

THE WESLEYAN BIBLE COMMENTARY

Feb. 13, 1971

PLAN AND PURPOSE

SIX VOLUMES—SEVEN BOOKS

SCHOLARLY
EVANGELICAL
PRACTICAL
EXPOSITIONAL
HOMILETICAL
DEVOTIONAL
WESLEYAN
RELEVANT

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Dear Ralph:

Your letter of Feb. 8 is and has been at hand for some days, and I thank you. As this is Saturday and thus my catch-up day on correspondence I shall reply.

First, I note that you plan to go directly from Spring Arbor to Circleville. I can understand this, though of course I shall miss the fellowship on the trip. I am not certain just how I shall go, that is whether by car or flight. I shall investigate. I am glad that you see with me about the double meeting, though I have not received any word from either Mattke or Blackstone about this meeting—not a word. I know only from you that it is to be Saturday Feb. 20, which is a week from today. I cannot understand why people do not take care of their correspondence on important matters of such natures sometimes. I may be accused of writing long letters, but at least I do communicate so that my position is understood. Perhaps I shall have word today, however. I have previously written both Blackstone and Mattke about this matter, but so far no reply. Doubtless they are both busy, but so are we all.

Second, I am glad the Journals are out to the membership. I also hope my open letter to the membership may help to clear up and help some people in their misconceptions concerning the WTJ. My quotation from Riest's letter, whom I did not name, indicates something of the attitude of some Houghtonites at least. I am afraid that Steve Paine did not take too gracefully the loss of his position in 1969. One of the Houghton professors remarked to me quite sarcastically at the ETS meeting at Cincinnati in 1969 that the WTJ was nothing but a collection of second blessing sermons. I asked him if he had read them, to which he gave no response. Forthwith I sent him a complete complementary set citing the scholarly articles they contained. He did not show me the courtesy of an acknowledgment. I suppose it would have required an apology, and he was not so disposed. I have had but very few negative reactions to the WTS, but a few have been bitter, such as Lloyd Knox, the Houghton professor, and of course Hersey whose letter is totally without significance. Dayton did respond very negatively sometime ago, but after my explanation of what happened at Marion in 1969 he changed his entire attitude and is right with us again. It was all hearsay with him there at ATS. He concurs with me concerning Hersey. He knows him as a former student. I do not. I sincerely believe the WTS is headed for higher ground. Indeed, Climenhaga, and Vanderwood had been misled, but both of them were fair enough to come to me for information, and both changed their attitudes. It was hearsay with them too. Some of the men evidently took the loss with very poor grace in 1969. I had not realized this until sometime later.

Third, I suppose we both stand correction on the item in the minutes concerning Nicholson as the designated coordinator for a regional meeting of the WTS. I said south by reason of the fact that Nicholson lives and operates from Brooksville, Florida, which to me is south and not east. Your Executive Committee Minutes of the 1970 WTS state east in paragraph eight, but your minutes of the business session of the WTS on page six, under marginal note, "Regional Conferences," more accurately states "South-east." I suppose there is a sense in which this latter statement is correct as it is intended to take in not only Florida, but Georgia, Alabama, S. Carolina, N. Carolina and Virginia, if not other southern regions, some of which may well be designated southeast. However, to me, and I believe that to most people, east in relation to the WTS would designate the regions of New York, Pennsylvania and the New England States, even as it does with the ETS in their eastern regional section, of which Warren Wolsey is the ETS coordinator from Houghton. Personally, I would very much favor consideration of an eastern regional conference, providing we have enough interested people over that way. I have not examined the roll sufficiently to know about this. You may know. I believe that we have only ~~two~~ ^{a few} Houghton people who are active- Paine, Mattke, Hall, perhaps. Wolsey is apparently antagonistic toward WTS-why I do not know, perhaps somewhat Calvinistically inclined, but I am not sure. Kingdon is inactive and Malcolm Ellis is not a member. Both these latter men should be good members-both my former students and grand guys. Perhaps Reist will cast the stick in the waters of myrr at Houghton that will sweeten ^{the spirit of} Paine and some others. Steve has never said anything, but I know he is a hard loser. I do not know if Nicholson at his age and with his disappointment over the 1969 action will be willing to act as coordinator down there. Have you contacted him about this? He has been very gracious, as always. It could be that Dr. Paul Elliott, formerly President of Owosso College, General Supt. of the Pilgrim Church, and now a general evangelist in the Wesleyan Church, residing also at Brooksville, Florida would be good if he were a member, which he is not now, and Nicholson should decline.

