

Feb. 27, 1960

Dr. Robert W. Woodloe
Wesley Theological Seminary
Washington, D.C.

Dear Dr. Goodloe,

I was delighted to hear from Wesley Davis that you were back in the U.S. and at Wesley Seminary. We miss you here very much, but know you are performing an important service there.

After my seminary work at Perkins, I undertook doctoral studies at Yale. I worked under Richard Niebuhr and others in the fields of theology and ethics. After finishing my residence work at Yale, I was pleased to accept a position here at Perkins in the area of theology and ethics. This is my second year at Perkins, and it has indeed been a rewarding one. I worked half time on my dissertation last year, but this year I have been giving full time to my teaching duties.

My teaching assignment at Perkins has been as Visiting Lecturer, as you may know. I have been considering a number of positions in various places for the fall and thereafter. I would like to continue teaching in a seminary. I have had an opportunity to go to a non-denominational seminary. I prefer, however, to be in a Methodist seminary, if I could find a place where the needs match up with my areas of competency. All this leads me to ask about Wesley Seminary. Is there, by any chance, a need there for a man in the general area of theology and ethics? If so, I would be deeply grateful, if the opportunity presents itself, for you to mention my name to those who might be involved in making such a decision.

I attended the national meeting of Methodist Theological professors in Nashville last summer, but unfortunately I did not have the opportunity to get very well acquainted with any of the men from Wesley. Montgomery Shroyer and Haskell Miller are the two persons from Wesley with whom I got briefly acquainted.

My first two published articles appeared in print this winter. They are: "The Gospel Knows No Iron Curtain", in the Christian Advocate, Dec. 24, 1959, and "The Christology of T.S. Eliot" in Encounter, Vol. 21, Winter, 1960. My academic record is on file at the National Council on Religion in Higher Education, of which I am a member. And a more complete dossier is available at the Yale Hall of Graduate Studies, if any parties are interested.

My best regards to you and yours. We would love to see you again around Perkins.

As ever,

Thomas C. Oden

