

REFIOR LAW OFFICE

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February 24, 1986

Dear Pam, Nikki and Laura,

Here in Japan it is Monday, February 17, 1986. I am standing in the hallway on the dining car of the bullet train waiting for the dining room to open. We are traveling rapidly across the countryside. We left Okayama station a short while ago. Because it is approximately 10:30 a.m. here on Monday, it is approximately 8:30 p.m. Sunday night there in Indiana. I imagine that you are already home from church and that the girls are thinking about getting ready for bed (or at least they should be).

I am on my way to Gifu-ken to greet Dave and Donna Brown and their children. I have some free time now on the bullet train so I want to write this letter to you in order to record many of the things that have happened on this trip. The Lord has certainly blessed abundantly and even far beyond expectations.

It has been ten days since I left home. Remember how we had to fight a blizzard on our way to the airport in South Bend. We were nearly blinded on the road as we tried to pass slow moving semis. When we reached the airport our time schedule was rather close, but fortunately I made the plane. During the flight to Chicago I was sitting near some other people from Kosciusko County and we had a nice chat. My lay over in Chicago was relatively uneventful and I boarded a DC-10 for Los Angeles. Unfortunately the departure for Los Angeles was considerably delayed. I had been expecting a two hour lay over in L.A. to see E.J. and Shirley, but the lay over was reduced to only about an hour. When I came off the plane there were E.J. and Shirley. It was really great to see them. They were in a very good mood. E.J. had met his deadline with the machine he was building the day before and it had worked. He seemed to be greatly relieved and quite relaxed. Unfortunately we had to go to a different terminal and we made a mistake about the northwest terminal. This meant that I was only able to spend approximately 15 minutes of quality time talking and fellowshiping with E.J. and Shirley. But it was delightful for me and I greatly appreciate the fact that they took so much time and trouble to meet me there at the airport. I was the last person on the plane and boarded the plane just before it prepared to take off.

page 2

Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

There were quite a few extra seats on the plane and I hoped that I would be able to stretch out on three or four seats. I was in the center section with an aisle seat. There were four seats across that section. At the aisle at the other end of the section was a real slob. His accent revealed that he was definitely from the East Coast. He was cocky and about as obnoxious a person as I have ever been around. In fact, even to be that close to him and hear him talk to people and watch his mannerisms made me literally sick to my stomach. I could see that he wanted to sort of "crowd me out" to get me to move so that he could have the entire section to lay down. However, I had already put my briefcase on the seat to my left and I sort of "protected" my territory. Two or three hours after take off he gave up his rather obvious efforts to get me to move, and he actually got up and left. That allowed me to stretch out. I lifted the arm rests and I had four seats across for my bed. I had pillows and a blanket and it really was suitable for sleeping. Unfortunately, in the seat in front of me was a little baby. I think the flight was about 12 hours to Japan and I do not believe there was one 15 minute stretch when that baby was not screaming with a blood curdling scream. I simply could not sleep under that circumstance. However, that time turned out to be very valuable. Before I left for Japan I had prepared my messages but I had not had time to produce the visual aids for a message. The tragic death of the seven astronauts on the space shuttle had just occurred in America and I was sure that the shuttle tragedy would also be big news in Japan. I was hoping that when I arrived in Japan I would be able to obtain one of the Japanese newspapers which reported the explosion of the Challenger. I used my time on the flight to draw and color in bold headlines to be taped on to various newspapers. The headlines I made were "one in heaven," "Jesus only way," "Good news! abundant life, hope, eternal life!," and "You decide!" It turned out that my messages using those visual aids were the most significant and greatly blessed messages. I used varying forms of that theme of the space shuttle news followed by the "real" news twice in Hiroshima, in Kawano City, and at the Takamatsu Christian Center Church. The Lord greatly used those messages as I will explain a little later. Also, on the plane was a retired railroad engineer. He became curious about what I was doing and finally he asked if I was an artist. That gave an opportunity to talk with him. When I explained to him what I was doing I think it surprised him but at least it was a brief opportunity to witness. The type of drawing that I was doing made it such that if the flight had been bumpy I could not have completed those visuals. I believe that was the smoothest transoceanic flight I have ever had.

page 3

Pam, Laura, Nikki
February 24, 1986

The plane arrived in Tokyo and there was a lay over there. I got off the plane and went into the airport. I had left my baggage and my boarding pass on the plane so I had to go through the trouble of getting a new boarding pass before they would let me back on the plane. That experience reminded me in a graphic way of the difference of lifestyle, procedure and thinking of the Japanese people. I had wondered if I was going to have the lingering effects of the flu I had suffered immediately before leaving for Japan. I had been so very sick, and I had received so many reports that following the worst symptoms of that type of flu, one could expect to be wiped out and without energy for approximately one week thereafter. Because of the crowded schedule on my trip to Japan I simply did not have time to be dibilitated in that way. The Lord really answered prayer in that regard and I have not felt any weakness, lack of energy, or other symptoms of having been sick. God really answered prayer in that regard.

