



# Carrollton Avenue Reformed Church

FORTY-FOURTH STREET AND CARROLLTON AVENUE

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

March 23 1933.

Professor D. Karl Barth, D.D.  
Siebengebirgstr. 18  
Bonn a. Rhein,  
Deutsches Reich.

Dear Professor Barth:

It has been some time since I heard from you. I suppose you too have been wondering about the volume of sermons KOMM SCHOEFFER GEIST. Well, the financial situation here has been such as to practically stop the publishing of books. Dr. Richards tried to get some New York book company to publish the book, but they were unwilling at this time, for financial reasons. I now have the manuscript and doubt very much whether we can do anything until Fall. By that time we will have gone over the sermon translations again together and perhaps have found a publisher. So we are hopeful.

Mrs. Homrighausen and I are planning to come to Europe this summer. And if it is not too much trouble, we would like to make you a short visit in Bonn. We have not yet completed our itinerary but we had hoped to stop off at Bonn for two days, either July 16 and 17 or July 21 and 22. Perhaps you will not be at home at all? We also plan to visit Dr. Thurneysen in Basle and attend worship with him. I intend to write him about this. Now if you plan to be in Switzerland would it be possible for you to write me about it so we could plan our trip accordingly? I plan to attend the University of Geneva for a time from July 24 - August 12 or so.

At first we had planned to go to Belfast to the Presbyterian-Reformed Alliance meeting, but we could not attend both Geneva and Belfast. So we chose to come to Geneva.

Two new books have appeared here about the Crisis Theology, one by Lowrie and the other by a young scholar who approaches it from the point of view of conservatism-his name is Rolston. I do not think that his approach is the right one at all. If I may say what my approach to your theology is, it was from the social and positivistic idealism of Ritschl and the almost pantheistic romanticism and mysticism of Herrmann. I am afraid that the orthodox approach is not the right one. I may be wrong.

We are having some stirrings here in the theological world by a young scholar from Union seminary in New York by the name of Reinhold Niebuhr. While he leans heavy upon Tillich he is more of an other-worldly realist. He is driving a deep wedge between the world of God and the world of man which have been identified of late. He was formerly

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a liberal and now he has changed color entirely. But he has the danger of moving too far to the left socially, in so far that many see in him a rank communist. The social problem is moving for us into the deeper metaphysical stage. Our social experience is not so naive as it formerly was. We are experiencing the tragic side of life. But we will need a great deal more of it before we will arrive at a more realistic theology and anthropology. But it is coming.

Dr. Keller has asked me to have a paper for his International Seminar at Geneva this summer on theological trends in America. While it is tentative I have consented to give the historical side of our theological development. I will appreciate that opportunity.

Dr. Richards will be in Belfast but he does not think he will be able to ~~come~~ come to the continent this year.

Buchmanism or the Oxford Group Movement has created quite a stir over here. It has subsided by now. I see that Dr. Brunner has added his influence to the movement. Dr. Thurneysen wrote me about it some time ago and I gave him a description of its work and method. He said it was growing in Switzerland. I am sending you under separate cover an article which I wrote about it. In the same magazine you will find two other articles about the movement. I suppose you know all about it.

I would appreciate some word from you as to your movements for the summer. I want to meet you even if for a short time. Will you have your 7-8 class and your seminar from 20-22 on Monday July 17? Or on Friday July 21? If it is not likely that you will be at home these days perhaps we could see you in Zurich sometime during the school period we are in Geneva?

We are very anxious over here about Hitler. I do not think our press reports conditions fairly as to the Jews, etc. Perhaps Spengler is right that we shall not produce another Goethe but we shall produce a Caesar. Even in the United States the State is taking on larger powers. I am wondering just what the Catholics will do in Germany, the liberals, the Social Democrats? Will Hitler instigate another Kulturkampf? I trust that those champions of a sovereign theology will not be forced to make theology serve the State! I remember what happened to Professor Dehn of Halle.

So I will close for this time. With every good wish to you  
and your family and the hope that you may maintain your health  
and your faith, I am,

Yours faithfully,

E. H. Young

N.B. You have a young Mr. Lehman in your class now. His uncle lives in Indianapolis and is a minister in the Evangelical Church. His father is president of Elmhurst College and both his uncle and father are friends of mine. The Evangelical Church and our Reformed Church is uniting soon. EGH

EGH