

October 21, 1984

Dear Dr. McDaniel,

How are you? I have missed you and all the wonderful people at EBTS so much this fall. I cannot tell you how much it meant to see you and say good-bye before I left. Your words of esteem meant ~~so~~ a very great deal to me at a time when my self-esteem was particularly low. You have been such a dear friend and teacher. I miss you dearly.

I do hope you have felt free to go ahead and use the halakah song from last year. I did not remember if you had a copy or not so I have enclosed one. I am very sorry that I will not get to hear you preach.

I'm sure you probably mentioned this in class somewhere, but I don't remember. I was reading Psalm 119 a few days ago and it (v. 105) struck me in reference to John 14...

"Thy word is a lamp to my feet
and a light to my path."

Was this the reason for the wording in John 14, do you think? i.e. the "way" (John) refers to the "word" in the Psalm and it mainly an O.T. verification of Christ as the Logos... in other words did John 14 just take the Hebrew and it came out the way it did in the Greek? John seems to be pure reiteration of Psalms. Didn't you say something to that effect?

Perkins is an excellent school with terrific opportunities for worship, we have three services a day. I enjoy that very much. However, the academic level, although more uniformly intense is really the same as EBTS. I found your O.T. course and Elouise's systematics as good or better than what they offer here. I am enjoying preaching very much as it is team taught by an O.T. storyteller, a N.T. inductive preacher, a woman liberationist, and a black preacher. It gives us wonderful exposure to a variety of styles.

They have so many required courses, that I am not able to take any Bible at all this year, and only one semester, next. I miss that a great deal.

Personally speaking, it has been a very difficult fall. There has been so much grief and exhaustion from the stress of the last few months that I have really felt the loss of my creative energies. Also, Perkins is so into performance "requirements"... busy work... that there is not the time to explore the exciting and new nuances that you always brought out last year. However, God does heal, and ever so gently my little family of three is starting to feel like there might be a morning somewhere. None of us were prepared for the level of devastation that occurred.

The church has been tremendously supportive. In fact, in the weeks and months of no child support or income, it has been the church's and Perkin's scholarships that have fed us and pulled us through. Without the church and the grace of God we would have no chance of making it. Things are still very bad for my husband, according to my friends in Delaware. He still refuses to go for the help he so desperately needs. It has been so hard for me to accept my total failure to minister to this one person in my life, and to accept that it was my ministry at all that he found so

totally abhorrent. Perhaps now we will both be able to find wholeness. The children have blossomed here. With their father's terrible anger removed, they have opened up and started to laugh and be free again.

I would love to work some on Psalm 87. I hope the district will be calling me home in the next few months for interviews. As soon as I know when, I'll let you know and perhaps we can get together. I would love to see you and talk for a long while.

In Christ Always,

Carol Woods

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