

2-21-1966

## Correspondence between Chalk & Burl Curtis (3 letters)

Burl Curtis

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February 21, 1966

Mr. Burl Curtis  
Station B, Box 5423  
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Burl:

Your immediate reply to my recent letter was highly appreciated. I felt certain as to your own convictions about the matter discussed but also, feeling strongly about the need for practical steps to solve it, wanted to suggest that you no longer denominate God's people by white or black designations. The Negroes feel very strongly about this; and if we are convinced that there must be no distinction in the one body of Christ, then there must be no distinction of any kind. Many of us were saddened that for years the Gospel Advocate had a "colored" page which, you will notice, they have terminated in recent years.

We must all work constructively and positively at eliminating a White and Black Church of Christ. These two bodies are denominations and because of that very fact cannot represent the one church that belongs to Jesus.

Our Missions Committee is headed by Brother John Mott. He and the rest of the committee would be extremely happy if you would write them suggesting the names of possible preachers for Morganton. It is now certain that we will place a man there with full support and working fund. We would like to have him on the scene by June 1 if possible. Your immediate attention to this will be appreciated. Brother Mott will receive any correspondence addressed to him here at the church address.

Thank you for your kindness and concern about the matter in question. It is this kind of spirit that allows me to

J. Curtis  
Page Two  
February 21, 1966

make such a suggestion that must also prevail in allowing  
you to offer any similar criticism or suggestion to me.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc



February 16, 1966

Mr. Burl Curtis  
P.O. Box 5423  
Station B  
Greenville, South Carolina

Dear Brother Curtis:

I have followed with interest and admiration your work with Carolina Christian. We have nothing to release yet but in the near future should be letting you know of this congregation's decision to place a man in Morganton, North Carolina, with full support and working funds.

I am concerned about what may be considered by some "implicit racism" in your October, 1965, issue. On page 7 you place in parenthesis the word "colored" to designate the Castle Heights congregation. On page 11 you have two articles dealing with "the colored people." Due to the intense concern of all informed Americans and world citizens about the race problem and in view of what we know the New Testament teaches about the nature of the church as the one body of Christ and a reconciled people, I feel that we must do everything possible to bring about a united church. We can no longer encourage a white and black church of Christ.

This is a letter that I write confidentially to you expressing my personal feelings as well as convictions that I have stated publicly. I have offered these thoughts out of my deep appreciation for what you are doing and for the present and future impact of Carolina Christian on the mission efforts of today's church.

Fraternally yours,

John Allen Chalk

JAC:lc