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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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10-15-1970

From/To: Bob Mason (Chalk's reply filed first)

Bob Mason

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#### Recommended Citation

Mason, B. (1970). From/To: Bob Mason (Chalk's reply filed first). Retrieved from <https://scholarworks.harding.edu/hst-chalk-personal/2628>

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October 15, 1970

Mr. Bob Mason  
Competitive Insurance Programs  
2401 12th Avenue, South  
Nashville, Tennessee 37204

Dear Bob:

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I am so thrilled that you had a chance to visit with Mary Bratten. Sue talked with her sister, Sarah, two nights ago and learned that even Sarah had been to see her. As a result of my visit to Nashville I suppose that Sarah found out about it and went to try to find Sara Jouett but instead even got to visit with Mary Bratten herself. As it turns out, ~~she~~ <sup>Eleanor King</sup> and some other close friends of Sarah's actually went to school with Mary at Lipscomb. While at Lipscomb Mary was intensely disappointed and had some very bad experiences regarding her spiritual life while there. This may be a great opportunity for all of us. Mary and Ed, her doctor husband, have already indicated that they are going to shop around Nashville for a place to regularly attend church, if she recovers.

I thoroughly enjoyed our visit last week. It meant so much to get to be with all of you again. Mamie did such a beautiful job with the meal. Be sure that she gets my personal thanks and love for what she did. It was just a beautiful meal but it was also a beautiful meal served by a beautiful woman whose love of others is obviously a God-given fruit of the Spirit. I feel so strongly about your commitments to Christ and about what the commitments of your family are going to mean to many, many people in the years ahead.

The idea of the inner-city church sounds like a great one. I am not sure that the University elders have either the commitment or the insights to do it, but I suppose that's better than nothing at all.

I appreciate so much your friendship. It really means more to me than I can tell you. Not having a friend like you or Al or John or Jack here in Abilene makes the going very rough at times. Please continue to pray for God's blessings on our ministry here.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc





## COMPETITIVE INSURANCE PROGRAMS, INC.

2401 Twelfth Avenue, South

615/298-5414

Nashville, Tennessee 37204

October 8, 1970

Dear "Chalk-Talk":

I have just come from Vanderbilt Hospital where I was able to get in to see Mary Bratten for a few minutes. Boy, that really tears your heart out to see a young mother in her condition. She seems to be in good spirits, though, and had a smile on her face. Sarah went home Monday, but will be back this week end, so maybe I can see her then. Mr. Tucker has been released from the hospital, and according to Mary is doing fine.

We really enjoyed having you even if it was for a "quickie" visit. We appreciate your friendship so much and want you to feel free to call us anytime you are going to be in the area and plan to spend the night with us. Mark is still wanting to know where "Chalk-Talk" went to.

We continue to remember you in our prayers. I do hope that you are going to be able to get a clear cut answer on what the Lord wants you to do about your law school plans or whatever he wants you to do. I sure hope ole Sue will keep her mind open about the possibilities of you coming back here, if that's what the Lord wants you to do. Tell her I'm praying especially for her to be sensitive to what he wants you all to do and not to block out any possibilities.

Mamie continues to be a wonderful wife and mother. She is really enjoying reading the New Testament (Reach Out Version) trying to block out any pre-conceived ideas and reading as though it was written to her today. She's really "on fire for the Lord" and it's great to see the Spirit working in her.

It looks very possible that a congregation will remain at the present Hillsboro location. The University Elders have asked that before the property is turned over to a real-estate agent, that they be given first right of refusal. I would certainly want to stay and be a part of making that a real "Inner City" congregation trying to serve the University community as well as the black community that is moving into that area. Pray for us towards that end. It will be interesting to see what develops.

Please overlook the typing errors, but I can type better than I can write so you'll just have to bear with me. Give our love to your family, and let me hear from you when you get time. If you haven't done it already, send Jim Butler a copy of your book and also one of your mike photos. Also get Heleh to change Al Jaynes mailing address to his home address. Thought you may have forgotten those little items.

We love you,

  
Bob