

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church,

Levin.

Minister: The Rev. Jan Matson Fraser.

THE MANGE,
MAKOMAKO ROAD,
LEVIN.

New Zealand.
13th January 1935.

Dear Professor Barth,

During the week the news reached me through the English Weekly Papers that you have been dismissed. This has come as a great blow to us out here, and I hope you will accept our sympathies. We get little news of what is really going on in Germany, but what we do get is followed carefully. I was very sorry to learn some considerable time ago about Prof. K.L.Schmidt's dismissal, and now yours has come with an equal blow.

The few months I was privileged to have in Bonn in 1931 still stand out vividly in my memory. I must thank you for what you gave to me (no doubt unconsciously). The truth of your message had not penetrated me when I went to Bonn, although I thought I knew in the main what you taught. But there I was able to sense something of what you really meant, but I was still 'unconverted'. Since leaving Bonn I have read a good bit of your books several times, and more and more does it come to me that you are right. I do not profess to be able to understand the depths of your insight, but so far as I do I believe the same. In so far as God has granted me insight I try to preach the same message.

You might be interested to know that your writing has penetrated out here to New Zealand and has had a very marked effect. There are not many who can follow you in your thinking very fully, but most of our men have been considerably affected by your writings. Even though they cannot see the fullness of your position, they have found a much needed challenge in your thought. On the whole our younger men are sympathetic to your point of view, and some of them are fairly near agreeing with you. We have in our Theological College a very marked revival of interest in Calvin. Among our younger men in the ministry quite a group of us are Calvinists and study Calvin a good deal. We have also been making our voice heard in the General Assembly and the Church as a whole knows as I think it has never known before that it has young men. The reason is that we have something to say to the Church, and the Church hearing us knows that there is something ~~making~~ behind us which is real. I feel that there is more life and hope in our Church than there has been for a long time. Of course there are still a good number of the old Liberal Humanistic school, but most of the younger men find their point of view anathema.

I am sending you under separate cover a copy of the last issue of the N.Z. Journal of Theology, of which I am one of the editors. This journal has been started and is run by the younger men of our Church of whom I have been speaking. You will notice an article on your recent dispute with Brunner. The writer is obviously in agreement with Brunner in the matter and I suppose most of our men would be too. But there are some few of us who feel that you are right. There are some things which do not work accordingly to Logic

and I think this is why your view will not commend itself to any but the few who can see this. Brunner is more logical and appeals to more people among us. Still you will admit that this is a very big step in the right direction - and is a real metanoia from the old Liberal view. I only know of one other man with whom I am in communication who agrees with me in supporting your truth in the controversy against Brunner. I often wish I could go back to study under you now that I can understand your position a bit better. It would be far more profitable to me. Still if I had not been in Bonn once, I suppose I should never have seen the reason in your thinking.

This Professor Barth, brings greetings and the prayers of some people on the other side of the earth, who hear these reports of you with great sorrow, and only wish we were able to help you in some more tangible way. But we are trying to find the way of Obedience, and in trepidation at our daring to proclaim the Word of God that has come to us, to a hungry and distracted world.

Dein ist das Reich und die Kraft und die Herrlichkeit in
Ewigkeit. Amen.

With kindest regards,
Yours sincerely,

Sam W. Fraser,