11-22-1963

From: Ernest Clevenger, Jr.

Ernest Clevenger, Jr.
November 22, 1963

Mr. John Allen Chalk
P. O. Box 474
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear Brother Chalk:

You will want to know that the Harkins family plan to leave Birmingham sometime today. This I learned last evening while visiting with them. I have never thought that they have adjusted too well here. The children have had trouble in school and Bro. Harkins has not been able to get satisfaction from the doctors he has seen. I was told that the doctors here consider him an arrested case and that he should go to work. Sis. Harkins highly resents this and the implication that her husband is "lazy", which she was told by one of the doctors. They also have never gotten his medical records straight, have taken away his medicine and drugs. He lost 12 pounds in one week. I was at a lost to know what to say to them as to why they have been treated as they describe. I learned that a truant officer paid them a visit after Phyllis missed a day of school.

They plan to go to Fayetteville, Tennessee where she will work with her brother in an insurance business. They are afraid of losing their (of his) pension. If things work out they plan to move back to Cookeville when their house has been vacated. Until that time, they will leave their belongings here in Birmingham.

They did not attend many services of the church while here. We encouraged them with visits, etc, but each time we were told they had been out of town, or could not leave the house because of illness. Perhaps they will come regularly while in Tennessee. I do not know anyone in Fayetteville, but if you do you may wish to advise them of the Harkins moving. I regret that we could not be of more help with the family.

Cordially,

Ernest Clevenger, Jr.