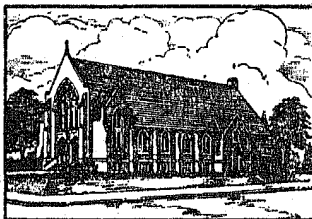


REV. E. G. HOMRIGHAUSEN
MINISTER
4411 CARROLLTON AVENUE
HUMBOLDT 5786



MAURICE G. LIPSON, Sec'y.
4046 CENTRAL AVENUE
HARRY F. LINK, TREAS.
2843 N New Jersey.

Carrollton Avenue Reformed Church

FORTY-FOURTH STREET AND CARROLLTON AVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

CHURCH PHONE, HUMBOLDT 5813

Nov. 7, '32.

Prof. D. Karl Barth,
Bonn a. Rhein,
Germany.

Dear Dr. Barth:

The sermons arrived the other day and I was happy to know that your approval came with them. I know how you felt when the word "sense" was used in the translation! Now I am the translator of Ps. 24 sermon. I translated it as though I was interpreting what you say to the American who has no words for some of the German words, and what is worse, his thinking has been done so long along a certain line that he cannot understand unless you put it in his own words! Dr. Horton translated your chapter heading on 'Die Not der Predigt' - 'The Need of Christian Preaching'. Now 'Not' is not need, it is urgency and has something of a crisis and compulsion about it. So I will change my translation to read "urgency" or the "compelling need". For the word Not means more than need, it meant urgent need.

I am going over all the translations again to get the real meaning in such a way that the American can understand it. You do not realize how new your point of view is over here. We have been trained for a whole generation and more in the subjective side of theology that we cannot understand what it means when we say "the living God". We cannot get the experience of God separated from the reality of God! And in American we have seen much material expansion which has made our subjectivism and secularism greater. And we have no cultural or theological background. We do not naturally think about metaphysics rather we think about conduct and practicability.

Dr. Richards and I are busy seeking a publisher. Right now everything is at a standstill because of the election. Everyone is afraid that socialism is coming and the publishing houses, being capitalistic, are afraid to make any new ventures. After tomorrow we shall see who is president. Hoover I think will win, and if he does there may be a little business revival for a while. But in the end we will have to have some form of socialism. As it is the government is merely loaning more money to the banks and railroads and the loans associations. That merely postpones the day of reckoning. We have emphasized the financial system at the expense of the man, now we are suffering from a paralyzed system. We must find a way to distribute our wealth. Whether we in the end can do that intelligently is a question. Even now there are riots everywhere, property is being foreclosed and the unemployed are marching and seeking revenge, not merely bread.

A great either-or stands in our way eventually. Either we will let God be God and love the neighbor, or we will go down the way of all flesh and nations. Sometimes I despair of the West, its vitality is too far gone, and then again I feel as if we might emerge with a newer social order of the world. And yet, I know that sounds too fanciful in the face of the nature of man, as seen from history. But if we do not find a way to settle our disputes we will have more depressions and then one final last one that shall mean the end. "When the Son of man comes will he find faith on the earth?" That is a sad question. As it is we merely use force and thus add fire to the coals. We do not cure the evil by force, we submerge it and then it flares forth seven times worse. God is our only way out, - but will mankind see it, or will the innocent have to again go to Calvary and the tomb.

But I believe in the future because I believe in God. What it shall be I do not know, nor is it wise to know. I know that this is God's world, and yet I know that man as he is must be altered if he shall inherit the Kingdom. I think most of the Americans are caught there. They think of the Kingdom of heaven come down to earth, and then they feel as if they never will see evil completely conquered, because it is a totality and it must be redeemed not merely beaten by force. Can you write me something on this and give me your opinion?

The "New Testament" always speaks of the resurrection of the body! I believe that. And that means that this earthly life shall also be restored. This is God's world! But.....!

Many of our Christian socialists are divided on the issue of absolute pacifism or the taking up of arms and the use of violence. Up to now I am a pacifist. But.....!

We will undoubtedly develop over here an economic dictatorship by which the government will have to take over much of property and the banks, etc. We are in for dark days yet.

As soon as we can find a publisher we shall get in touch with Chr. Kaiser and publish the work. But Dr. Richards seems to feel that we will have to go over it again a little while he is here in December. Perhaps we will get it published until spring, summer or even next fall.

I am still planning to come over next summer and hope I will be able to visit some of your classes and see you.

I have been appointed Professor in Butler University the department of Church History and this year I am lecturing on Modern European Christianity. I think it quite an honor and I like the work very much. In the course we will have occasion to mention the Crisis Theology and make some of the men see the real meaning of it in the modern history of theology. I have many letters coming to me asking me more about you and how they might study. WE NEED MORE OF YOUR WORKS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH.

I must close for this time. I would appreciate an occasional letter from you as you have time. I have written at length as to social conditions here. I see you elections of yesterday will mean more wrangling at Berlin and more dictatorship. There is a feeling that Von Papen is maneuvering for the return of the monarchy!?

Very sincerely yours,

William

Still
keep my
church.