

5-3-1971

From/To: Thomas A. Formby (Chalk's reply filed first)

Thomas A. Formby

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May 3, 1971

Dr. Thomas A. Formby  
Searcy Clinic  
910 East Race Avenue  
Searcy, Arkansas 72143

Dear Brother Formby:

Thank God for your thoughtful letter of April 22 to the Highland elders. I am convinced that nothing has encouraged them more, and nothing has spoken to their own personal needs more than your letter.

Rachel has been an exciting person to get to know this year. She shows such a freshness of spirit and such a thirst for a spiritual life. I can see so much of her father and mother in these concerns of hers. I am grateful that I had an opportunity to know her this year.

You may or may not have heard of my decision to leave Highland. I will enter The University of Texas Law School on May 31, and will be helping Ralph Sweet as his Executive Editor. I am hopeful that this decision will not be misinterpreted by sensitive young people like your daughter as well as by sensitive older adults like yourself. I am not sure what direction the church either is taking or must take in the immediate future. I am also not sure of what my most effective role in the "emerging church" ought to be. Therefore, in an attempt to become more objective, and possibly down the road more effective, I am pulling back slightly from the kind of intense involvement I have had the past few years in order to see more clearly how I can effect the needed spiritual revolution our times demand.

Please pray for me and my family in this move. Another major objective in our move is for me to have more time in this strategic moment in the lives of our children. We so desperately want the kind of children who will know the Lord in their own genuine right rather than as a second-hand experience passed on from their parents.

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Page 2, Mr. Thomas A. Formby

Thanks again for writing our elders. It meant a great deal to me and to them.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

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GENERAL PRACTICE  
T. A. FORMBY, M.D.  
STANLEY S. SCHWARTZ, M.D.

SEARCY CLINIC  
910 EAST RACE AVENUE  
SEARCY, ARKANSAS  
72143

GENERAL PRACTICE  
W. J. MATTOX, M.D.  
JACK R. GARDNER, M.D.

April 22, 1971

The Elders  
Highland Church of Christ  
Abilene, Texas

Dear Brethren:

I wish to commend you on the excellent program that you are presenting at Highland for the college age member. My daughter is a freshman at A. C. C. She left here a little bit disillusioned with the institutional Church. She has been inspired by the excellent classes and particularly by the timely lessons presented by John Allen Chalk.

When she came home for her Christmas vacation, she stated that her only regret in coming home was missing the services at Highland. My wife and I wish to commend you for your insight into the problems of the youth of today in presenting to them a meaningful twentieth century Christianity that is lacking in so many places.

Thank you for providing this meaningful experience for our daughter. I pray that this may continue and do for others what it has done for her. Enclosed is a check to help defray some of the added expenses incurred as a result of your student members.

Yours in Christ,



Thomas A. Formby, M. D.

TAF:mm  
CC: John Allen Chalk