

School of World Mission

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Dear Jerry:

All of us who are doing scholarly work in the field of missiology are being expected from time to time to produce scholarly articles for journals other than our own. We wish to do this, quite naturally, but here at Fuller we are actually being pressured to do this, under the assumption that a missiologist can only gain his spurs or confirm his calling by making the grade in some field outside of missiology, missiology itself apparently not being a respectable field.

It seems to me that instead of defending ourselves on this point we ought to go on the offense and try to recruit outstanding scholars already well-established in those other disciplines to write for our journal. I'm sure than in a sense this is what Alan Tippet is doing, but I wonder if we couldn't ourselves take aim on certain significant scholars who are well-known and curry their favor toward the idea of their writing something that they happen to know about that falls into the area of interest which we call missiology.

I wonder if you are as exercised as I am about the need for a program someplace, anyplace, which will give an honest-to-goodness Ph.D. in the field of missiology itself. Can a scholarly community long survive and the discipline representing that area of concern long continue if in fact the people doing the work are constantly being borrowed forever from nearby fields? Isn't it necessary to go beyond the Hartford model which in a sense borrowed from other fields and then meekly submitted to the slaughter when people in those other areas decided the time was up? Have you been doing any thinking along this line, Jerry? I wonder if you couldn't get a foot in the door at Yale and work along with Charles Forman to develop a Ph.D. in missiology there? I don't believe everybody has to go to Fuller. If you could pick up James Scherer and part of Beaver's time and some of the other key people in our Society

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wouldn't one of those universities back there be willing to buy into this? What's the use of talking about the missiological curriculum as they were doing in that committee at Milligan if we don't have the institutional muscle to promote it?

Do let me have your thoughts about this as soon as you can.

Yours very cordially,

*Ralph (sc)*

Ralph D. Winter

RDW:sc