



WESLEYAN THEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A FELLOWSHIP OF WESLEYAN ARMINIAN SCHOLARS

December 28, 1970

Dear Ralph:

As usual I am up at about three oclock, seldom later than four, with too much work on my mind to be able to sleep, even though it is Sunday morning. As I am thinking of you, one of my best and most admired friends, I shall first get a letter off to you, even though I have not had one from you for sometime.

First, permit me to say, Ralph, that I have not meant in any sense to be offensive in anything that I have written lately, and if it has appeared so in any way I sincerely apologize. Such was never intended. My situation has been extremely difficult in recent days and I have at times been pressed almost to the breaking point with responsibilities, blocks, reverses, disappointments and even some personal attacks where I have been quite innocent. As a friend to a friend please bear with me while I explain a few items for better understanding.

As you know, I have an engagement to teach in Barbados during January, and had planned to be there or in other islands before Christmas for some meetings. This necessitated closing up the term at Taylor by December 18, getting the 1971 WTJ to the printers and the new WTJ brochure out before leaving, plus preparing extensive materials for two courses in Barbados and getting them mailed out in time to be there for use. Well, what has happened?

First the other members of the Editorial Board were cooperative in reading and returning the MSS at an early date. I had excellent instructional assistance in finishing out one of the best semesters I have had at Taylor. Second my expert typist of last year promised to type the WTJ MS in record time so that I could get it to the printers early. Edward Brothers gave me another good figure on the Journal, and a local printer did likewise on the brochure, after the fashion of your design, and Wesley Press took the reprint of the 1966 WTJ to be out early in January, at a good figure. All reports of the 1970 WTS Conference at Vennard have been most favorable and optimistic, and evaluations of the papers have all been of a very high order. All of this was great, and then things began to happen.

1. I had my first car wreck in fifty years (with no bodily injury) which involved my car which was hit and another that hit the one which hit me. Insurance companies, except my own, refused to settle, and both the other parties threatened suit again me for damage, though no blame was placed on me for any violation.

Threats are still pending, though no action has been taken.

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2. My expert typist delayed the beginning of her work a week beyond the promised date, difficulty developed with the IBM, her baby became ill, they moved, and she has been spasmodic with her work, all of which has delayed preparation of the MS for printing. She finally promised to finish yesterday, but failed to do so. She may finish Monday or Tuesday.

3. The printer messed up the printing on the cover for the WTJ and it has to be redone-possibly at my expense, and further time loss.

4. The planes are clogged and my agent has been unable to get flight for us to Barbados, except from Miami, and that ^{not until} December 28. We may have to walk to Miami, or at best drive there or take bus.

5. Delayed criticisms and some ^{against the society-not personal-} nasty attacks/began to come in to me against the WTS Conference of 1969, some from most unexpected sources accompanied with threats and predictions of the demise of the WTS, some from personal friends and others from those who would evidently like to destroy the WTS, as it exists at least, if not entirely. My heart has been in the WTS, as you know, and these things hurt deeply. I have been able to ameliorate the situation with personal friends who misunderstood ^{the actions of 1969} and certain friends of the society. They were direct and fair, though mistaken, and thus could be dealt with. Others, however, have been indirect, behind the scene, some apparently sinister, and thus cannot be dealt with openly and fairly. Apparently some have been disappointed that the WTS did survive the 1969 Conference and regretted the news of the excellent Conference in 1970. This may account for the delayed attacks on the WTS- hidden resentment. Some think we have gone liberal-others have labeled the WTS too traditional. However, we have many faithful friends and loyal supporters and I see a great mission ahead for the WTS in spite of enemies and the misunderstandings of friends and sincerely concerned, though misinformed supporters.

6. Mrs. Carter developed a situation that may require minor surgery before we leave, and we are not sure that time permits for this. It is not serious, but just complicates things timewise.

