



Bill - I also
sent a copy
to Scott Kisker,
suggesting that he
pass it along to
Don Dayton.
Barry

Copy

December 18, 1998

Dr. J. Harold Greenlee
Fort Myers, Florida

Dear Dr. Greenlee,

With this letter I acknowledge receiving your letter dated December 9, 1998, in which you share your concern about the recent article in the *Wesleyan Theological Journal* involving "The Claude Thompson Controversy at Asbury Theological Seminary." The author of the article, Scott Kisker, sought to recount a difficult episode in the recent history of the Wesleyan/Holiness movement, I presume with the intent of learning whatever lessons he judges there are. For the sake of the future, the *Journal* often publishes responsible writers who recall and offer an assessment of some aspect of the Wesleyan/Holiness past, frequently returning to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, sometimes revisiting persons, events, or trends that in part were negative. Often important lessons are available from crises of the past. So, addressing this subject was seen by the Editorial Committee as appropriately within the academic mission of this *Journal*.

Being within the academic mission of the *Journal*, of course, does not automatically insure that an article is wholly accurate in perspective or the last word on the subject. For instance, you indicate that, while you do not argue with most of the facts presented in the article now in question, as someone particularly close to the subject you nonetheless do question the fairness of certain conclusions drawn by the author (and apparently also by Dr. Donald Dayton earlier). Given your differing perspective, I agree with you that it is unfortunate that the *Journal* does not have a regular place for "Letters to the Editor." In this absence, there have been a few occasions when I have received and published in a subsequent issue of the *Journal* a short essay (about two to five pages) which critiques a recent article and offers an alternate perspective for the record. This being an academic periodical, such give-and-take on behalf of the fuller truth is certainly appropriate. Accordingly, I invite you to prepare such a brief responding essay in relation to the Scott Kisker article. If you choose to do so, I will see to it that its possible publication is given serious consideration.

Dr. Greenlee, you personally have made a significant contribution to the Wesleyan/Holiness movement in recent decades and your wisdom is always welcome. Whether you do or do not choose to write the essay that I suggest, I thank you for your letter. May God shower you and yours with health and happiness.

Your brother in Christ's work,

Barry L. Callen, *WTJ* Editor