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*PLNU Wesley Summer Scholar Book Project: FOUCAULT AND THEOLOGY*

I applied for and received a Wesley Summer Scholar residency at Point Loma Nazarene University in Point Loma, CA. The goal of the fellowship is to complete my book project FOUCAULT AND THEOLOGY in the T & T Clark International series "Theology and Philosophy" (prospectus enclosed; publishing contract supplied upon request). Michel Foucault is one of the most important and influential philosophers of the 20th century and since his death in 1984 his work has continued to provoke studies in fields as diverse as biology, literature, sociology, and religion. There is currently only one other significant monograph length study on Foucault's relationship to Christian theology, which is unfortunate considering an interesting and somewhat enigmatic turn in Foucault's later thought. Having completed studies on the concepts of madness, medicine, knowledge, and prisons, at the end of his life Foucault turned to "the history of sexuality" within the critical modern and classical Greek periods. In his proposed four volume series on sexuality, Foucault's goal was to conclude with a work on Christian sexuality. Unfortunately, this work was never completed because of his untimely death. However, it is clear from his published work that the trajectory of his argument was to unfold in an account of Christian sexual discourse as an alternative and a precursor to modern sexual thought. While neither confessionally Christian nor theologian, Foucault found in the penitential rites and confessional rituals an account of selfhood that he considered superior to accounts of selfhood offered by modern philosophy and culture. My book seeks to trace this development and offer, ultimately, a Christian understanding of selfhood that might build upon Foucault's project. My book contract has a February 2010 submission date. As I have already received a Baylor Summer Sabbatical grant for Summer 2009, my proposed AHFDP grant would support the Wesley fellowship in Point Loma.