

June 15, 1991  
Our 45th Wedding Anniversary

To Evan, Timothy, Martha, Jon, and Mary

Dear Children,

I have thought about writing this letter for a long time, and so today I started it. I really started thinking about it before Christmas. Dad and I were at an annual Christmas Party we attend, and someone said they had heard our house we lived in on Samford campus was going to be torn down. A short time later your Dad told me that Peggy had taken Evan III to a class at Samford and decided to drive up to show him where his Dad used to live. When she got there all she found was a hole in the ground. At first she thought she was in the wrong place - then realized it was really gone.

Samford is celebrating it's 150th Anniversary this year. I realize 28 years at Samford, and a total of 30 years in the employ of Alabama Baptist isn't very long, but had always thought when we left there that since they called our house "the Zeiger house" the name would not be forgotten.

All the above leads me to tell you a few things that I would like to remind you of, you may already know most of this.

When your Dad and I were first married we decided we should tithe our income - so we did. That continued for several years. One day your Dad came home and said that Samford had hired a man to lead them in a fund raising campaign and the man said he was a double tither. That got him to thinking that we should do likewise. The Lord was good and so in a few years we were double tithers. We continued to increase our giving each year and as we reached retirement we were able to give 50% to the Lord's work. We are still trying to keep that up. We were able to give a good bit to the Samford drives. I'm not bragging on us - just on the Lord.

I am going to brag on your Dad now. He was and is a hard worker. When we first came to Samford there were folks living near the campus that didn't want it there. We would be awakened at night by threatening phone calls. Still, without much sleep, off the next day he would go. We finally had to have an unlisted number. Your Dad was the engineer with the know-how to move the old campus to the new campus. He planned the easiest way (none of it was very easy) to move the library as well as all the rest of it. Your Dad was Business Manager, overseer of Purchasing, over the Physical Plant, and then they asked him to take over as Athletic Director, and all at the same salary. So he really had four jobs for the price of one. He was always aware that the money coming to Samford was, for the most part, "widows and orphans money" as he called it, and was a sacred trust to be used carefully. A well know cartoonist did a cartoon of him that showed the short hair, bow tie, heavy eyebrows, and said "turn off that light". I realize Samford has a lot of money now, but in those days it was a different story.

Many times the phone would ring and your Dad would be calling to ask me if we had any money in the bank. He would say he had a student that didn't have the money for his tuition, so we came to his rescue. If they would, I'm sure there are many former students we could step forward and say, Mr. Zeiger made it possible for me to go to Howard/ and or Samford. We were able to contribute money to the ACapella choir fund on many occasions for many years to enable choir members to go on choir trips overseas, and in the states, who otherwise might not have been able to go. Some of them may have known who helped them, but most did not. A lot of this you already know, but maybe not all.

You children may not have always had everything you wanted, but for the most part I think you had everything you needed, and for that I'm thankful.

I've already made this too long, but thought it might be of interest to you or maybe to your children in years to come. There were many nights your Dad dug ditches, or stayed with his men who did, all night until whatever was broken was fixed. There were also times when they came and called him out of church or prayer meeting because a leak on a roof was ruining a carpet, or there was stopped up plumbing in the dormitories. He was never too good to do it all.

I hope you will have a chance to go by Samford and see the huge beautiful three story dormitory being built on the site of our house. Many students can benefit from living there.

Today, as you know, Dad stays busy with Church Stewardship work and finds time to do the fun things (like flying) that he loves to do. He's a great man and you can be proud that he is your father.

We are so proud of all of you and of your husbands and/ or wives, and of all our precious grandchildren. We love you all dearly. I am also aware that some, if not all, of you are following in his footsteps as far as giving is concerned. That's wonderful.

Love, *Mom*

I plan to give a copy of this letter to you on your Dad's 70th Birthday celebration.