

23 Nov. 1933

Dear Dr Barth,

It has been in my heart many times to write to you, but I know how occupied and pressed you have been in the present crisis, and I did not wish to trouble you by reading my letter. The last thing I heard about you personally was from Dr Homrighausen of Indianapolis U.S.A. who visited you in July, and who wrote me afterwards about his visit. But of course I have been following closely the events of the last months in Germany, and have been reading everything which you written and said. I have also been in touch with my wife's relatives, two of whom are in the ministry, and who have also been up against the "German Christians." At the meeting of the General Meeting of the Alliance of Reformed Churches in Belfast in June, I met Pastor Langenohl of Rheydt who gave me a number of copies of the two statements which you and others drew up. These I have circulated as far as Australia, and they have created great interest.

During my holiday I read with profound interest Theologische Existenz Heute, and was able to pass it round among a number of friends, including Professor H.R. Mackintosh, and Principal Cairns. I have since read Birch Hoyle's translation.

There is a deep sense of debt to you here for the way in which you have been vindicating, in a position peculiarly trying, the fundamental principles of the Reformation. It is felt that this is not only the affair of Germany, but of all the Reformed countries.

I have just been reading in the British Weekly the account of your meeting in Berlin. The British Weekly knows the deep interest which the Christian people of Great Britain in the present issue.

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I see with regret, what I have already heard, that Zwischen den Zeiten is to come to an end. I suppose that has become inevitable in the present situation but many will be sorry. Would you not at some time collect the sermons which you have printed there into a volume? Just the other day a friend of mine was ordering some past copies of the magazine for the sake of your sermons.

There is very wide interest all over the English speaking world in your theological work. My effort to interpret it has brought me into a

correspondence with the ends of the earth. Scarcely a week passes but I have some letter from somewhere about it. The present stand you are making for Reformed truth has deepened the interest. Even the United States, which I regarded as almost hopeless, is being driven in the stress of things to look after its theological foundations afresh.

My work here goes on in its regular course. The union of the Churches has brought about many readjustments, and the question of the professorship, about which I wrote you a number of months ago, will not be settled until at least May of next year. However I am very happy in the work of the ministry, and shall gladly spend my days in it, if nothing comes of that.

I am rather sorry that I have not been in Germany this year to get the feel of things myself, but I hope next year to come to the Rhineland, and I trust that I may see you in Bonn.

Will you kindly remember me to Frau professor, and the other members of your family, whose kindness I have not forgotten?

And with warm regards to yourself,

I am

Yours sincerely,

*John Baner*