

649 Coquina Court  
Fort Myers, Florida 33908-1621  
December 9, 1998

Prof. Barry L. Callen  
Anderson University  
East Fifth Street  
Anderson, Indiana 46012

Dear Professor Callen:

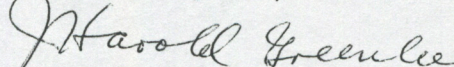
Some weeks ago I read the article, "The Claude Thompson Controversy at Asbury Theological Seminary," in Volume 33, Number 2 (Fall '98), of the *Wesleyan Theological Journal*. I was at first inclined to let this article be merely one of the "ships that pass in the night" and not dignify it with a reply, especially since the Journal has no place for "letters to the editor." However, I have decided that that article should not pass without some sort of response, even though it may not get beyond your desk.

In the first place, I don't know why this article, dealing with an unfortunate situation that occurred almost a half century ago, merited a place in the *Journal*. Claude Thompson came to Asbury Seminary holding and teaching two distinct areas that were completely out of harmony with the Seminary's standards. The controversy would not have developed if President McPheeters had accepted Thompson's resignation when he first offered it instead of mistakenly trying to work out a way to keep him.

I presume that Scott Kisker is principally presenting Donald Dayton's material. I don't know why it wasn't published as Dayton's article, although I am told that Dayton's material was not accepted by Asbury Seminary. I wonder, too, how many persons Dayton interviewed of those named in the article who were involved in the affair and are still living. He never even mentioned the matter to me, and he did not interview Dr. Delbert Rose nor Susan Schultz Rose.

I have no particular question concerning most of the facts presented in the article. However, I take strong exception to much of Dayton/-Kisker's conclusion. It was not an "anti-Thompson" issue; Claude and his wife were recognized by all of us as fine persons. It was an issue of teachings which were contrary to the doctrinal standards of Asbury Theological Seminary. As for "what clashed at Asbury Theological Seminary in 1950," it is categorically untrue that it was "Calvinistic-friendly" bodies who "won the day." Speaking certainly for myself, and with full confidence concerning my colleagues in this issue, we had and have no sympathy with Calvinistic doctrines which are at variance with Wesleyan-Arminian theology. I cannot imagine where Donald Dayton dreamed up this conclusion. I doubt that even Don's father, who joined the ATS faculty a bit later, when Don was a teen-ager, would agree.

Very truly yours,

  
J. Harold Greenlee

jhg/g