I boarded the plane for Osaka and that flight was uneventful. By this time there were more Japanese on the plane than foreigners. There had not been very good communication concerning what to expect when I arrived in Osaka. Ralph Cox is particularly weak at being considerate of people and their individual needs. Certainly he is not malicious but he is so wrapped up in what he is doing that he is oblivious to the needs of others at times. I waited for my suitcase to appear at the baggage area but it never did. As all of the other passengers left the baggage area and went through customs, I remained behind with the task of filling out Japanese forms. You probably remember that there is no such thing as a small job or an easy task in Japan. It requires multiple steps and many people to do anything. And so there I was with the frustration of not having my luggage and trying to do my best to remain patient while waiting for the Japanese to complete a task that should have been easy but of course was not for them. After the forms were completed I went through customs. I wondered if Yuso Kurokawa would be there to greet me. He was not. I decided I must call Yuso, so I went to the hotel that was in the airport itself. When I called Yuso it was already late. He was at home and when I asked him for any advice, the best he could do was for me to find the Shinkan^{to} to Hiroshima and call him when I arrived in his city. At the desk of the hotel there was a man who could speak English and he helped me with the schedule of the trains and informed me how to get to Hiroshima's bullet train station. I walked out into the bitter cold to find the bus I had been directed to. Just as I was trying to communicate with a young woman the hotel clerk caught up with me and told me that they had given me wrong information. I greatly appreciated how he went out of his way to correct his mistake. I was able to catch the last bus of the night to the train station. At the train station I managed to get my ticket and I was on my way to Hiroshima. When I got off the bullet train at Hiroshima Yuso Kurokawa was there to greet me. That was a tremendous blessing and joy to see my dear brother Yuso. We had a very enjoyable greeting and we were both anxious to ask many questions of the other. We took a taxi to Yuso's house. I had never been in Hiroshima before and I was

page 4
Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

watching intently out of the window. Actually, Hiroshima did not look much different than Takamatsu or any other Japanese city to me. Once at Yuso's house I greeted Tomiko. She is about eight months pregnant and she looked absolutely great. Even though it was already past midnight we stayed up late and talked for a considerable length of time. I was very happy to be with the Kurokawas. It came time to go to bed. The Kurokawas were renting a rather large Japanese house. (They just opened the curtains and door to the dining car, so I was the first one to go in. I ordered curry rice and hot coffee since it is after 11:00 o'clock a.m. I am sitting at a table next to the window looking out at the ocean of ~~the~~ house tops as we race at high speeds along the track.)

Yuso has a guest room that he says is for his Christian friends. Apparently he provides a place for missionaries and out of town Christians to stay with some frequency. (My curry rice just came... it is delicious. I am thinking that Nikki and Laura would like very much to partake of this curry rice. You know, as I look out the window, so much of Japan is very dull and unattractive.) So much has happened here in Japan I find that I am having difficulty even remembering what all I did those first few days in Japan. I should have my prayer notebook with me where I have, as a part of recording my thanks and praise to the Lord, recorded many of the things that occurred. I set the alarm and got up early to have my quiet time. The first item on the schedule was at the new church started by Yuso Kurokawa. It was an English Bible class taught by a helping missionary named "Jan." I do not remember her last name. She seemed like a very nice young woman and had obviously tried her best to prepare a good presentation for the lesson. Next was the worship service. Yuso asked that I give my testimony of becoming a Christian in a period of about ten minutes, which I was happy to do. Then after a song I delivered the message. Yuso was my interpreter. I believe things went very well. Because my luggage had not arrived, I was speaking in the churches wearing the same red plaid shirt I had worn on the plane Friday and during all of the rest of the trip.... and of course, the same underwear and socks. To round out the dress wardrobe, I was wearing my white Addidas. After we finished with that service we traveled to the Hiroshima Christian Center Church. There I met Mr. and Mrs. Hoffman who are a retired couple. Mrs. Hoffman had been Stella Cox's roommate in college. There was a nice group there including a retired Japanese pastor, a relatively new Christian who was leading the service, two brand new Christians, and a young woman who was diligently seeking. Yuso interpreted again and I believe the Lord blessed the ministry of the Word. There was a nice opportunity to talk and have fellowship following the service. From there we went to a nearby department store and it had a section for large men. There I was able to get two pairs of socks, two pair of underwear, and a white shirt. We went directly from that store to the bullet train station to catch the train to Fukayama. I really did not know

