

1/8/54

Dear Folks,

We are getting to be real Japanese. We are sitting here sipping green tea and eating sweet beans. Jake is studying Japanese and Carol is sitting on the davenport.

I am sorry to be so slow in writing to thank you for the lovely Christmas box. The boys enjoy the domino game and books so much. Our things were just right too – Thanks to all of you!

Continued Sat. morning. I wanted to get this letter finished yesterday but instead we spent the evening making a tape recording to send to you folks. We will send it slow mail so probably it will take from 3 weeks to a month to get there. I hope that you can play it on Russell + Fern's recorder. Jake said to tell you that it is made to play at fast speed and if played on slow speed it will sound funny. Please let the Toddville + No. 1 [Northern Iowa] Church folks listen to it too.

We are all feeling fine but a little tired after the Christmas + New Year festivities. The whole family, except Mark, is sleeping late this morning. He got me up at 5:30 so I am getting this letter written before breakfast. Carol woke up in the night too so while I fed her I studied Japanese.

We have had an unusually mild winter thus far. Hope that it continues. We are busier than ever if that is possible. Jake was made Superintendent of the Mission from the first of the year so has lots of new responsibilities. He along with the other members of the evangelistic team are concentrating their efforts in Kobe this winter. We used to have a church there but during the war it was destroyed [illegible] the Christians scattered. They

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are passing out tracts + holding 3 or 4 services per week. Jake is also ~~ha~~ attending language school several afternoons a week so, you see, he is quite busy.

How do you like America Francis?
I'm sorry that I couldn't be there to welcome you. We are eagerly waiting for news of the new boy or girl –

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We surely do enjoy our four. Baby Carol will be three months old tomorrow. She weighed 11 lbs. this morning.

I have to close + get dinner. We are going to have chicken soup, baked sweet potatoes + pumpkin pie without the crust. Love to all,

Florence Jake Paul John Mark Carol