

June 24, 1947

Dear Mr. Ogawa,

I've just received a note from Dr. Palmer telling me that he sent my letter to him on to you, and I am glad that he did because you can understand most of the situation without my repeating some of what I had been intending to tell you and ask you when you were to come down to San Diego last weekend. However, there is a lot more which I feel I should tell you that I didn't write in my letter to Dr. Palmer because Dr. Palmer wasn't as closely acquainted with us and plans for the future as you were, and are.

First, I want to tell you that Ai Chih has written that he wants to re-enter this country and stay here for a few years, perhaps five years, instead of going to Formosa 6 months after he returned here. I don't know the exact reasons for this change but I think it is because of the fact that if he is successful in obtaining a visa, he will be able to stay in this country indefinitely.

He made an appointment with the Consul-General after the UNRRA office in Shanghai told him that they had no power to clear him for return, and he was told that he would have to apply for entry under the immigration quota, which is for China, 150 persons per year. He asked me to get a copy of my birth certificate, our marriage license, bank statements, and affidavits of support from two friends or relatives in this country. I went to the Immigration Office in San Diego to ask for the forms for the affidavits to send to George and Mr. Cashman but when I explained the situation to the officer in charge, he told me that I could petition directly to the Commissioner of Immigration in Philadelphia for Ai Chih's visa, and by so doing, Ai Chih would have a better chance of getting his visa sooner than by applying at the consulate in Shanghai. In fact, the officer told me that if he did apply through the regular channels for his visa and come under the quota, it might take 10 years before he could come!

And so I made out the forms and filled them out as far as I was able, but the officer told me that if Ai Chih had definite employment, especially in a ministerial capacity, or in church work of some kind, he would have no trouble obtaining a visa. Mr. Kikuchi wrote to a friend of his in San Francisco and he suggested that I ask you and Dr. Palmer. And so I wrote to Dr. Palmer and hoped I would be able to talk to you when you came down. Is there a place for Ai Chih on your Committee or in some branch of the Board? I have been thinking that the Japanese churches need as much education (from a different approach) on "racialism" as the Caucasian churches.

In the meantime I am looking for a job for myself, but I was told there is an excess of labor in San Diego and that appears to be the case, but I hope something turns up soon.

This coming weekend, we had planned to go to Los Angeles to attend a wedding, and I had hoped that BiHua and I could stay overnight with you and make good our promise to Cheryl that we would go to "your house" in the near future, but Kenji got a job at the County Fair in Del Mar,

(by the way, you must attend that Fair sometime before its close. It begins Thursday night, June 26 and ends on July 7th). I want to thank you for this standing invitation because we know we'll enjoy any overnight or "few-days" trips we may take to Pasadena and vicinity in the future. I'll keep in mind that you will be away from the middle of July for the rest of the summer but I hope we down here will hear from you while you and your family are on vacation.

About Haruo Ishimaru, he has won everyone completely over and adds exactly the right spirit to our church. He spoke on Sunday night and told us about himself and we like the combination of humor and seriousness. He has probably given you his impressions of San Diego and I hope that he will like it a lot here. On second thought this last hope is probably an unnecessary comment because we all feel already that he enjoys being in our church.

If you want to write directly to Ai Chih, his address is c/o UNRRA, Embankment Building, Shanghai, China. He is in touch with the Rev. Gordon Chapman in San Francisco, and in his last letter, was awaiting a reply from him. If there is any change in Ai Chih's situation I will let you know. Thanks a lot, and I hope you will be able to suggest something for him.

Sincerely,

P.S. If you do go to the Fair, don't buy a program until you see Kenji! And tell your friends to patronize this nisei. Programs are only 26¢ and you get your money's worth and more.
(signed: His Publicity Agent and Promoter)