

*Jack Ows*  
19.9.2

# DESERT ECHOES



Dear Father,  
May God bless you richly -  
J. Masekawa  
no 3:16

To the members  
of the Junior  
Church of Parish  
I give the best  
of luck  
W. G. God Bless you  
R. J. J. J.



## DEDICATION

To the Junior Church ad-  
visors of our respective  
parishes, we humbly dedi-  
cate this annual, enve-  
loped with all sincerity  
and appreciation.



Desert

1943

Published by

Thank you for  
may you be  
you ever  
work  
richly  
wonderful  
for the spirit,  
B. H. H. H.  
H. H. H.

Echoes

43

The members of  
The 1st Christian Junior Church  
Pebson, Arizona

# FOREWORD

Within the covers of this annual are preserved many sacred and auspicious moments for the members of the Junior Church while in Boston. After the years have rolled by, and the people have scattered afar, may this year book help ease the sweet memories of the desert life. With all the shortcomings of the immature writing, we happily present this book of remembrance to the public, praying that the spirit may touch some soul.

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but whosoever drinketh of the water  
that I shall give shall never thirst.

John 4:14a

*I am I manners*

BEFORE THE EVANGELIST  
BY REV. D. ROBERTS

# THE VOICE

## OF

### OUR

#### LEADERS



BEFORE THE EVACUATION  
by Rev. S. Kowta

Immediately after my lunch on that fatal Sunday, December 7, 1941, I was listening to a radio sermon by Dr. Emerson Fosdick, one of the greatest champions of goodwill among men. And it was right in the midst of the sermon that I learned of the bombing of Pearl Harbor by Japanese airplanes. A terrible war news in the midst of a Christian message. What a coincidence it was! But such is life.

All that afternoon I kept myself close to the radio, at first doubting the truth of the news and toward the evening being forced to believe that the state of war actually existed between the two great nations on both sides of the Pacific. That night I went to bed still praying that the news might prove false. On the morning following, I learned that so many of the Japanese neighbors had been arrested by the F.B.I. during the night. Many anxious days and fearful nights followed among our people.

Grateful to God for His grace in letting me stay at home while so many of my friends, acquaintances, and neighbors were taken away from their loved ones, I kept myself quite busy in comforting and serving our people. After the mass evacuation became inevitable, I did everything in my power to give our people the needed information as accurately and quickly as possible, although I must admit that accurate information was very difficult to get in those hectic days.



BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

The actual date of evacuation was hard to learn, and that was the reason, as Rev. Morikawa stated in his farewell message before he left for his trip East, every Japanese minister had to preach his last message to his people so often thinking that it was the last service he could conduct for his people in his own church. I, too, had to give the "last message" for a few Sundays. One of the sermons I preached on these Sundays was, "Abraham, the Migration Leader"--a sermon on the man of faith who "went out not knowing whither he went!" (Hebrew 11:8). Another one was, "Paul, the Dauntless", "--a message on the man who learned in whatsoever state he was therein to be contented." (Phil. 4:11)

I arrived in Poston on May 15 with 500 Orange County people as the first group of evacuees. As soon as my feet touched the ground of Poston, a new inspiration came to me and instantly I said to myself, "Here is a wonderful task waiting for me to make this new community an ideal one. I will do my very best by God's grace; to make this community one of the finest places in the United States." Though I have been disillusioned in many things and in many ways, I have done my best during the year to realize the vision which was given to me at the very beginning of my life in Poston. Whether I could materialize the vision or not, I shall endeavor to do my very best, to be true to my vision as long as I stay in Poston.

TRANSFORMATION OF WASTELANDS  
by Mr. Hideo Aoki

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living.  
Psa. 116:9

A burning, sun-scorched waste land awaited the multitudes of evacuees a year ago. That barren wasteland has been transformed into this fruitful "land of the living." What wrought the change? Water is the life blood of Poston.

