

2-26-1970

From/To: Rick L. Wickman (Chalk's reply filed first)

Rick L. Wickman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal>

---

#### Recommended Citation

Wickman, R. L. (1970). From/To: Rick L. Wickman (Chalk's reply filed first). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/2422>

This Letter is brought to you for free and open access by the John Allen Chalk at Scholar Works at Harding. It has been accepted for inclusion in John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence by an authorized administrator of Scholar Works at Harding. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@harding.edu](mailto:scholarworks@harding.edu).



February 26, 1970

Mr. Rick L. Wickman  
1200 Broadmoor, Apt. 174  
Austin, Texas 78723

Dear Rick:

Thank you so much for your letter in response to our recent visit in Austin. I thoroughly enjoyed dinner with you and Melinda. It was so refreshing to talk with you to sense the very deep spiritual concern that both of you have. I know that out of the kind of commitments that you have to Jesus that there can come great progress for the church of our time. The Governor's Committee on Human Relations meeting brought unusual press coverage all over the state to our Subcommittee report. I have seen clippings from ten or twelve papers throughout the state, some of which carried both picture and full story on the front pages of their papers. I also already received mail from church members that was not only sent to me but also to my elders.

I do hope that we did the right thing in our Subcommittee report, a copy of which I am enclosing with this letter. I would appreciate any suggestions you can make regarding my more effective participation on the Governor's Committee and as chairman of the Subcommittee on Administration of Justice-Law Enforcement. I don't want to get out on a limb where I shouldn't be, but I *did* feel honestly led by the witnesses heard to make the report that was made. And, of course, it was approved by five of the seven members who heard the testimony.

Your ideas about a lectureship sounds great. I don't know how it would be put together. That is something you would have to give some further thought to and consider the idea with some others. It would be a good thing, in my judgment.

I look forward to seeing you again soon. My wife and I were in Austin last week when I appeared on Capitol Eye but we did not have time to call. Drop me a note giving me your home and office phone numbers when you have the time.

Sincerely,

John Allen Chalk  
JAC: DC  
& enclosures

C  
O  
P  
Y



EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78711

PRESTON SMITH  
GOVERNOR

February 17

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
809 Byrd Drive  
Abilene, Texas 79601

Dear Brother;

At the outset of this epistle, let me apologize for this typewriter for it is of the old kind and I am typing without the advantage of going through the secretary.

I was deeply impressed with the way you conducted the committee session on Law Enforcement here in Austin. From the comments I have heard, you had by far the most interesting and forthright committee hearing. Let me also say that both Melinda and I enjoyed beyond our fondest dreams our visit with you. We feel so very close to you and your family now and it is truly a privilege to call you "Brother." I am not trying to sound hookey—we truly feel that way. You left something with us that to us was a breath of fresh air to help us along in our personal and inner feelings.

I was thinking of something today that I have thought about many many times before and I am sure that it is nothing new but I want to share it with you. What would be the possibility of having a "self-styled lectureship" every year built out of the present framework of the so-called "biggee" type that we now have?? The purpose would be to bring in more and more of the "unheard" of the Church and to broaden the base of intelligence by careful selection of speakers and sessions. I visualize having it each year in a different location in sort of a convention style. Of course, it would have to start out small and it may be that something is already organized now out there that I don't know about that could be used as a framework for expansion. I even will go out on a limb and say that it would need an organization with an Executive Director and Staff to organize and plan for each year. We could utilize volunteers until enough money could be raised to pay some salaries for staff personnel. How could anyone object to that concept with any degree of intelligence? The way A.C.C. gets away with it is by having these people already employed at the College and they of course merely use them at lectureship time.

We would have to be a little sneaky about this at first—utilizing the old paths of "how to run a lectureship" to get rolling. By limiting the subject matter to Church and Christianity and society each year we could avoid the criticism of "tampering" with the institutional church, as it relates to one region over another.

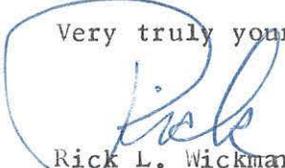
I don't think there is much reason for discussing the need for such a thing as this—however, good rationale could save a lot of road-blocking.

Like I said earlier, I am sure that this has been thought of before, but it would be interesting to pursue in active discussion with others. If a few "big name" preachers would become interested in it (please-not those who are just known for their fevor and statistics at the end of the year, but people like Pack & Banowsky & others), something might come of the idea. There are so many people who would be ideal for an adventure like this-Dr. Bill Martin, Roy Osborne, Robert Meyers, Ralph Sweet, Norman Parks, Dr. Pat Harrell, Walter Burch just to name only a few. You could go on and on and think of the fantastic experience they could bring to a once a year affair that I am suggesting. Everywhere I go and I know everywhere you go, I am impressed with the number of young and old who are turning off and who are finding no viable means to further their own development.

Right off the bat many would ask, "why do we need something like this when we already have so many once-a-year-affairs." And there would be much suspicion. The only way to relieve the suspicion would come with being very deliberate and from there-forget what's left over. I must confess, I don't know what practical method there is to relieve the first question. If this thing is pulled off some day, at first those in attendance would probably only be preachers who would be curious about this new idea. But this would be only the beginning-think of the students who would be interested. Also, think of the young married folks like us who would be interested. I don't know if I can substantiate this or not, but it seems to me that a growing number of young marrieds are completely without any church identification and the number is growing. It would be interesting to take an in-depth poll to see what the number is. Another argument against this whole thing would be that this would cause a split in the Church and would eventually lead to an "out-growth" group within the main structure of the Church. But, we may already be heading in that direction and maybe somebody should now plan for that "out-growth". It sounds serious and I think it is. The problem is lost identity with the main stream because of the whole establishment within the Church. Actually, I could see the time when this idea I have been discussing could have more popularity than what we have now. Time to me is a-wasting.

Well, as you can see, this was hardly a letter about official state business. And I guess I should get off my soap box. I just wanted to share this with you no matter how new or how old. I must sign off for now. It was so good to talk to you. Write me sometime when you get the extra time. Our prayers are with you.

Very truly yours,



Rick L. Wickman  
Office of the Governor  
Operations Analysis

Home Address:  
1200 Broadmoor  
Apt. #174  
Austin, Texas 78723