

# The Protestant Churches of Santa Anita Assembly Center

Arcadia, California

Rev. John M. Yamazaki, Chairman  
Rev. Lester E. Suzuki, Executive Secretary

Office:  
Ave. D, Barr. 29, Unit 1

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Dear Rev. and Mrs. Miller:

We were mighty happy to hear that you are able to sit up a little now, and hope that you will be getting better and better, Mrs. Miller.

We certainly were happy too, to see you Friday evening! I was just getting out of bed for I wondered if you might not peek in! It certainly was grand to see you! Last week had been the first week that we did not have visitors since the evacuation so when you showed up it was indeed a surprise. I know that I needn't elaborate on how swell it was. I certainly hope that you arrived home all right. I saw Jane this morning and she said it was so good to see you. She was at Sunday School, which is held in the grandstand. We have about 4 or 5 teachers in the beginners class who are our Methodist girls from our church in L.A. The other teachers in the same dept. are numbered about the equal but I'm not acquainted with their denomination. However, out here it is all Protestant Federated. When we first came here, since the Sunday school was at 8 a.m. it was slightly cold but now it is just grand out in the open grandstand.

I'm awfully sorry that you had to return the money for the hat. Yes, money may mean the source of all evil but, I'm afraid you forgot that I JUST don't belong in that class. Some more of my modesty sticking out, no doubt!

Thanks for taking Irene's shoes. I will pay whoever is coming out this week on Fri. (It has to be on Friday for our dist.) Rev. Clay said that he would come out on Thurs. or Friday, and since our permit is for Friday it will be fine. Out here we all order from Montgomery or Sears and although Montgomery is from Oakland, I find that the order arrives at the same time as Sears from L.A. Must be competition.

To-day a bottle of liquid is being distributed to our barracks and is to be used in case of fire. I can imagine no other fire than what I'm thinking of and I so hope we won't have to come to that time.

Have you seen Alice Ono at anytime? She was over here the other day and she said that she would like to plan to leave for school somewhere, which has been more or less looked into for her. At first she must have had a hard time adjusting herself to this mostly all Japanese population. In fact she expressed herself as such. I hope that she will try to understand even when she goes to school. It does become hard for all of us, I think to be so isolated from the cosmopolitan group that we were in contact before but I always feel that this is one opportunity to make a man of one's self, even though he might fail in many things. I actually feel that I have learned so much in discipline and understanding here in 2 short months that, here goes my modesty again, I feel that I've learned some of the things that really help me to be happier, as long as it has to be here in camp.

Did you happen to see the illustrated pictures of Santa Anita in the HERALD EXPRESS? If you did you will have noticed that the beds were out for their weekly airing. We are to put our beds and bedding out every week and give them a thorough airing. It really is the thing to do. I was surprised at the amount of dust which collects on the mattresses during one week. Am I glad that we do not have the straw filled mattresses as those are to be changed every so often. We were fortunate to get the regular mattresses and the iron beds but, some have cots.

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As you were told we are to have Stanley Jones come to speak to us on the 2nd. Then again I heard that Dr. Smith with Bishop Baker will be here on the 2nd to have the conference. Yesterday Rev. Yamaka said that Chapman had said there had been no o.k. from S.F. yet but, I think that all will be o.k. if all things had gone on as usual, the conference was to have been held in L.A. at our church. Mrs. Clark tells us that the flowers and shrubbery around our Church are taking it hard----must be missing us, no doubt. But, what can live without water for so long?

You mentioned that you had loaned my letter out to a U.S.C. professor. It's quite all right for I mean everything which I write. I'm very happy that the people have appreciated my letters. You know, before we evacuated we had no idea where we would go or just what the conditions would be. Well, now we are here. The emotions are many yet, the vital things of life are the same, aren't they no matter where we go? It's the things that count most anywhere that count here, too. The barbed wire enclosure is here against us all right but, I'm still free to worship what I believe and whom we believe in. Nature's beauty gets me a trifle more and I DO look beyond the fence to the nice green hills which surround the camp, and so even if we are imprisoned here physically I think that I'm closer to God than I ever have been. As I tell every one the very breeze that caresses us here seems infinitely cooler. It's not that I long for a nice romp in a free park but, one must appreciate what things as are available. I know that the boys in the mess hall etc. perhaps are pretty tired from all the day's work, and wonder about their schools etc. It's all very complicated this war and I do hope that all things will become normal again soon. Yet there are beautiful things in time of strife. Perhaps if we could remember that ~~the~~ things will be easier for us all.

I hope that you are appointed to the same Church and I'm so glad to hear that there was an increase in your salary. I'm perfectly confident that money will not be source of evil for you either and I do hope that you will get to enjoy the kindness in increase since you no doubt do earn it. You see, money does not hurt a kindly person. And you've both been so extra kind in so many, many ways. I'll always remember.

Our showers and laundry hasn't opened yet. That is the additional ones. Sorta reminds me of Prosperity around the corner. But, no doubt they will open soon. Just now we still go down past the grandstand, and wash our hair, take showers, iron etc. if and when they do open they will be much nearer to our place.

Well, we'll be pulling for your recovery, Mrs. Miller.

Best wishes to each of you. Do write when you can.

Sincerely yours,  
Lester Suzuki's