

11342 S. Church St.

Chicago, Illinois

July 25, 1948

My little Darling,

Just a few minutes ago I arrived home from church. Tonight they had a special group of young people taking part while Pastor Olson is acting as one of the speakers at the Michigan State Conference. After the service the young people all went to a private home for a little social hour. It would have been fun to have gone; but if I did go, I would not have gotten this letter written to you. As much as I like to be with the young people on their activities, I far rather would spend this hour with the one I love. Darling, you can't imagine how deeply I do care for you and how much I wish we were together. I took a car-load of Elaine's girl-friends to where the social was. These were the gals who took part in the service. Everyone insisted that I should go in, but I just said I couldn't. Darling, if you had been with me, we both could have had a good time. But being you are not with me, I am contented to come home and write to you.

I arrived in the city Friday afternoon. That same afternoon Bill and I went up to the north side of Chicago and visited the campus of Northwestern University. Surprising enough, we met several Wheaton College graduates who are taking graduate studies there. We knew that several of our friends were there, but we were surprised to find some of them on so large a campus. The University is located right on the shores of Lake Michigan and in the most beautiful part of Chicago. As soon as we visited our friends, we took a stroll

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along the beach (boy, you should have seen all the pretty gals in their bathing suits). After walking around the campus for about four hours, we headed for the south side of the city. Bill I dropped off at his home and I went on to Rusty's and Fran's. Elaine and I were invited there for supper. You should have seen the swell meal that Fran made for us. We had just about everything: chicken, mashed potatoes, jello salad, three kinds of vegetables, pickles, celery, milk, coffee, ice cream and bananas, etc. Does all this make you hungry? Well, if you would come to the States, we could enjoy it together (a-hem!).

On Saturday morning I got up about seven o'clock, took the car and picked up Harold Reinbold and Bill. Then we all left for Lake Geneva. We didn't arrive at Lake Geneva until about ten-thirty. We had something to eat and drove around the lake. Then we left for another beauty spot, Lake Delevan, about six miles from Lake Geneva. At lake Delevan lives a cousin of Dad's. His name is Charley Larson. I wish you could have seen his cottage. He has a fine white house with three bedrooms, living room, kitchen, and porch. Then in back he has another two-room house. Besides this he has a boat-house with two bed rooms above it. In front of the lot is a large pier. During much of the afternoon we parked ourselves on this pier, sunning ourselves and swimming. What a time we had! In the late afternoon Charley Larson took out his twenty-two foot speed-boat. Then for the rest of the day we took turns driving it around the lake. Boy, you should have seen us go. Also he had a nice little sail boat. But we didn't get a chance to use it this time. Once before when I visited him, we spend quite a bit of time sailing. But we did do a great deal of canoeing in the early afternoon. So it was that we fooled around all day. About seven o'clock we headed for home. But before going we stopped at the Swedish Covenant Camp on the Lake (Geneva).

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It is just a new camp and rather nice. Formerly it was an estate owned by the owner of the Dodge motor car company. One of the pastors showed us around the whole grounds. From the Dodge estate we went to Geneva city. There we had our supper. After leaving Geneva city we headed for Wheaton, arriving in Wheaton about 12:30 last night. By the time we left Wheaton and finally got home it was after 2:00 A.M. and I got to bed at 3:00 A.M. this morning. We had a wonderful time and were thoroughly worn-out. Charley Larson is a swell fellow. He certainly gave us a good time at Lake Delevan. He is the owner of a large factory in central Illinois and goes to his summer home on Lake Delevan every week-end.

I'll certainly be glad to get to school tomorrow. I am sure that there will be a letter waiting there for me. You know, by tomorrow it will be six days since your last letter arrived. I didn't hear from you since last Tuesday and tomorrow is Monday. It sure has been a long week with no work from my lover.

It certainly will be wonderful when the Lord finally unites us in marriage. I do so love you. And it will be wonderful when the time comes when we can have our own little family. Sweetheart, parenthood means great responsibilities. Truly we should not have a family until we can provide for that family properly. Of course this brings up the problem of taking artificial means of preventing conception until we are ready for children. In a former letter you asked me what I think about the use of artificial means, and I shall try to explain it to you the best way I can.

First of all we must ask the question if ever it is right to use artificial means of preventing conception. My answer is, "yes, there are times when it is not only right, but necessary to use means of preventing this." And I am sure that you will agree with me on this.

There are cases when child-birth will mean the death of the mother. And we know that if the mother dies, there is little chance of the child living. Certainly in such a case it would be wrong to permit conception.

You know, Doris, in life we must realize that there is a scale of values - somethings are more important than other things. The spiritual values are always of greater importance than physical values. So it is in marriage; a couple's duties are first to each other. The most important thing in married life is the companionship, the fellowship of man and wife. Then the thing of less importance is intercourse and parent-hood. Neither fellowship nor parenthood can be left out of marriage, but the most important of the two is the spiritual value - companionship. So it is not the girl's first duty to bear children. Her first duty is to her husband and to the children that she already has brought into the world. She must assist her husband as he serves the Lord and she must raise her children so that they become fine, Christian, law-abiding citizens. If she gives her life in the birth of another child and in so doing deserts her husband and leaves her children to grow-up any way, truly she is not doing right. If a child is not influenced so that he becomes a Christian and is properly adjusted to society, it would have been better for that child if he never had been born. So, Darling, there are times when it is right for a girl to prevent conception. And if it is right under one condition to prevent conception, it is right under other conditions.

It is our duty first to serve the Lord. If we become so busy caring for children so that we cannot win others to the Lord, perhaps we are not doing our best for Him. In other words, we must limit our family to a size that will not hinder the Lord's work. Each child we have must be provided for properly. He must have plenty to eat so

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that he can grow into a strong Christian. We must provide for his education. Therefore our family must be restricted so that every member of our family will be provided for properly. The size of our family will be determined largely by the amount of money we have. This concerns us when we first marry. Then we neither will have time nor money for a family. You will have to prepare yourself for Christian service ^{before} a youngster arrives and I will have to be settled sufficiently to support the child.

Sweetheart, I like children and I would like to have a large family. But our family's size will have to be determined by several things. First of all we will have no more children than your health permits. Secondly, we will have no more children than will be convenient for the type of Christian service we shall enter. Thirdly, we shall have no larger family than our pocket-book permits.

Tell me, Darling, don't you think I am right in what I say? If not, tell me so. If you have any questions, tell me them also.

Doris, it is mid-night and I am very tired. Last night it was 3:00 A.M and I have classes tomorrow. Remember, I am thinking of you always.

Your loving husband,

Bernie xxxxxxxx