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To: John Acuff

John Allen Chalk

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Mr. John Acuff
835 Summerly Drive
Nashville, Tennessee

Dear John:

The two books you ordered are on the way. One of them has been autographed to Bruce Larsen. Be sure you don't get them mixed up.

The meeting in Paducah came off well. Six mature people were baptized, and many others were encouraged. Every night was a record attendance for Reidland. I did get to visit with Jan and Jim Barnes. I don't think they are as spiritually alive as they could be but found them to be very receptive.

I had a good week with Jerry Hoover. His wife, Kathy, is quite a thinker, and when given opportunity, really said some significant things. I think Jerry is a good thinker also. He simply needs to be freed, and I hope that this past week helped some in doing that. I enjoyed them.

I'm glad you had an opportunity to talk with Joe and Terry. There is no sense in which I would be considered unorthodox on the Holy Spirit. The sermon in my book, Jesus' Church, entitled "The Spirit of Jesus' Church," makes it clear how I feel about the Holy Spirit. My convictions, basically, have not changed since that chapter was written. I have a "live and let live" approach to the tongues situation because of my fear of blaspheming the Holy Spirit. My present feeling is that there is no Biblical foundation for the charismatic gifts of I Corinthians 12-14 being given today, but to dictate to the Holy Spirit about what He can or cannot do is a position I refuse to talk also.
I am real concerned about my relationship with Jack Sells. I know it will never be destroyed, but Jack has made absolutely no attempt to communicate with me in the last month. Say nothing about this to him. I will continue to love and pray for him, and communicate with him as I have the opportunity. It's sad to know that the relationship we once had has been destroyed. I really wish I knew how and why it happened, but still can't help but believe it must be some change in Jack because I still feel toward him as I always have.

I got Bob Fisk in touch with all the people in Cookeville. You will know that well by the time you get my answer to your letter.

The Bill Goodwin thing is too bad. I regret that there are sensitivities among the Broad Street leadership that arises out of my own immaturity. I don't know anything that I would have done differently, however. It was a matter of keeping my sanity. I find myself in that same struggle here day by day. I really need your prayers as I depend totally on the Lord, and do everything I can to keep from being dominated and shaped by the reactions from churches, elderships, and individuals all over this area about the "Midnight Cowboy" thing.

Thanks so much for the real help you and Carolyn gave me by coming up over the weekend. It really gave the Reidland meeting a good start. Thanks for all you do to encourage me. I pray for you and Carolyn and trust that God will give you all a very significant ministry there in Cookeville.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:hm