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Letter from W. B. Treadway to B. R. Colson

W. B. Treadway

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Columbus, Ind., Nov 24 - 1912

Mr B. R. Colson
Gainesville, Fla.

Dear Bro Barney:-

Your letter bearing date of Feb 7th was duly received and read with interest. We were very glad to hear from you and all at Gainesville. Our minds have turned to you many times this winter and we have thought of you all ^{and} the pleasant time we spent in Gainesville last winter. This is the winter we should have gone to Florida. It has been a record breaker for cold weather both as to the amount and severity. The greatest amount of severely cold weather bunched in one stretch ^{and} of longest duration without a thaw-out, perhaps ever remembered here by any of our residents. The severe weather set in about Jan 6th or 7th and continued all through the month and all through February.

The temperature ranging from about zero, or a little below, to 27 below. We had one spell when it reached 17 below, another it reached 18 below and one 27 below. How would you like that? You may know that we often longed for Florida. Last winter it did not quite get down to zero at any time. My health has been fairly good all winter, have had some cold but not enough to lay me up. I have worked in the bank every day. We have been pretty busy all the time as business has been pretty heavy most of the time. Mr. W. G. Swin and his sister, Mrs. Sweeney, are abroad touring Europe (They are the owners of the bank) and they visited the Holy Land. They have been gone two months now, and won't get home before May 1st or perhaps a little later. My wife has been a shut-in since January 1st. She has not been to Church or Sunday School in that time. Her general health has been pretty good, but she has had a great

deal of Cold which has been bad for her bronchial trouble, and a whiff of Cold air seemed to start a tickling in her throat and then start her to Coughing and threaten Asthma Conditions. No one knows what that is that has never had it. She ought to have been in Florida this winter. I have delayed answering your letter longer than I should have done because I hardly knew what I should say in regard to the question you wrote about - The employment of someone to teach the Bible in the College - This is certainly an important and good work and I should be glad to know that it had been done.

But now comes the part I have been dreading to write you. I don't see my way clear at this time to promise anything, or to take on any additional obligations. It is true we have a pretty strong Congregation here, but the wealth of this Congregation is not widely held, but centered in two or three

Families mostly, the balance of us are only fair to medium, and a great many that are poor and have to be helped during a winter like this. The Charity Calls have been frequent this year. We are worked pretty strongly on the finance question all the time. The Calls are frequent and some of them pretty heavy. It takes about \$10,000- per year to pay the current expenses of this local Church and to pay the Missionary Benevolent^{and} Educational work they are supporting. The heavy payers to this of course is confined to about a half dozen people, but us middle class fellows are keyed up a little higher because of the name the Church has, and that has been ^{made} possible because of the ability and liberality of a few persons. I am enclosing one of our weekly programs to give you an idea of some of our work. You will see by this that there is "something doing" all the time. If a fellow is inclined or willing to work there is plenty to do.

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Speaking of weather, I forgot to mention
that we had quite a Snow storm to-day
and it is snowing now. The temperature
at this time (4 P.M.) is 32 above, or just
at freezing. How is that for Spring?
Please remember us to your wife^{and}
all the Colsons, Bowers^{and} all our friends.

Sincerely Yours

W. B. Treadway