

April 8, 1976

Dear Mom, Margaret

+ Phyllis,

I just put some  
sweet-potatoes in the oven  
to cook. It's almost 9:00 P.M.  
but Ken is usually hungry  
when he gets home from  
teaching at 10:00. We are  
all a little tired tonight  
as we just returned last  
night from a trip to Osaka.  
In fact it was a busy 3 or  
4 days. On Sun. Jake, Ruth  
and I took the train to  
Hitachi to attend a wedding. We  
returned on Sun. evening and on  
Mon. morning we left, by car, for  
Osaka. We enjoyed the trip as it  
was a beautiful day. Mt. Fuji was so  
pretty and we took lots of pictures.  
We arrived in Osaka at 5:00 P.M. and  
had dinner and a meeting with the  
missionaries and Visa [Volunteers In Service Abroad] workers. We have  
4 missionaries 8 Visa workers and 3  
children. Rev. Gould was there and  
spoke to us. On Tues. we had Mission  
Mtg. while the kids went sight-seeing.  
We drove back yesterday stopping

off for some sight seeing [sic] in Kyoto.

The cherry blossoms were at their best! So beautiful!

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Ken and Carol had a few days off during Japanese school vacation. They took the train to Kyoto and Hiroshima and then back to meet us in Osaka. Today everyone is back to work again except Ruth's school doesn't begin until Tuesday April 13<sup>th</sup>.

She is happy to have a little time to relax before beginning the busy play-practice schedule and her last ¼ of her Senior year. She meets on Sat. evenings with a group of young people from her school + another school for a prayer meeting. They met here last Sat. night. They are an enthusiastic bunch. She is getting excited about S.P.C.

I've been reading about all of the storms you've been having in the U.S. We haven't had any storms but the weather has been quite cold for April. There's still lots of snow in the Mts.

It's good to hear that you're  
having good mtgs. with Bro. Seebree.  
We are planning to have some  
special Evangelistic Services on May 8<sup>th</sup>  
and 9<sup>th</sup>. We are praying that new  
people will come. Ken + Carol contact [sic]  
some new people through their

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English classes so we  
hope that some of them  
will want to come. We  
are starting planning for  
the Easter Services, too. Our  
attendance has been down  
a little since vacation  
started but should pick up  
again when school starts.  
Japanese schools begin their  
new school year in April.

We've completed the ping-  
pong room below our  
Church. It really isn't much of a  
room – just an enclosed place  
for the table with a cement floor.  
The young people seem to enjoy  
it.

Did I tell you that Ken's family  
are coming to Japan in June? Ken +

Carol will join the group for a tour of the Orient (Hong Kong, Singapore, Bali, Phillipines [sic], Hawaii, etc.) Sounds exciting.

Rev + Mrs. Walrath will be leading the tour.

We were sorry to hear of Mary Dickens [sic] death. The older ones are going one by one.

I'm feeling fine. Its [sic] a struggle to keep my weight down to 130-133.

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On April 23<sup>rd</sup> I'm going with some of the members of our TOPS Group to Misawa to attend a Japan Area Mtg. It should be interesting. They have work-shops + interesting programs and an Awards banquet on Sat. evening. Misawa is quite a distance north of here + I've never seen that area of Japan so look forward to the trip. I'm eligible [sic] to enter the "Baggy-dress" competition. Everyone who has lost more than 25 lbs. displays their baggy-dress which used to fit!

How are all of you? Feeling better I hope. Spring usually helps cure some of the aches and pains. Carol went to the Dr. for a

physical the other day. She seems  
to catch one cold after another. The  
Dr. said she seemed to be alright  
but should try to get more  
exercise.

It's bedtime so I better sign  
off.

Love + Prayers,

Jake, Florence + All