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From/To: Ethel Barnes & Bob Horton (Chalk's reply filed first)

Ethel Barnes
Bob Horton

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December 23, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Horton
728 North Main Street
Blakely, Georgia 37123

Dear Ethel Barnes, Bob and family:

I learned through a letter from sister Mitchell of Bob's illness. I pray that by now he is greatly improved and that all of the reports from the Doctor are encouraging.

I deeply regretted not getting to visit with you during our last trip to Cookeville. I so wanted to have time to know of what you are now doing and your plans for the immediate future. I do understand from sister Mitchell that all of you are very busy. I couldn't imagine the Horton family any other way.

We will not get to Cookeville during the holidays. Our time is going to be greatly limited due to the responsibilities here and the expectations of the relatives in Lexington and Nashville.

Sue and I send our deepest concern. We are praying for Bob's complete recovery and for the continued contributions that both of you are making to your fellow men.

Fraternally,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc
Dear Sue and John Allen:

For several weeks, I have intended to write you to tell you about Bob Hartwig's illness. For some time, he has inner ear trouble, then he had low blood pressure and suddenly one day his arm and check became numb as the doctor there at Blakely, Georgia, where they live, sent him to Columbus, Georgia, 80 miles away to a Nervous Surgeon.

He was in the hospital there for a week where he had to undergo very severe tests - I think they called them, angio gramm (I never heard of it before) and he was put to sleep for each test. The outcome is that he will not have to have surgery as we had feared but he must reduce even more than he has, rest more, diet and take the prescribed medications. The doctor says the blood vessels back of the right eye is hardened and he is hoping that the medication will help that but Bob will...
have to do the slowing down and try to get rid of some of the strain and stress he has had with the mill work. The Sister stayed in the room with him at the hospital. They had a lot for her because after three tests, Sister had a severe headache. One of the women in the church had seen her children and the people in that town have been so good to them. They went to the doctor again. He says he will continue to go until he is dismissed.

He and Sisters have taken over the music of the church. The school for the year, they lost that work and Sisters were pleased to supplement their salary. Sister could not leave the mill in the day so Sister could not direct the Band which Bob organized. The town people are grateful to them for they had feared that they would not have a band until they found out he would not have a band until they found out he had directed them for many years. He has also led the singing at the church there.
disturbed because there are no elders in the church.

Then I talked to Sister last week, she said, "Mother, where is John Allen Chalk? How are we with him?"

I came here for a meeting and help those people learn what they must do! Sister and Bob had wanted so much to talk with you last August but you were so crowded, they gave up and left.

I hope Brother Chalk that you can take a few minutes to write them a note of encouragement. Bob would be so pleased to hear from you.

John continues to be very busy; however, he enjoys his work and he is at home—though he is in his office at work night and day. He held court in Knoxville last week—he only holds court in Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson.

He has recently led two wonderful transact since his elevation to the Court of Appeals—one was the plaque presented to him by the teachers of the church for having given so many years to teaching. The other was also given to Mrs. Howard for teaching the Women's Class and several months ago, Brother Dallas
called and asked him to make the address to the graduating class at Lafayette, December 13th. We are looking forward to that because they have asked us to be in the receiving line at the reception in the afternoon, then to have dinner with them and then the graduating exercises, which I shall enjoy and John will, if he does his speech well, which I think he will.

I do hope that we may see you soon. We think of you and talk of you often, but we are so involved and our lives are so full that we do not keep in touch as I wish that we could.

Tell us how you like your work now. We saw Brother McNeely, recently at Madison, where John was in Nashville at court and we talked of 'the Chalks' and how wonderful you are - I told him that you came here as children and grew up among us and we felt that we had a small part in it.

We still never to as fond of any couple as we were of you - we have liked all the others, but they are not like you two - and we will not ever feel as close to the others.

I'd like so much to see Mary Beth and John. We have not seen our little ones since August. We have not seen our little ones since August.

Christmas, it depends upon how Pat gets along. Christmas is planning to be with us at Christmas.

John Alex is planning to be with us at Christmas. Much love to each of you!

Affectionately,

Natalie Norton Mitchell