

CALIF. Yrly. Mtg.

Minutes

1943

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Meeting

of

FRIENDS CHURCH

Whittier, California

1943

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sionary Circles and individuals of Whittier Meeting contributed over half of the expense.

Four children earned \$3.00 each, to which the Sunday School treasury added enough to make it possible for them to go with Juan and Isabel Reyes to the camp at Quaker Meadow in the summer. Denair Meeting contributed \$6.00 to aid in taking them there. The boys and girls were greatly helped by their experiences at the camp.

The playground back of the Whittier Church, with the play equipment contributed by various friends, has meant a great deal to the children of the neighborhood, who have no place to play but in the street.

In addition to their strictly religious work, Juan and Isabel Reyes have made a vital contribution to the community. In November the Whittier Y.M.C.A. asked Juan Reyes to be the supervisor of club work for Mexican boys and girls of the Whittier High School district, and to provide suitable recreation for them. With the consent of the Mission Board he has been thus exerting a Christian influence with the boys and girls of twelve clubs. Five Whittier College girls have been leaders of the girls clubs. Juan Reyes meets with the leaders and the Y.M.C.A. Director at a breakfast at the Mexican Church once a month to plan and direct the work. In addition he is the leader of a club and directs a group of boys in basket-ball, who play other teams at the college gymnasium and at the Fred C. Nellis School. Some of these boys receive their only Christian influence in this way. Juan Reyes is also an Air Raid Warden in his district.

Isabel Reyes finished the First Aid Course, given by the city and was made a First Aid Sector Chairman. Later, completing an advanced course, she became the teacher of a First Aid Class in Jintown.

Our friends are respected and trusted and many Mexicans, in no way connected with the church, come to them for advice and help in trouble.

As expressed by Juan Reyes: "The many unfavorable things we, and all Christian groups, have had to go through these dark days, have only made it possible that our light for Him may shine more brightly. It is our determination to serve Him more loyally than ever."

The committee would earnestly request your interest and your prayers for these two pastors and their families, for the work they are doing, and for the Mexican people living among us, and not yet knowing of the love and saving power of Jesus Christ.

MARY A. J. BALLARD, Chairman Mexican Committee.

(2) **Japanese.** War brings a multitude of changes and, in the very nature of the case, the department most affected by it, is the work under the care of the Japanese Committee. "In season and out of season", in all seasons and in ways hitherto undreamed of, the committee has carried on its ministry of love. A most interesting report follows:

Report of the Japanese Mission 1942-1943

The Norwalk Work

Since Easter of 1942, our Japanese Friends have endured a long chapter of experiences in concentration camps, behind barbed wire fences, and in horse stalls on the Santa Anita race tract, and in inadequate rooms, fed and protected by armed soldiers.

The friends on the outside, including the American Friends Service Committee, your Japanese Committee and thousands of other friends have done what they could in supplying needed books and articles of comfort, words of cheer, visits and letters.

At Norwalk the Japanese Church and S. S. building have been used

as store rooms for goods of Japanese while the parsonage part is rented to trusted people.

Pastor K. Ishikawa was allowed to help in the evacuation from terminal Island until his flock was located in Santa Anita Camp, then he with other ministers was segregated as an enemy alien in other camps, where he has found an open field for preaching. He thinks he has done the best work of his life though it has been a great cross to be separated from his family.

Propaganda stories of sabotage were circulated freely without foundation.

In the main camps our members joined in with others in organizing schools, Sunday Schools, social clubs, young people's meetings, and literary societies, making the hardship an opportunity for good.

Friends were busy carrying into the camps articles left behind because of uncertainty as to what to take. One of our members made more than thirty trips to the camps carrying visitors and all sorts of school and Sunday School supplies and equipment.

Thousands of letters were exchanged and Christian fellowship thus fostered. Our returned missionaries, the Binfords, Alice Lewis Pearson, Katherine E. Fanning, Herbert and Madeline Nicholson, with American Friends Service Committee members and local pastors and school teachers, have been faithful in service and influence for fair treatment of Japanese.

Then came the ruling for all Japanese to be removed to relocation camps,—far away from the war zone and our members and friends were again settled in ten relocation camps. Here the people set up community living, again renewing organizations more permanently. Others were placed in localities for work on farms and business suitable for them, in friendly communities. Utah and Wyoming have been especially friendly for they were once pioneers in a new country.

At Poston, Arizona, a typical camp is described as follows: The camp is about one mile square, with sixty-five blocks. Each block contains fourteen barracks. Each barrack is 20x100 feet, divided into A.B.C.D. An empty block between others is for a recreation field, with baseball the main game. Another vacant lot contains mess hall, kitchen, laundry and toilets. The member who wrote this said, "We are glad we have come so early before the real hot weather, mercury stands not at only 110 degrees.

The Friends Service Committee was the good Samaritan, which helped the government to relocate some of the Japanese on farms, in business projects and in schools.

An eventful year has passed. Uncertainty still faces these people who seemingly are trying hard to cooperate and be loyal to the government of America, and Christianity. Our church members are still standing by with payer and brotherly service.

There is no financial report except that Whittier and Pasadena shared with the A.F.S.C. in sending 13,000 Christmas gifts to the various camps, bringing much joy.

In Rohwer, Ark., where many of our people are, by a recent letter it is reported that \$2,077.50 was raised for the Red Cross by the Japanese.

If hardships wake for character building, Japanese will have grown this year, and Friends who have sown kindness will reap as they have sown.