My point concerning the action of the NHA to make the WTS responsible for their editorial work goes beyond your stateemnt to the effect that we be responsible for publication of their material. Actually, even if I am not too happy about it, their statement makes the WTS editorial committee the official editorial committee of the NHA. This becomes a rather extensive responsibility. It may require further serious consideration. This may be considered an honor, but it is also a greatly added responsibility. I am not rejecting it, but I think it ^{means} ~~needs~~ some very clear and definite responsibilities beyond those we now have. There could arise misunderstandings out of this situation otherwise. This we of course do not want.

Fourth, please forget my copy (complimentary) of the 1971 Journal. I give away so many copies of the WTJs as complimentary copies for the purpose of promotion that another copy means nothing. I have always done this and shall continue to do so, so long as I have that responsibility. I have never aimed to break even on the WTJ, personally, and I have been glad to invest in this method of promotion.

Fifth, as Promotional Secretary, in accordance with ARTICLE V, d., of the Constitution, p. 84 of 1971 WTJ, I would like to write a letter to each of the inactive members(except Tomas Hersey- I do not know the Jon Hersey on your list who may be Tom's son), with a view to reactivating as many as possible. I know personally quite a number of these, some of whom are my former students and others personal friends. I am confident that some and possibly many can be reactivated. Charles Hevlin recently visited me and he was much interested, but said he thought he had paid his dues(probably had not, however, but received no Journals). If we can

afford to give each of these delinquents a complimentary copy of the 1971 Journal, I would like to use this means of attempting to reactivate as many of them as possible. I would make this contribution myself directly, and may do so anyway if the WTS cannot afford it, but it would be a bit costly if I have to pay the society full retail price for the journals. As I run my eye over the list of inactive members I note 91-more or less- and including envelopes and stamps this would cost me well over \$100.00, whereas if the society could afford to supply the 1971 Journal to me for this purpose at cost (app. 40¢) it would cost the society approximately \$50.00 for all expenses. I believe it would be a worthwhile investment for the society, if it can be afforded. If it cannot I shall see what I can do. There are many men on this list that we cannot afford to lose.

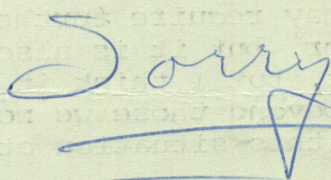
I note that this number on your list totals 298, including the inactive, which is 12 more than the figure listed in the total membership in the 1971 Journal. I realize what a problem it must be to keep all this membership business straight. Possibly we can arrive at a more accurate figure by the 1971 Conference.

I have written rather extensively, Ralph, concerning some of these matter which I had thought to discuss with you if we rode together to Circleville, which will enable you to give forethought to them before the Circleville meeting. I am assuming from your statement that the date is officially set at February 20 at Circleville Bible College. I have no other information so far. I may call through for confirmation.

Incidentally, Taylor has been experiencing quite an apparent spiritual awakening the past week during spiritual emphasis week. There was an all night meeting Thursday night. While I was not there, they said the confessions and what they call "sharings" were profuse. Some new conversions were registered. The attendance was large at chapel yesterday and many stood to witness that they had received help, but only one that I noted stood to confess Christ anew in the chapel service. We can thank God for any and all evidences of the moving of the Spirit.

Cordially yours in Him

Chas. W. Carter



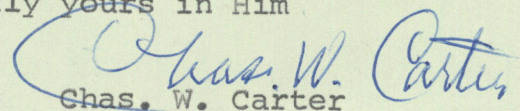
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