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Concord, CA 94521  
31 May 1985

Dear John, Steve, and all:

It is a pleasure to find some time to write--I will miss not seeing you in June, but a visit at the wrong time isn't worth a whole lot. I am still warmed by your gracious hospitality in March; that was quite a remarkable experience of learning to love a place and so many people so rapidly.

I wanted to put something in the mail to greet John on his return from what will undoubtedly have been an inspiring trip. If I waited until I was satisfied with these ideas, it would be delayed much longer. But I also recall having promised someone--it may have been Joan Batson--that I would send materials to assist the learning of excellent writing and public speaking. Those are coming under separate cover.

The vision I immediately formed upon seeing the Boulder School was of a seminary for the training of spiritual teachers. As I review your current bulletin, I find that our thinking appears to be going in extensively parallel directions. Here are some of my ideas, partly unrefined and untested, ready for dialogue.

We all share a supreme commitment to the gospel; and we can also see that proper teacher training is needed for gospel carriers. I am committed to actualizing, on whatever scale is demanded, such a seminary wherever I settle. Even if I have another full-time job, even if only one person wants to join the study, the enterprise will be pursued. The expectations will be adjusted to the circumstances. I am totally confident that, given adequate flexibility, it can be done. Indeed, it has been underway for some time--in many places.

I trust to God to make clear his will: whether I join you in Boulder or whether a position more in the mainstream of religious or academic life seems available and desirable. I am grateful for the stimulus of our dialogue thus far, which has prompted me to set down and develop some of my ideas. And I'm sure that our creative interaction has barely begun!

Love to all!

Your brother,



Jeff