

2-18-1969

Ffrom/'To: M.A. Shelton (Chalk's reply filed first)

M.A. Shelton

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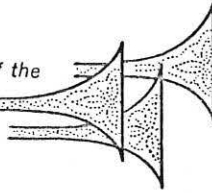
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February 18, 1969

The Elders  
Union Avenue Church of Christ  
1930 Union Avenue at Tucker  
Memphis, Tennessee

Dear Brethren:

I have recently received a letter from you regarding our proposed gospel meeting for May 3-8, 1970. I want to thank you for including me in your evangelistic plans for the future. I still remember with pleasure when your initial invitation came. I remain appreciative for the opportunity to work with you in such an effort, and wish only the best for you in your attempts to serve God.

I did make it clear to four of your elders with whom I met late last year that I had not agreed to any "pact" at the Atlanta meeting. There was no such agreement neither reached nor agreed on by those attending the Atlanta meeting. I could, therefore, and did, say very clearly and without reservation to your four elders that I would not be coming to Union Avenue under the terms of any such alleged agreement. I have never made "certain demands" of any nature when engaging in such an effort.

I do, however, believe that there are basic differences between us regarding what the Bible teaches about the treatment of all men who respond to Jesus Christ that make it necessary for me to ask that you release me from my commitment to conduct the meeting in question. I do not know what you would consider "agitation" regarding racial problems alluded to in your letter. I cannot preach Ephesians 2, Galatians 3:26-28, First Corinthians 12:12-27, Colossians 3:1-10, Matthew 22:37-39, Acts 17:21-30, Luke 10:25-37, and a host of other passages without making plain, clear, unquestioned application of those truths to contemporary situations. This you might consider "agitation." In view of the tensions that prevail within your eldership about this problem, I think it wise that you release me from my commitment to you.

In view of the fact that I do not agree with your policy regarding the handling of Negroes who come for membership in the Union Avenue congregation, as explained by brother McAuley the day I met with you, I believe it is best that I not come. I also strongly disagree with some of the statements and many of the attitudes expressed by three of your four elders during the meeting we had. I am sure that in view of these differences of opinion, judgment, attitude, and conviction you will agree that this is the best course of action. Your careful and prayerful consideration of my request for release from the commitment will be appreciated.

Fraternally,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

# Union Avenue Church of Christ

1930 union avenue at tucker  
memphis, tennessee 38104  
area code 901 telephone 274-1316



CLARENCE C. DAILEY, Minister  
JACK M. PARKS, Associate Minister  
DAVID RALSTON, Educational Director

February 8, 1969

I

Copies of this find my answer to:  
Wells, Sawton, Fortz, Harston, Davis, Meador, Orman,  
Bishop

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
c/o Fifth & Highland Church of Christ  
P. O. Box 2439  
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear Brother Chalk:

According to our files, you are scheduled for a meeting with us May 3 through 8, 1970, and we are looking forward to having you with us for the first time.

You will recall when you met with a few of us in November concern was expressed about a report that had come to us that each of those who signed the article drawn up at the "Atlanta Conference" had agreed that prior to the time for any scheduled meetings certain demands would be made concerning the handling of racial matters, including advertisement of the meetings. As I recall, you stated that you had made no such commitment. As far as I am concerned, your statement in the meeting was satisfactory. However, since only four of our elders were present, we believe it would be good for us to have a letter from you confirming that statement, as well as a statement to the effect that you will not include in your sermons anything that would agitate the racial problems, which, fortunately, have not presented any major difficulties thus far with us.

May the Lord continue to bless you and use you in preaching His gospel as you have done so effectively in the past.

Fraternally,

M. A. Shelton  
For the Elders

MAS:p

PERSONAL NOTE:

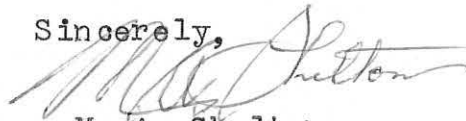
Mr. John Allen Chalk:

Am sure you will understand the reason for the requested letter.

I continue to be thankful for the opportunity to spend a little time with you a few weeks ago. I also appreciate very much the nice letters from you following our meeting.

With all good wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. A. Shelton".

M. A. Shelton.