page 5
Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

what type of meeting was going to be held there. We arrived early enough that Yuso and I could go to see the nearby Fukayama castle. It was very beautiful and very impressive. Then we walked to the new castle hotel which is a new and very, very elegant hotel. Shortly after we arrived at the hotel I was very surprised to see Stella Cox. I had no idea she would be at that meeting. I noticed that she was all dressed up. Next, Paul Bridgman came and he had on formal attire as well. I began to realize that I was the main speaker at a rather fancy affair. And indeed it was. The room where the meeting was held was spectacular. The waiters were all dressed in tuxedos. As the guests arrived it was obvious that this was a formal dinner meeting.... And there I was with my red plaid sport shirt, white sox and white tennis shoes. I met Paul Bridgman's new wife, Violet. She was a very nice gal. I was so pleased to watch Paul Bridgman as he led the meeting and interacted with people and with his wife. I had last seen Paul Bridgman five years before and he was at that time really a boy. Now he is a man. His wife is also blessed with musical talent and the two of them did a couple of special musical numbers which were great. I can definately see that this couple is going to be used much by the Lord in Japan. Paul Bridgman was my interpreter. He is really talented at interpretation. At the beginning of my message I broke the ice by explaining to the audience that all lawyers in America wear this type of attire when they dress up for a formal function. I pulled up my pants and showed them my striped white socks and everyone had a good laugh about that. It was very obvious that there were many people praying because the power of the Holy Spirit was evident. This was the very first meeting in Fukayama for Paul and Violet. This was the introduction of their ministry in the area and was a very significant opportunity for contacts. There were approximately thirty-five in attendance, and many were individuals of some status in the community. Most significantly, about half of the audience were men. It was clear that every person in the room was "with me" and as I spoke I sensed that I was communicating directly to the hearts of these people. Many in the room were hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ for the very first time. After the conclusion of the meeting itself, Paul and Violet Bridgman had great opportunities to mix with the people and further establish the foundation for starting a new work there in Fukayama. Yuso and I left the meeting greatly gratified and thankful to God for what he had done there. We returned to Hiroshima by bullet train. Greg Chase was at the station to pick us up. It was good to see Greg. I had not seen him for eight or ten years. He and Cindy and their kids had moved to Hiroshima less than six months before. We went to Yuso's house and had a cup of coffee. Then I gathered my belongings and Greg and I went to his house. There I greeted Cindy and we talked for some time before going to bed. That first Sunday in Japan had been miraculous and exciting. I went to bed with a very real sense that the Lord had used me and with great confirmation that this trip was of God.

page 6
Pam, Nikki and Laura
February 24, 1986

The next morning I got up early and had my quiet time. Then we had breakfast together. I met for the first time Greg and Cindy's children. I want to tell you, that place was a zoo!! Those kids are basically out of control. It was unbelievable. I learned later that the Chases are "on probation" with the mission. Apparently Greg has been very foolish in the spending of money and his is greatly in the red. Also, at the last house they had lived in they had wrecked it and it cost the mission a tremendous amount of money to clean it and fix it after the Chases moved out. They moved into a brand new house in Hiroshima and the ministry told them that if they did not keep that house in order, then they would be asked to leave the mission. Furthermore, the mission is watching very carefully concerning Greg. He has apparently developed a reputation for being lazy, sloughtful, unkempt, and basically without initiative or drive. I believe that Greg's heart is right and he seems to have good Bible knowledge. We need to pray for Greg and Cindy and the kids that the Lord will mold them into the servants he wants them to be and that they will have effective ministry there in Hiroshima. I had been planning to go to the Hiroshima Peace Park with Greg on Monday morning. We set it up to meet Yuso there. Apparently Greg had simply planned on cancelling his language lesson on that morning. However, the old Japanese pastor who is serving as his language teacher would not allow Greg's irresponsibility and demanded that he take his lesson. So Greg gave me a ride to the Peace Park and I met Yuso there. We had a very interesting time at the park which commemorates the place where the first nuclear bomb was ever dropped on civilaziation. When were were finished Yuso asked me to please tell many Americans about the horror of nuclear war and the need for peace. At the appointed time Greg Chase came to pick us up. We traveled to Chases' house. Cindy had been planning to fix lunch for us, but I said that I would take everyone out for lunch. The Chases packed all of their kids together and we went to Yuso's house (which is clear across Hiroshima, a city of more than one million people), and met Tomiko Kurokawa and their youngest child, Yuzu. We had a delightful lunch together at a restaurant that was somewhat similar to an American restaurant (like a Dennys, for example)except for the Chases' kids, they were loud, obnoxious, out of control, and neither Greg nor Cindy kept them restrained. Nonetheless, it was very nice. When it was time to go and I looked for the bill, I learned that Yuso had secretly already obtained the bill and paid for lunch. From there we went to Yuso's house and had a delightful time of fellowship. I had been planning to travel to Matsuyama Monday night, but I received a call from Ralph Cox saying that Pastor Ishikawa was now being forced to spend full time tending to his mother who was in the hospital. Apparently they did not have enough money for a nurse, so the family was left with the responsibility of caring for the relative in the hospital (very different than in the States). So it was arranged that I would stay at Chases' until the next morning when I would catch a hydrofoyle boat to Matsuyama. That gave an opportunity for a very nice meal with the Chases, Cindy fixed Japanese food and it was quite a feast. We talked until late at night and then went to bed.

