

Osaka Army Hospital

Sept. 13, 1951

Dear Folks,

It is with a heavy heart and yet with great Thanksgiving to God that I write this letter. Our little Paul has been laying at death's door since yesterday morning. He was stricken suddenly with the dreaded disease encephalitis or "sleeping sickness". Sunday afternoon he seemed tired out and went to bed. He slept all night + most of Monday and seemed to have a high fever. Tuesday we called a Japanese doctor. He said that Paul had tonsillitis. Wed. AM he started having convulsions one after another. Through answered prayer, they provided him an emergency care and admitted him to the army hospital. He has been in a post. convulsive coma ever since. Yesterday evening the Dr. said that he had less than a 50% chance to live. They started giving him oxygen and feeding him through the veins. About midnight his breathing about stopped because of the lung being filled with mucuos [sic] – As a last resort they performed a trach- uotimy (sp) [sic] operation. Four doctors + two nurses went into the room with very glum faces. My how we prayed + the Lord in his great mercy brought Paul through the operation. They inserted a device in his throat which help him breathe + also suctions the mucous out of the

lung. They then put him in an oxygen tent and packed him in ice + alcohol to bring his fever down. Even then it soared to over 106.3 several times. All during the night we watched + prayed. How wonderful it is to have our trust in the Lord at times like this. Promises from the Bible are so precious “when

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thou goest through the waters I will be with thee.” and “call upon me in the day of trouble and I will deliver you.” The Lord has sustained both Jake + I in a wonderful way. This morning Paul seems more relaxed, temp. 104 and is breathing freely (of course by means of oxygen tent) The Doctor says he is better but will be in critical condition for at least 48 more

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hours. Now we are praying that no relapse will occur + that no bad after effects [sic] such as paralysis remain – Please tell the church people to pray – The Lord has surely guided the surgeon, pediatrician + nurses. They watch him every moment. We are resting in the Lord “He is our trust + hope - a very present help in times of trouble Don’t worry – just pray + believe) (more later) Paul just had blood transfusion – Love,

Florence