7-8-1970

From/To: David Rose (Chalk's reply filed first)

David Rose

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July 8, 1970

Mr. David Rose
Caixa Postal 30,503
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Dear David:

I was pleased to receive your letter of June 26 and to know of the great results you are being blessed with in your work there. The conversions you reported sound exciting. I know these new Christians are going to mean a lot to the cause in Brazil. I pray that God will richly bless you and Kay and all your fellow-workers in the great ministry going on there. We do remember you and treasure you and your work.

Thank you for your kind remarks about the "Midnight Cowboy" incident. I referred to Ratso only as a literary type. When any person gives his life so that another person can be redeemed, one can only think of Jesus. One would not think of any other person in history who did that like Jesus did. This was the only thing I had reference to, as a literary type and not in any way an attempt to compare the person of Jesus with the person of Ratso.

It has been a difficult matter to handle. The judgment of the brethren is extreme but I know my Lord and I am assured in my relationship with Him. This means so much in the midst of turmoil like this. Please pray that I will be able to continue to accept God's forgiveness, as well as love the brethren who do not understand and who prefer to remain judgmental and highly critical. Please pray for the Highland church. She is going through a tremendous transition that could spell either dire or very happy consequences. Remember the Highland church in your daily prayers. Pray that God will anoint her with His Spirit in a mighty new way in the days ahead.

Glenn seems to be settling into his work well. His wife and family got here just last week. I saw them at church yesterday and they seemed very happy. We are blessed, as you well know, at having them with us. I hope that Glenn is going to be able to make some of his unique contributions to the new life within the Highland church.

Thanks again for your concern. It was beautiful hearing from you. We send both of you our love and respect.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
JAC:1c
Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ
South Fifth and Highland
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen:

We received your letter of May 15 and regret having taken so long to write. I hope that the vacation Bible school was a whopping success. I know that with you and the other caliber of men at Highland, it certainly was.

Since I wrote you last there have been 4 conversions in the city of Conselheiro, 2 in Central de Minas, 2 in São José dos Campos, and 2 in Tres Pontas. Most of these who have committed themselves to the Lord, are men who have a good amount of education and are excellent material for leadership of the church in the future. We ask a continued part in your prayers there at Highland in regard to our work here.

We have been hearing rumors that you have left Highland and then later on heard you would be there another year. We have also been getting news about the Abilene Reporter News article and the movie Midnight Cowboy. I basically agreed with you and your comments about the movie. Kay and I both saw the movie when we were in the US, and I thought it had a tremendous social message for our society. I did not see how Ratao portrayed a type of Christ as you indicated. Be that as it may, we more than appreciate the work that you are doing and are constantly reminded that people who are actively trying to achieve goals are going to be "shot at" occasionally.

I, also, have a copy of this newspaper ad that says church members do not approve of today's movies or lax morals. I do not know who put that in the paper, but it looks infantile on the surface. I don't think the church needs to publish its moral convictions in that manner.

We have had a letter or two from Glenn and understand that things are progressing there. We envy your being able to work with him.

Keep up the good work and keep us informed.

Yours in Him,

David

DR/hkw  TAKING THE GOSPEL TO INTERIOR BRAZIL