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John Allen Chalk: Personal Correspondence

John Allen Chalk

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2-20-1969

From/To: Voni & Cal Hall (Chalk's reply filed first)

Voni Hall

Cal Hall

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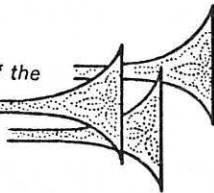
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**HERALD OF TRUTH**

*Radio and Television Programs*

February 20, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Cal Hall  
Caixa Postal 1514  
Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais  
Brasil

Dear Voni, Cal and Family:

Sue and I were saddened to learn of Voni's health complications during recent months. We thank God that she is now better, according to your January 31 letter, and everything is getting back to normal. We appreciate you so very much for your commitment to Jesus Christ. You continue to inspire so many people who know and love you and your family. Please be assured of our continuing love and concern for you and our prayers that God will give full strength to you physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

I regret that I did not get to come to the Pan American Lectures. I understand they were the best in the history of the series. I know that much for the credit for this must go to the deep spiritual concern which all of the workers in Brasil possess. It sounds like everybody made a significant contribution. I know you were all thrilled and inspired by the opportunity to visit and worship with so many brethren.

We will be moving to Atlanta, Georgia at the end of July and will go off Herald of Truth radio at that time. I will begin working in a doctoral program at Columbia Theological Seminary in the fall and will be in charge of a special campus ministry program under the direction of the elders at the Decatur church. This is the congregation where the Darrel Davis family receive support. Please give them my special regards also.

As we pray for you, please remember us also. There are special tensions here right now that require that all of us belong completely to Christ and be motivated by His will for our lives.

January 31, 1969

Dear Ones,

All English composition classes say you shouldn't start a letter with "We're sorry we're so late writing -." But we're going to start this one that way anyway. For, though no month can be called "normal" in our lives, these last 3 months have even been less so. Because at this time we can't immediately answer all of your letters, we're writing this one and mailing it from here, to catch you up.....How so much can happen in such a short time??? Let's see if we can tell you all of it on one sheet of paper (tho we may cheat and use some of the other side?).

The Pan-American lectures in São Paulo in Nov. were all and more than we had hoped for! If you can imagine yourself in a situation where you hadn't been able to attend any spiritually stimulating lecture for a year and a half, and then are feasted morn, noon and night with lectures, visits with loved ones you've been starved to see, and you fill yourself every minute for five days, knowing its going to be ended too soon - and for too long a time --- then you get an idea of the richness, stimulation, and physical exhaustion of those five days in São Paulo.

Our family was one of those blessed by having an elder and his wife of our sponsoring congregation come to Brazil. So after lectures Heston and Ruth Havens came up to Belo Horizonte and spent 5 and a half all too short days with us before heading back to the states (tho think they were ready to get home and get some rest!)

After their departure on Thanksgiving Day we tried to settle down to normal. But Voni, who hadn't been feeling well, got worse, and we were beginning to wonder if she had picked up some bug. She had! There is no way to describe our shock when the doctor told us she was about two and a half months pregnant. After all, after five children we know the usual signs - but this pregnancy wasn't normal, nor did it continue to be.

On the night of the 22nd of December, we had to take her to the hospital, she was hemorrhaging so badly. Our family Christmas present was Mommy coming home on Xmas day. But from then on, she had to remain in bed.

The doctor still thought thing would be ok, and at first Voni improved. But then, she got worse again, and on Jan 13th we had to take her back to the hospital. The next day, the doctor performed a Caesarean section to remove the dead baby her body had been unable to expel. (This is one time in Brazil we saw things move FAST. From the moment the doctor had Cal's permission for the operation to the time Voni was on the operating table was less than 15 minutes! The doctor was concerned over her loss of blood and didn't waste any time.) Afterwards she had a blood transfusion and an IV to help get her strength back, and she got to come home on the 19th. It will be a while before she gets her health completely back, but at least she's home. (The whole family is agreed, 'tis better to have Mom home, even in bed, than not home at all. - Which doesn't hurt Mom's self-esteem at all. ha!)

#### A few sidelights-----

The first time Voni had to go to the hospital, Cal got home from Portuguese worship services about 8:30 p.m. He headed on foot (we had sold our car to help pay school bills) down to the airport, about a mile from here and has the closest phone, to phone the doctor. Of all nights, the airport had closed early and Cal couldn't get into the phone. He hurried home (most of the way uphill) and roused our next door neighbor. He didn't have a car, but did have a key to his office near the airport where there is a telephone. Another neighbor had a pick-up truck, and took us to the airport where we called the doctor, and also a friend who was going into town and knew where the hospital was we were supposed to go. From the time Cal first left the house until when Voni arrived at the hospital - two hours. A little different than in the states?!