Second, when your letter came suggesting that we change the method of handling the sales of the Journal, Ralph, from that which we have followed with the approval of the WTS Executive Committee for the past several years, with all the extra record keeping and extra work which that would involve, from my point of view, I was admittedly quite upset. When I read on page 81 of the 1970 Journal in the Constitution under the duties of the Promotional Secretary: "The promotional secretary shall strive, through oral and written propaganda, public and private, to increase the Society's membership, sell its Journals, and otherwise promote its general interests," I was quite naturally puzzled to understand why you suggested that I collect orders and send them to you for sales and delivery. I did not find in the Constitution where the duties of the Secretary-Treasurer include Journal sales, though I am sure we are happy for anyone who sells the Journal. This is why I have bought and resold the Journals. Now, as Promotional Secretary it would appear that one of my chief duties is to handle sales of the Journal. Naturally we shall all be involved in this activity to make it a success, which previously elected Promotional Secretaries have failed to do. With this in view, it seems to me, Ralph, that I should keep a sizeable stock of the Journals on hand for direct sale, and then periodically turn over to you as Secretary-Treasurer the proceeds from those sales. If the percentage basis on which I have been handling the Journals is not

now acceptable to the Executive Committee and a change in the plan is desired, and determined by action of the Executive Committee, I shall consider reporting actual income from all sales of the Journals handled by me, and deduct from those sales personal, advertising and other expenses incident to production, and sales of the Journals. This would of course involve extensive bookkeeping, records and ~~and~~ reports to the treasurer. It may also involve some office help which I have been using, but more, and which it would be necessary to charge against Journal expense. All in all I am certain that this method would cost the Society much more than the percentage method we have been using for the past several years, but especially where I have been absorbing personally a great deal of unreported expense in the handling of the Journal. Naturally I have used not a few Journals as complimentary promotional material for which I have paid the Society, beside much other unreported personal expense incident to Journal sales. As previously stated, I have handled the Journals at a personal loss, but have been happy to do so to make the project succeed. If other Promotional Secretaries have not had these expenses, it must be noted that ~~that~~ they have done very little to promote the interests of WTS, not to mention Journal sales. We must either make it go or give it up.

I am well aware, Ralph, that you as Secretary-Treasurer have a heavy load of work and responsibilities, as well as extra expenses. It is my position that you should be allowed a certain amount of financial assistance from the Society for secretarial help. There is a limit to what any of us should be expected to contribute personally.

I do not know if the foregoing helps to clarify my position. But at any rate I have tried. I beg for understanding and Christian charity in these difficult situations, and I assure you of my most sincere purpose and Christian friendship. Such has been mutual with us and I wish it to continue so, as I am sure you do. We cannot and would not afford less.

Third, I have received the letterheads and envelopes, though delivery was delayed until a day or so ago. Thank you for them. I had figured out and composed the newly elected committees of WTS, personnel and degrees, and had them printed for the Journal cover. Everything seems to be in order if I can get cooperation to complete the job in time to leave.

1. I shall have Donald Washburn, Production Manager, Wesley Press, Box 2000, Marion, Indiana 46952, notify you and send you the bill for the reprint of the 1966 Journal when it is completed, perhaps about the middle of January.

2. I shall probably leave the supervision of the completion of the new WTJ "brochure" in the hands of the Rev. Armor D. Peisker of the Editorial Committee, Wesleyan World Sunday School Department, Box 2000, Marion Indiana 46952, to collect and send the bill to you. It should be out early in January

3. I shall instruct Mrs. Sandra Fisher, Sales Coordinator(now in the office of the former Jewell Lambdin), Edwards Brother, Inc., 2500 South State Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104 (Ph. 313-769-1000) to notify you when the 1971 Journal is completed, perhaps sometime in January.

4. Please inform me as to how many of each of the foregoing items you want sent directly to you. I see no point in having my supply sent to you and then double-shipped back with additional expense. There will be 2000 1971 Journals, 1000 1966 Journals, and 5000 brochures.

Cordially yours in Christian grace

P.S. May you have a very Merry Christmas
and a wonderful New Year in 1971.CWC

Chas. W. Carter
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