

10-22-1968

From: Batsell Barrett Baxter

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David Lipscomb College

NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37203

October 22, 1968

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLE

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ
South 5th and Highland
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear John Allen:

Thank you for your letter. I appreciate your reaction and I hope that my inability to spend the time in Texas next year will not be a hindrance to the program. Brethren Haddox and Smith have been here over this past week-end and I certainly agree with their wish that no announcement of my inability to do next year what I have done this year be made. I certainly do not want to hinder the program in any way. As it now stands, no announcement will be made, but when inquiries come we shall simply say that my responsibilities here make it doubtful that I will be able to do what I have previously done and let it go at that.

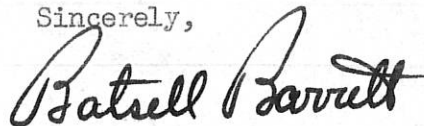
We had a good session today with a number of key men in this area and several elders from congregations also. When you have a few minutes let Art or Bill tell you about the meeting and especially the part of the conversation that dealt with your summer preaching. I think you will be pleased ~~at~~ that their report of what was said about your motives in preaching and your goals. It seemed to me that this meeting helped the men present understand and that it would have been rather gratifying to you. I do not know how widespread the criticism of your sermons in July is, but I have heard some. As you mention in your letter, it would be helpful for you to be able to come this way and to sit down with some of those who have been critical and let them really know what you have intended to do and why. I believe that their feelings would be much better.

We are encouraged here at the level of contributions and also the effectiveness of the programs as indicated by the mail response. I certainly congratulate you on the tremendous increase in response to the radio messages. Also, the mail response to the July sermons is encouraging in its geographical distribution and also its affirmative proportions. Things are improving definitely here in middle-Tennessee.

Mr. John Allen Chalk
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~~I wish it were possible for us to have more discussions, or at least for me to be in more of the discussions such as those I shared with you, Bob Scott, and others this summer. We had a good meeting at~~
the Belmont church here in Nashville last week, with three black preachers and three white preachers alternating. The attendance was a full house each night and it now appears that this congregation will be able to continue in its present location with a mixed membership. I was very pleased to learn of the success of the Highland meeting last week. I join you in wishing that I had more time for study and for getting ready for the work that we have been trying to do. It seems that all my life I have been called upon to do things for which I was not yet fully prepared. I think that is probably inevitable for all of us. Thanks again for your good letter.

Sincerely,



Batsell Barrett Baxter
Chairman, Department of Bible

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