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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

8-5-1970

From/To: Jim Rambo (Chalk's reply filed first)

Jim Rambo

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August 5, 1970

Mr. Jim Rambo
2308 Broadway, Apt. 4
Lubbock, Texas 79401

Dear Jim:

I have waited this long in replying to your letter of July 7, because of the turmoil that I have been experiencing through the last forty-five days. I have made two decisions to leave the Highland church and to move away from Abilene within the last two months, both of which at this point have been overruled by what I believe to be a very clear leading of God. My personal preferences are still that I would rather be somewhere else, in another complete different set of circumstances, but this time God has made it very clear, according to all the best indications that I can read through faith, that I must remain here and put myself in His hands to be moulded and used by Him for whatever purpose He is working out in this city and in this church.

Needless to say, you can bring great strength and can have many open doors in Abilene, and especially at Abilene Christian College. Deep spiritual needs exists in that school and among its students, and God will give you many great opportunities for service. The Highland church is in desperate need of Spirit-filled men and women like you and Teresa. I hope that you can, in some way, be a part of the fellowship here but I will respect what you believe to be God's leading and will in that matter, too.

At this point my relationship with the Highland church is a day-to-day relationship. God has bless me over and over again with with confirmation and re-confirmation of the fact that this is the opportunity He has given me for now. I, therefore, respond to Him in faith day by day and attempt to live out His will in every situation of that day. Into this kind of context we would welcome you into a ministry of needy men and women in this congregation, within our city at large and especially within the student body at ACC we will also welcome you.

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Page 2, Mr. Jim Rambo

If there is anything specifically I can do to help, any questions I can answer, please let me know. I will be out of town for the next two weeks but expect to be back around the 17th of August. It will be a pleasure to know of your final decision and to rejoice with you in the triumph of the will of God in your life and mine.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

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7-7-70

My brother John,

I praise The Lord for His pouring out of His eternal freedom while we were with you Sunday night. It was so good to share with you in His presence.

I write to you asking that you pray about the decision of ^{going} coming to Abilene or not. Sister Bass's simple words of her praying that I come to Abilene in the fall are most significant for my walk with Jesus.

After talking with Sister Bass, my first response was - oh, don't do that!! Teresa and I began to see why we were so negative about her prayers. We are placing too much dependence upon perishable things such as my degree from Tech, ~~the~~ her job, the apartment that we have said we will move into after we are married, the security I find with the people in Lubbock, and my work in the theater. All of these things are passing away -- these are not things that the Lord has put upon us to depend upon; they are not a part of His purpose.

The Lord reminded us tonight ^{while} worshipping with the students at the Bible Chalk about His simple but yet radical words to Peter -- come, drop your nets and follow Me. It is radical obedience that He wants, not a half way turn to His obedience.

I ask you to pray that we will be able to discern what His walk for our lives is -- whether to stay in Lubbock, go to Abilene, or whatever it may be.

Decisions to give my life ^{always} to the Lord have come up the last few weeks -- now this is presented to us and I want to be able to walk and continually seek the Lord's purpose for my life, even now in this important turning point.

I pray for you and your beautiful family. The Lord has certainly blessed you with beautiful children and a very trusting wife.

Love through Jesus,
Jim Rowley

Send dearest greetings to Helen McCloud. Teresa and I are in prayer for she and Butch..