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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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1-29-1964

From: Tom R. Jackson (1/29/64) - history of  
Williston C of C included

Tom R. Jackson

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# Thomas R. Jackson

Box 393

Williston, South Carolina

January 29, 1964

Mr. John Allen Chalk  
Broad Street Church of Christ  
Box 474  
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear Brother Chalk:

Brother John L. Meadows, Jr. of Cookeville has written us concerning the work of the church here in this community. We are at the present looking for a full time preacher to work with the congregation here.

We would appreciate it if you would give us any information that you might have on Brothers Meadows including his background and his work. Any information that you pass on to us will be held in confidence by me here. We are attaching a mimeograph sheet giving something of the work here to give you some idea of the scope of the work of the local congregation. We need a good man here and we certainly want to check thoroughly on Brother Meadows to find out if we think he will be the man to work with us here.

I would like to thank you in advance for any information that you can furnish us concerning Brother Meadows.

Yours truly,

*Tom R. Jackson*  
Tom R. Jackson (jm)

TRJ:jm

Brief History of  
Williston, S. C. Church of Christ

December, 1963

The local congregation of the church was established here about eleven years ago. Christians started meeting here in a rented building soon after an influx of people came to this area to work on the nearby H-Bomb plant of the Atomic Energy Commission. This plant is known as the Savannah River Plant. During the peak of the construction on this installation there were approximately 39,000 persons employed. Now the plant has a permanent staff of about 7,000 people. Approximately 300 of the employees of the Savannah River Plant live in our community. During the peak of employment at the H-Bomb plant the congregation had average attendance of about 150 people.

Several years ago the congregation moved into a new building. The people of the congregation paid as the building progressed and there were no encumbrances put on the building during the construction. The building was centrally heated and air conditioned two years ago and there is an outstanding balance of \$1932.00 owed to a local bank on the air conditioning and heating. Monthly payments on this loan are \$47.18. Some two years ago the congregation purchased a home for the preacher. We are making monthly payments of \$38.50 on this home.

At present we have 70 members and our average attendance is 64. Most of the male members of the congregation are employed at the nearby Savannah River Plant. The congregation here has in the past helped with new work at Orangeburg, Barnwell and Bamberg, S. C. Our group helped to establish a colored congregation here. We still help to support this work spiritually and financially. For several years we sponsored a local radio program, but since the establishment of the nearby Barnwell congregation (The radio station is located in Barnwell) they have been carrying the daily radio program.

There have been five different preachers serve this congregation since its inception. Brother Vernon Joines has now been with us about 27 months. Since he has been here, there have been about 30 baptisms. Brother Joines plans to leave here about March 1, 1964. If we secure a suitable replacement before then he will leave earlier, if not, he will stay until that date.

Williston is a town of about 3,000 people. It is located on U.S. Highway #78 about 35 miles east of Augusta, Georgia. We are located 55 miles from Columbia (which is the capital city of our State) and some 110 miles from both Charleston, S. C. and Savannah, Georgia. There are 8 other congregations of the church within 35 miles of our town (they are: Augusta in Georgia; and North Augusta, Aiken, Barnwell, Bamberg, Allendale, Jackson and New Ellenton in South Carolina). The work here has been 100% selfsupporting from the beginning. We are currently operating on a weekly budget of about \$140.00. We have never had any anti-sentiment nor any serious internal troubles. We currently pay the preacher \$90.00 a week and furnish housing. We will be most happy to furnish additional information to any interested prospects.