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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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From: T. Pierce Brown

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Church of Christ at South Fork

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T. PIERCE BROWN, MINISTER

Dear John Allen:

Did you ever know a group of Christians so unorthodox that they are actually convinced that it is more important to preach the gospel and convert men to Christ than it is to build a church building, and are willing to borrow money, if necessary, to do it?

Such a group is now meeting in Winston-Salem. They formed after I had already agreed to move to Gulfport, or I would probably have stayed to help them.

When the work grows in such a way that a church building can be used 6 or 7 days a week, they will build one, but now they plan to meet each Lord's day for worship in a public ~~place~~ stay after worship to plan the varied activities of the week, and disperse to DO the work which the Lord ordained. They hope for each family to have home Bible study for an hour or two each Lord's day, then in their joint meetings to discuss any questions that need discussion. They plan to have weekly training classes in various ways of doing "personal work", and daily classes in various communities for non-members.

Instead of having THE MINISTER, spending most of his time trying to please the members on Sunday, and the rest of the time being a glorified office boy, they want a number of servants of Christ who will come fr any time--8 days to 40 years--with the following in mind:

1. To actually work day and night to set up and conduct Bible studies in the home of persons throughout the city.
2. To train others in various methods of doing this.
3. Preach to the audience that is present--to meet its needs.

This kind of challenge is not for second-rate men. The brethren asked me to contact a few men whom I considered qualified spiritually and by training to meet such a challenge. If you can come, you will not be "holding a meeting", but will be expected daily to do on your own, and with their help, the things mentioned above, plus preaching once or twice on Sundays. You will be supported better financially--better than average for a "located" man. If you are interested in this unique and challenging effort to get back closer to the emphasis and method used in New Testament times, let me know at once when you might be able to come, and how long you can stay, so I can arrange a schedule. If you do not feel that the Lord wants YOU to assist in this effort personally, would you let me know of others you consider both trained and dedicated to effectively meet this challenge?

Yours for Him,



T. Pierce Brown