

9-19-1969

From/To: Jennings Davis, Jr. (Chalk's reply filed first)

Jennings Davis, Jr.

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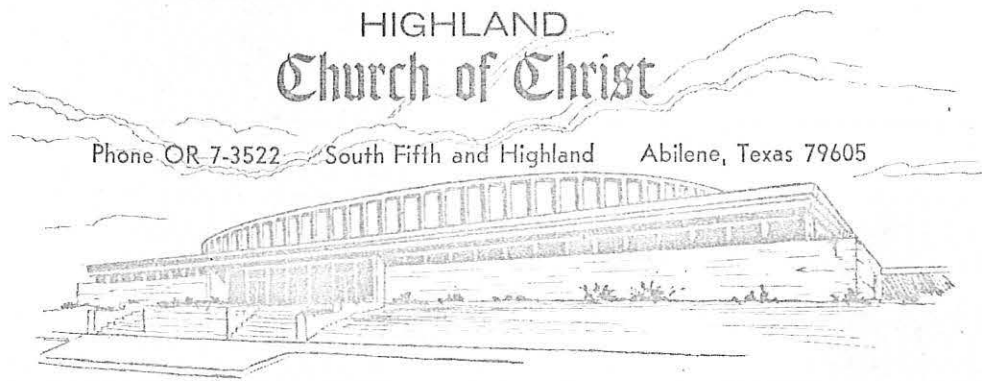
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CLIFF RITCHEY
LEWIS SMITH
W. C. SMITH
R. W. VARNER
A. A. WADE

September 19, 1969

Dr. Jennings Davis, Jr.
Dean of Students
Pepperdine College
8035 South Vermont
Los Angeles, California

Dear Jennings:

The three week course I taught this summer at Abilene Christian College revolved around three areas. The first week we attempted to deal with the University--what goes on there? What is unique about the University? It was my thesis that the Christian student and the campus minister are limited severely unless they understand the academic process and something of what the University is all about. Hartt's book, given in the bibliography, was a prime source here along with many other materials. I found this to be a very significant week because most of the people in the class had no idea of what the University is all about, especially those who had been attending a Christian college.

The second week we dealt with the student. We looked at Allan Moore's book, The Young Adult Generation as a prime source. This was an attempt to do a sociological, attitudinal survey of the present day young adult generation and specifically the student's generation. This attempted to know what the needs are, what the basic attitudes are, what avenues we can use to get through to the students today.

The third week was an attempt to see how Christ and the college student could be brought to a face-to-face confrontation in the University milieu. Here we worked with James Sellers' book, The Outsider and the Word of God. We got an the idea of an apologetic of the Christian faith and just whether there is such a thing as apologetics in the final sense of the word, or whether the total content of the Christian faith is proclamation and what this means for the way we go on a University campus to confront students with Jesus Christ. This was the week in which we tried to get at practical methods by which to bring the students to a point of contact and to make the point of contact a point of conflict, out of which would come a decision regarding Jesus, an authentic decision.

Dr. Jennings Davis, Jr.
September 19, 1969
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All of the books in the bibliography, especially the section I added to the bibliography, revolved around one of these three areas. I think you will find in these three areas the makings of one good course.

I learned about Gordon Teel's resignation from Matt who has been here recently. In view of Teel's leaving, the only further suggestion I have regarding your campus evangelism courses is that I need to be there to teach the course I have just outlined in this letter! Of course, you know I've got more than I can say grace over where I am!!

We continue to pray for you and yours.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:hm

PEPPERDINE COLLEGE

VERMONT AVENUE AT 79TH STREET
LOS ANGELES

OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

September 11, 1969

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ
Box 2439
Abilene, Texas 79601

Dear John Allen:

I received a rather comprehensive bibliography which you used in teaching a workshop at Abilene this summer on Campus Evangelism and higher education. I wonder if you could take a few minutes to jot down a brief outline of the course which you taught. We are in the process of formulating a course or two here for our religion curriculum in campus evangelism both for the purpose of training campus ministers and also for similar purposes to those that we had in Abilene to help students on state college campuses to make their witness more effective. I would appreciate anything you could pass along to me that might be helpful in formulating these courses.

It was great to be with you in Florida even for such a short time, and I don't suppose I'll ever forget that hectic pilgrimage to Jacksonville. Please pray for me as I prepare for the retreat in Nashville the weekend of September 19 and 20. I am devouring the book of Romans and especially Watchman Nee's book entitled The Normal Christian Life.

Gordon Teel is definitely leaving Vermont by October 1, and we are looking for a preacher. I told Norvel that you were my first choice. I am already praying about it. I realize this is probably a most inopportune time for you to consider a move, but this looks to me like where the action is and where you ought to be.

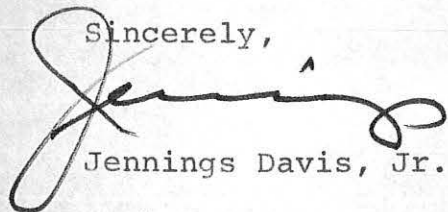
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Very frankly, Harold Thomas is leaving Atlanta at the request of the church there, I understand, and he is probably number one in the thinking of the eldership here. My own opinion is that if he is willing, it looks like he will be offered the pulpit. I don't think that's a bad choice at all, but naturally my feelings, emotions and preferences lean toward you, so don't be surprised if some "Macedonian call" comes your way soon.

If you have any suggestions you would like to make to us for possible consideration, we would be happy to hear that also. It's a little bit inopportune time to make a change since some of the people we would like to have are associated with colleges and are already committed for this year. Also, it's a little depressing to our new students to come into a situation that's just making a pulpit change.

Please remember me and Vera to Sue, Helen, and other friends there in Abilene. We think about you often and pray for you constantly and desperately need your prayers. We have gotten started off to a pretty good year and indications are that it will be interesting, peaceful and a rather decisive year in terms of getting at the root of some of our basic problems. Come our way when you can. God bless you, brother.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennings Davis, Jr.", with a large, stylized initial "J" that loops around the first part of the name.

Jennings Davis, Jr.

JD:ksd