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John Allen Chalk

2-19-1969

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

Carl Stem

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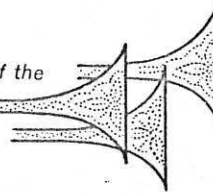
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HERALD OF TRUTH

Radio and Television Programs

February 19, 1969

Mr. Carl Stem
2941 Macomb Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Carl:

I will try to come up with some fresh material on the race question, but can promise you nothing on a deadline basis. Use whatever you can out of the 1968 summer sermons if you have to have material in the near future.

Dave DeRooy now lives in Abilene, Texas where he is presently attending Abilene Christian College. He has just closed a very successful ministry in the Philadelphia ghetto under the direction of the Villanova congregation. He is a white man. David Jones is a black man and not only preaches for the Schrader Lane church in Nashville but also works as a counselor in Pearl High School in Nashville. David Jones is less than 30 years old and has his Master's Degree in Guidance and Counseling. David DeRooy will be in Abilene for at least the next twelve months. He is not sure what he will do after that. He had some unfortunate relationships in his work in Philadelphia, but I remain convinced he is the most knowledgeable and the most effective man in our brotherhood today regarding inner city ministry.

I have to agree with you that the situation in the church gets more distressing by the day. You certainly would feel that way if you could see some of the mail I get from churches like the Union Avenue church in Memphis telling me that they have no such problem and specifically requesting that I not "agitate" on the racial question during a proposed gospel meeting for 1970. To that letter I have replied that I want a release from my commitment to hold the meeting. I will be placed under no restrictions regarding this or any other subject. The situation in Nashville is pathological. I see no hope for any change there short of "a direct operation of the Holy Spirit" on a mass scale.

Thanks so much for what you are doing with Mission. I regret that I do not have anything else to send you right now on the race question.

Your brother,

John Allen Chalk
Radio Evangelist

JAC:hm

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Mission

P. O. Box 2822 Abilene, Texas 79604

2941ⁿ Macomb Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20008
February 12, 1969

Mr. John Allen Chalk
Highland Church of Christ
Box 2439
Abilene, Texas 79604

Dear John Allen:

Many thanks for your reply to my recent letter. It was most helpful. Also, thanks for having R.C. Wells get in touch with me regarding his article, "Veiled Violence." It certainly has a punch. I have sent it on to Roy Ward, our editor, asking him to consider printing it. I believe that he will print it unless the outcry from the other members of the Editorial Board is too great.

Also, many thanks for your radio sermons. I think that I will work with them with the idea of putting together a composite piece which you then can rework as you wish - adding to and subtracting from. I believe that we would like to have something new from you since the sermons have such wide distribution in their own right.

Could you give me more particulars on the two people you mentioned in your letter - David DeRooy and David Jones? I take it they are both Negroes? Of which city is DeRooy a native- Philadelphia or Nashville? You mentioned that he had had experience working with the Youth Hobby Shop in Nashville. In what capacity? Was he a minister in Nashville? Where?

I take it that Jones is minister of a Negro congregation in Nashville? Is that correct? How old is Jones and what is his background? Nashville Christian Institute?

Finally, how long will DeRooy be in Abilene? Will he be going back to Philadelphia soon?

This sort of information will help me to formulate my initial correspondence with these individuals, and I will appreciate you taking time to supply it.

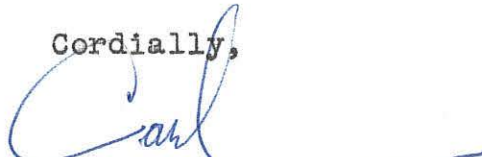
The Nashville race situation gets more depressing all the time. All my relatives live there and we visit frequently. As far as the church is concerned - and this may be true for other aspects of life there, too - there

- TRUSTEES
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- RAY F. CHESTER
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- ROY BOWEN WARD

is absolutely no difference in the way the C of C people treat or think about the Negro than there was when I was a little boy 20 years ago. They go on in their own cloistered little world, counting their beads, saying their chants, and bending their knees before the alter of racism - perhaps for some inadvertent. But ignorance is no excuse. It reminds me so much of the Biblical example of a whitened sepulchre filled with dead men's bones. And from whence shall come their salvation?

Again, many thanks for your help.

Cordially,



Carl Herbert Stem