page 7

Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

Tuesday morning I got up with the alarm clock and had my devotions. Cindy fixed Greg and me a quick breakfast. Cindy woke up the two boys to go with us down to the dock. We got into somewhat of a traffic jam, which surprised Greg because it was a national holiday. Perhaps this is one of the problems Greg has - failure to understand what needs to be done and to plan correctly. We just barely made it to the dock before the boat was going to leave. Yuso was there and very anxious that we would miss the boat. He had already purchased my ticket to Matsuyama. There was only time to have one final greeting before I had to get on the boat. The hydrofoyle ride took approximately one hour. When I arrived in Matsuyama Pastor Ishikawa, his wife and two youngest children were with him. We traveled to Matsuyama castle, which was very high and very impressive. That was nice. The Ishikawas do not speak English and I do not speak Japanese. Nonetheless, we had very effective and warm fellowship and communication. It was great to be with those fine people again. I hope that I was an encouragement to them. I took their family out to a nice restaurant for lunch. Because of their poverty, it probably had been a very long time since the family had gone out to a restaurant. (Perhaps never before had the entire family gone out to a restaurant). We had a wonderful time and I was glad to have an opportunity to do something tangible to express my love to the Ishikawas. Following lunch we went back to the Ishikawas' house where the two oldest girls were let out. We then went to a shop which sells ceramics. Apparently Matsuyama is very famous for its pottery and china. The Ishikawas gave me a small gift for each of my girls. Then we went to the train station. We arrived a few minutes before the train was scheduled to depart. It really was great to be with the Ishikawas. They came with me to the platform and saw me off on the train. I tried to get some sleep on the train to Takamatsu, but was not very successful. I did succeed in putting a very painful kink in my neck and back as I tried to get into a position that was relatively comfortable. When I arrived at Takamatsu I did not call the Coxes. I simply took a taxi to their house. I walked in unannounced and had a very warm greeting. I met the helping hand missionaries who are now working in Takamatsu. Stella had planned a supper get together to greet me. Paul and Chris Myer were there with their two little children. Paul and Chris are gigantic in size. Monique is a Philipino-American from Los Angeles. She had studied dance for ten or twelve years. She is in her mid twenties and seems like a very nice young woman. The fourth missionary was John Moore. He is also in his mid twenties, but is such a child I felt a generation gap even though I am only ten or eleven years older than he. It was wonderful to see Ralph and Stella again. We had a very delightful time of fellowship. After the helping hand missionaries left, Ralph and Stella and I continued to talk and fellowship for quite some time. I was put up in Sherry's room upstairs. It was a nice firm mattress with an electric blanket. That was nice. Japan is cold! Less than one week before traveling to Japan I made a special call to Dave

page 8
Pam, Nikki, & Laura
February 24, 1986

Brown to ask him how cold it was in Japan so that I should know what coat to bring. Dave told me that it was not really very cold and suggested that I only bring a trench coat rather than my winter coat. When I see Dave Brown today I plan to give him a kick in the pants for giving me such terrible advice. I have been frozen since being in Japan. Do you remember the piercing cold and the absence of heat in the houses? That first night at Coxes' house I could not help but observe some tremendous frustration on behalf of Chris Myer. In fact, she bluntly said that she would^{be} happy to get on the next plane back to America. Because of the obvious frustration of the Myers, I felt that I was in a unique position to talk with them. I scheduled a breakfast meeting with Paul for Tuesday morning at 7:30. We went to my old "office" - the Greenhouse restaurant. We talked for three hours. I had prayed about a number of ministries during the time in Japan, but one of the very obvious reasons that God brought me to Japan at this time was to counsel with the missionaries who are working with the Coxes. There are many parallels between our situation and that of the Myers. I sensed that the Lord used me in a good way to give guidance and advice to Paul Myer. When we finished our time he asked if it would at all be possible for me to spend some time with Chris. We arranged to have lunch together the following day. Satomi and Takow Tanaka came to Coxes at 1:30 that afternoon. I spent the afternoon talking to them until Pastor Kushida arrived. He drove me to the town of Sakai. When we were in Japan we did not really have that much contact with Pastor Kushida. He and his son showed me the construction that is going on for the new bridge that will connect SHIKOKU Island with the main island of Japan. That was impressive. Then we went to his house where he showed me albums, including many pictures of Hitomi when she was young (Hitomi is the gal who is now at Grace College and for whom we serve as American family members). Mrs. Kushida fixed a delightful Japanese dinner. I was stuffed when we finished. Then we went to a house meeting at one of the members of his church. I gave my testimony to the group and then one of the deacons gave a short Bible study. It was a nice get together. After that Pastor Kushida drove me back to Takamatsu. Again, I stayed up late talking with Ralph and Stella.

The Takamatsu Bible Church is having some very severe difficulties at this time. I had made arrangements to meet at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on Thursday with Pastor Sugihara. We had a good meeting for approximately one and one-half hours. I really believe that I was used by the Lord to give direction and encouragement to Pastor Sugihara. After that I went out to lunch with Paul and Chris Myers. They have been on such a low budget, that they had not been to a nice restaurant since coming to Japan. It was a pleasure for me to be able to treat them to a time out. We had a very significant talk. Again, I believe that the Lord used me to be a very strong encouragement to them. I was able to actually rebuke some errors of attitude and

page 9
Pam, Nikki and Laura
February 24, 1986

correct some conclusions that they had, as well as give them positive advice about what they could do on their own initiative to make their time in Japan much more pleasurable, and much more fruitful in the Lord's service.

After returning from lunch I went to meet Mr. Furukawa. We went out to coffee together and had a good talk, including a chat about things of the Lord. He said that he would come to the party at the Christian Center on Saturday night. Then I went to the widow of Dr. Ishihama. It was a pitiful thing. Again, she is surrounded by such tremendous wealth, but she has nothing. I tried to talk about important things, including life itself, but she would have none of that. I left her house with a pit in my stomach that her heart is cold as stone.

