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From/To: Opal Bowen (Chalk's reply filed first)

Opal Bowen

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July 28, 1970

Mrs. John Bowen
4717 Maynard Drive
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

Dear Opal:

Thank you for your lovely letter of July 20. I appreciated the encouragement you gave me through it more than I can tell you. It is too bad that so many unfounded rumors float around about any of us who attempt to make his or her commitment to Christ clear in everything he or she does. You are experiencing some of that even as I am, but God is powerful enough to provide all of the strength we need to do what we believe is right.

I am sending you, under separate cover, a copy of my latest book, *Three American Revolutions*. These are basically the lessons I delivered on Herald of Truth in 1968. If you get a chance to sell a few copies of the book, I would really appreciate it. You can just refer any orders to me and I will send them directly to the people who might want to buy them or directly to you. Did you ever get a copy of *Jesus' Church*, the book that was published last February, by Biblical Research Press? If not, I will be glad to send you a copy of it too.

I don't know what the college student you referred to is talking about. I just am trying to make my commitment to Christ clear in every way possible. I haven't advocated burning the church buildings or doing away with them other than if that's what the Lord wants us to do in moving out to the world. I have not been withdrawn from anybody that I know of. There may be plenty of people who don't want me around but I know of none who have taken any official action. The young college student must be misinformed.
I did make a few comments about the movie, The Midnight Cowboy, in an attempt to teach some things to a widespread audience, even though my comments were quoted on the front page of our local paper, the adverse reaction has been overwhelming and I may be disfellowshipped by some congregations because of this. However, it was simply a matter of misunderstanding. I made it clear that I didn't accept the immorality in the movie but also made it clear that the movie was saying something about specific human needs of people all around us, the need for us to reach out to them with genuine love and concern, showing how Christ meets their needs.

I was thrilled to hear about Marian and Cotton's participation in the church they attend. Please pass on to Cotton my commendations and congratulations at his being chosen as deacon. I hope that their work with teenagers is highly successful. Give Marian my love and prayers. Also tell John I remember him and send him my best wishes and concern.

The Lord is powerful, even to the taking away of bad attitudes that often develop in our lives toward our brethren, and toward the circumstances in which we are put. I know that you have found the way to rely completely on Jesus so that these attitudes, even when they arise, won't stay around long. Be assured of my continuing love and concern.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:1c
Hello dear friend,

I meant to write earlier and thank you for having the young lawyer, Bro. Auyj send me a special word from you, but just was so busy. It was so thoughtful of you to do this. I wonder if the young man knew just what his telephone call meant to me. I had spoken briefly with Mr. McRight, at Clifton, but he gave me such a cool rebuff when I mentioned you and your life I thought I had better shut up. I ended
often in what I do — but how much greater your loneliness is than mine. Please don't let the devil discourage you in any thing you do. It was you Who taught me every minute of my time belonged to God, to try to take someone in your prayers and pray often for you. OPAL