

7-16-1970

## From/To: Eva & Joe Tomlinson (Chalk's reply filed first)

Eva Tomlinson

Joe Tomlinson

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July 16, 1970

C  
Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tomlinson  
P. O. Box 793  
Suva, Fiji

Dear Eva and Joe:

O  
I was very pleased to get your recent letter to know of what is going on in Suva. I can imagine how demanding and challenging the work there must be. I pray that God will give you special wisdom in these months ahead as you learn the culture and prepare yourself to effectively present Christ to the men and women of those Islands.

P  
Randy Becton just returned from some kind of a special schooling in New York this past week. He and Phil Elkins this weekend were in Oklahoma City attempting to work out some kind of support for Randy and another family to go to Zambia. These are plans that I have not heard any details on so it would be best for you to hear from Randy about any such plans he may have. I don't even know when he and Camilla might be going to Zambia but I do know they are thinking about it.

Y  
*Students*  
The Missions Seminar was a good one this year and though the number was not as big as the previous years, thank you for praying about my special series. God did bless it with ready hearing from those who attended the evening lectures. I appreciated so much your fellowship in that series.

We have taken care of your request about the Herald of Truth sermons. You should be receiving them in the near future. Thank you again for writing. It was a pleasure hearing from you.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

6 July, 1970

(John in case your curious Abilene is 17 hours behind Suva time; i.e. It is 9:00 p.m. MONDAY now, but in Abilene it is 2:00 A.M. MONDAY night.)

John, first of all let me tell you that we have been petitioning the Father to give you wisdom in your lectures at ACC Summer Studies on The Nature of Man. If I remember accurately, I guess the Studies are about to conclude.

I hope you will give our concern and love to ~~your~~ Sue and the kids. I surely wish we knew her and the kids as we believe we know you. I trust that your health and theirs are fine.

Eva and I are in good health. She had a couple of tonsilitus cases, but is better now.

We got a letter from Bill and Julia Goodwin. We are glad they are going to have another baby and of their decision to move to St. Louis.

Please tell Randy B. to answer my letter. I really miss him - Camilla.

We are enjoying and working in Suva. It is winter here, if you can call it that!

Suva is a very cosmopolitan city of 65,000. Made of Indians, Fijians, Chinese, Australians, New Zealanders. Fiji has 500,000 on 300 islands of 300+. We are trying to learn the culture and bits of Hindustani and Fijian. We will start school soon. We are trying to get to know the church members, about 100 - 150 in Fiji, about 60 in Suva, not all faithful of course. We are growing a great deal in our Bible study and find that the Fijian is quite a bit more receptive, but not as stable as Indians. Most Indians are Hindu and it takes quite a bit of dedication for a Hindu family to break tradition. The Methodists, Catholic, Adventist, J.W.'s are quite numerous. Materialism and the play-boy attitude are the "in" thing. Our congregation is especially plagued with stealing, adultery, and drunkenness. I'm not complaining, just trying to give you some early observations.

No doubt you have your table with all kinds of problems (opportunities in disguise, my wife calls them. I agree.)

Indeed, Jesus can take our sins and inadequacies and make seemingly apparent stumbling blocks into stepping stones. Rom. 8:28

John, would you get somebody to send us  
 the Gerald of Truth sermons and yours too,  
 if you send them out?<sup>hm</sup>

Tell Wendell Broom, George Gurganus, and Phil  
 Elkins hello.

Thank you again, John for helping me  
 grow in Christ especially the summer  
 of 1968.

MAY the love of God, the grace of Christ, AND the  
 fellowship of the Holy Spirit empower you AND  
 Sue to join hands AND hearts AND be effective  
 in abounding in Christ's ministry among  
 men.

YOURS FOR HIS SAKE,  
 Joe AND EVA Tomlinson  
 P.O. Box 793  
 SUVA, FIJI

P.S. We know your busy, so ANSWER AT  
 your pleasure, it encourages us so  
 much to here of you.