Thursday night I went out to dinner with the Tanaka family. We went to an absolutely fabulous Japanese restaurant. The Japanese feast that I was treated to was perhaps the most wonderful that I have ever experienced. It was a delightful time to talk and share with the Tanaka family. I believe it was another significant time to show love and share the truth to Mr. Tanaka and to Shigetomi Tanaka. Mr. Tanaka had to leave in the middle of the party because of his work schedule. After dinner we went to a nearby coffee shop for a cup of coffee. We took the taxi home to end a very delightful day.

Friday, as with every morning, I got up early and had very exciting devotions with the Lord. Thereafter I had a nice long chat with Stella. That morning was Stella's cooking class and I was the guest speaker. I believe that the message was from the Lord and that it was significant to the women in attendance. It was a large group at the cooking class. When cooking class was over, Ralph and I went out to a coffee shop for about one hour. Then we returned to Coxes' house for lunch. I then set out to see if I could find any of my other friends. I tried without success to see three of my friends. Then I went to the Takamatsu Christian Center and found Mitsuko Shibahara. It was wonderful to see her again. She is doing very well. She was able to report the great news that her mother had just become a Christian and was already scheduled to be baptised. [I am looking out the window of the train now and the ground is completely covered with snow....Now I know I am going to have to^s something to get back at Dave Brown for telling me not to bring my winter coat.!] I asked Mitsuko if she could help me to locate Kunio Takei, a precious Christian brother who had moved to Tokyo and now was back in Takamatsu. She got him on the phone and I was able to talk to him. It was arranged that he would come to the party at the Christian Center on Saturday night.

page 10
Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

Friday night I was scheduled to be the speaker at the weekly couples' meeting at the Coxes' house. There was a very excellent group there, including several seekers who would be in the 35 to 45 age group. Ralph fell when he was trying to sit on his chair and he hurt himself, so he left for some time. Actually I did not know he had hurt himself when he fell and I was very discourteous when I laughed at him and clapped for his performance. He asked before he left that I would initially tell the people how I had become a Christian. I did that, and that led to questions from the group. We just simply continued in a question - answer format rather than having a message as such. However, the questions and answer time was very, very significant. The men who are seeking asked very important questions and gave opportunity to very clearly present the gospel in a forceful way. Again, I am sure that many people were praying because things were going so well, and the Holy Spirit was empowering in bringing to mind scripture that was very appropriate in answer to the questions of these good people. When the meeting broke up Ralph continued to talk to three of the seekers. It was great. After the people left I talked at length with Ralph about his 15 Year Plan. I really am convinced that he is right and I believe that I have a much greater understanding of his vision since I have prayed daily about the matter for these years. It is significant that I will be meeting with Dave Brown who is on the field counsel. I am sure that we will discuss the work of the Coxes and I truly look forward to the opportunity to give a good report concerning the Coxes and to recommend to Dave and through him to the field counsel that they be supportive enablers of the methodology and vision of the Coxes.

Saturday morning I had delightful devotions and then I talked with Stella. I was scheduled to be a speaker to the get together of the Takamatsu missionaries. I believe again that the Lord used my talk in a powerful way with the Helping Hand Missionaries. All of them expressed their appreciation and individually told me how the Lord had used my words to challenge them and to bring them to some significant new commitments and decisions in their walk and service for the Lord. After that I took the train to Zentsugi to the Kagawa Children's Hospital. When I got off the train I got into a taxi and told him I wanted to go to the Children's Hospital. He could not understand. He called up another taxi driver and he could not understand. Finally they saw a housewife walking by and flagged her down. She was able to figure out what I was saying and I finally made it to the Children's Hospital. I had a very excellent get together with the doctors. It was fun to be with them again. After that I went to Dr. Ooshio's house and met his wife and children. His children invited some other children over to see an American. It was a nice time at their house. After that I took Dr. Ooshio out for lunch at a beautiful and expensive restaurant (this is the same restaurant the doctors took our entire family to just before leaving Japan). After a great time of talk together we left and

page 11
Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

Dr. Ooshio gave me a ride back to Coxes in his car. During the ride back to Takamatsu I had the most significant opportunity to talk to Dr. Ooshio about Christianity and things of the Lord that I have ever had. God certainly continued to bless and the presence and power of God were manifest. Then it was time to prepare for the get together at the Takamatsu Christian Center. That turned out to be a very, very significant meeting. There were approximately 45 people there and a number of the people there had never before heard the gospel. The Lord gave me great freedom and power in speaking to the group. It was a very warm and significant evening. Again, it was clear that this was timely and that the Lord had specifically directed for this trip to be made to Japan at this time.

When we got back to the Coxes I had an opportunity to talk at length with Monique. I believe that time was greatly used by God. Then it was time to hit the sack.

