

Mr. W. C. Coleman, December 21, 1950

find that this year, 1949-1950, there are substantially 473 students professing a Baptist preference who are being instructed and guided by Rev. Charles W. Thomas, who has represented both the national and state denomination in educational work. This number is somewhat smaller than in some other years because the enrollment is not as large now in the schools as it was immediately following the close of the last war. In addition to the large group looked after by Rev. Mr. Thomas at K.U., he has also under his general supervision more than 200 Baptist students attending Haskell Institute, the well-known Indian school at Lawrence.

My four children have all graduated from K.U. and seven grandchildren have either completed their work at K.U. or are now students. As you doubtless will recall, Dr. Frank Strong, for eighteen years chancellor of the state university, was an active and faithful member of the Baptist Church, and the Baptist Church has always been well represented in the faculty.

Personally I feel that the movement to largely increase the buildings and equipment at Ottawa might better be spent in under-girding many of the rural churches of the state that are badly in need of support. I am writing plainly to you, but I do not expect to make the matter an issue in the Journal-World.

As you may recall, Mrs. Simons, who passed away two years ago, was formerly an Ottawa girl and had many friends and acquaintances in Ottawa. She always spoke kindly of you for starting with your bare hands and building up a great institution.

With every wish for a happy holiday season, I remain

Sincerely yours,

W. C. Simons

WCS:bjh