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To: Paul Little (enclosure)

John Allen Chalk

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Mr. Paul Little
Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship
620 North Carroll Street
Madison, Wisconsin 53703

Dear Mr. Little:

It was my pleasure to be a participant in the Eighth Inter-Varsity Missionary Convention held at Urbana three years ago. I still remember with great pleasure the exciting Bible study and worship with thousands of students who were there.

I have just read about the plans for Urbana-70 Convention to be held December 27-31, 1970. I have also noticed how social issues are going to be faced honestly during this particular convention, within the context of world evangelism.

I have taken the liberty of sending to you, under separate cover, a copy of my recent book, Three American Revolutions. The thirteen chapters in this book arose out of the Herald of Truth radio presentations made in 1968. The three revolutions in crime, race and sex are equally treated in the book, with four chapters devoted to each subject and an introductory chapter. Three American Revolutions attempts to apply Matthew 22:34-40 to these pressing issues in our time. I would like to request that you give personal attention to the chapters on racism with a view to either recommending, reviewing or using the book as auxiliary study material during the convention.

Thank you so much for any time and attention you may give Three American Revolutions with a view of allowing God to use it as a tool for a fulfillment of His purpose in men's lives.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:1c

P. S. Please send me all the material available on Urbana-70.
Time magazine says, “The next decade may well constitute a historical era of transition like that which followed the Middle Ages and preceded the Renaissance.” With all the technological advances in communication and travel, one can almost see the apostle Paul in heaven itching to get back and utilize all the advantages available to us for world evangelism.

Urbana ’70, the Ninth Inter-Varsity Missionary Convention, will be held at U. of Illinois in Urbana from December 27 to 31, 1970. It will give students from all over the world an opportunity to consider the prospects and possibilities for world evangelism in the last third of the twentieth century.

Modern technology itself will come into play. Both the registration and the matching of student interests and backgrounds with needs and opportunities will be handled by computer. Within twenty-four hours of arrival, each student will have a listing of the people and agencies at the convention who are interested in people with his particular background. This will eliminate the “looking for a needle in a haystack” process which otherwise is necessary in such a large crowd.

The convention theme is “World Evangelism: Why? How? Who?” The accent will be on realism in light of the circumstances in the 1970’s. The program will blend unchanging biblical principles and the need for commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord on the one hand with the practical circumstances and problems to be faced in working out that commitment in today’s world on the other. Among the issues to be faced head-on are: Social action and world evangelism. Race and world evangelism. Revolution and world evangelism. Is man really lost eternally? How do you know if you are called? What are the various ways in addition to mission boards that you can serve the cause of world evangelism? What preparation do you need to be effective overseas? Does the national church really want us to come, or would we be better off staying home?

Each morning, a panel of students will question the speakers in an unpracticed way. Each speaker will be available in the late afternoon for further conversation and discussion either about what he has said or on other matters.

Each student will have the opportunity to schedule much of his own program. Plenary sessions in the assembly hall will be held only in the morning and evening. During the afternoon, he has time for personal conversation and interaction with mission personnel from all over the world. Each mission board will be encouraged to conduct periodic informal discussions which address themselves to student questions. You can pick up quite a missionary education by the careful use of the afternoon periods.

As always, small groups will form the backbone of the convention. Groups of ten will meet in the residences each morning for Bible study and each evening for prayer and fellowship. At previous conventions this has been the most meaningful part of the whole experience for many people. You can become intimately acquainted with a few students from all over the country.

Among the convention speakers are: Rev. John Stott, Rector of All Souls Church, London, England, the author of Basic Christianity; Tom Skinner, black evangelist from New York City, author of Black and Free; and Samuel Escobar of the IFES staff in Argentina, editor of Certaza magazine and a widely experienced evangelistic lecturer in Latin American universities. Others from all over the world will be added to the roster as the convention approaches.

Urbana has been a life-changing experience for thousands of students. If you want to be where the action is, you can’t afford to miss Urbana ’70. For further information and a registration blank write: Urbana ’70, Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship, 620 North Carroll Street, Madison, Wisconsin 53703.

Paul Little
God is all-powerful. The Word of God makes it plain that ultimate power resides in Him. Next to almighty God, Satan is the being with the greatest power, and we know that strange story of Satan's challenge to God in the book of Job. But we know also of the victory of God in Christ at Calvary, when He overcame the world, the flesh, and the Devil.

Notable expressions in Scripture picture the greatness of God's power. I think the way Genesis 1 describes the creation of the stellar universes is almost ironical. It doesn't write an encyclopedia—just a phrase. Consider the multiplied effort and fanfare of man to reach the moon (an extraordinary achievement from a human point of view). What a contrast it poses to God's display of power, and its brief description, "He made the stars also."

We see His power in the minutia of life. While I was a boy in Australia a friend of mine, a much older person, had a microscope, and evening after evening I would go down to his house and look at the stinger of a bee, or the eye of a fly or the wing of a butterfly. There I would see the perfection of God's power in nature in the smallest details of life. This impressed me with God's power much more than contemplating the greatness of the heavens.

Think also of God's power in sustaining the universe. You know the ancient picture of Atlas, a giant bowed and bent with straining muscles carrying the world on his shoulders. How does the Bible describe God who suspends the universe? "He upholds all things by the word of His power," as though He were spinning the universe on His finger.

This all-powerful being, God, has stooped to our weakness, and in Christ He has become one of us. He describes His immanence and concern for our littleness by saying something like this: "Not even a sparrow falls to the ground apart from the living God." He even speaks of the hairs of our head being numbered—not that God is a big computer; I don't think He would like that. These are picture phrases to convey to us not only the greatness of God's power, but how wonderfully near and dear He is. Contemplating God's power in an impersonal way leaves me cold. But when you think of God's power in relation to our weakness and linked with His love, it is something very wonderful.

Following His death and resurrection, the Lord Jesus said, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Actually the word is authority, not power, but authority only exists where power exists to enforce it. So as we think of the Lord Jesus Christ, we should remember that all power has been given to Him. All power in heaven; all power on earth. After He commands us, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel," He says, "I [the all-powerful one] am with you always."

In my teens I used to repeat a little creed. One phrase meant a great deal to me as I thought of God's power and ability. "There is no difficulty inward or outward that He is not willing to meet in me today." And the power of God is made available to us as we are in the will of God.