So it is with the human soul. To me the Living Waters of Salvation become far more realistic when I see this vast desertland blossoming forth into a garden spot with all the luster and shine of nature's beauty. It is as a diamond cutter bringing out the sparkle from a rough, crude stone. Without the water of life, spiritual waters, our soul is as the lifeless, burning desert land and our life is a tiresome, dreary march, without hope and dead in trespasses of sin. With the ever-satisfying, clear, pure cool waters of salvation, man's burning thirst for his deepest innermost longing is quenched once and for all.

From the bondage of sin to soaring fellowship with God marks the change within the life of man "born again". Here are the words of Jesus: "But whose ever drinketh of the water I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Have you partaken of the Living Waters? Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, --without money and without price.

## "ENVIRONMENT"

God put His own with people, and in the place which will tend most to develop the spiritual grace.

He puts one who is quick with one who is slow, and one who is quiet with one who is talkative; that the one who is quick may be patient with the one who is talkative.

He puts one who is orderly with one who is untidy, that both may learn lessons. Often our environment is but an answer to our prayers.

We pray for patience, and God sends those who tax us to the utmost; for tribulation worketh patience.  
Rom. 5:3

We pray for submission, and God sends suffering, for we learn obedience by the things we suffer.  
Heb. 5:8

We pray for unselfishness, and God gives opportunity to sacrifice ourselves by thinking on the thing of others.  
Phil. 2:4

We pray for victory, and the things of the world sweep down upon us in a storm of Temptation; for this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.  
I John 5:4; 4:4

We pray for humility and strength, and some messenger of Satan torments us until we lie in the dust, crying to God for its removal.  
II Cor. 12:7,8

We pray for union with Jesus, and God severs natural ties and lets our best friends misunderstand, or become indifferent to us.  
John 15:2

We pray for more love and God sends peculiar suffering, and puts us with apparently unlovely persons and lets them say things to rasp our nerves, lacerates the heart, and stings the conscience, for love suffers long and is kind, love is not impolite love is not provoked, love bears, love never faileth! I Cor. 13:4-8 John 15:9, 10

The above was written by a martyred missionary who had spent his life in the hearts of jungle Africa.

One memorable day in the fall of 1941, I arrived in the bustling city of Los Angeles and began what was to me the most different kind of life than I had ever lived prior to that time. Into the downtown business section of the city I arrived to start my studies at the Bible Institute of Los Angeles. You can imagine my confusion as a farmer boy from the wide open sticks to live in a city where noise, smoke and gas seemed everywhere all the time. When I encountered all these unpleasant things, they seemed almost too hard to bear. Two to a room of about 8 x 16 with room enough for a double bunk bed, two study desks and a dresser, there was hardly any room for much more. There were other fellows just like me eating together, each a constant shadow of the other. I often wondered at first whether I could stick it out living so close to each other. And so was the experience we all faced as we came to this relocation center.

In those difficult days a friend shared with me a poem that has helped me to realize God's will and take in all things that ever happened to us. Sorrow and strife that are turned to joy as we behold the wondrous grace and care God gives to those who would yield to Him to mold us. May I pass its message on to you.

*Most Sincerely*

*- 13 - Yoshiya Fujimoto*

IN NATURE  
by Mr. Sadaichi Asai

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament showeth His handywork. There is no speech where their voice is not heard. Psalms 19:1,3

