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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

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4-13-1969

From: Jean Welch

Jean Welch

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#### Recommended Citation

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88CL-DC-se//9240-65

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## TRIANGLE BOYS' HOME

PO BOX  
1422



PHONE  
658-8133

**HELP US...HELP HIM**

ALVIN, TEXAS

April 13, 1969

John Allen Chalk  
Highland church of Christ  
South Fifth & Highland  
Abilene, Texas

Dear John Allen,

It's a rare moment in one's life to find an old friend whom you've never met before. I actually experienced this feeling recently when we met at the Youth Rally in League City, Texas. What a wonderful gift you have, to make everyone, especially young people, feel at ease. You certainly were a hit with our boys. You helped prove to them what we've been trying to teach, that ~~Christian~~ love can conquer all fear and mistrust that possesses us.

And man, were they ever tickled when the basketball came. The other guys patted Ricky on the back for speaking up and telling you that we needed a basketball. Ricky asked me to thank you, especially for him and wanted me to explain that he wasn't really hinting for the ball, he just didn't want you to be disappointed if you came out to play.

You see, Ricky can't read or write for himself but he can think and learn and feel. He never had a chance to go to school, his Dad was no good and his Mother was even worse. He thought Jesus Christ was a slang word used when he did something bad. In his whole 15 yrs. no one ever recognized his ability to love. They called him incorrigible, they told us he hated the women he knew; could not relate well with any women. (This could be a pretty bad situation at Triangle since women run the place, right?) He was considered too dumb to go to school, an outcast headed for serious trouble. This little Galveston beach bum had the sweetest smile, if you were quick enough to catch it and eyes that could warm Jack Frost, if you got past the long bushy mop he called hair. We learned that the only lovely moments in his life were spent with pigeons. Now, anyone who can clean up after pigeons, can't be all bad so we took the challenge and thankful we did.

Ricky has been with us since last June. He goes to Special Ed. classes, 30 miles from home every day and he is catching up rapidly; he was

baptized last fall and is probably the most faithful boy we have and has a conscious and disposition so beautiful that I find myself borrowing ideas from him..... and Guess What??????

We finally found him some pigeons, they are coming tomorrow. (Real racing homers yet) I suspect I'll spend some time with them too, just to see how one little boy found comfort in a bunch of 'ole birds when life seemed so cruel. I imagine that I'll see God's hand in it somewhere.

Ricky is just one link in our chain at Triangle. We have 12 more and no two are alike. It's our unique plan to help each individual boy who comes to Triangle, in a special way, so as to develop the best that is in him. We are flexible and honest with each boy and it's working. We have operated on little more than Faith, Hope and Love for two years but now we are beginning to prove our point.

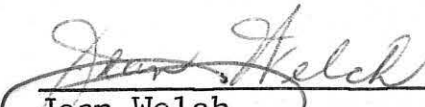
Our new board of directors is composed of 7 Christian men from 4 area congregations; our administrator, Gene Langham, is the elder of League City church of Christ. They all work without pay. (If you call money pay) Concerned people, everywhere, are finally coming to our aid.

You know, some people's ears burn when they are being talked about. Our hearts burn with all the love and appreciation we can muster when people think about us and talk about our work. Don't forget to remember us to God and tell all your best friends (you must have a million) what we're doing and John Allen, keep up your good work and maybe someday there will be no need for a place like Triangle. Meanwhile, we're going to find a way to motivate bad little homeless boys that no one wants. We may accidentally find some clues in those groovy pigeons. Interesting enough, they are called Blue Boys and you can let them out on a country road and drive like mad to get home and they will beat you home. That is after you have loved and cared for them for a while. See any connection? God works in funny ways doesn't he?

I apologize for this long letter, hoping you've had time to read it. I do talk too much and someday I am going to work on that problem. After I say everything in my heart, that is.

Thanks again for helping us, you've encouraged us a great deal. Do visit anytime, we don't have much but we are proud of what we have and you are always welcome.

In Christian love,

  
Mr. Jean Welch  
Asst. Administrator

P.S. Edie, the other Asst. Administrator and the real back-bone of Triangle did not have a chance to talk with you as I did but she sends her appreciation too, as always.

jw

*memo*  
4-18-69