

5-25-1971

From/To: Ira North (Chalk's reply filed first)

Ira North

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May 25, 1971

Dr. Ira North
Madison Church of Christ
106 Gallatin Road, North
Madison, Tennessee 37115

Dear Ira:

Thank you for your thoughtful letter of May 7. Sue and I were glad to read it upon our return from a weeks trip to Guatemala. We appreciated so much the time you took and above all the love you demonstrated in the letter.

I, too, am somewhat sad about leaving Highland. It is more apparent by the day that a groundswell of new and deeper spirituality is occurring at Highland. I am not at all sure what the end results will be, but am confident that we are leaving Highland a more devoted congregation to the Lord Jesus than when we came.

On the other hand, I had to deal with the matter of my responsibility to John and Mary Beth. I looked at every conceivable means of being their father in a full and genuine way here with the Highland congregation. Sue and I simply could not find the way to do it. Out of conviction regarding my fatherhood, we made the decision to move to Austin.

I am also not sure what direction the church needs to take in these next few confusing years. It is my conviction that America is crumbling and over the next ten to twenty years the greatest opportunity of our lifetime to preach the gospel of Christ will arise. I am simply too close to the woods to see the forest. I hope the time in Austin will be a time to get a broader view of where I can best be the Lord's servant.

One chief regret in leaving Abilene is that we will not get to be with Dolly next year. College students have been a major part of our lives during our five years in Abilene. We enjoyed so much having Marilyn Young and Janis Hahn from Los Angeles in our home a number of times during the last school year. We grew to love and appreciate them very deeply and we had looked forward to the same kind of association with Dolly when she

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Page 2, Dr. Ira North

arrived this fall. We will be back for some of the ACC football games and will look forward to seeing her then.

You forgot to enclose your check for a subscription to the Christian Chronicle. Why not just drop it in the mail to Bill McClure at Sweet Publishing Company, P. O. Box 4055, Austin, Texas, 78751. Thanks so much for wanting to keep up. I will look forward to our opportunities for mutual service in the days ahead. We love and respect you deeply.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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May 7, 1971

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ
Abilene, Texas

*To Bill McChure
Bill Ira - the
check was not
enclosed -
JAC*

Dear John:

Enclosed is my subscription for the Christian Chronicle. I want to be keeping up with you, so please put me on the mailing list and have it sent to: Ira North, Madison Church of Christ, Madison, Tennessee 37115.

I received the news of your leaving Highland with mixed emotions. However, I have so much confidence in you and Sue that I know you have thought it through and believe it best. I'm so thrilled you are going to be in church work with the literature, etc. I do want you to stay active in the work of the Lord until He calls you home.

Both of you are favorites of mine and I love you and pray for you regularly. Come to see me when you can and God give you great success and happiness to enjoy in your work in Austin.

Love and fraternally,



Ira

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