7-21-1966

From/To: Arthur Smith (2 copies fo Chalk's reply filed first)

Arthur Smith

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July 21, 1966

Mr. Arthur Smith  
1434 Redondo Bd. #6  
Los Angeles, California 90019

Dear Brother Smith:

Please excuse my tardy reply to your response to the May article in Action. I hope that you have also read the previous two articles in Action regarding the same question. I built up to the quotations from Brother Lipscomb by a study of Ephesians, chapter 2, and also by looking at the church’s responsibility in racial matters because of her very nature as “a ministry of reconciliation.”

The church must be concerned about racial brotherhood. There is no question in my mind that with the present Negro revolution and facing the injustices of the past, all Christians have a necessary involvement and a necessary responsibility. Please feel free to make suggestions to me about how I can participate in greater understanding and in greater harmony among all Christians, and especially those of differing races.

Accept my very sincere best wishes and prayers. I hope in the future to have the opportunity to work and associate with you in the cause we both love.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:ct
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JAC:1ct
and bless you for exercising the very spirit of Christ in your article. I immediately assumed that you agreed with Bro. Lipscomb. My prayer is that you do. If so, then we young negro preachers of the gospel have reason to believe. That eventually the church will show Christ as the way to brotherhood. Whenever a white preacher, nationally known, makes statements about prejudice within the church as you have done — there is no reason to despair over the inconsistencies in our group. I know personally of a congregation refusing to allow six converts to be baptized in their baptistry, and an interracial couple literally driven from the "church" by would-be christians because the community might think the "church" condoned such practices. God deliver us from such glaring sins! John Allen, God will not allow you to be sacrificed, men cannot hurt you if Christ is your life. Hope to get to know you. 

Adage

P.S. Read article while in meeting at W. Adams' church in L.A.

Arthur Smith