10-15-1965

To: Virgil Trout from Batsell Barrett Baxter

Batsell Barrett Baxter

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Mr. Virgil Trout
Northside Church of Christ
Duncan, Oklahoma

Dear Virgil:

Some months ago when I was asked to assume the responsibility of making thirty-nine color television films for Herald of Truth in 1966, as part of the plan suggested by the elders of the Highland church in Abilene, Texas, included the selection of "An Advisory Staff" who would help select the themes and plan the approaches to be used in these films. John Allen Chalk was also to have "An Advisory Staff" to assist him.

The statement from the Highland elders read as follows: "The speaker, with the approval of the elders, should select an advisory staff of preachers and writers to assist in evaluating subjects to be recommended for use and in exploring all possible approaches to the subject. This advisory staff would be voluntary and it would be advisable for the advisory staff to meet each thirteen weeks to discuss programs for the next twenty-six weeks. Prior to these workshops, a research staff should provide the speaker a condensation from all religious papers of the current religious issues in the public mind. There should also be provided a tabulation of the thirty national or international issues or incidents in the public mind. Since it is so vital that we relate the principles of Christianity to the practical problems people are facing, there should be a constant search conducted by the speaker and his advisors, as well as other researchers, for practical current illustrations of both the negative and the positive applications of Christianity."

You are one of the five men that I would like to select to work with me in selecting and planning the messages that will be used in our television series. I feel that you have both the background of experience and also the inventiveness of mind to be especially well qualified to serve in this capacity. Brother Frank Cawyer has suggested that we use Saturday, October 30, from 9:00 A.M., until sometime after lunch, for the first meeting of this group. John Allen Chalk and the five men whom he has selected will also meet with us here in Nashville on that date. I hope it will be possible for you to accept this responsibility, for I need your ideas and advice and the magnitude of this work is such that your contribution can accomplish much good. Will you please let me hear from you immediately, as to whether you can accept this role and as to whether you can be available on October 30?

Cordially,

Batsell Barrett Baxter

Chairman, Department of Bible

October 15, 1965