

Wheaton College
Wheaton, Illinois
May 7, 1948

Hi Sugar!

'Tis the close of another day and another week. Tomorrow morning I have one class at 7:30 (you can imagine how I love to get out of bed for a 7:30 class on Saturday). Then at about 10:00 I will jump into one of the school's station wagons and take off for the stables where I will go riding. Each Saturday morning a group of us fellows and girls go horse back riding. Then after being bounced around for two or three hours, we return to a good hardy dinner. Somedays we take a lunch along and ride all afternoon. And other days we leave in the afternoon and eat supper out. I would give anything to have you along to ride with us on some of the beautiful moon-light nights. I guess you know, we would do more than ride, wouldn't we? The farm land around Wheaton is very fertile and beautiful. The farms are some of the finest in the middle west. Thus our rides are thoroughly enjoyable.

You said that my letter to you was welcome. I am glad. And I can say the same for your letters to me. Ever since receiving your last letter I have been beating a path to my mail box, hoping, hoping, hoping that there is word from little Doris. But so many times I come away disappointed and discouraged. Then I will say to myself, "Well, Bud O boy, I guess Doris just don't love you anymore." Then just subconsciously my eyes will start to roam toward the many examples of the fairer sex strolling about campus.

now, I somehow believe that we have been in love all along. I believe I can understand the circumstances that occurred in China. You were one of the few girls in town and surely the most pretty. I was only one among five thousand Marines. Yet, I believe the Lord brought us together. And it is remarkable that among so many men, I should find you and you me. I made clear my feelings toward you. Of course you knew that whenever you wished to, you could have me, didn't you? Now, what would be your natural reaction? You would naturally say to your self, "Oh well, I can have Bud whenever I please; but I wonder if I could get a date with Bert, Pet, or maybe Herman." When Bud found that he was loosing his pretty little Swede, what would he do? He would fight like the dickens to keep you and Bert, Pet, or Herman apart. And that is exactly what he did. Bud did not know no more than it was the evil one who was trying to defeat the Lord's will (And who knows, perhaps it was). Finally you were convinced that the one you wanted to date didn't want to go with you, weren't you? You were humiliated and disappointed. The more you thought he did not want to go with you, the more you wanted to go with him. Finally you were deceived into thinking that you were in love with him. This is only human nature. You can remember that when your mother told you as a little girl that you could not have something, you wanted it all the more. The best way to get a youngster into a cookie jar is to tell her she cannot have a cookie. So you thought you were in love; I would say that you were only infatuated. If you were in love with anyone else, you would not have become interested in me again so soon. Doris dear, my guess is that you have been interested in one person all along. Think about what I have said, pray about it, and see if I am not right.

When with a last determined effort I approach my mail box, there, to my surprise and delight is a letter from my Swede Sweetheart. As I read the lines and see your devotion, I inevitably rebuke myself for not keeping my eyes where they belong. So, the moral of the story is, Doris, if you want my heart and mind to be focused about yourself, I must hear from you often. Understand?

But seriously though, Doris, when I do find a letter from you and read it, my heart burns within me. You say we are not in love yet; maybe so, but I do think an awfully lot of you.

You mentioned in your letter your need for love, seeing so much sorrow. I believe you are doing a great work there, and I am proud of you. The Lord has made us to love and be loved. The desire of a fellow and girl to have each other is just natural. And sometimes, as in your case, a person needs another more than at other times. In fact, Doris dear, I believe with my whole heart that we can serve the Lord better united than apart. I know for myself, there is little purpose in life. True, I do live for the Lord and His glory; but it is so hard to keep going from day to day without another to help one. It is so easy to become discouraged. The Christian walk is often one of persecution. We are much alone in the world as it is. Therefore, we do need someone for encouragement and love. Do you find it this way? That is why the Lord chooses for every girl a fellow and for every fellow a girl. And that is perhaps why the Lord is bringing us together.

Doris, you know, often we really don't realize the things we want most in life. It takes the Lord, through persecution and heartache, to give us the things we really desire and need. Maybe this has been the case with us. If by chance we love each other

The Lord has used a vast sea and a long period of time to show a silly little girl what she has wanted most in life all along.

But, Doris, do remember, that my reasoning is only finite, and I may be wrong. But, if I know anything about psychology, I believe I have hit the nail right on the head.

Yes, my dear, I did remember your birthday. But I wasn't sure whether it was on the tenth or twelfth. And I hope that I can be in Sweden at that date for you. Doris, I hate to say it, but we must realize that there is actually little possibility of my getting to Sweden at all, and much less by July ~~twelfth~~^{tenth}. There are so many men trying to get employment for the summer aboard ship. And who knows, perhaps it is the Lord's will that I should work and save a little money (we may need it). But I shall try my utmost to get to see you, and that by your birthday. Pray for the Lord's will to be done. Have you ever thought of completing your training in the states? I don't think that we should commit ourselves until we have seen each other and had a chance to talk it all over; but we can decide much through correspondence. I believe you mentioned paying a certain amount to the hospital in Sweden. If you should decide not to complete the course, could you get a partial refund? If Roy should come to this country, why couldn't you come along. If we should decide on anything definite concerning marriage, I am sure I could finance you at the college hospital. And if we would not get serious, you can always finish nurses' training near Roy. There is always a definite shortage of nurses around Chicago. And besides, you would want to be in the States near Roy.

About China; neither you nor I can say definitely what the Lord's will is for our lives. Our first responsibility is to be

willing to do his will. Doris, if it is His will that you do not go to China, would you be willing to stay home? Actually, you are not consecrated to Him unless you are willing to do His will, even if it means that you are not to return to China. It is for us to pray for His great and wonderful will for our lives. But Don't worry about my interests. It is my sincerest hope that the Lord's will for me (for us) is China. But I am not going to set my heart on China or anything else; I only am going to seek to know His will.

Doris dear, it is far past my bed time, and I have a busy day tomorrow. Before going to bed, I must have a shower and my devotions. So, you can see that I must close.

First, there are a few lines from the thirty-seventh Psalm that I want to share with you:

"DELIGHT thyself also in the Lord; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

COMMIT thy way unto the Lord; TRUST also in him; and he shall bring it to pass....

REST in the Lord, and wait patiently for him...."

Doris, lots of love to you.

Sincerely yours,

Bernie
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