The Pasadena Work

When it became evident that mass evacuation of Japanese was inevitable, Pasadena Federated Missions, which holds title to the church buildings and parsonage of the Japanese Union Church, made plans in co-operation with the church members, to store their household goods

and that of their friends in the church buildings. The city fire chief and a neighboring storage company gave helpful instruction on how to store. For weeks Japanese and some Christian friends worked together to be ready for the fateful days. When they came, groups from the churches of the city were at the stations to give a farewell lunch and a friendly handclasp to these exiles from their homes.

Miss Katherine E. Fanning, a missionary on furlough from Japan, had for a year or more been assisting in the church work. She was asked to reside in the parsonage and become custodian of the property and goods stored therein. She has been the agent through whom Pasadena Japanese, first from assembly centers and later from relocation centers, could reach the outside world, and obtain the things they needed. Miss Fanning tells of many opportunities to serve through purchases, from Klenex to diamond rings, and by checking on things stored, including automobiles, in various garages. The most frequent request is to send on, from things stored, sewing machines, trunks, bicycles, etc.

Likewise the parsonage has been a place for assembling and forwarding by truck thousands of books, Christmas gifts, recreation material, and even pianos for community use.

Another service rendered by Federated Missions, through its chairman, is the looking after twenty-five or more rental properties of evacuees.

Several have visited assembly and relocation centers and correspondence is frequent assuring the evacuees of continued interest in their welfare. This is one of the most helpful things that can be done by any who have Japanese friends and who would like to be a "pen pal" to some evacuee.

Herbert V. Nicholson, returned missionary from Japan, did valiant work in taking so many truck loads of goods to relocation centers, from Pasadena and elsewhere. He has worked as a free lance, but no one is more appreciated than he by the Japanese.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

ALICE LEWIS PEARSON,

LYDIA M. CAMMACK, Supt. of Work Among Japanese.

2. "Other Sheep" in Far Places

(1) Alaska. Our missionaries in the far North have the protection these perilous days of the Stars and Stripes and are just as really on American soil as we here in California. However, because of their distance from us and because they labor among a race using a strange language, we think of our Alaska Mission as a "foreign" mission.

The report of the Superintendent, Ira Downs, shows that many have been the adversaries to be overcome this year. The thing to note is, they have been overcome! In spite of sickness and unforeseen difficulties, tests and trials, the past 12 months have been very fruitful in service.

Report of Friends Mission, Kotzebue, Alaska Calendar Year 1942

"Render therefore unto Caesar the things which are Caesar's, and unto God the things that are God's." These words have worked like a balance at times when we found ourselves almost unable to keep adjusted to the many unforeseen demands and changes that challenged us and the mission work.

Parallel with new situations that have brought such swift changes

have come tests and temptations, presenting themselves in a new light and confusing some of our Christians until for a time it seemed to paralyze their spiritual life completely. However, most of them have kept their bearings and stood true.

The call for all the young men to the colors has disrupted the Eskimo family life in general. Mothers, many of whom are widows, feel much alarm concerning their sons.

We were able to hold three Quarterly Meetings the past year. Two of these were held at Kotzebue and the other one at Noorvik. They proved times of great spiritual blessing and uplift to the entire district. A good sized delegation was in attendance from almost every station, and on return to their respective villages their people eagerly gathered for a conference. The native pastors and delegates take notes of all that has been said or done, and they tell us it takes from two to four days to give it all out to their people. The others who attended help with giving out the translated songs they learned and often these conferences or "baby" Quarterly Meetings as some call them, expand until they result in a blessed revival with far reaching effects.

I visited Noorvik, Kiana, Selawik and Shungnak before the spring Quarterly Meeting. I found the work, under the care of Eskimo pastors, well in hand. Although there seemed to be a careless and indifferent attitude on the part of many of the young people toward the gospel, many of the believers had a clearer and deeper Christian experience and many backsliders had been reclaimed. Mr. and Mrs. Samms at Kivalina and the Eskimo pastors at the other stations report conditions much the same in their respective villages.

In the fall, after the Eskimos gathered into the villages, the pastoral work was resumed, but the work has been retarded somewhat by a strange malady in the form of a protracted fever and heavy cold, and an epidemic of whooping cough, which has taken a high toll of babies and smaller children. Letters from all our workers still report much sickness among their members; but the attendance and interest in the mid-week Bible study classes and Sabbath services is good. The Evangelistic efforts during the holidays were times of real refreshing.

Regarding the financial conditions of the work, when the nation's war cry is, "tighten the belt," it seems unfair to even mention the many and unusual needs. High prices and lack of certain things shipped up here the past year has curtailed much of the usual schedule of mission activities. Selawik was disappointed because not all their shipment of material for finishing the interior of their new church came last summer. Noatak needs a new pastor's cabin for the one now standing is beyond repair. Also, other pastor cabins and churches need repairing too. Thus the money from the sale of the old Friends hospital building will help cover these needs. From this sum we also hope to paint the Kotzebue manse. Not only does it need painting very badly, but it looks shabby compared to other buildings in our community.

Grim specters in the background indicate that most anything can happen at any moment; but we look to the King eternal for counsel and lasting peace. We feel this vine planted so far north, in the vineyard of the Lord, by California Yearly Meeting of Friends, will not be trampled under; because God has so faithfully protected and nurtured its growth the past forty-five years. In these days when destruction is overtaking earthly edifices and desolation is stalking many lands, may the members of California Yearly Meeting take comfort in knowing that the money and effort they have invested in the Lord's work these past years is indestructible in spiritual value. "Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; for ye serve the Lord Jesus."