

Christmas Greetings, 1970

Dear friends,

Soon we will be moving to Madison, New Jersey, where Tom will be taking up new responsibilities as Professor of Theology and Ethics at Drew University. He will be teaching in the Theological School and the Graduate School.

Our new home address will be 6 Loantaka Terrace, Madison, New Jersey, 07940. We will arrive there around January 1. Edrita accompanied Tom in a trip to Madison last October to attend curricular planning sessions and to look for a house. We felt very fortunate to find a house that fits our needs beautifully and is only about three blocks from the Drew campus.

We regret having to say farewell to our many friends in Oklahoma, and especially at the Graduate Seminary of Phillips University, where we have been for over ten years. Our roots are deep here, and it is not easy to leave. But we are really quite excited about the new life that awaits us on the east coast, and in the New York metropolitan area where we have many friends whom we will look forward to seeing more of.

Our three children are reluctant to leave their friends in Oklahoma, but are beginning to catch some of the excitement of the move. Clark is now fourteen, interested in music (both high decibel listening and playing), electronic gadgetry and girls, not necessarily in that order. Edward, now 9, is our full-time sports fan and sportsman, now in the fourth grade, playing quarterback and end for a little league football team, competing hard, and simply nuts about sports myths and facts. Laura is our seven-year-old dancer, singer and all around ham, very talkative, and the apple of her father's eye.

During January through August of this year we were in Houston where Tom was taking a half-year sabbatical at the Institute of Religion on the campus of the Texas Medical Center, and doing some special research with the NTL-oriented Human Relations Training Lab on a Psychiatric Ward of the VA Hospital, working with encounter groups and psychodrama and trying to grasp (as a theologian) what is happening today in experimental group psychotherapy. This fall he is working on some experimental teaching processes as a result, focusing on a contract theory of learning, transactional analysis, non-verbal transactions, and their implication for Christian theological reflection.

This fall Edrita has been learning ceramics, in addition to the many tasks involved in preparing for the move to New Jersey. Tom's book, Beyond Revolution: A Response to the Underground Church, was published by Westminster in October.

Hoping for peace in the new year, we wish you a warm and a merry Christmas, and sincerely hope that we will be seeing you soon.

Grace and peace in Christ,

Laura, Edward, Clark, Edrita and  
Tom Oden

