

October 5, 1948
Wheaton College
Wheaton, Illinois

My little Sweetheart,

Darling, you asked how I am feeling. My answer is, Honey, that I am feeling fine. It is hard to get used to the idea that Mom is gone; but it is comforting and encouraging to realize that she is still living - with the Lord. Dad and Elaine seems to be bracing up real well too. I telephoned Dad at the shop yesterday and today and he seemed fairly cheerful. And Elaine, she is the bravest of us all. You know, Honey, I have a wonderful sister in Elaine. You are going to have to go a long way for me to love you more than I do her. Don't worry, Sweetheart, I love Elaine as a sister; I love you as a wife. I know you and Elaine will get along real well. You both are so much alike, full of fun. Maybe that is why I love you both so much.

Darling, I'm sorry that I have too little time for those long letters that I used to write. I know you understand, though. This summer, when I was not in school, I had lots of time to write loooong letters; but now my studies come first. But, every once in a while I'll try to send a real long one for you. It will take a little time for us to get back to normal again. When everything runs smoothly at home we all are full of fun and a lot happens to write about. So, if you will be patient, I'll try to get a few long letters off to you. But don't worry about my not loving you. I love you and want nothing more than to have you for my darling little wife. Otherwise I would not have asked you to marry me. I love you; I want you; and I need you. Nothing has changed my mind, Darling, as you seem to fear. Mother's going only made me more sure of how much I need you and more determined to fulfill Mom's wish by marrying you.

But, Darling, I do not want to marry you because Mom wished me to only. I never would go with anyone just because someone wanted me to. I want to marry you because I know I am in love with you. Mom realized long ago that I WAS in love with you and tried to make me admit it. I was afraid to love you because I thought I could not have you. Once you caused me great pain and I would not let that happen again for anything. Now that I know you love me too, I can, will, and do love you again with all my heart. If mother did not want me to marry you, I still would ask you to become my wife. And if Mom wanted me to marry you, and I did not want to marry you, I would NOT ask you to marry me. But I do want you for my little wife; and I am so happy that Mom also wanted you for her daughter-in-law.

Yes, Darling, ~~there~~ there is no doubt that we DO know what we are doing in getting married. The Lord has lead us and we need to know no more. And we did go together a long time in China. And we have written and learned to know each other far better than most engaged couples know each other. Even our ambitions are alike. Darling, we certainly are not taking a chance. THE LORD HIMSELF HAS MADE US FOR EACH OTHER. Praise His Holy name.

Doris, you know, I am so glad that our relations have been altogether honorable during the time we went together in China. When we raise our family, our kids can be real proud of their Mommie and Daddie. And that is something to be thankful for. A couple should not be at all personal even after engagement unless they are absolutely sure they are to be married. Darling, I love you so.

I'm very tired tonight. Got to bed late last night and up at five this morning; to bed late the night before and up at five yesterday morning. This has been going on for over a week. So, I'm getting to beg before I go to sleep typing.

*all my love,
Bernie VXXI*