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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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4-12-1962

To: James Barnes

John Allen Chalk

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April 12, 1962

Mr. James Barnes  
Box 124 B  
Freed-Hardeman College  
Henderson, Tennessee

Dear James:

I was happy to get your letter but felt that you could have obtained better persons for the kind of information you requested. In answer to your questions, I would suggest the following: There are limits to pulpit preaching. These limitations include the nature of the audience, the type of speaker, and general environmental conditions. There was a time when the demands on a persons time were less in number than today. At that time two or three hour lectures were not uncommon from the pulpit. At that time almost everyone reached was reached from the pulpit. There is no question in my mind that more people are reached today by personal work. This does not lessen the importance of pulpit work but it does indicate that conditions of society demand more contact with the prospect than the pulpit offers. It is my feeling that vacation Bible schools (or any teaching situation of a classroom nature) and personal work are the most effective methods of reaching people. In my estimation radio preaching, of which I have done much, is less effective in reaching converts but more effective in breaking down the prejudice than the pulpit.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC/sw