

THE HEBREW UNION COLLEGE

CINCINNATI, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 3, 1932.
(Dict. Sept. 29)

My dear Nelson:

Your good letter of the 13th inst. reached me only a few moments ago, which indicates that it takes exactly sixteen days for a letter to come from Jerusalem here. I was happy indeed to hear from you and of your plans for the more economic administration of the School.

What you say about the fact that the Institution has been built up on too large a scale interests me greatly. For some time I have had a similar feeling, and in particular I was quite at a loss to understand just what the specific duties of the housekeeper were. I am glad to know that you are proceeding to deflate the establishment as much as possible and that Helen is helping you in this. I know that together you make an excellent team, and that your labors together will not only be doubly, but trebly, efficient. You are proving together that what the School needs is not a good housekeeper, but is rather a first-class keeper of the Director of the School. And I know that this is what you have just now.

I was glad to know, too, that you are now getting more water from the city, and ~~that~~ likewise that the rainy season has set in and has relieved some of the drouth from which you were suffering.

I am sorry to say that I cannot alter my decision with regard to endeavoring to obtain funds with which to carry on the excavations in conjunction with the Hebrew University. I cannot describe to you how much worse economic conditions have become during the few months since your departure. Securities have fallen off tremendously in value and in earning power. And since at present we have practically no resources other than those which the investment of our Endowment Fund yield, and since with every passing day they are yielding less and less, we shall have to practice the most rigid economy this year, and undoubtedly for many years to come. While there is no prospect thereof at the present moment, things are developing so rapidly that there is no assurance that, by next year, we shall not have to accept another reduction in salary. I hope not. Nor do I actually anticipate it. But in these days we can never be sure. But we must do everything in our power to forestall any such contingency. I understand that the J I R is practically bankrupt, and has not paid the salaries of its Professors for some time. Likewise the Faculty of the Seminary in New York have taken a second cut in salaries. The C C A R, too, has practically

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no funds at its disposal, and could not possibly consider appropriating a penny for any activity such as this, when there are so many Rabbis, members of the Conference, without any position and any means of support whatever, and the Conference is constrained, therefore, to give them what little financial aid it can to keep themselves and their families alive. I am not exaggerating the situation in the slightest degree.

From what Rabbi Wohl, who was there this summer, tells me, and I have read in various publications, Palestine is the one country in the world which is not experiencing a depression. And from what Rabbi Wohl says, the Jews there are the most prosperous and happy in the world. If such is the case, why does not the University finance some project for itself once, instead of expecting some American Institution to pay the piper while it has all the pleasure of dancing? If I could possibly manage it, I would far rather raise the money for a joint excavation campaign with the American School than with the Hebrew University. But as I said, I dare not attempt to solicit even a penny for this purpose.

The outlook for the year is promising. We shall admit only seven new students. Apparently, however, a very select group. Altogether we shall have an enrollment of approximately 78 students, with perhaps a few members of last year's graduating class who have not succeeded in securing permanent pulpits, or who are holding only bi-weeklies and coming back for some graduate work. There may be two or three of these.

I was particularly pleased to learn that you have managed to make some progress upon your To'eval paper, and am particularly interested in ascertaining what the application of your findings to Deuteronomy will bring forth.

We shall start the Seminar as soon as possible, with probably only Sheldon and Sol in attendance, although we may let Allan Tarshish, who is holding a bi-weekly pulpit at Oxneshboro and doing some graduate work here, sit in with us and look up all the references for us. This would be the beginning of his training in method. We shall, of course, tackle this year the problem of the War Legislation in Deuteronomy. I imagine that it will keep us busy for the greater part of the year. But I feel, too, that when we shall have finished this stratum, along with the To'eval and the Mishpatim strata, we will have accounted for the greater part of the secondary material in the Book.

I have not been able to touch my article on the

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Samaritans since I got back from my vacation. However, I have about caught up with my work here, and am planning within the next week to get back to work upon the article, unless, of course, the work here at the College piles up too rapidly to permit that.

I hope that this will find you and Helen well and that the New Year will bring to both of you unending happiness and blessing, and the fulfillment of your dearest hopes, plans and wishes.

My dear wife joins heartily in these sentiments.

With warmest regards, I am ever

Faithfully,

JM/s

Julian Morgenstern
PRESIDENT.

Rev. Dr. Nelson Glueck Director
American School of Oriental Research,
Jerusalem,
Palestine.

Salary check accompanies this.