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From/To: John C. Jennings (Chalk's reply filed first)

John C. Jennings

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Mr. John C. Jennings
P. O. Box 32
Huntsville, Texas  77340

Dear John:

Thank you for your recent letter. I thoroughly enjoyed hearing from you. I am pleased to know that you are living your life even within the walls, as a follower of Jesus Christ. I am convinced that following Jesus will give you the necessary guidance to undergo whatever pressures are necessary before being released.

I can certainly appreciate the need for someone to intercede in your behalf. My experience with the parole board, however, is that they watch most closely your own performance in the prison. The more you totally cooperate with the prison authorities and the more you are a productive person even while in prison, means a great deal to the parole board. I also would feel that a letter from me would not mean as much in view of the fact that I do not know you personally. If you have friends who know you and can vouch for your skill in a trade, and who can vouch for the new direction your life has taken, they will be more inclined to listen.

Thank you so much for writing. I do hope that this letter has been of some encouragement to you. I pray that God will bless you and strengthen you and that you will receive a favorable hearing from your parole board.

Sincerely yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc
TO THE PERSON RECEIVING THIS LETTER — (IMPORTANT, READ THIS)

All inmate's mail is opened, censored and recorded by OFFICIALS. Inmates may receive not more than three letters a week from any one person on their correspondence and visiting lists. These letters must be limited to two pages. You may use one sheet and write on the front and back if you wish. Please address the inmate by name and number. If these rules are not observed the letter will be returned to the sender.

Any money to be deposited to the account of an inmate must be in the form of a postal money order or cashier's check made payable to the INMATE TRUST FUND. They must be mailed to P. O. Box 60, Huntsville, Texas, 77340. The correct name and number of the inmate to receive the money must be included or the funds will be returned to the sender. Please include a return address on all envelopes directed to the Inmate Trust Fund.

Dear Rev. Chalk,

I was just reading one of your
typed sermons no 878 "This life or death\nmatter". This sermon touched me very deeply,
as you can see, I'm incarcerated in the Texas\nprison system at Huntsville.

I was Baptized around May 1967 by Rev. Hoffologis, a Church of Christ Evangelist\nhere at Huntsville. Since that time, I have\ndone everything I possibly can to better myself\nthrough education, or by helping the kind of\nperson I promised I would be. I have been\nlocked up nine years. I was eligible for parole\nin October 1976 but was denied a two year\nset off. Rev. this is my life or death matter. I\nhave three children, a boy, nine and two girls, 6 & 7 yrs.\nwhom my mother is caring for until I get\nhome. They need my guidance, more than they even will. That's all I ask out of life is to\nraise my family and live a Christian life. My\nfather lived in Athens at 1918 Collins and I\nwas raised in Athens. My mother on children\nlive in Jasper Springs, Florida. R. F. D. #1, Anclote, Fl.\nlot #77.

Rev. I just don't know what to do. I feel\nlike I should have made my mark if I should\nhave had someone to talk to the parish board for
me. My parents want to help but they don't know

[signature]
what to do. They are the most wonderful parents in the
world and would do anything to help me get back home.
If I do get out of here, I plan on finishing college
and enrolling in a seminary. Someday, I hope to
become a minister of God's word.
Rev Chalk, this may be asking too much, but
please don't feel bad if you are unable to
help me.
Mainly what I need is someone to talk to
the parole board for me. I would have no
trouble getting a job because of my trade as a
refrigeration service man also I'm a welder.
Thank you so very much Rev Chalk for reading
this little note for your many fine sermons, they
are a source of encouragement to me.

Sincerely

John C. Jennings