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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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4-8-1970

To: Wendell Broom

John Allen Chalk

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#### Recommended Citation

Chalk, J. A. (1970). To: Wendell Broom. Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/1999>

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April 8, 1970

Mr. Wendell Broom  
960 North El Molino Street  
Pasadena, California 91104

Dear Wendell:

I have thought and prayed a lot lately regarding your move to Abilene. Needless to say, I am personally thrilled at your coming and at what I think you will do for the Missions program at ACC. I also have some indication of the amount of dependence that George has on you and your special insights and skills. I know it will be a great and effectual ministry.

I am deeply concerned, however, about the way we allow technical skills on the part of ACC professors, to go unused in any realistic way in local congregations. In all too many cases, local congregations are not putting into practice the benefit of the research and the experience of people at ACC. Especially is this going to be a great opportunity in your case. Even though I realize the demands of the first year or two with class preparation, notes, and other things, I still believe that there can be some kind of thrilling, rewarding relationship that you can have with a local church here in Abilene. One problem, however, is going to be the openness and the willingness, on the part of both pulpit and leadership for your insights to be utilized. This is why I believe that the Highland congregation provides a great open door for you.

I am not at all sure what your relationship would be. I know that I am completely open as to any form that it might take, and committed to doing whatever it takes to have you be a part of this congregation's ministry that is genuine.

Would you give this some careful thought? Would you also send along to me any reflections you have--would you also have any suggestions about ways in which church growth principles and other basic missionary principles could be internalized for our members, for their individual and corporate witness in this community? Anything you can think about along these lines and any special attention you can give to this in prayer and thought could mean a great ministry, not only on the campus but within the life of a local church.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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