

10-22-1970

From/To: Ron Stewart (Chalk's reply filed first)

Ron Stewart

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Recommended Citation

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October 22, 1970

Mr. Ron Stewart
P. O. Box 1453
Agana, Guam 96910 USA

Dear Ron:

Enclosed is a part of the program of the Lamar Tech-ACC game last week. The game really was more one-sided than the score indicates. It was in this game that Jim Lindsey surpassed existing NCAA offensive records. I am enclosing the article about that with this letter.

To some of the questions in your letter of October 12, let me say the following: The Hallmark situation is unchanged. I know things have been exceedingly difficult lately. I had an opportunity to be with James Nichols on two or three occasions ^{and} but he seems under great pressure but he has shown a tremendous personal interest in my ministry here and in his own involvement in the church here. I know they have let a number of people go but I do not know what the current status is. Did you know that Wyman Wilkerson is no longer with them? He is gone and so is Bob Anderson. I think that might have happened before you left, but they are attempting evidently to tighten the belt.

Herald of Truth remains the same. Batsell Barrett Baxter is going to be giving more time to Herald of Truth. His decision to leave Hillsboro was motivated largely out of his desire to be more directly involved in Herald of Truth. He is also much more insistent about determining the direction of his sermons. This is bad in view of his almost total ignorance of the social implications of the gospel. The radio program is as irrelevant as it has ever been. The Herald of Truth has come in for a tremendous amount of criticism because of me. The reaction to "Midnight Cowboy" as intensified by Ira Rice has caused many preachers and a few elderships to threaten to stop supporting Herald of Truth if I am not fired. The attitude of the men on the Herald of Truth staff toward the situation is, on the surface, very positive but at a deeper level is ambivalent.

I don't know how Three American Revolutions is doing. I did sell and give away all of my 350 author copies. I have been able to pay the side note and the interest for the twelve month period in which we are now on the \$3800.00 note, but at this time I have no report from the publisher.

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One will be coming in January. The only hope I have, in my judgment, is that a number of black churches will use the book as a fund raising item for support of Southwestern Christian College. In that vein, I might also add that Jack Evans and I were in Memphis, Tennessee for a two-night race relations forum last week. Jack Evans told it like it is, even in the face of losing white support of his school. He is a very brave Christian.

Christian Homes is in a tremendous financial strain. Wayne is speaking every Sunday night and Wednesday night in various churches. It seems to be a real heavy load for him. I am not sure at all how it will ultimately work out. Wyman Wilkerson is continuing to serve on the board, even though he and his family have moved their membership to the Hillcrest church. Wyman assured me it was not a personal reaction to me, but rather the fact that he and his family just couldn't feel at home with the current situations regarding Hallmark, Herald of Truth and Highland. I don't know what you mean in your question about Joan Wood. She is working and seems to be satisfied with it. There are some obvious weaknesses in her work but there are also some tremendous strengths. We now also have Nancy Miller working here but I rarely see any of them. They do nothing to relate to me. I have to go to them for any liaison. I don't remember what the context was for my statement about faith. I probably was referring to it in the sense of saving trust. The whole concept of trusting Jesus as Lord, giving Him our days and our situations in our lives to rule is unknown. All of this emphasis on "total commitment" of late has confused the issue of faith. Passages like Romans 3:21-30, Colossians 2:6,7 are never understood, especially as their meaning comes through in the Living New Testament and other such translations.

Jackie White and Rubin Glover are doing well. Rubin is taking 18 hours this semester and talked to Sue just last night about her work. She is getting behind in her studies and is worried about it. Robert English is doing real well. He comes to Highland quite a bit but has not placed his membership with us. I have no idea about where George and Katie are other than in the Washington D. C. ~~AREA~~. I have not heard from them.

Wayne and Kay are difficult for me to understand. We were in their home last week for a Bible study with Mack and Chris Hamden. You may remember Mack as a young army officer in View Nam with whom Wayne and Kay became acquainted. He and Chris are now out of the Army and in Abilene going to graduate school. He is a very sensitive and troubled young man. I have studied now a total of five or six hours with him on the Holy Spirit and he seems to be growing. I think he will be of great here.

I see no way financially to go into theological school. I also see no way to use it profitably when it's all over. I am more and more repulsed by what has to be done in the way of showmanship in corporate management to move the institutional church. I simply can't put my heart into it. I'm fooling myself and everybody else by trying to indicate that I can do it. Law School seems to be the way to make an honorable living. I will, of course, have to find some way to finance three years of schooling but I could afford to borrow the money for me to do that as opposed to borrowing the money to go to Theological School with no possibility of support once I am out, and certainly not at a level that I could repay a massive school debt. I have no feelers from Pepperdine and probably have every reason to believe, in view of my present notoriety, they would not want to do anything with me. Ron Phillips has written absolutely nothing about how the school

is going, which indicates that even though our friendship is still deep, it's obvious that he sees no place for me there. I understand that and have no negative reaction about it.