Sunday morning I got up early. I was greatly anticipating the day of ministry. The church at Takamatsu Christian Center is a brand new church. Amazingly, there were more than 40 people out for the meeting yesterday morning. Of all the times that I have delivered a message and spoken in Japan, I have never sensed so much direction and motivation by God during a message. The Lord gave me a message to the Christians present and also to the non-Christians present. When I had finished speaking Stella asked the Christians who had that morning, as a result of hearing the Word, made a new commitment to God and made some new decisions concerning serving the Lord to raise their hands. Almost all of the Christians in the room raised their hands. Then Stella asked if there were any non-Christians who believed that what I had said was true and wanted to have eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ. There were four individuals who raised their hands. Satomi's friend, Yukiko Chiba, was there. Surprisingly, so was her beautiful mother and her younger sister. They even stayed for the time of fellowship afterwards. We had good fellowship before it was time to leave to travel to Konan-cho. Stella drove me to the church at Konan-cho and dropped me off. Pastor Yamada was there. This is a brand new work. There were eight people who came, seven of them being young people. Because of the age of the audience I changed my message completely. Instead of preaching the sermon I had prepared, I asked the group if they had ever heard how a person becomes a Christian. They indicated that they had not. And so I used my testimony as the format for presenting gospel. It was very good. My interpreter was a young woman who was teaching at Shikoku Christian College. She had studied at Wheaton College and spoke excellent English. She, Yamada and I then traveled by Yamada's van to Kotohira. I was delighted to meet Mr. Nago and Mr. Ootsuka. One of the messages I had spent the most time preparing before coming to Japan was

page 12
Pam, Nikki & Laura
February 24, 1986

on Joseph. Finally I was able to preach that message. It was a delightful time of fellowship. It was also exciting to me to see both of these men as growing Christians. Mr. Nago has been baptized. Mr. Ootsuka has not yet been baptized but he was the one who actually led the service. (Perhaps you remember that Mr. Ootsuka was the son of the Shinto priest who came to Christ). I wanted to talk with them longer but it was necessary for me to get to the train station to travel to Kawano City.

I had a nice talk with the interpreter while we were traveling, as well as a very wonderful time with Pastor Yamada. I had seen Pastor Yamada earlier in the week when he came to Coxes for a visit. When I got off the train at Kawano I followed the map to the meeting place. I went up to the fourth floor and there was Stella Cox, John Moore, and a number of Japanese. I asked what the schedule was and the meeting I was to speak at was not to start for some time. I said that I would go to a coffee shop and get some supper. Stella suggested that I take a couple of the men with me for English conversation. I was very happy to do that. We went downstairs to the coffee shop and had a delightful time talking. John Moore and two other adults joined us at the restaurant. Following that supper and fellowship we went back up to the center. None of the Japanese present were Christians. The Lord gave great freedom to speak the gospel with urgency to them. It was interesting for me that although Stella has been in Japan for more than 30 years, she is a relatively poor interpreter and often had to ask the Japanese to give her the Japanese word for what I had said in English. (By contract, Satomi Tanaka had done wonderfully well and I asked her if she would be willing to interpret for Paul Meyer. She stated that she would be ecstatic to do that and that she had been praying about an opportunity to use her English ability for the glory of God. I was happy that I was able to make that arrangement because it was clear that John Moore would love to do more ministry of the Word. I trust that this will open up some doors so that his time will be even more significant and that the Meyers will not only be contented but will see tremendous spiritual fruit during their remaining eighteen months in Japan). After the message I went with John Moore down to a nearby sushi shop. We met the same two gentlemen and they joined us. Meanwhile, Stella continued to follow up with a high school student who had attended the service that night. She led that young man to Christ. That was exciting indeed!!! While at the sushi shop I had an experience I had never expected to have in my life. There is a delicacy in Japan which at the same time is quite dangerous. It is the eating of blowfish. If the fish is not prepared correctly, a person will die instantly. There was a man in the sushi shop who was being rather insistant that I try part of the very beautiful dish that he had set before him. The two Japanese men I was with certainly were not doing much to protect me! I decided that I was game

page 13
Pam, Nikki and Laura
February 24, 1986

to try it and so I ate some of that raw fish. Afterwards I was told that it was the toxic blowfish. Fortunately, the Lord protected and everything was fine. We had very delicious sushi and had a good talk with the two men. One of the other raw items of sushi that I ate turned out to be the gonads of a certain sea creature. I guess I just can't fully believe what all Japanese people throw into their stomachs. (Actually it tasted pretty good). Stella then came and got us and took us back up to the center where we talked for some time with this young man who had just received Jesus Christ. That was very thrilling and gratifying. Stella, John and I then traveled back to Takamatsu by car. By that time it was after 11:00 o'clock p.m. An older New Zealand couple, a gal from Australia, and a gal from Tennessee, all from Okyama were there talking with Ralph and Monique when we arrived. I went upstairs and packed for my trip to Gifu. I had to pack that night because Stella had arranged for the New Zealand couple to sleep in the bed where I had been sleeping. After packing I went down with my luggage and then spent some very wonderful time talking with this group of new friends. The gal from Tennessee had a very, very strong accent. That was cute. Of course the people from New Zealand and Australia had their distinctive accents as well. It was 1:30 a.m. before people went to bed. I was just getting ready to brush my teeth when Monique came into the front room where I was about to bed down on the couch. Monique came in to express her sincere appreciation for me coming to Japan. She said that all the Helping Hand workers wished that I could stay longer because I had had such a deep and powerful ministry in their individual lives. She told me some decisions that she had made, in her own life as a result of what I had said. That was gratifying. I led us in a word of prayer and then I went to bed. I set the alarm to get up early so I could have my devotions.

