

**Evaluations of Paper Proposals for the 1999 WTS Meeting  
Southern Nazarene University, March 5-6**

Proposal submitted by: Craig Keen, professor of theology, Olivet Nazarene University

Topic: "Dancing with the Wind"

Comments by the evaluator:

\_\_\_\_\_ This proposal should not be accepted for use in the 1999 program.

\_\_\_\_\_ This proposal should be discussed during the conference call.

Evaluator's name \_\_\_\_\_



**From:** "Craig Keen" <CKeen@olivet.edu>  
**To:** NAZ\_MAIL.NAZ\_POST(ALTRUESDALE)  
**Date:** Fri, Aug 7, 1998 4:57 PM  
**Subject:** In the Place of a Proposal

Al,

I'm not at all sure how formal my proposal for the Spring's WTS meeting should be, but hoping your answer is "not very" here's something that in another form might resemble a proposal:

I'd like to present a paper in which the structure of prayer (as laid out by Patrick Miller [cf. \*They Cried to the Lord\*]) becomes the structure of theological language. Thus out of distress one calls out to God, God responds with a "fear not, for I am with you," intervenes in some way, the petitioner reacts with thanksgiving, which tends to naked doxology. It'll be argued that even the outcry of the distressed is conveniently graced and that hidden in that outcry is the small end of an opening that broadens to overt praise. Praise will then be shown in its Orthodox form (cataphasis opening to apophasis), which breaks into an adoration of God beyond being, i.e., God beyond foundation. In this way theological language will be shown (I hope it'll be shown!) to be foundationless. I expect to make use of Levinas and Marion.

Working title: "Dancing with the Wind"

Is that enough, or do I need to clean this up?

(By the way, Hal Knight and I have had a brief conversation about our opening panel. I think we're starting to get some clarity about what we want to do. I'm happy that David Bundy is the panel's third person [though since I've only corresponded with him on the WTD, I probably don't know him enough to be].)

Craig

Craig Keen  
Olivet Nazarene University, Kankakee, Illinois 60901  
815-939-5268 / ckeen@olivet.edu

"In this dark, when we all talk at once, some of us must learn to whistle." Walt Kelly