

3-5-1969

## From/To: Gladys & Bob Swafford (Chalk's reply filed first)

Gladys Swafford

Bob Swafford

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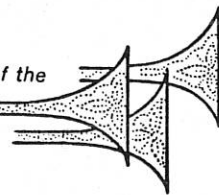
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March 5, 1969

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Swafford  
3285 Arlene Avenue  
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Gladys and Bob:

Thank you for your responsive letter of February 16. I am happy to know that you get to hear Herald of Truth and that the last few lessons have been meaningful to you. Your encouragement means a great deal to me.

You will receive the materials you requested under separate cover. No, I will not be attending Emory University where Thomas Altizer once taught. He is now at New York University but he did teach at Emory at the time the "God is dead" idea first arose. I will be attending Columbia Theological Seminary, a conservative Presbyterian school in Decatur, Georgia. The school is near the church with whom I will be working as a campus minister to the 24 college and university campuses in the Atlanta area. My work will be to coordinate an evangelistic thrust on all of these campuses, as well as conduct the services of "college church" which meets every Sunday morning at 8 am at the Decatur building.

I do hope Jo and Ed are doing well. They are a couple with a lot of ability. I just hope they are given more and more opportunities to serve.

I deeply regret the whispers and rumors that have circulated about me and any political affiliation. As you well know, my commitment to Christ is all-consuming. In fact, I am apolitical. I am not even sure whether I am registered as a Democrat or a Republican or even if I'm registered with any affiliation .

I do feel very strongly about the racial injustices that have been perpetrated against the black man throughout his 400 years in America. To take the situation as it now stands and say that the black men ought to act responsibly is to be grossly ignorant of what all white men have done to black men through the years. I have spent a great deal of time in Harlem, Chicago, and in Watts in Los Angeles talking to Negro Christians. I am doing everything I can to speak God's word, not a political message either to the right or to the left, to all sin in our time and that has to include the sin of racial prejudice, injustice and violence. Somehow we forget the lynching of 200 Negroes per year in the 1920's and 30's in the South when violence was being perpetrated by the Ku Klux Klan.

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No white man said anything about it, but when a few Negroes tossed some fire bombs because they found no other conceivable means of getting any progress toward their human rights, the white community started shouting Violence! with a new vehemence. I am as deeply concerned, troubled, and afraid of the radical right as I am the radical left. Communism has shown itself world wide to be split into several camps. Even though there are communistic influences in this country, and even though there are attempts by communists to take over the civil rights movement and student movements, there are conditions in this country that need to be cleaned up. I will work with these conditions as the gospel of Christ appeals to men to surrender to Jesus and to believe in God so that their lives and relationships with other men will be characterized by the love of Matthew 22:37-40. I don't know, however, which one I would choose if I had to make a choice between Breshnec and H.L. Hunt. A dictatorship of either stripe, either right or left, is not to my liking. But regardless of what happens in this country politically or socially, I must stand with Jesus Christ and say that I will serve Him and worship His Father and my Father regardless of the price I ultimately have to pay.

I appreciate your deep concern. Thank you so much for writing. Always feel free to share with me warnings, thoughts, suggestions, inspirations, and constructive criticism. I love and appreciate both of you for this kind of relationship we have had through the years. I pray that it will continue.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk  
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

P

Feb. 16, 1969

Dear John Allen:

You've just gone off the air with lesson # 890. You say it so well! I think of myself as changing shoes instead of hats for the different roles in a day.

I intended to write after last Sunday's lesson but neglected to all week. I would like to have a copy of the Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> Century X<sup>m</sup>, as well as copies of this series of lessons. I read & re-read some of the ones I've received, on other topics.

Somewhere along the line I hope you've included an explanation of why women, in some cases, seem domineering



and it appears to some outsiders, who know not the circumstances, that they "run the show." I've seen so many and I'm sure you have also — where the man refuses to head his household because he is afraid of his responsibilities. In such cases, there was nothing left for the wife and/or mother to do, except solve the problems by seeking help for direction and then follow-through. There are case histories by the hundreds which prove this especially in criminals, alcoholics, and lazy schemers.

We were home at Xmas and Jo had a letter from Sue telling about her accident. This was bad news for all of our family.

you no doubt know that the elders at Northridge let Bro. Phillips go - and without telling him why. It appears that two of the elders make every decision at Northridge and the congregation isn't aware of what goes on. Our financial statement shows only \$8 or \$10 monthly for benevolence. This "bugs" me. That congregation hasn't been the same since you left and will never be. Bob is teaching the adult class on Wednesdays.

It is too long a story to write about Happy Haven and Wakefield. I hope some time Jo & Ed can tell you some of the happenings, facts & figures involved at Happy Haven.

Isn't the college you're going to the one where "God is dead," originated? Will you be teaching?

There are rumbles about  
your leading the song -  
We Shall Overcome. Please  
don't. Do you know who  
composed the song? and why?

John Allen you are  
one of the best speakers  
of our day and thousands  
listen to you; early + late  
I've tuned in and you are  
popping up, or I should  
say speaking out all over  
the dial. Your influence  
is tremendous and should  
~~never be weakened by the~~  
~~whispers of anything con-~~  
~~cerned with the left.~~

Do give it some thought.  
You alone could dilute  
the full-strength believers  
of the Bible.

Your position is clear  
to me. I want you to be  
aware of those who  
might use you, as a  
believer in God, to help  
them destroy Him. This will



NEVER happen to those eyes  
over 30, well, a smattering  
perhaps but they would  
have strayed regardless, perhaps,  
for various reasons. And we  
who are over 30 yrs, won't be  
here forever. The New Math  
Kids must not be misled.  
I'm looking forward to  
hearing about them next  
Sunday morning. In the  
meantime, take good care.  
My best regards to Sue.

Yours in Hope + Charity,

Glady's

P.S. Have you read the  
Q Document by  
James Hall Roberts