The doctor we had is excellent! And the hospital he sent Voni to was a very good one. How thankful we've been for this.

Here, when you go to the hospital, 'tis a little different than in the states. The patient takes their own sleeping wear. (Mark Shipp, when he had his tonsils out didn't know this. He was operated on in his street clothes, tho they took off his shoes.) Also, you need to carry your own towel, soap, and washrag. The common thing is for one of the family or a friend to stay in the room with the patient. (Voni's room had two beds: hers and the other where Cal slept nights.) This relieves the nurses, for they are understaffed. Whoever is in the room with the patient can take care of the small things, calling the nurse only when needed for medication, shots, etc. The arrangement works out very well!



During all of this time, Cal has tried to continue giving and taking classes, keep things going at home (and hospital), meanwhile looking for some old car for transportation - looking for an old car in this country is another story...perhaps we can tell about that next time? - and busses are quite a challenge in this city. Ex: while Voni was in the hospital, Cal traveled between house and hospital two or three times daily which used three to four hours. How MUCH a telephone at home would help, but unavailable...

We have not mentioned financial matters in our newsletters, but all of you who have supported us here in Brazil deserve to hear about this subject once a year, and since this is the year end letters, here goes... We have not received a list of those who have donated to the Hall mission fund at Central church of Christ in Portland, so we have been unable to write you personally to thank you for your help. (We assume you have received written acknowledgement from the Central elders for your contribution during 1968.) May we use this letter now to thank you again for your help last year, and we thank God for your interest in our work here in Brazil. We pray ~~for you to continue to bless & guide you~~ for your work there!

Here in Brazil, one's financial situation is subject to great changes. We came with an adequate salary, and during the first year were able to get settled and keep all personal obligations, school bills, and living expenses paid on time. This second year has been a little rougher. Inflation has increased living costs 53% while the exchange rate has increased 35%, leaving a gap of 18%, which has lowered our buying power about 18%. Also, the cost for keeping our children in the American school has doubled from \$500 to the present \$1010 per semester, or \$2020 per school year. (This is the only English-speaking school here, and the least expensive one in South America.) This reduces our salary by another third, or roughly \$50 per week during the school year of 40 weeks. We requested extra funds for the school bill and the Central elders have helped with a little over half of last semesters school bill. It is paid, and we are so grateful!

It's time for the children to start school again. But this semester we must do things differently, since we have not been able to resolve the financial problem. Merrill will finish this, his senior year, by correspondence. Sheryl is in the jr. year and Lanae in the 8th grade: they will continue with correspondence courses, and also try to enter a Brazilian school. This is going to be a real challenge for them! Mona, in the 1st grade, will be continuing at the American school this year... We are definitely experimenting, and will surely appreciate your prayers about our children's education, that they won't come out on the short end, rather, be enriched by this experience.

*When are you moving?  
We must see you soon!  
May God continue to bless & guide you!*

*Don helped type! Sorry -*

*2*

Cal had the blessing of baptizing a young man out at the camp a few weeks ago (the first baptism at the camp.) This surely brought back a lot of memories and, we pray, will be the start of many more memories here..... Our older three children helped the Faith Corps workers knock on doors last week, and over 200 were enrolled in the Bible Correspondence Course here in Belo Horizonte. (Faith Corps workers came from São Paulo.)

Our newsletter is coming from Brazil this time. We hope it gets there - and wonder how long it takes to reach you. Please let us know. (Just received word from the states: thru an oversight there, our last newsletter to you wasn't mailed. Our apologies! It's been a long time since you heard from us!) And your letters mean so much to us!!!

We love you all so much - and ask for your continued prayers. We really need them. The work here continues to grow, with baptisms almost every week. Please be praying that the seed is being planted to reach all of Brazil with the gospel!

Love,

Cal, Voni and all

Cal Hall's  
Caixa Postal 1514  
Belo Horizonte, Minas Gerais  
Brasil

Mrs Mrs John Allen Chalk  
809 Byrd Ave.  
Abilene, Texas

VIA AÉREA

Please forward  
if necessary  
VIA AÉREA

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