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Correspondence between Chalk & Thelma Holt

Thelma Holt

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February 20, 1970

Mrs. Thelma Holt
18404 Muiriland
Detroit, Michigan

Dear Sister Holt:

Please forgive my tardy reply to your letters. I did not feel it necessary to call you in response to your last letter because I simply had not had the time to talk with all of the people that would be involved in our workshop here in Abilene. After great and lengthy discussion about this challenge, and after much prayer about it, it is my considered judgment, and that of all the women with whom I've talked, that we simply could not bring together the kind of workshop here in Abilene that we think would be a fitting successor to the one held last year in Detroit.

Here are some of the reasons behind our thinking: first, we have an extremely small number of, in fact, less than ten, interested black women. The Negro church here in Abilene is small, with more than half of its members being white. The women involved in the church there simply aren't interested in this particular kind of effort right now; second, the white sisters here in town who are concerned, such as sister Belknap, do not have the time to do the necessary planning. They also are deeply concerned that what we would have would be almost a totally white situation, where we would again face the same old problem of lack of meaningful contact on a person-to-person level between white and black Christians; third, we have not had the time to do the kind of planning and promotion that ought to be done for this kind of effort. Unfortunately, all of us are so involved in so many other activities that we simply can't find the time to bring it off. I frankly have been unable to get anyone who would the realistic planning and promotion and leadership that it would take.
I am personally interested and would like to see it happen, but I'm also realistic enough to know that it must have the whole-hearted support of those who would be its major leaders. There is no question about the value of such an effort, but the feeling here is that it needs to take place in a city where there can be an equal number of white and black women involved. This we do not have here in Abilene.

Please excuse this tardy reply. I do hope this isn't too late for another city to take it and work with it. I had hoped that we would be able to work something out but we just aren't going to be able to. Let me know if I can help in any other way.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:le
Mr. John Allen Chalk

Dear Sir and Brother in Christ:

Seeing you at S.W.C.C. was like a shot in my arm, the right one. From all reports you were a blessing to our beloved school. I also want to again express my thanks for the interest shown in our efforts here last March.

The women at S.W.C.C., after hearing Becky Tilota and Bobby Holley, were much impressed and hope to be able to attend our meeting in Abilene. I am enclosing a tentative program. I would appreciate the women selected to work with you in the planning to make whatever changes are needed. We desire you and the brethren to direct affairs, plan places of meeting, etc. In Detroit, the women here opened their homes to out of town visitors, about 13, furnished transportation, meals, etc. However, if there is a charge for room and board, we will cooperate.

Bro. Chalk, as soon as you can, let me know details, and I will proceed with subject matter and contacting speakers. The women's committee gave a choice of subjects and speakers. We have commitments from some of the women who will participate. We would like for Becky Tilota to conduct our prayer circle and Bobby Holley to act as discussion leader on Sat. morning. We would like four other women for the lectures. Three have been suggested.

Best regards to your family and Happy New Year in the service of the Lord.

Yours in His service,

Thelma M. Het
TENTATIVE PROGRAM

2nd. ANNUAL COMMUNICATION FORUM

NATIONAL THEME: "God's Power At Work Through Christian Women--Black and White Together"

SCRIPTURAL TEXT: "The lamp of the body is the eye. If your eye is sound, your whole body will be full of light.", Matt. 6: 22.

DATE: March 6, 7, 8, 1970 @ Abilene, Texas.

HOST CONGREGATIONS: 

FRIDAY, March 6: Opening Session: 1 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Devotion
Opening Remarks
Speakers
Buzz Sessions
Prayer Circle

7 P.M. to 9 P.M.
Devotion
Opening Remarks
Speakers
Buzz Session
Prayer Circle

SATURDAY, March 7: 10:00 A.M. to 12 Noon

Devotion
Opening Remarks
Topic for Discussion: "Constructive Activities or Programs Used In Our Congregations, Schools and Communities For Better Race Relations".

Bobby Lee Holley: Discussion Leader: Audience Participation.

Prayer Circle
Lunch

2 P.M. to 5 P.M.
Devotion
Opening Remarks
Program: By the women of Abilene
Prayer Circle

SUNDAY, March 8:

Worship Service
Dinner

3:30 P.M.: Mass Meeting
Devotion
Speaker: John Allen Chalk
Remarks
Benediction
Jan. 30, 1978

Mr. John Allen Chalk,

Dear Bro. Chalk, Well, here I am again. I am getting calls from outstate concerning a meeting in Abilene. So just as soon as you can get down there, please call me at my expense just to bring you things are going. P.S. no. 56-17379.

Certainly hope you and family are well. And your work in The Lord is going well. I manage to stay busy in my limited way, for which I thank God.

Please let me hear from you as soon as possible.

In His service,

Thelma M. Holt