

12-22-1970

From/To: John B. Thomison (Chalk's reply filed first)

John B. Thomison

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December 22, 1970

Dr. John B. Thomison
2100 West End Avenue
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Dr. John:

Thank you for the thoughtful gift and the special note. Working in the institutional church these days is not at all easy but I don't suppose allowing God to use one's life has ever been an easy thing for rebellious men. Each day is a new adventure and opportunity for me and my family to confess Jesus as Lord and to be used of Him, because daily we are confronted with our own helplessness and powerlessness in the face of staggering spiritual sterility and impotence in ourselves and in the church as it is now constituted. Please pray that we can allow God to continue to use us and that we will be open to His leading in whatever direction that leading takes.

Our fellowship in prayer is a very precious thing to me. I thank you for it.

The two enclosed articles I thought you might enjoy. They are published in a little monthly paper sent by a friend of mine in California who is now seventy-six years old. You might want to send a dollar to Jimmie Lovell, P. O. Box 146, Palos Verdes Estates, California 90274, for a years subscription to Action. Even though it is directed at members of Churches of Christ, I think you would find some of the material in it encouraging.

May God richly bless you for even greater service to needy men in 1971.

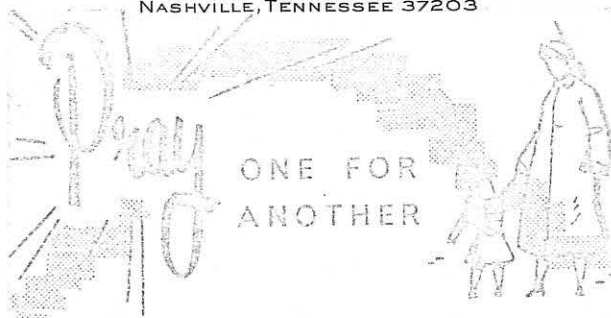
Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

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Y

JOHN B. THOMISON, M. D.
2100 WEST END AVENUE
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203



I cannot tell why there should come to me
A thought of some one miles and miles away,
In swift insistence on the memory,
Unless a need there be that I should pray.

Too hurried oft are we to spare the thought
For days together, of some friends away;
Perhaps God does it for us, and we ought
To read His signal as a call to pray.

Perhaps, just then, my friend has fiercer fight,
And more appalling weakness, and decay
Of courage, darkness, some lost sense of right—
And so, in case he needs my prayer, I pray.

Friend, do the same for me. If I intrude
Unshaken upon you, on some crowded day,
Give me a moment's prayer as interlude;
Be very sure I need it, therefore pray.

And when thou prayest, friend, I ask of thee
That thou wilt seek of God not mine own way,
Not what I want, but His best thought for me;
Do thou through Jesus Christ implore, I pray.

MARIANNE FARNINGHAM

(Last stanza, *James M. Gray*)

Dear John Allen

I keep wanting to write a long letter to thank you
for your books and tell you what they have meant for
to me. I thank God for your ministry, and pray
you will be filled to overflowing with His Holy Spirit.
As you walk with the Lord Jesus, may He encourage
you and heal your wounds, "for so persecuted
they the prophets which were before you." You are
constantly in my prayers - your brother in Christ

John