

Jan. 4, 1976

Dear Mom, Margaret + Phyllis,

It doesn't seem possible that 1975 is gone and 1976 is already 4 days old! We hope that it will be a joyous year for you all with much of the Lord's Presence.

Are you all back in Iowa now? How was the trip? Write and tell me about your Christmas.

We had an exciting and busy time. Activities started early in December with A Capella Concerts + Cheer-leading practice for Ruth. Carol + I baked dozens of Christmas cookies for 70 English students + 75 S.S. [Sunday School] children. Jake was kept busy with the new building project (Plumbers, Carpenters, Carpet, painters, furniture, stove man etc.) Ken spends quite a bit of time on the crowded trains going to his Eng. Classes.

We had our Church Christmas on the 21st in our new Chapel. We had the

S.S. Program at 10:30 and

-Page Break-

2

the place was packed (about 70-75) people. Then we had 30 Adults + 10 Children for Church. They are all so happy about the new Bldg. Two people were Baptized. Afterward we all ate together (Japanese Pot-luck.)

We had our family Christmas on the 25th. We made Sukiyaki since we'd had Turkey for Thanksgiving. We all received nice gifts (mostly clothes.) I got a coat, 2 dresses + a purse, also a vase + some cushions and a pearl pin. Ken + Ruth got Cameras. Carol got a purse, several sweaters and some boots. Ruth got a robe. Jake got a sweater, tie, book and cover for his desk. Jake + Ken got pearl tie pins + cuff links + Carol a necklace.

On the 29 [sic] we all went to Nojiri and spent 2 days in the snow. Jake, Ken and Ruth

went skiing but Carol and I enjoyed reading by the fire-place. The scenery was really beautiful and it was a

-Page Break-

3

change from the regular routine. We came back on the 1st. It was a good day to travel as there were no trucks on the road. Even so, it took us 5 ½ hrs (one way.)

Ken and Carol have been here 3 months + are a big encouragement to us. Ken sometimes gets frustrated because he's the only one who can't speak Japanese. He's really learned how to get around Tokyo, though.

Ruth's school starts on Jan. 6th and the busy basket-ball season, exams, excursion [sic] etc. Graduation is just around the corner for her. She has already been accepted at S.P.C. for next Fall. We hate to think of our last one leaving.

We have so much to Praise

the Lord for. On Dec. 7th Jake's testimony along with Captain Fuchida's was shown on world-wide television on the Rex Humbard Program. Many

-Page Break-

4

people have written that they'd seen it and we pray that it will have eternal results. Then the other day we received a letter from Bobby Hite (one of the fellows who was in prison with Jake) He said that both he and his wife have been saved! He said that after 30 years he finally understood what Jake had been trying to tell him all this time.

It is also miraculous the way the Lord has provided money for our building. Our original plan was to build a \$3,000-\$4,000 pre-fab classroom. However the people really wanted a larger building which could be used as a Chapel. The Mission Bd. said

that they would loan us \$4,000
but couldn't give more. Carol
was in Oregon at the time and
asked the Salem people to
pray for this need. They did
pray but also pledged to send
us \$5,000. This along with

-Page Break-

5

what our people could raise
made it possible to build
a \$10,000 upstairs Bldg. above
our car-port. Then one day
a Japanese pastor friend
visited us. We had befriended
him when he was a young
Seminary student shortly after
the war. His father had kicked
him out because he became a
Christian + wanted to be a preacher.
Anyhow, he said that he'd
never forgotten our kindness
to him and for 20 years had
hoped that someday he could
do something nice for us.
Recently, his father had died +
he inherited some money. He
gave us \$4,000! ! [sic] We couldn't
believe it. This bought carpet,

stove, curtains, electric organ,
pulpit furniture etc. Its [sic] small
but nice.

One man gave us a
ping-pong table to put
in it. It fills half of the

-Page Break-

6

room – so now we're think- [sic]
that we'll have to enclose
part of the downstairs
for a ping-pong room. One
thing leads to another!

I'm still going to TOPS
I reached my goal of 130 lbs
in Nov. so now it's a matter
of keeping it off. That's hard
at Holiday time. The dress
that you sent, Phyllis, is
a little large but I can
wear it. I think that my
size now is 15 or 14 ½. I got
two dresses for Christmas so
am not so hard up as I was.

We are having a mild
winter here. I guess that
they are getting bad blizzards
in some parts of the world.

Paul is a Civilian again as

of Dec. 26th. He's planning on going back to Oregon and attending college to study Agriculture. Eventually, I guess that he wants to buy a farm.

John, Lorna + Terra are fine and so is Mark. Mark has

-Page Break-

bought a house but haven't heard whether he's moved yet or not.

What do you hear from Martin + Clark? Do they like the Air Force?

How are you feeling Margaret? It must seem good to be back home again. We were glad to hear that John Green is back in Toddville again – we're praying that the Church will continue to grow. Well this letter is getting too long so I'll sign off.

With much love,

Florence + All