

11-6-1968

From/To: Miles Cotham (Chalk's reply filed first)

Miles Cotham

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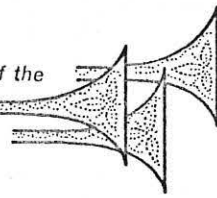
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November 6, 1968

Mr. Miles Cotham  
523 Perrylee Street  
Gallatin, Tennessee

Dear brother Cotham:

How wonderful it is when brethren take the kind of attitude you have taken to a recent, highly erroneous report about a meeting of brethren in Atlanta. This meeting was simply a prolonged preacher's meeting of two days duration. It was called by three brethren in various parts of the country who tried to invite in brethren whom they thought could have influence with many others regarding this highly vital question of race relations.

I have enclosed with this letter a copy of the full report formed at Atlanta. The names of the men who signed this report are also on this copy. Other men attended who agreed completely with the report, in fact there was unanimous agreement with the report, but who felt that they did not want to sign the statement. This was agreeable to all of us.

You will notice that the statement begins by making very clear that we are speaking as "individual Christians." There was never even a hint of an ultimatum of any kind. The question of interracial marriage was never discussed, even though it was mentioned by one participant in a one sentence reference.

I find it difficult to believe that the motives of those discussing this meeting are pure. I am deeply troubled at the reason why men like the one to whom you make reference have continued to speak publicly about this meeting, but have not dared talk personally with any individual who attended this conference. The fact that you are willing to investigate the truth about this matter is deeply appreciated by me and every man who attended the meeting, I am sure. If you have any further questions, please feel free to write about them.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm  
Enclosure

# Birdwell's Chapel Church of Christ

ROUTE NO. 2,  
COTTONTOWN, TENN.  
LOCATED AT TENN. HWY. 25 & PORTLAND RD.

October 16, 1968

MINISTER:  
MILES S. COTHAM  
452-1255

ELDERS:  
HOMER KNIGHT  
PHONE 325-2676  
AUBREY W. SEMAN  
RICHARD FREELAND

Address: 523 Perrylee St.  
Gallatin, Tenn.  
37066

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
c/o Herald of Truth  
Abilene, Texas 79601

Dear Bro. Chalk;

Although I know you have many obligations and time is limited, I would like to ask a question relating to the unity of the church in my area as it concerns race relations. A few days ago, a prominent minister of the church announce very boldly that the Atlanta race forum, in which I believe you participated recently, announced an "ultimatum" concerning what the church must do in regard to our relation with our colored brethren. He also said that the question of intermarriage was "settled" in favor of intermarriage as a "should Do" proposition.

The reason I would like a clarification on this matter is because my father, one of the deacons at this congregation involved, believes that there must be a misunderstanding. He doubts that the minister involved had accurate information, and that the real purpose of the meeting was rather to suggest means and improvements in fulfilling the biblical reasoning of loving our fellow man and in every aspect of our relation with all races. However, I do not have any knowledge of what actually took place myself. I would therefore appreciate any help in this matter.

Please do not think that I am one who enjoys "investigating" our brethren for the sake of destructive degradation. Rather, I want to help to bring about the correct understanding, as does my father, so that there will be no ill feelings. The minister mentioned has apparently created much doubt concerning his assertions. May God Bless you in your fine radio work. I Pray that many souls will learn more of the Saviour's way through your efforts.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Miles Cotham*

Miles Cotham