
John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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To: Norma & Phil Elkins

John Allen Chalk

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October 1, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Elkins
Box 172
Livingstone, Zambia Africa

Dear Norma and Phil:

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We were so happy to know that Phil made it home safely. Your letter of September 20 was deeply appreciated. I felt selfish in receiving it because I knew it took time away from a day that must be so very crowded and filled with significant activity of all kind. We did appreciate it so much and especially the reports of so many unique situations in which Phil prayed with a number of our mutual friends about the decisions we faced.

We had decided it best and in keeping with the will of God for us to remain here for the time being. Our commitment to this work is a day-to-day commitment in which we have to turn it all over to the Lord Jesus for direction each day. During the last two or three weeks rejections and cancellations have been coming to us from various parts of the country. This, however, we have interpreted as simply another opportunity to respond in faith to the situations at hand. Please pray that we will not react in any way, but that the Holy Spirit will have sway in all our attitudes and actions. This has certainly characterized my response to George Gurganus and the Mission Seminar cancellation. I will be going with George and Wendell to York College in October simply out of the interest in my heart for what is happening with the Seminar. George and I still have a good relationship, as best I can interpret it. I certainly intend for nothing to come between us.

Wendell Broom is working with the Highland church this fall on a part time basis on a growth study. We are hoping that some significant insights can come out of this. We are in the midst of a six-session study on the basic concept of church growth, with the hopes that out of this will come various data collecting efforts and interpretation of this data, with some view to meaningful direction for the Highland church. Pray that this study will be a way for God to show us our weaknesses, strengths, and the direction He wants us to take in the coming months.

We were excited to know that you had moved into your new house. It must be an experience all its own. It will be such a meaningful thing to discuss with you when next the Lord brings us together. We have prayed specifically for you on so many occasions. Sue and I have joined in prayer for both of you for God's

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protection and use of you there. We are thrilled and inspired every time we think of you and what you are doing.

Do not feel any need to answer this letter. Whenever you do have any time and opportunity, let us know how things are going. We love you.

Your brother,

C John Allen Chalk
JAC:lc

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