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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

11-11-1970

From/To: Janice & Jimmy DeBerry (Chalk's reply
filed first)

Janice DeBerry

Jimmy DeBerry

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November 11, 1970

C Dr. and Mrs. Jimmy DeBerry
5730-2 Bailey
Fort Hood, Texas 76544

Dear Janice and Jimmy:

O I can certainly appreciate the distressing situation with which you are faced in the case of the abused child. As you may know, child abuse is becoming quite a problem these days in our country. I have just had personal experience with such a situation in recent weeks.

P Your best approach is probably to contact the Child Welfare Division of the State Department of Public Welfare in your city. You could report the address and the name of the family to a Child Welfare Worker who would in turn take it from there and probably visit the child's teacher and make other inquiries in the neighborhood. The other possibility would be to report this to the police, who in many communities also have a way of investigating situations like this. My first preference, however, is to go to the Child Welfare people with whom the responsibility for handling such things is charged.

Y You should be very careful about your name being used in this matter. Without the official status of a Child Welfare Worker or some officer of the court, the family could become extremely hostile to you. This, of course, is not to preclude you from taking some action, but it is to ask you to be extremely careful in the way you share this information with the authorities involved.

One other thought would be that if this family is a military family, the matter should be reported to the Base Commander's office. There must be some person in charge of the general conduct of all army personnel and dependents that Jimmy would know to contact. If, however, this is a civilian family the matter should probably go directly to the Child Welfare division of the State Department of Public Welfare. They handle this kind of thing often and will know how to proceed.

We think of you often and appreciate so much our friendship. We hope that we will have an opportunity to visit with all of you again before any move of yours out of Texas. Watch for a time when you can come and spend a week-end with us. We would love to have you.

In Christian love,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc

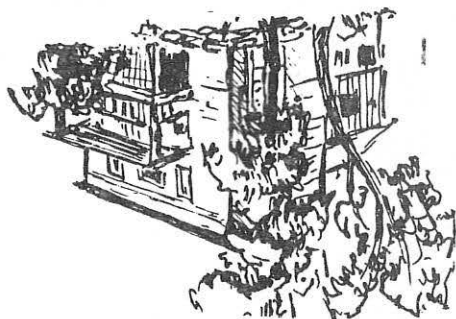
a way and could help, and advise us. The step to "get involved" is awesome - but how can we not "get involved." The situation makes us feel so inadequate - but our conscience gives us no rest.

Fondly,
Janice

Friday

Dear Sue and John Allen,
We think of you all often and especially after hearing from Cookeville people, etc. Mama and Rosemary were here for a week recently - it was their first time to visit and we enjoyed having them. It is hard to get their husbands away from Tenn.!! but we keep hoping they will come.

JUDGE O. T. TYLER HOUSE



The main reason for writing concerns a battered child we have living on our street. We do not know the family at all but we ^{feel we} know of 3 times he has been beaten since June. We feel we need to help but where do we begin? The articles we have read say report it - but to whom? What exactly do we need to know before hand? Others say work with his teacher. We thought perhaps you had experienced