break up until 10, following a 45-minute question and answer period in the moonlight. God was there. We had the facts to answer every claim that the Russians had made. Their statistics were phonies. Paul Voronaeff and Dr. George Hess went to work on the Russians. I spoke from Jeremiah 7, where God commanded the prophet to go and stand in the gate of the temple and cry out to the house of Judah, "Amend your ways and....trust ye not in lying words" which "cannot profit." It all seemed to fit so perfectly. Now we have made the story of the great rally into a tract which we are giving away. I wish you would write me for just as many as you could use. The Russians are scheduled to be back again in Miami, Fla., June 25-30, 1965, for the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance. The Russians in their exchanges are deceiving us and gaining the advantage they want in order to destroy us. It is serious beyond words.

Totally unexpected came the next blow through the Post Office Department. For 28 years the Christian Beacon, our weekly religious newspaper, has gone out through the United States mails as second class matter. This is the speedy service given to newspapers and periodicals. Our truck driver who carries the mail bags to the Post Office was casually told by a Negro employee that the papers were going out third class mail. Our secretary-treasurer, A. Donald Pidgeon, immediately contacted the Postmaster who told him that this was the case, that an order had been received from Washington saying that the Christian Beacon should no longer be handled as second class mailing material. Think, this had been done, even executed, without our even being told about it! Apparently it was around the first of June when this decree went into effect. Our Christian Beacon of June 11th carried the announcement of Mrs. Smith's farm with the map on how to get there for the people throughout all the area. We know instances where it was not delivered until after the meeting at Mrs. Smith's farm. It affected the attendance at the meeting! The authorities in Camden informed Mr. Pidgeon that the decision had come from Washington. Decisions of this nature are not made by lower echelons. We checked and learned that the Roman Catholic paper published in our area still goes out as second class mail. The Communist Worker is delivered into our area as second class mail. The Christian Century, the ecumenical weekly, comes second class. Here is a case of religious discrimination and we shall hold the Johnson administration, and President Johnson personally, responsible