

7-1-1970

From/To: Henry L. Bingham (Chalk's reply filed first)

Henry L. Bingham

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July 1, 1970

Cadet Henry L. Bingham  
4PH C-3, ROTC Summer Camp  
Fort Sill, Oklahoma 73503

Dear Henry:

I will be happy to perform your wedding ceremony on July 18, here in the Highland Chapel. We have reserved the chapel for the wedding, and will be looking forward to seeing you as soon as you get in town.

As you well know, the steps you are taking is a serious one, regardless of whether you are marrying a black or white girl. I am happy to hear that her parents have consented to the wedding. I would not want to become a part of some kind of emergency situation that arose right at wedding time. I would personally prefer to spend some time with both you and your perspective wife, on the day before the wedding, if possible. I can understand if you cannot do this.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

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P  
Y

16 June 1970  
Tuesday 8:15 p.m.

Mr. John A. Chalk,

And how goes the ole business  
serving souls. May the Lord ever  
bless you and yours.

John I have a special reason  
for writing this letter. I need to  
ask a favor. I want you to  
perform a wedding ceremony. I  
know you have a busy schedule  
but you are one of the few people  
under the circumstances who can do it.  
I see, in the eyes of the world the girl  
I wish to marry is white, even to  
her parents. Her parents have given  
their consent and asked that the ceremony  
be conducted by a "white" minister. I  
thought to ask Stanley Shipp but I  
remembered he will be out of the country.

great strain on you, but if you can possibly find time on July 18 at 11 a.m. I would be ever so thankful. The wedding is planned as a small affair - about twenty people. Now how does it go about reserving the chapel at 5th & Highland? (done)

If you are wondering where I am, take a good look at my return address. I am in the Army (Army R. O. T. C. Summer Camp at Ft. Sill, Okla.). Oh, I would appreciate any help or suggestions you can give. Thanks for anything.

Your Brother in Christ,  
 Army J. Bingham