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1914-03-07, Mr. Stephens to Lyman Stewart

Thomas E. Stephens

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March 7, 1914

[Written in pencil] Ans 4/1

[Written on Testimony Publishing Company letterhead]

[Handwritten letter]

[Written in pencil] Special – re Prayer League

My dear Mr. Stewart:

Your letter of the 27th ult. came to hand after I had acknowledged the receipt of your kind favor of the 19th. We have taken care of all the correspondence inclosed [sic], together with the sending of a complete set of "The Fundamentals" to Mrs. Amy S. Fulton of Osaka, Japan. In regard to the "Niagara Articles of Faith," I wrote Dr. Torrey in December (about the same time that I wrote you) suggesting that these articles might appropriately be included in one of the closing volumes of "The Fundamentals." He seemed to appreciate the suggestion, but replied that with everything else in mind for these closing volumes he feared there would hardly be room. After writing you some three weeks ago as to the number of new leaflets which the Prayer League was about to have printed, we changed the order somewhat, making it 240,000 "Suppose" instead of 300,000, and 96,000 "Packing Pork" instead of 100,000; and then adding 48,000 of the Niagara leaflets ("The Fundamentals of the Faith"), and 96,000 "Wrong Directions"—altogether 480,000 leaflets. The total cost will be about \$480, but I am sure you will rejoice to know that (including the contributions made here in our office) the entire amount is in hand to meet the bill when it is pre-

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sented. How good God is, and how we do praise Him. I am inclosing [sic] a few Commission letters out of many hundreds received, and I know that as you read them you will rejoice with us, and will also continue in earnest prayer for the movement. I am so glad for your share in it, and for your interest, and also for that of Miss Crowell and many other friends upon whose hearts the Lord is laying the work. And then, too, I rejoice greatly for what you say, that you have "never for a moment abandoned the idea of sending out Dr. Lamb's little book, 'Every Creature.'" The year before I became connected with the Testimony Company, I took a class of a half dozen young men through that book, chapter by chapter, and the help and inspiration which we received will go with us through life. We met each week for study and prayer. I would heartily favor the sending out of this book with the other literature mentioned. And now as to the prospective program ahead in connection with the League, and some of the "problems" to be "solved"—for I am sure you will be interested in them: (1) It is my thought to send during the present year, as God provides the means, a special letter to each of our present 6,000 or 7,000 Prayer League members, ~~and~~ inclosing [sic] in the letter copies of all our leaflets, and asking each member to join very earnestly in prayer that God will open the way for the sending of these leaflets (including also, as both you and we desire, "Every Creature") to every evangelical pastor, and missionary, and evangelist throughout the world; and that He will bless the seed thus sown and send a world-wide awakening. These 6,000 or 7,000 will be, ~~the~~ under God, the small "inner chamber" praying nucleus of the entire movement,

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whose prayers in His own time and way God will hear and answer. (2) Then later, as God provides the means without our running into debt, possibly during 1915, or earlier or later, send this literature out—all in one package to each address, together with a very, very special letter; having first compiled a new and complete mailing list by denominations—from 200,000 to 250,000 names altogether. (3) I have been thinking that possibly before this larger movement begins, it might be well to change the name to Intercessory Prayer League. Am praying for light on this point. (4) Also have been thinking of either a directorate (incorporating the movement), or at least an advisory council, asking possibly such men as Henry W. Frost, Charles G. Trumbull, Dr. Dixon, Dr. Torrey and Ralph Smith to serve thereon. Am looking to God for special guidance as to all this. (5) The absolute elimination of my own name as far as possible from the movement and all its literature, and the exaltation of His name. If we incorporate, my own name can be easily dropped; or it can be dropped by ceasing, as soon as we can safely do so, the copyrighting of “Suppose.” (It has been copyrighted thus far to prevent its being unscrupulously used for commercial purposes. We have given permission freely for its reproduction, provided no price is set upon it; but in spite of this, in one or two instances a price has been set upon it and we have been compelled to stop its sale.) I think I have now covered everything that I wished to speak about at present. I do thank you for your interest and your prayers, and your encouraging letters. We all send Christian love and best wishes to you all. Cordially and faithfully yours,

Thos. E. Stephens.