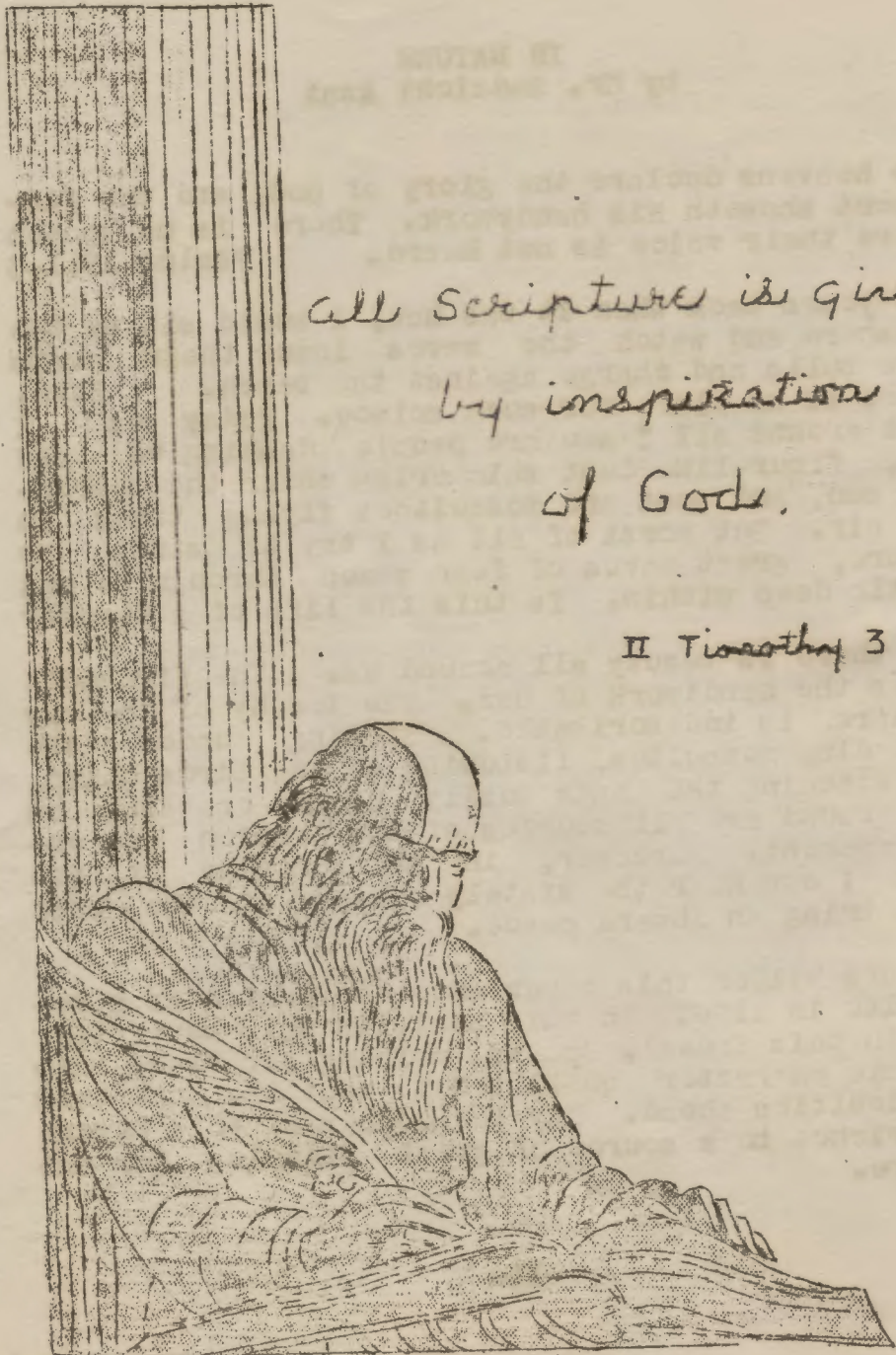
Two years back when it was hot, I would sit by the seashore and watch the waves lower their heads like bulls and charge against the beach. Here, there is no place for such solace. Today as I look around all I see are people dashing to and fro, flour-like dust shimmering under the scorching sun, and soot and mosquitoes flying thick in the air. But worst of all as I try to study my future, great waves of fear sweep through me and settle deep within. Is this the life of a desert?

No, there is beauty all around us. The firmament shows the handiwork of God. The beauty of the sky at dark is indescribable. Sitting under the spreading mesquites, listening to the birds chirp, and watching the ants busily engaged crawling on the ground are all sources of inspiration and encouragement. Moreover, in the serenity of the soul I can hear the stately echoes of the past that bring an inward peace.

