

August 24, 1960

Mr. Decherd Turner
Bridwell Library
Beckins School of Theology
Dallas 5, Tex.

Dear Mr. Turner,

I am sending this note to you by way of Dr. Fred Backhaus, my former neighbor in Dallas.

Last May I got word from the editor of Zeitschrift Für Evangelische Ethik that they wanted an article I had written, entitled "Is the Demand of God Ambiguous?" I asked Fred Backhaus to help me translate it into German.

There are several passages in the manuscript which I have quoted from the German text, and Fred needs the original German text to get the original quotation. I was wondering if you might allow him to check out some of the volumes with which I worked in order to get these quotations accurately stated. The books he would need include:

Rudolf Bultmann, Jesus, 2d ed. Berlin: Deutsche Bibliothek, 1929.

Das Urchristentum im Rahmen der antiken Religionen. Zurich, 1949.

Theologie des NT. JCB Mohr.

Hans W. Bartsch, ed., Kerygma und Mythos I, Hamburg, 1948.

Karl Barth, Die Kirchliche Dogmatik, Volumes II/2, IV/2.

Fred is a very able linguist, and the holder of a Heidelberg doctorate of law. You may be assured that the books will be in good hands.

I have looked the Phillips Seminary library over pretty carefully, and it looks pretty good generally, but there are a few weak spots, which may occasion my calling of you all for help as the year goes by. By the way, as soon as I can get another copy of my dissertation ready, I am planning to send it to you for Bridwell library. Someone, someday just might be interested in seeing it. Also, I would like for you to check and see if according to your records I still have any of your library books. If so, I want to reimburse you for them. I think, however, that they are all in.

Best wishes to you, Jim Clark, Miss Warnick, and the rest of your crew. I am grateful for many services Bridwell library has rendered me.

Sincerely,



The Graduate Seminary

Phillips University

August 23, 1960

University Station
ENID, OKLAHOMA

Mr. Fred Backhaus
3608 Binkley
Dallas 5, Texas

Dear Fred,

Thank you so much for your note of Aug. 22. We are very happy that you are planning to put Enid on your Oklahoma itinerary. We want you to stay with us as long as you can. I think the translation gives us an excellent excuse to get together and do some visiting.

I am afraid, however, that this has turned into a more difficult and burdensome job than you expected. Let me urge you again not to let this task get in the way of other more important things you might need to be doing.

Now, I noticed in your note that you suggested that I assemble all the references in German which I quoted in the article. I have a number of these in my personal library. A few more are available in the library here at Phillips Seminary. But there are some books which I used at Perkins library, which are not available here in Enid. If it seems to you impossible to translate the text without the original German source, then I suggest the following. (Again let me remind you that I do not want this to run into a lot of extra work for you). Below is a list of all these books in German which I quoted which are not available in Enid. All of them are available at Bridwell library in the Perkins quadrangle. I will write a note to Dechen Turner, librarian, asking his permission for you to check them out, which I am confident he will grant without any question. After you have checked them out, you could either check through the references there in Dallas or you could bring them to Enid with you and I could probably spot them a little quicker for you.

Please do not follow this plan if it seems too inconvenient or difficult. But, as I size it up, this is the ~~only~~ only way we can put our hands on the books we need.

All our love. Tell Bill we have a nice park in Enid with merry-go-rounds, real horses to ride and trains to ride. We also have a park with some paddle boats out on a lake which Clark would like to take him to.

See you soon,

Thomas C. Oden

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