

P.O. Box 77  
Sinks Grove, WV 24976  
Oct. 25, 1994

Dear Thomas McDaniel,

You were an object of conversation when I met Manfred Brauch at the West Virginia Baptist Convention in Charleston this past week. He spoke highly of you and your scholarship and teaching skills, a fact we knew from our time with you at Green Lake. You were there for the Mission Conference as Bible Study leader. We had just returned from The Philippine Republic where we had spent a term with International Missions. That was probably 1977 or '78. (Can it be that so many years have slipped by?)

Periodically I review the tapes of your presentations there. Today I was listening to your study on the Book of Jonah, the DOVE! You are so easy in your presentations, yet one is brought up short with your conclusions. That is why I like your interpretations!

From that time on it has been a dream of mine to sit under you again. We are so happy that WV Convention has set up the continuing education program with Eastern Seminary and I continue to hope for the year that you will be one of the presenters.

You may have known that after Green Lake we served two churches, one in Iowa and one in Kansas before we retired and joined Ministers at Large. One of the latter was First Baptist Church of White Plains, NY where we felt more at home than in any other church in which we had been involved since Koinonia Community in Georgia.

Koinonia is probably what made your sessions so interesting. You are as close to Clarence Jordan as any person I have known. Clarence is the closest relationship I had--just like a brother, and I miss him so. There is only one of the original Koinonians left in the Georgia Community, Margaret Wittkamper, and she lives the summers as our next door neighbor with one of her sons.

We are re-treads here in WV, out of pace with the Convention which is so very conservative. I am working with a two Sunday congregation in the valley between VA and WV. Most of the families have moved from the Valley where farming is just not prosperous enough to make a living. All of the members are past 50, all 12 of them. Most of what had been farm houses are now hunting camps or summer homes for people from Beckley, Charleston or out of state.

On free weeks, we sing in the choir of the Union Memorial Baptist Church where our membership resides. I sort of fell into the job of directing the group. They are beginning to sing like a choir. At first, a third of the songs they sang were new to me, they call them the "old time" hymns, but they were beyond my ken, and not the tried and true hymnody of Protestantism.

Sincerely,

*A. Conrad Browne*