7-7-1970

From/To: John L. Edwards (Chalk's reply filed first)

John L. Edwards

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July 7, 1970

Mr. John L. Edwards
McKnight Road Church of Christ
8818 Manchester Road
Saint Louis, Missouri 63144

Dear brother Edwards:

Thank you for your kind letter of June 24. I can appreciate your genuine interest in the matters raised in your letter. I wrote this letter for camp Shiloh for two reasons. First, I know a number of young people involved in the year-around, as well as the summer-day camp program. All of the young people I know, without exception, are committed, sensitive Christian, young people who are giving of themselves sacrificially and unselfishly. Many of them are young people that I have worked with either on campaigns or over a period of several years here in Abilene, and in Abilene Christian College. Second, I talked for more than four hours with Rod Spaulding recently. In that conversation Rod and I spoke very frankly with each other about Shiloh and its philosophy. We discussed the actual conditions and needs that exists within the counselors working in the Shiloh program. From my conversation with Rod Spaulding I was convinced that the program is a worthy one.

These are the bases on which I wrote the letter. If you want specific information about some specific person or condition I think it would be best for you to write directly to brother Spaulding. I think you will find him receptive and honest in his response to you.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk
JAC:1c
cc: Rod Spaulding
Mr. John Allen Chalk  
% Fifth & Highland Church of Christ  
Abilene, Texas  

Dear Brother Chalk:

Recently I received a form letter from you in regard to helping send someone to camp Shilo. I think this kind of work is wonderful and can do a lot of good if it is properly supervised.

However, I have heard some very disturbing things in regard to the camp in the last few years. Two separate reports have come to me that some of the counselors there used drugs (dope).

I have no way of knowing if this is true. I do not know anyone who lives there on whom I could depend on giving me an accurate report on the camp. If this is not true it is unfortunate that this has been reported. One minister who stopped there while on a vacation trip reported this and that some of the counselors had the appearance of "hippies".

Recently I had a young lady whom I have known for a long time who was trying to get support to go to camp Shilo. I didn't say anything to her about the camp as I was not sure, neither did I help her financially. I would really like to know the facts. Perhaps you are in a position to know. I certainly do not want to knock a good work, neither would I want to support a work that would allow this sort of activity, nor one that would allow their counselors to look like "hippies". IF YOU COULD GIVE ME SOME DEFINITE INFORMATION IT WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

Yours in Christ  

John L. Edwards