God has willed this experience in Poston as a requisite in life. In this heat, in this adversity, and in this ordeal, God is molding our lives into a noble character qualified to meet the uncertain difficulties ahead. May the echoes of this desert experience be a source of great stimulus for the future.

all scripture is given  
by inspiration  
of Gods.

II Timothy 3:16a



BILLY VAUGHAN WILKS SCHOOL

The first Billy Vaughan Middle School began on  
July 15, 1912. This was to help further the edu-  
cation of children in the younger people of our com-  
munity.

For convenience there were several school build-  
ings throughout the city.

Generally, the school had a weekly period first  
and this was the only one. The first  
school building was built in 1912.  
The first school building was built in 1912.  
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# HISTORY

After school and all day of activities were also  
held during the school year. The school had  
many different activities during the year.  
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## DAILY VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

The first Daily Vacation Bible School began on June 15, 1942. This was to help further the knowledge of Christ to the younger people of our center.

For convenience there were several schools scattered throughout the camp.

Generally, the schools had a worship period first, then Bible classes, followed by handcraft. The lessons that were taught were on the life of Christ, Christ's miracles, His parables, and the missionary journeys of Paul. For handcraft, girls made laundry bags, pins, yarn dolls, maps and others; while the boys made such things as name pins, wooden scrapbooks, getas and hat racks.

Inter-school and all school activities were also held besides what the individual schools had, such as: jamborees where there were games, singing, devotional talks and refreshments. There were also boys' baseball games against other schools, and a rally where there were singing, testimonies and a message.

At the end of August, the D. V. B. S. came to a close with the final service held outside near the adobe project.

As we look back this organization wasn't an easy one for the teachers, who during the hot weather; experienced something which was not all pleasant, fun and smooth going. It proved to be truly worthwhile for souls were brought to His Kingdom.

Through God's help it was possible for this first Daily Vacation Bible School of Poston to be a success. It was the D. V. B. S. which paved the way for the Junior Church.



## THE FIRST JUNIOR CHURCH OF POSTON

August 30, 1942 marked the opening Sunday for the First Junior Church of Poston.

Inspired by the great success of the Daily Vacation Bible School held during the earlier months, earnest Christian leaders bent to the task of forming this organization. Everybody between the ages of 9 to 15 was invited to attend the worship services held every Sunday in the four parishes.

The Junior Church services are conducted in much the same way as the evening Young People's services. This provides the members of the Junior Church the opportunity to participate in the program and the upkeep of the services and the organization. The assistant Young People's pastor in most cases is the Junior Church pastor of the same parish. It is his duty to deliver the message and to supervise the actions of the officers below him. From the Junior Church, other smaller organizations have developed. The most important of these is the choir. Every parish has its own choir. They sing at the services and provide special musical numbers and prayer responses.

Another important organization is the Junior Church prayer meetings held every Wednesday night. Here the younger group feel more free to express their thoughts. They find greater freedom to talk and discuss everyday problems. It has been a blessing to many, and close friendship and fellowship has been established between the members of this profitable organization.

During the past year of Junior Church activities, many have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as a true Saviour, and have trusted Him, served Him and accepted Him as such.

Dear Mr. [unclear]  
I have been thinking  
of you very much  
I hope you are  
well and happy  
I have not heard  
from you for  
years. I hope  
you are all  
well.  
I am  
yours  
truly  
T.O.



"Our Father Which Art in  
Heaven"

During the past year of Junior Church activities  
many have come to know the Lord Jesus Christ  
and have trusted Him, served Him and  
accepted Him as such.

Dear Tada  
It's been a great  
pleasure to have known  
you all these years in  
Bakersfield + in Boston. I hope  
all your life. I also hope  
your future will be a pleasant one.  
That  
your old friend  
Masako Terabayashi



## Parish I.

Have you ever heard of the Parish I Junior Church? Of course! That's the church located in Block 5 under the supervision of Mr. Sadaichi Asai.

