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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

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7-14-1970

To: Mr. & Mrs. Ron Stewart

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July 14, 1970

Mr. and Mrs. Ron Stewart  
94-809 Lumikukeloop  
Waipahu, Hawaii 9

Dear Fol

We are always happy to hear from you and are so glad to know that you are enjoying your summer in Hawaii. We would love nothing better than to be there with you. The fellowship would be great, much less the weather and environment.

Things have gotten progressively worse out of the "Midnight Cowboy" affair. I thought for awhile it would blow over but yesterday the new demand came from one of the congregations in Brownwood for me to make a public "confession" or else they would "take it to the brotherhood." The trial in Brownwood has concluded with the jury decision that "Midnight Cowboy" was not obscene. Now it seems the brethren, in an attempt to find a scapegoat, have decided that I am the one responsible for this decision. Needless to say, it has created some real tensions within me, tensions however, which I am trying to turn over to the Lord.

Another real big disappointment was the fact the elders told me a week before Walt and Marilyn Cabe got back from Europe that they would not be hiring Walt to work with our college program. I don't know whether I told you before that the elders had asked David Fry and me to get Walt to stay and work with our college program and to lead singing. After getting Walt's agreement to it and him leaving the country for his European tour, the elders then decide they can't afford it. I had to tell Walt when he got back to town and, of course, he was extremely disappointed. Pray for Walt and Marilyn as they try to pick up the pieces of their shattered plans for the next year.

Stanley Shipp has resigned his work here at Highland. By August 15 he will be moving to Saint Louis, Missouri to do a work on all the college campuses in the Saint Louis area. He will be under the supervision of the McKnight Road congregation and will be working with college students from all over the city. Pray for Stanley and Marie to make this move

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with the least possible inconvenience and pressure. Stanley has a great attitude toward the move and I think will do a good work there.

That leaves only one man (at least the rumor is that he is a man) on the church staff. I am not sure what will happen to Stanley's secretary when he leaves but it really means that the shop is being tended by Lula, Helen and me. Please pray for us that we will trust the Lord for His power and direction, rather than getting anxious about how bad Highland is.

We still have not moved into the house that we have rented, but hope to do so in the next three weeks. By next Wednesday it looks like the Phillips family will be moved. They found a house at an unbelievably low price only a mile from the beach and are moving right away. They were out for graduation at the Law School this last weekend. Pray for them on the move. Phil is still having a real time accepting it, and in fact, has been physically sick over the tensions around the move.

We love you and send our deepest respect and regards.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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