

Aug. 8, 1974

Dear Mother + Margaret,

I promised you a long letter so here goes! Hope that you had a happy day yesterday. You're really doing well to reach 82! We thought about you and wished that we could be there to help celebrate. Our love and prayers are with you always.

We are enjoying the coolness here at Lake Nojiri. Ruth just loves it here. She enjoys golfing, swimming, sunning, sailing etc. Tonight a bunch of the kids plan to climb Mt. Miyako – they want to get to the top in time to see the sun-rise and have their breakfast up there. There has been quite a revival among the young people here this year so almost every evening they have mtgs. by the lake with singing, prayer + sharing. Ruth is making lots of new friends + enjoys hearing from her school friends who are scattered for the summer.

We plan to go back home on the 10th and it looks

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like we'll be quite busy. Rev. + Mrs. Stewart + 2 daughters from Salem will be visiting us the last two weeks of Aug. School starts Sept. 3rd and I will be starting the English classes again. Also I'm Vice President of P.T.A. this yr. We are having a retreat to plan the yrs. activities on Sept. 5th + 6th. The Sniders return to the field Sept 1st and we are getting a Visa worker this fall so much find her lodging etc. Our church group is growing slowly... We had a good camp (27 attended) We had all ages 5-65 and really felt that we became a Church family. We had testimony mtg. on one evening and it was really thrilling to hear how the Lord had led each one into the knowledge of Salvation. Several children testified that they were saved + witnessed before their unsaved parents. Another young man that Jake has been teaching for several months confessed his faith in Christ.

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Along with all of this we have wedding plans to make. Carol and Ken plan to come to Japan around Dec. 16th and the wedding will probably be Dec. 19th (not definite) Ken's Dad is paying their way over and his whole family may come (6 in all.) [sic] It will make it so nice for Ken if they can come but I get sort of panicky (sp) when I think of entertaining millionaires! Ken + Carol are both working – Ken at a Pulp Mill and Carol in a Japanese restaurant. She speaks mostly Japanese from 5-11 every day. The owner of the restaurant is a Japanese and he also owns two fancy hotels in Atami, Japan – So he told the kids that they can go there for their Honey-moon [sic] free! That's really something as it's usually \$50-\$80 per night. Carol has already bought her wedding dress but otherwise not too

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many plans are finished. They have ambitious plans for the future. They will both graduate from Aldersgate next Spring – Ken will have a degree in Theology + Carol in Religious Education. Then they plan to go to S.P.C. where Ken will work for his degree in Business Administration, then on to Seminary, then, hopefully the mission field. We know that the Lord will lead them as they commit their lives to Him.

Mark is back from Germany and is taking his old job at the mill. He doesn't write often but we hear about him from John + Lorna. Lorna just has about three more weeks to wait for the arrival of the baby. They are happy and excited and the Dr. seems to thin that everything is fine – Lorna is young and healthy. It's nice that her family are all nearby. Paul plans to be in Coos Bay sometime in Aug. so maybe will be there for the big occassion [sic]. If the baby is a boy

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they plan to name it Chad. If it's a girl the will call her Terra-

Lynn. They want it to be a boy.

Is Phyllis still with you? I'm going to try to make a tape to send her soon. I wish that she could come over for Carol's wedding. I doubt if any of the boys make it.

It is good to hear that the Toddville Church continues to grow. We are looking forward to the time when we can worship with you all again.

I'll have to send your check after we get back to Tokyo as we don't have our check book up here. We should have our farm payed [sic] for by the end of this year and then will have to save our money for remodeling the house + furnishing it when we retire.

General Conference must have been interesting

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this year. We were excited and proud that Elmer Parsons was chosen Bishop! We will miss them here

in Japan. The Missionary Community is dwindling – so many are going on furlough or to stay.

The high cost of living and the slow growth of Christianity are discouraging factors. I guess that America is having her share of problems too.

I must close + get this in the mail.

With much love,

Florence + All