




SAN FRANCISCO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

 AT SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA

Please make
Gifts for Camden
Project

MAY 28 1965

May 25, 1965

Dear Mr. Rollins

It was good to talk to you by telephone late last week and I am happy that the general outline of the project for Camden, Alabama, this summer made sense to you. I am writing now in the light of that broad approval in principle, reflecting the way in which since then I have proceeded in lining up the detail of the project. I have taken very seriously the initial item in the program description forwarded to me by Dr. George in his letter of May 17th. The fact that the program pivots on "five mature seminarians" has been decisive in my own thinking throughout the formulation stages of this project. In order to get the right people for this project it has been necessary to alter somewhat the detail of the time periods involved. I regret that not all five of these people can be there as early as we might have liked, but in that what we are up against has to do with the fixed dates of two presbytery examinations, there seems to be little real option.

Before I set out the dates of arrival and departure of the five people for the project, let me note that two students left late last week to perform the tasks of the final phasing out of the Seminary's own work in Camden, which began early this past April, and has proceeded in an unbroken chain since. For your information the two students involved are Martin Hessel and David Knapp. These two arrived in Camden to replace Dwain Epps and James Martin. They will be on the scene until replaced by the beginnings of the five man project for the summer.

The five people from the Seminary who will work under your direction on the project are as follows:

John Anthony Golden, Jr.
John Williams
John Worcester
Gary Young
Yvonne Young

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Golden and Williams will leave this area on June 7, and should arrive in Camden, Alabama, on the 10th of June. They will stay the full ten weeks, leaving Camden to return here on August 19. John Worcester will arrive in Camden on June 25. (He will be ordained on June 20.) John will be on the project for eight weeks, since it will be necessary for him to leave Camden on August 20 in order to proceed to his church assignment and be located in his new work before the 1st of September. Gary and Yvonne Young will arrive in Camden on the 5th of July. The latest that they will be able to stay will be towards the end of the week of August 22, putting them on the scene for not quite a total of eight weeks.

A word about each of these people is probably in order.

Golden is a graduate of Drew Theological Seminary. He is currently in residence at San Francisco Theological Seminary as a Ph.D. candidate in the Graduate Theological Union. He has had some experience in the kind of work at hand having participated in the march on Washington, and worked with Chicago's Woodlawn organization.

Williams is the only one of the five who will be returning here next year as a B.D. candidate. He is the Vice President of the Student Body for this next year. Throughout the Spring he has been the very effective chairman of the committee which came into existence when the Selma business broke, and has since gone by the name of the "Student SCLC Committee" here at the Seminary. This has been the committee which has overseen the work and underwritten the financing of the relay of students which we have had in Camden since early this past April. John was one of the students to go South on the bus and participate in the tent crew in connection with the March from Selma to Montgomery. His return here next year both in the capacity of his place as a student leader, and in the light of his work on this forthcoming project will be extremely valuable as far as the maintaining of the interest of the seminary community in the Civil Rights movement is concerned.

Worcester is now graduating, and will be going on the staff of the Presbyterian Church in Bozeman, Montana, as of the 1st of September. The church which he will serve is aware of what he will be doing this summer and has given its considered approval to his undertaking. He too was on the Seminary bus to Selma in support of the Selma to Montgomery March.

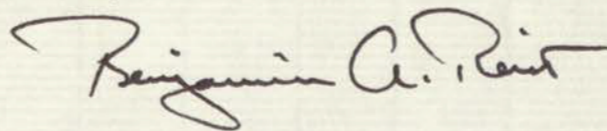
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Young graduates also this year. He will be returning here in the Fall to commence graduate study. He is the top man in the graduating class. He too was on the bus to Selma. Both he and his wife, Yvonne, have had experience working as assistants to the Negro pastor of an inter-city church in Detroit during a recent summer involvement. I might note that Yvonne is a trained teacher, and currently holds down a third grade teaching post in one of the schools here in Marin County. A word of special note: our considering Yvonne Young as one of the full members of this five man project. It has been the experience of the student committee that early in April one of the mature wives of the students going to Camden accompanied her husband for part of his tour of duty there. Her presence was of inestimable value in working with the people in the situation. It is our feeling that this prior experience has underlined the significance of naming Yvonne to full participation in the project. Accordingly, that we have been able to find a student and wife both whom are mature and both of whom are experienced along these lines is in our estimation a stroke of good fortune.

Let me say that all of us are delighted that the project will be unfolding this summer under your direction. The students are looking forward to working under you, and each of them thoroughly understands that they are at your command in the work which lies ahead. I might add that we are also gratified to note that the 11 point description of the program for this summer embodies the full range of the work which our student relay has been attempting to achieve in Camden since April. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time if in any way I may be of assistance in any respect in connection with the project.

Please relay my warm regards to Gay Wilmore, and please let me know if either or both of you will find yourselves on the West Coast in the near future. It would be a great joy to see you.

Cordially



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