It did not take very long for the activities to get started. Election day is the first on our history. Results of the election turned out to be splendid, for until this day the officers are faithfully fulfilling their duties. October 31, a night when witches were flying with broomsticks, we had a party at which time everyone had fun.

Parties were not the only events that took place. We were privileged to hear many distinguished speakers who came to help us make our decisions. Some of them were Mr. Tsujimoto, pastor of Parish II, Mr. Aoki, pastor of Parish IV, Mr. Yutaka Nakagawa; a representative from Granada Relocation Center, and last of all Rev. Morikawa, the vice-moderator of Camp I. They all helped us to make the great step of accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior. The unforgettable Sunday of February 28 is the most important day to many lives. As the song "Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus" was softly played, we saw a line of young people with tears in their eyes turning their lives into the hands of Jesus Christ.

Sunday after Sunday, members increased such that we were able to organize a Girls' Corps under the leadership of Miss Alice Maeda, but she soon left for Chicago, Illinois. However, this vacancy was filled by Miss Shizue Tsumura. The purpose of this club is to help others, and at the same time have fun.

Choir is directed by Miss Mary Miyabe, and it is now very active. So far, it has sung many times at different places. Until lately it was composed of girls but surprisingly this club is now singing with several boys participating.

## Parish II

It was a bright summer morning in August just about a year ago when a group of Juniors and Intermediates met together in one overcrowded recreation hall. Under the guidance and sponsorship of Mr. Yoshiya Tsujimoto they formed a group which is today known as the Poston I Christian Junior Church of Parish II. An election of officers was held soon after. As a result, heavy burdens were placed upon that capable young man, Mr. Gene Takahashi.

The meetings were conducted quite similar to those of today. We started at 9:00 and ended about 9:30.

In order for the members to know each other better, a "get acquainted" party was held. This was a time of fun and fellowship for those who attended the party.

The choir was at first directed by Miss May Kokubun. During this time it seemed like a girls' choir, but as time went on some boys came. The choir was disappointed when Miss Kokubun had to go but they were privileged to have Mr. Nakane as director. Misses Alice Kodama, June Ono and Mutsuko Ikari became the directors when Mr. Nakane left.

The cottage prayer meetings helped many in their spiritual growth. Rev. Still will not be forgotten by those who heard his encouraging message.

Among the guest speakers whom we have had are, Rev. Morikawa, Rev. Duncan, Miss Graham, Mr. Aoki, Mr. Hosaka, Mr. Wada, Mr. Asai, Mr. Ono, and Rev. Kowta.

The Installation Party for the new officers was held recently.

Thus the Junior Church members of Parish II hope that their Junior Church will continue to grow not so much in number but in spirit.

PARISH III

*dearest  
Lacke  
I wish you  
lots of love  
same*

On August 30, 1942, Parish Three Christian Church had their first Junior Church meeting, and on that first meeting we had an election of officers. The results were as follows:

Chairman	Ruth Horikawa
Vice-Chairman	Mitsuo Maeda
Secretary	Peggy Yamato (also our pianist)
Treasurer	Tadashi Shibata
Song Leader	Bob Takahashi

This Junior Church is for boys and girls from the ages of nine to fifteen, to give them an opportunity to have a church of their own with their own officers, choir, etc.

Mr. Harry Hosaka is our devoted pastor, and we always look forward each Sunday to his wonderful message. We always like to have him around because he has such a lovable grin. You can't help smiling when you see his face.

Soon after the Junior Church started, we formed a Junior Church Choir. We started off very nicely, and we are still practicing hard. Yasuko Yamato and Margaret Murakami have brightened up our Junior Church very much by their duet singing.

On one of the Sundays in May, we had Mr. Yoshiya Tsujimoto from Parish II as our special speaker. We all listened with our ears wide open.

On the following month we had the jolly Hidco Aoki from Parish IV as our guest speaker. His message was entitled "Who is our Neighbor?" We all learned a lesson from it, I am sure.

The Junior Church is progressing rapidly and in the near future, new officers will take over the positions of the old ones.