

As from C/O Bishop Basil DD  
Kobe, Japan  
August 28<sup>th</sup> 1940

Dear John and Muriel

I haven't written for a long time, I'm afraid! I have had a letter from you waiting for an answer, for some weeks, and perhaps I can claim my move from Kushiro at the beginning of August as an excuse. I was there for one year and four months and though the visible result was only smaller Sunday Congregations, they gave me a very good send off and I've left some friends behind! I was to have gone, next week, to a new place Matsue as Priest-in-Charge, but as you will know that has all been knocked on the head by the action of the Japanese Bishops in promising the military officials that from now on the Sei Ko Kai will receive no financial aid and no control from abroad. I think I am due to leave first with Greenwood: but the future hasn't yet been decided by CMS.

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It's been a good 3½ years for me, and I shall look back on it with much thankfulness, I think, though it has been singularly ineffective from a missionary point of view. I am now on holiday at Kanagawa and Aunt Evelyn is staying in the same house; she took a whole party of us for a picnic this week, but the weather wasn't too good. However we had a very happy time. I have also been fishing and generally having a good holiday. In England this year, I suppose holidays are not very numerous! I wonder how things are going in your part of the world. This month the air-raids have kept us busy in our thoughts and prayers. I wonder if any have come your way? Perhaps I will be back soon to do my bit somehow or other. I am writing this tonight in order to catch the mail: I'm afraid it won't come in time to bring my birthday love for Joy! I hope to be able to see her soon!

With my best love to her and Christopher, and my continual prayers

From Joe

Notes:

Aunt Evelyn, Aunt Evie Nottidge was one of Beatrice Margaret's sisters.  
Joy is John's daughter, Christopher his son.