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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

8-13-1970

From: Jimmie Lovell

Jimmie Lovell

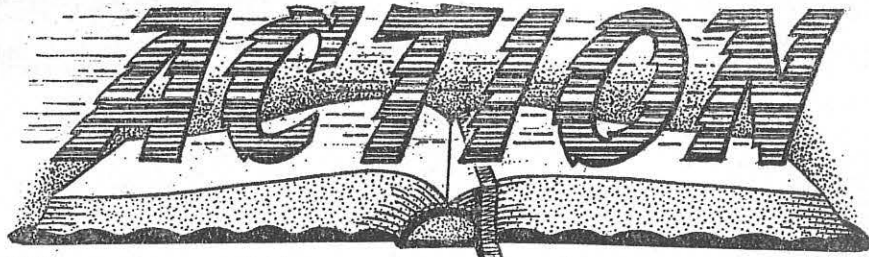
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"Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only" James 1:22

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August 13

Dear Jac:

I'll just start and write. Although it is mid-afternoon I have been hard at it for 12 hours. My body is tired all over but I'm happy in heart. A niece and her husband are here from Portland, Tenn. Vivian has gone with them to Farmer's Market.

Your letter came today. Yes, the July issue was a good one. In all my years in the church I have never seen the response as from this great and worthy call for Bibles. So far as I know, we just had one gift from members of Highland. I believe that there were more from Dickson, Tenn., than any other city but all gifts were large - up to \$1,000, several for \$500 and many for \$100. We really do have a good thing going and it will grow.

As mentioned, I am setting up a foundation which will have nothing whatsoever to do with the church. Norvel, Reuel, Bill Banowsky, Bill Youngs, my Doug Trowbridge and an attorney in Beverly Hills (I have no idea his religious status is any) are our first board. We appointed Pat Boone president at my insistence.

Archie Luper wanted to be president and when I told him we had appointed Pat he blew up, wanted off of everything having to do with ACTION, Miss-a-Meal, etc., and since that was his wish, off he went. Frankly, I have suffered long under Archie's money-flushing, big-shot methods since I do not feel it in line with Christianity but since I love him I went along. I do know Archie has been trying to hold me with one hand while holding Ira Rice with the other. Now I know where we stand - he will go with Ira and is already burning up the wires to damage our work and will in some cases. J. D. Bales, being opposed to Pat's feeling about the Spirit, will join them. I do not agree with Pat on this matter and know that he will be finished with the church people when his book comes out but on the other hand, Pat knows influential people of America and they know him. I plan to USE him and he knows it - use him to get dollars for Bibles which we will handle. There is no scripture violated. They will fight me on principle but I never fear man - all men. Were the Devil not against what we are doing I would not think it very good - he will be. Surprisingly, Archie has never put a dime into my work.

I just wanted you to know this. On top of it I have always said that I would go a foot this side of hell with any brother if I felt I could bring him back. Pat is a long way from that position but he is a great man who loves his Lord and I am not about to forsake such persons - I too am a sinner.

Son, I do not know the problems which surround you there at Highland. You are mighty young to assume those responsibilities which I know exist but I feel that you should not weight them too heavily where they wear on you as they must be doing. Neither do I feel that you have reason to be overly concerned about the children.

Every person has more right to hear the Gospel once than any one person has to hear it twice

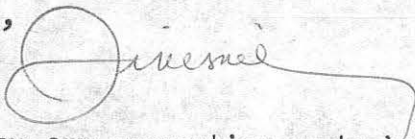
I am greatly concerned about the whole religious picture in America since I feel that it is facing problems similar to Europe. In a way this should present a real challenge to the church and our growth should be greater now than ever. As I see it we must come to the place where every Christian is a soul-winner, one who uses whatever talent he has to this end. Note what I have said about what I would do were I to start a new church. I would suggest this for every congregation but with utmost care and patience, any drastic change is dangerous. But I will predict that my 19 points will live. If we do not bring joy, newness and freshness into our churches our young people will ~~leave~~^{leave} but on the other hand if it all is not built upon the fundamentals of the Bible they will never do any good.

Jac, we are certain to lose Don. He is openly teaching that Moses had nothing to do with Genesis and that the flood was not a reality, etc. Not that I care but what he does which has no more proof than what we have, is to make a big question in the minds of all and this is what is happening. I think it a shame that we destroy quiet and sincerely, unlearned members as myself by major questions of theology. Men today are seeking words of God and it is church^{es} which teach the Bible that are growing - others will die.

Sad will be the day when all goes well. Satan never sleeps and we need to fight him - and I do.

Give Sue my love and I love you too, my son. I love you all very dearly - Helen too. Your mother and father sent gifts on the Bibles.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Do you have any suggestion as to how I may keep after Highland for bundles? I wrote Brother Fletcher twice but never heard from him. We are growing and I have a big question if Ira, Archie, J. D. can stop us. We shall see.