

July 28, 1943

Mrs. Vanera Miller Smith
1318 West Redwood
San Diego 1, California

Dear Mrs. Smith:

I was glad to receive your good letter of July 18th, and I am sorry that I do not recall Will T. Reed. For a number of years the annual enrollment at the University has been in excess of 6,000, so it is possible for me to meet only a few of them, and I am sure that I do not remember the slight acquaintances now as well as I did some years ago.

I was glad to see the advertisement of the First Baptist Church. I met the pastor, Dr. John Bunyan Smith, probably 20 years ago when he was pastor of the big church at Wichita, Kansas. He was known as a fundamentalist, but that division is seemingly much more kindly than it was some years ago when the so-called fundamentalists and modernists were at bitter odds. I was happy that during the two years that I was president of the Kansas Baptist Convention, no feeling whatever was developed along these lines. I feel that essential Christianity has a big enough base to hold all who come, and we need not quarrel over the things in which we differ, but rather rejoice in the things in which we agree.

Kansas is being quite erratic this year in the matter of weather which probably means that it is carrying on about as usual. We had too little rain in the beginning of the year, followed by too much, then a dry spell followed by more rains, and now gardens and some field crops undoubtedly need moisture.

We had expected to remain in Lawrence all summer, and perhaps we shall do so. On the other hand it is possible that we will spend the latter half of August at Gull Lake.

Mrs. Simons is getting along very nicely and I think is becoming more sure of herself in the matter of walking. You may be aware that she broke a bone in her left leg three years ago.

With best wishes, I remain

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Simons