

July 8, 1931

Mrs. Luther Parker Russell,  
Berkeley, California.

Dear Mrs. Russell:

I was glad to receive your letter of June 22nd and on the 28th I took pleasure in reading a portion of your letter and of reviewing briefly the good work done by you and Dr. Russell in our church.

We had letters from Reverend George D. Rogers, who preceded you; Dr. Brown; Dr. Jennings and Dr. Watts, who was absent temporarily. As you know, Dr. Hutchinson who immediately followed you and Reverend Mr. Coffman who supplied us after you left, died several years ago.

I sometimes wish we had a little more of the life and fervor that you put into our church. In looking back it seems like "them was the days" and yet at that time you were poorly paid and we had no parsonage.

The trouble with our church, as I see it, is largely that of every other church. It is a smugness and complacency that makes the members believe that they fulfill all their obligations when they took on church membership and the don't care who pays the bills only so they don't have to. Smugness and complacency is undoubtedly the sign of America as a nation and it seems to me somewhat akin to the attitude of the Pharisee who relied on the promises to Abraham and tried hard to do no more than the law required. If I don't look out I shall be preaching you a sermon and that wouldn't do at all.

I hope that Dr. Russell is getting along much better and will soon be ready to meet all comers. He has managed to keep going for thirty years at high pressure after he was presumed to be ready for the junk heap so I confidently expect to see him keep on for another thirty or forty years.

With very best wishes to you both, I remain,

Sincerely your friend,