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Correspondence between Chalk & Reuel Lemmons

Reuel Lemmons

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P.

December 5, 1967

Mr. Reuel Lemmons
P.O. Box 610
Austin, Texas 78767

Dear Brother Lemmons:

I noted with great interest your Salute to Southwestern Christian College in the December 5 issue of Firm Foundation. I attended this year's lectureship at Southwestern Christian College and renewed acquaintances and friendships that I have had for many years with a number of our Negro brethren.

I was somewhat disturbed at two references in your editorial to the fact that Brother Jack Evans served as minister for "Negro churches" in three different cities before coming to Southwestern. My conversations with these brethren indicate to me that they do not want their churches known as Negro churches. They state, in fact one stated in a lecture just before I spoke during their recent lectureship, that a black church of Christ and a white church of Christ does not properly represent the body of Christ. I am afraid that this reference would suggest such a thing.

I notice in the closing line of the article that you suggest that Southwestern is for the "Negro" people of the Southwest." Even though all students at this time are Negro or some non-Caucasian race, the fact remains, according to all that I can understand, that the school desires to serve all those who wish to come. It will not remain a segregated college in so far as there are qualified students from all races who desire to attend. I do not speak in official words of the school, but understand from my numerous private conversations with brethren all over the country that this is the case.

A new day has dawned among young Negro preachers. We will not hold their respect and esteem unless we can appreciate their unique problems and speak to them as full brothers without qualifications of any kind. I know that you are much more aware of this problem than even myself, but being sensitive to my own prejudices and realizing the need for someone who will point them out to me as they develop, I wanted to share this insight with you.

Mr. Reuel Lemmons
December 5, 1967
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My letter does not deserve any answer. Please feel free to simply read it and consider it for whatever it is worth.

I continue to salute your strong editorial stand and wonderful articles that find their way to the pages of the Firm Foundation.

Fraternally yours,

C John Allen Chalk
Radio Speaker
JAC/dw

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