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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

8-5-1966

From/To: Carl Ketcherside (Chalk's reply filed first)

Carl Ketcherside

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August 5, 1966

Mr. Carl Ketcherside
Mission Messenger
139 Signal Hill Drive
Saint Louis, Missouri 63121

Dear Brother Carl:

I have received and considered seriously your very kind and thoughtful letter of July 29. I understand perfectly what you were saying about Brother Cawyer and his attitude. We have encountered opposition and reaction many places because of the very thing you talked about. I feel the situation is almost hopeless at times, yet my very faith in God and in His use of Herald of Truth keeps me going and gives me the strength to continue to try to be a meaningful part of the program.

Enclosed is what I believe is the subscription price for one year to the Mission Messenger. If this is correct amount, it certainly is inexpensive considering the amount of material and the amount of time you give to this enterprise. My invoice for the year's subscription is at home, and I am writing this letter at the office. However, upon checking, if I discover I have sent you too little, I will immediately forward the rest.

Thank you for being concerned enough about our program to make the suggestion you did. Please feel the same openness to further communicate to me especially concerning material I present in the radio sermons, or other matters pertaining to the program. I have given my life to this work if I can be allowed to do it. God will take care of the situation, even if it means that I will at some time in the future have to sever my tie with this great work. Pray for us.

Faternally yours,

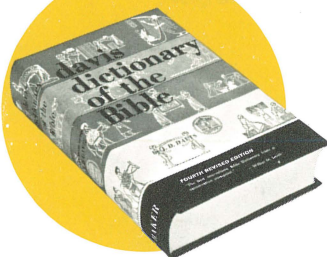
John Allen Chalk

JAC:lct

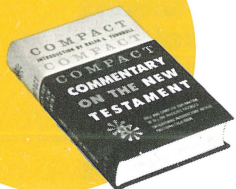
Enclosure

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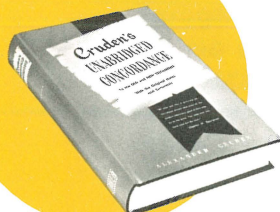
Just a Few
Pictured Below



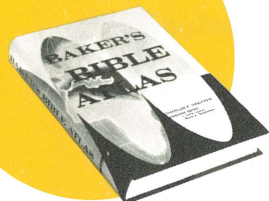
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MISSION MESSENGER

139 SIGNAL HILL DRIVE

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PHONE JA 2-6680

July 29, 1966

Mr. John Allen Chalk
809 Byrd Drive
Abilene, Texas 79601

My dear brother in HIM:

I deeply regret that you cannot accept the invitation to join the Hartford Forum as this offers an opportunity to meet in a proper spiritual atmosphere, brethren of reputation, from several segments of the restoration heirs. I sincerely trust that the Spirit will open up other such doors, great and effectual, for you in the future meetings.

Nell (my wife) is sending you copies of the latest Mission Messengers and I am anxious that you read the July issue especially, since it deals with one of the aggravated questions of our day. We are suggesting what appeals to me to be a more rational approach to the problem in the light of present spiritual climate.

This brings me to the place where I feel that, to maintain my own integrity, I must say something to you about Herald of Truth. I hesitate to do this because I know how easily one can be misunderstood and that seems to be especially true in my case it appears. However, I must trust to your judgment to receive what is said as coming from a heart filled with deep concern. I think you are aware that I am engaged in dialogue sessions involving representatives of all religious groups, many of them well-known nationally in their respective communions. In addition to this I am regularly conducting forums on state college and university campuses in which we affirm that the Christian dynamic is not static, and allow our thesis to be openly questioned by all but urge the beatnik group to take it apart.

For that reason I am concerned about the image that is projected by all of our brethren and I feel that Herald of Truth is destined to be hurt seriously if the general attitude expressed by my good friend and brother Cawyer is to prevail. I love this old lad. When I was a mere lad in knee pants I conducted meetings in his home congregation at Cawyer schoolhouse, south of Joplin, Missouri. But it has become painfully evident to me recently that our brother is not actually living in the religious arena of the twentieth century. I think that his provincial and partisan approach hurt the cause that you represent when he was at Bethany and this is becoming increasingly true elsewhere. Is there not some way that you can help him see this.

With the utmost love for you and all of yours I am happy to be

Yours and HIS,

Carl

P.S. I'm sure James DeForest Murch and Ben Phillips would have been astonished at the expressions of Brother Cawyer if they had heard them, but fortunately, they had already gone from Bethany.