Even though I had only slept for four hours, when the alarm went off I was bright eyed and awake. I had a wonderful time with the Lord this morning. I was going to be leaving rather early so I did not expect to see anyone other than Ralph and Stella. Stella got up to greet me before I left. She expressed her appreciation for my coming and made comments about the ways the Lord had used my time there. (By contrast, I don't think Ralph fully appreciates what other people do and he was cordial but I think oblivious to anything in particular that had occurred during the time in Takamatsu). I had a quick bowl of cereal and a cup of coffee before Ralph took me down to the train station. He took me to the entrance but did not go on with me to the platform for the ferry. I actually was cutting it pretty close. When I got onto the ferry I saw Satomi, Takao and Mrs. Tanaka. We had a delightful but brief farewell greeting. Mrs. Tanaka gave me the wonderful news that the answers that I had given to her the day before concerning the

page 14

Pam, Nikki & Laura

February 24, 1986

problems at Takamatsu Bible Church had caused her to take the matter to the Lord and she had decided to accept my advice and she was very happy that she would be continuing to participate in the ministries of Takamatsu Bible Church. That was really great news. Just as the boat was pulling away Mr. Furakawa arrived. I was able to call out to him with a few words. During the ferry ride to Uno I had a delightful time studying in the book of Psalms. When I arrived at Okayama Station I put my luggage into a locker so that I could go to the hospital where Mr. Matsuda is. Ralph Cox had given me directions and even a little map which he said was sufficient. It turned out that it was a totally insufficient map and it was impossible for me to find the hospital. I regret that I was not able to see Mr. Matsuda, but I do know that God is in control and he was fully aware of the fact that Ralph was going to give such lousey directions. Finally, I could not spend any more time trying to find the hospital and I had to return to the station to meet my train to Gifu. I made the train just fine and that is the point where I started this letter. I have now just gotten off of the bullet train and I am at the stop by Gifu. However, I have gone out of the exit and Dave Brown is not here. I guess I will need to call Dave to see what is going on.

I love you very much. I miss you more than I can express. In fact I think I have missed my family more on this trip than with any previous trip. I am blessed with the most outstanding, loving wife I could ever have and I have the two greatest kids that any man has been privileged to father. I know that God is going to do great things through you Nikki and Laura and I simply challenge you to live your life to the glory of God..... not for my sake but for the Lord's. I am so proud of you girls that I can't even express it in words. Pam, I look forward to this Friday when I can put my arms around you again.....

About ten minutes after arrival at the point where I thought I would meet Dave he showed up. It was really wonderful to greet Dave. He was looking very good. In fact I think he may have lost a little weight. We went to his brown car and traveled to his house. It was, of course, the same house where he lived when I visited the Browns a little more than two years ago. Donna was in the kitchen working. It was wonderful to see her again. She has gained back all of the weight that she had previously lost. It was amazing to see the ~~Brown~~ kids, particularly Abigail. She is now four years old - the same age as Laura when we arrived in Japan in 1980. She is a bundle of energy. Joshua is as expressive as ever. Christopher was just getting over the flu and he was rather lethargic. We had a delightful time of fellowship. I have a very special love for Dave as a Christian brother and it was very significant to be able to talk and share with Dave. Donna fixed a delightful supper and we then had family devotions and a game time. The game was "Orchestra." Abigail, Joshua and Donna took turns being the band conductor. The conductor would designate which

page 15
Pam, Nikki and Laura
February 24, 1986

instruments the various people were to play and what the song was. It was a very good time and the kids were very happy. The Brown kids are full of energy, but there is a striking contrast from the Chase kids. Certainly the Chase kids have love, but the Chase kids are "out of control." The Brown kids are active but the Brown home is certainly in order. We stayed up late talking. It was very nice.

On Tuesday morning I got up early and had my quiet time. Then we had breakfast together. After that we traveled to Hino church for the English class followed by the Bible. This is the same church I visited before which is the daughter church of a larger church in Gifu. There was a rather nice turnout of ladies and two men. I observed the English class and then when it was time for the Bible class I was introduced. The two men were starting to leave when Donna basically intercepted them and explained that this was a very special opportunity to listen to what an American lawyer had to say. The two men decided to stay after all. We started with a question answer time which led into my giving of my testimony, fully explaining the gospel and how a person becomes a Christian, and responding to a number of questions based on that presentation. I believe it was a God-ordained time and the entire spirit of the meeting was seemingly controlled by the Holy Spirit. I think there will be good things to come from that opportunity.

After we finished those meetings we prepared to leave. A lovely Japanese Christian woman had come with us and we were to take her back home. I took a picture of the group to have evidence of the snow that had fallen. I kidded Dave again about his advice that I not bring a coat when it was so cold and there was very much snow in Gifu. After that we traveled to the house of this Japanese lady. She is an upper class Japanese and we had lunch at her house. On the way to her house we had stopped at a Japanese food place and I had paid for a variety of Japanese food. This woman's handicapped daughter who is very intelligent and studying for her master's degree, joined us for lunch. It was a very nice get together. Then we went back to Browns' house. We had a further time of fellowship. Dave and I packed our bags. I had asked to be given the opportunity to take the Browns out to dinner. It was decided that because of the snow, we would go directly from the restaurant to the train station. We went to a restaurant that was somewhat American style (similar in layout to a Greenhouse restaurant). It was nice. At the restaurant was the new assistant pastor of the church there in Gifu. He came and joined us and from that point much of the conversation was in Japanese and there was less opportunity to fellowship with the Browns as such. I had another lovely Japanese meal. It was very delicious. We then piled into Browns' car to go to the train station. [On that Tuesday morning I called you and it was wonderful to be able to

page 16
Pam, Laura & Nikki
February 24, 1986

talk to all three of you. As I said on the telephone, I am missing my family more on this trip than perhaps any previous trip. Nonetheless, I have a confident sense that this trip is ordained of God and God-directed. I do, however, look forward to arriving home two days from now.]

