

FORMER CATHOLIC WANTS TO PREACH

By R. C. Oliver

CLASWON, Mich. — Since the recent story appeared in the Christian Chronicle of the conversion of Gordon Smith, along with his brother, Clement, and their wives and mother, many encouraging cards and letters, from many places, have been sent to them by readers of The Chronicle.

Though all these communications have been encouraging, perhaps none have been more encouraging, to all the family, than have those which brought with them invitations to Gordon to visit and tell the story of his conversion to the churches from which some of the letters came.

Drives 250 Miles to tell Story

In addition to speaking at Clawson, Trenton, and South Lyons, Mich., on the week-end

of March 7, Gordon and his wife, Jeanette, with Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Boyd, of the Clawson congregation, drove some 250 miles in order to fill two speaking engagements at Joliet and Blue Island, Illinois, near Chicago.

He has other appointments scheduled for the upper part of Michigan as soon as the weather permits. He also spoke at the Royal Oak School of the Bible's chapel program on Thursday night, March 25.

Audiences React Enthusiastically

Gordon has been enthusiastically received in each place he has spoken. One observer commented: "His audience here, not knowing what to expect from one so new in the faith, seemed somewhat tense before he commenced speaking; but once he began, this

sense of tenseness began to disappear, and a feeling that this man has something unusual to tell seemed to possess every listener, as he carried his audience from point to point in the story of his conversion."

In another congregation, a man who has taught speech in our public schools for many years, said: "If I could instill in my students through teaching, what this man has by nature, I would feel that I had achieved my goal."

So impressive were his lessons in the Chicago area that he was asked if he would return and conduct a series of gospel meetings for them, but for the present he declined.

Gordon Desires To Preach

Though those who have heard him think he is, Gordon doesn't feel he is now ready for meeting work. Neith-

er does he wish to consider preaching as a full-time occupation at present. He prefers to continue his secular employment, while he grows and develops spiritually.

However, it is his desire to preach. And he would like to fill his schedule with preaching appointments at different places in order to acquire the experience he feels he needs to develop himself toward greater usefulness in the Lord's work.

Therefore, the churches calling him will be both helping themselves and helping him.

It is the conviction of this writer that churches that have him will be glad they did. He may be reached as follows: Mr. Gordon Smith, c/o Church of Christ, 456 E. 14 Mile Road, Clawson, Michigan 48017, phone: 588-5061 or 588-7361.



Gordon Smith

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