6-3-1966

From: Harold Poland

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June 3, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
542 N. Washington Ave.  
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear John:

I appreciate your letters of May 13 and May 20, and your willingness to assist during our change-over. This is a great help to me.

We were quite impressed with the obvious potential of the Broad Street work. I'm grateful for the good that you and the brethren there have accomplished with God's help. The possibilities seem just as you suggested by phone.

In your letter of May 20 you mentioned that you will not be moving your electric stove to Abilene, but will attempt to sell it. We will be leaving a gas built-in and will, therefore, need to purchase one. Judy has preferred a gas range and is making arrangements to secure one before leaving Monroe, so it will not be necessary for you to hold yours for our further consideration. We sincerely appreciate the thoughtfulness of your offer to sell.

I know that your schedule of time and miles keeps you very busy, however I would like to impose on you to answer the following questions when you find time. The answers will be held in strictest confidence, and are asked only to help me personally anticipate the true nature of the Broad Street work:

1. Please explain the extent of the "personality cult" to which you referred in our phone conversation.

2. Do you personally feel there are certain personalities within the church who may need special attention or consideration for some good reason? If so, please explain.

3. Have there been any serious personality clashes, grudges, or ills carried by any member for another of which I should be aware?

4. How do the members generally respond to preaching on all subjects and texts? Are there any "touchy" spots. Please explain.
5. Have the elders generally endorsed straightforward preaching when it has been timely and necessary?

6. Are there particular attitudes with which you feel I need to work carefully to correct or change early in my work there? What are they?

7. How is the spirit between congregations within the community, the county, and the state? Do they co-operate?

8. Is there a personality (or several) who may be misunderstood upon first acquaintance because of their strange nature. Please explain.

9. In what areas do you feel the leaders of the church need to grow most?

10. Is there a good working spirit among the elders and deacons?

John, I appreciate your help so much. I still look forward to seeing you personally.

Sincerely,

Harold Poland

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