After we arrived at the train station I said goodbye to the Brown kids. They had fallen asleep and they were not very energetic when I was saying goodbye. I believe I developed a fresh relationship with the Brown kids. We had fun together. Dave gave Donna a quick, almost secret kiss goodbye and Dave and I were on our way. Against my insistance Dave purchased my train ticket to Tokyo. The trip to Tokyo really was a change of schedule and out of the way, but it provided a further opportunity to spend a block of quality time with Dave. One of the reasons for coming to Japan was to see my best friend Dave Brown and I was very happy to have that opportunity. It was very helpful to be on a train with someone who knew the route and could read and understand the language. On most of my trips I have been "riding solo" and it has been simply a matter of doing the best I could. So far I have not made a major mistake.

I believe that because I pray every day for the Browns and have done so for years, that even though we have been apart from one another for years, that our relationship has actually deepened. Dave and I have a very special unity in the Lord and we had a most delightful, hilarious, and significant time together on the train. We laughed a lot and we talked about important things. Dave is one with whom I can share my heart openly and talk about spiritual things in a fashion that I cannot do with any other man. That train ride was really one of the most enjoyable highlights of the trip. We arrived at the train station near the Christian Center in Tokyo. Tokyo had just received an unusual amount of snow--perhaps twelve to fourteen inches of fresh snow. Things are a mess in Japan with so many people crowded together anyway, but you should have seen it with all of that snow. We lugged our baggage down the hill and to the Team Center. We checked in and then we went out to a small Japanese restaurant. We had a very delicious supper together. It was amazing to see the amount of filth in that restaurant. Perhaps they do not have a Board of Health here the way they do in America. Again, it was a time for very, very delightful interacton and communication with Dave. We arrived back at Team Center at approximately 10:30. We were in a very nice room with two single beds. The beds actually were quite comfortable. Dave and I talked until approximately 12:30 when we prayed together and went to sleep. It was obvious that Dave was also taking the opportunity to talk about deep things and personal things to a close Christian brother. I think that Dave is without another man with whom he has a relationship of the nature that we have. That was a sheer delight to be able to interact and talk about important things with Dave.

page 17

Pam, Nikki & Laura

February 24, 1986

A rather unusual thing happened right as I was falling asleep. It seemed like the Lord was impressing upon my mind a special need for a matter back in the states. I prayed for the matter and remember consciously thinking that when I get back to the States I will need to ask that person what was occurring at that time because I sensed such a urgency about it. But then very strangely, this morning I was not able to remember the matter for which I prayed even though I remembered praying and thinking that I wanted to find out later why I sensed the urgency to pray about that.

I set the alarm for early in the morning and got up early to have my quiet time. I found the Team Center dining room and there was even hot water there so that I could have some coffee. I had some difficulty getting the heater to work. I hate the cold of Japan and I hate the fact that there is not consistent central heat in the buildings. I am looking forward to being warm again in America. However, that is, of course, a very small matter. And I am certain of the Lord's leading for this trip and I stand in awe of the Lord for what all he had done during this time in Japan. Just as I was finishing my praying I was startled when the door opened and in came a woman. It was Mrs. Peterson, who is the hostess of the Team Center. I thought her question was unusually strange. I was kneeling at the time she came into the room and she asked, "What is the matter? Couldn't you sleep?" She then said that she needed to get the room ready for breakfast. So, I hustled out of there. I went back to the room and Dave and I had a brief chat as we got ready for breakfast. We went down to the dining room and I was very surprised to see Sherrí Cox there. I had never met Sherrí, but I had seen pictures of her many times and had prayed concerning her many times. It was very nice to be able to talk with her very briefly. She was somewhat in a rush because she needed to catch the train to go meet her parents. It was a very special thing to me to see Sherrí at that time since Stella and I had that experience of praying specifically for Sherrí and then receiving the call almost immediately thereafter that Sherrí was sensing the need to come back to Japan to talk about matters in her life with her parents. Praise the Lord. Breakfast was very enjoyable.^{thc} Men and a woman on the field counsel were there. We had a good time of fellowship and a very nice meal. After that I went downstairs with Dave to the two offices. I was able to greet and chat briefly with Vern Strom and Vick Springer as well as some others. That was nice. It was about time for the field counsel meeting to start and Dave would be occupied with that. Also, it was time for me to be traveling to the train station to catch the train to Matsumoto. Dave and I said our farewell there on the first floor of Team Center and I went back to the room, got my things, and headed out. I was delighted that I had remembered that I had those sport coats in my hang up bag. Now I have a sport coat on underneath my trench coat and it makes a great difference for my warmth and comfort.