

1-24-1969

From/To: Andrew Hairston (enclosure; Chalk's
reply filed first)

Andrew Hairston

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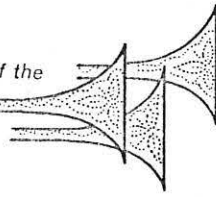
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HERALD OF TRUTH

Radio and Television Programs

January 24, 1969

Mr. Andrew Hairston
Church of Christ
810 Simpson Street, N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Andrew:

Your letter to to Bill Young is a classic expression of Christian concern. Only as we address ourselves ourselves this clearly and this forcefully to the malignant scent of racism will we begin to get our brothers' attention. I feel that my letter to Bill was the same kind of honest, direct, living presentation. Your letter to him will only reinforce and ventilate this matter in his own mind. He is a good man who needs to be shaken out of his obvious complacency and almost what, at times, appears to be willful reluctance to address himself to this problem.

I continue to grow in my admiration and respect not only for your ability but for your courage and commitment. Sue and I are still praying that your new arrival will be a safe and healthy one.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

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The Church of Christ
810 Simpson Street, N. W.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Office of the Minister

9 January 1969

Dear John,

Attached is a copy of the letter I sent Brother
Yound in Lubbock.,

I also sent an article to Firm Foundation this
week and personally asked ~~Rue~~ Reuel Lemmons to
give it the necessary attention so as to get it
published.

We are yet looking for my next son/daughter.

Sincerely,

Andy,

"Ye are no longer your own. For ye are bought with a price . . ."
1st Cor. 6:19, 20

14 January 1969

Mr. William E. Young
c/o Broadway Church of Christ
Lubbock, Texas

Dear Brother Young:

It has long been my intention to write you regarding the article you wrote in Action. Responsibilities, along with feeling I would do it sometime later, have caused delay until now.

I regret being so late but I feel you yet need to hear what I have to say in regards to your article. Then too, I feel our possibilities for strengthening the church will be greatly increased if you can be made to see the true light. Then after seeing it, I sincerely trust you will feel disposed to tell it as it really is. I say this because I sensed in your article an effort to not condemn the church for dragging her feet in this matter of Race. The Church of Christ has been less than christian in this matter and only complete admission of this fact will allow it to repent and do her first work. Tokenism is not the answer and is, at this late date, nothing short of a rebuff of the true will of God.

The City of Lubbock is not insulated against racism. Those who desire may be blinding their eyes to the obvious sins of racism, but such does not eradicate the presence of the sin. Because a city or a church has not been challenged to meet the sins that is inherent in its society such does not evidence the absence of that sin. Racism is no more absent in Lubbock, and therefore not a challenge to the church there, any more than it was not a problem in our nation since before the days of the cessation of the black man's involuntary servitude. Lubbock and the Broadway Church of Christ should look at themselves in terms of their failures to deal with the foremost problem of our age rather than rationalize that there is no problem.

Your approach in Lubbock is piecemeal, tokenism, and self-protective. Your policy says you need to sufficiently groom the black man before he can be acceptable to the God who Lords over your church. This plainly says that human attitudes in your congregation will determine when the Negro is acceptable in the Broadway Church and not the will of the Almighty. It seemingly takes more to prepare the black man for accep-

tance by the white man than it does for acceptance by God. Though Broadway is unwilling to unequivocally accept the Negro into the life of the church, you seemingly feel disposed to state that Broadway has no real problem as to Negroes.

In reality, it is not that the Negro is not trained and just as well equipped for christian fellowship; the fact is that whites are not ready to obey the will of God. For the greater part, white churches reject Negroes regardless of their level of development. No doubt, whites who are socially, economically, and academically below Negroes would be accepted, without reservation. In other words, Brother Young, you people never talk about grooming whites before bringing them into the fellowship of the church. Only blacks need that kind of training.

In all Christian love, I must say this attitude on the part of white churches will cause them not only to lose the battle, it stands a good chance of causing the loss of the WAR. Broadway like most other white Churches of Christ continues to bow to the god of racism because of its pseudo advantages.

It just may be, Brother Young, that you do not personally qualify for the condemnation articulated above. However, you must realize that such tokenistic approach enhances the forces of wrong and delays the re-emergence of the true Church of Christ.

Really brother, the single factor that bothers me most about white brothers who make the approach inherent in your article is the seeming blindness which you possess in not seeing that the problem you are trying to slip up on and solve has long since been challenged by our nation. It is absolutely shameful and disgraceful to witness not only the extent to which you are out of step; but the extent to which you are behind is even more disheartening. For the greater part, you are being very careful with an approach which should have been boldly used prior to 1954. Your approach is shamefully behind. The present approach employed by the existing Church of Christ would have hardly been acceptable in the days of legalized segregation.

All whites must understand that blacks are not interested in being remade by whites. At least, I have never talked to a black who was not looking for a stepping stone, who was intelligent, etc., who was interested in the white man's remanufacturing process. Generally, blacks see such efforts on the part of whites as only continued efforts which declare natural white superiority, bars to progress in this field of human relations, and as effort to try to make them act like the whites before accepting them. Under any circumstance, the person who happens to be black is no longer interested in becoming white in order to be accepted. Thus, if the church ever becomes brave enough to challenge this problem, it will not be by means of grooming blacks to act white. That day is just as dead as segregation itself.

Mr. William E. Young

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14 January 1969

Blacks are rightly convinced that if they were to do all whites wanted them to do in order to be acceptable, they would yet be a good ways from being acceptable to God. Negroes have, in the past, met every qualification set by whites but have yet found themselves to be unacceptable. Blacks know, in a practical sense, that this road is nothing short of a winding useless and endless journey. Informed blacks have learned that all these qualifiers set forth by whites are only bricks in the wall which Christ has destroyed.

The thing that is keeping the present Church of Christ from being the true church of the Bible at this point is white racism and not Christ. Your approach asks blacks to become acceptable to whites so they can become acceptable to Christ. So long as you brothers can see blacks only as the main problem, missing completely the fact that you are the real problem in terms of its creation and maintenance, the issue will remain unsolved. Blacks have made every conceivable kind of adjustment and the goal has been relocated each time. There is no church where men worship, praise, and protect the wall destroyed by Christ.

I pray God will lead you and me to a more complete understanding of His will and give us the courage to obey.

I am enclosing a copy of my recent lecture given at the Atlanta Conference on Race Relations. I hope it will be a contribution to your understanding of our present struggle. I also hope God will allow us the blessing of meeting in the future.

SPIRITUALLY YOURS,

Andrew J. Hairston, Minister

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