I will look forward to your reactions from the experience in Japan. It, however, is not germane to my situation as to whether Banowsky or anybody else is preaching the word or not. I simply have to forget about winning the election and do what is the most honest thing for me. I feel very alone, however, and appreciate more every day the kind of fellowship and unity you and I enjoyed while you were here.

I will try to find the questions I asked regarding my preaching at Highland. I think I simply got some honest men that I felt good with together and just started asking questions right out of my own concerns. The questions I asked were not questions I had borrowed from anywhere, but rather were were the questions that any faithful or sensitive preacher would want to know about.

Tennessee won again this weekend, shutting out Alabama. I think it was Alabama's first shut-out in many years. I know the people on the hill must be estatic. Yesterday the Cowboys were humiliated by the Vikings. I don't know what has happened to them. I am not sure what the Rams did, and our Wildcats are on the rampage with a very, very big contest facing them Saturday night in the form of Arkansas State.

I spend two days at the Kansas Medical School this week on youth problems in a Medicine and Religion Symposium, and then go on to York College for two days with students up there, along with Wendell Broom and George Gurganus.

Give my love to Jean and the family. We continue to miss all of you very much. On so many occasions of late I have wanted simply to drop by your house and receive the love and encouragement that so often undergirded my life and faith last year. We pray that God will continue to use you mightily in the church there. I also think you ought to take the opportunity to serve as a deacon. As you well know, in the Church of Christ that is the same as being a junior elder.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

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October 12, 1970

Dear John and Family:

And so here it is Monday noontime and I have already eaten and am now back at my desk in large office building and ready for a little letter-catching-time.

I ate at the House of Chin Fee (Chinese?) and had a delicious meal consisting of all sorts of things. It doesn't have the atmosphere that some of those fancy places in Abilene, John, but I'll bet the food is just as good.....those were the good ole days....

This letter is going to be concerned with mainly questions. I hope you don't think I'm looking for something to 'gloat& over, but I'm truly interested in how things are going.

What is the situation with Hallmark? Last we heard it wasn't going so well.

How about HOT and their business machine? You mentioned something about BBB making HOT full time or almost. What is the radio portion doing these days.

How is you NEW book doing? (We have yet to order some copies, and will let Helen know soon)

How are fund raising efforts at Christian Homes? How is Wyman Wilkerson getting along? What ever happened to Joan Wood?

You mentioned in one of your sermons (tape) that '....we really don't understand what Faith is or means....' can you expand of that or give some references for clearer understanding?

How are the college students doing? Jackie and Ruben especially. Bob English. We have not heard from George and Katie in months and are trying to find out what happened to them.

How is Wayne Stephens doing and his family? We are concerned about them for reasons I can't even talk about now by letter.

Your last letter mentioned about you going to law school. Jean and I wish to respond to that later, and I hope to hear from you telling more about those plans as opposed to theology school. Are you still thinking of Pepperdine?

A I am away from Highland and Abilene, I can see more clearly now God's purpose in your remaining at Highland. As far as I can tell, you are still the only one telling it like it is anywhere. It will be most interesting to here BB in Japan and hear what others are saying these days. I know that God's word is not being preached here in a meaningful way. Perhaps by becoming more involved directly in the leadership of this congregation something can be done.

Do you remember one time you had a group of men do some critical evaluation of your preaching at Highland? Can you send me the format regarding the kinds of questions you asked for the purpose of gaining insight as to your effectiveness?

As I look back on page one, I seem to be full of perhaps too many questions considering your available time.

I learned this morning that Tennessee defeated Georgia Tech 17-6 in Atlanta. Go Vols!

Understand that Texas beat some insignificant team also.

Don't know about my Rams, but understand that Dallas won. Saw the Ram-Buffalow (spel) game on TV yesterday afternoon.

Hope those Wild Cats did it again.....

We had a beautiful get-together last night after church. Two young military couples and one single boy from Navy. Enjoyed sloppy Joe's and cokes and stimulating conversation for a change. One couple is from the "Independent Church of Christ" and had some good things to say. The other couple are from Nashville (That's in Tennessee) and didn't even know there was a problem. We will have them over more often.....it was great.

Well, all of this should take some of your time. Oh, yes, how is your running coming? I still get out about 2 or 3 times a week. It's really hot here! I have been slowed down by numerous colds this past few months, however, and haven't felt up to it too often.

Best to all, and we love you all and keep in prayer.

Ron, Jean

