

Retreat Echoes



Edited by Committee of
1946 Lake Sequoia Retreat

RETROSPECTION

The afternoon of August 1, 1946, found us eagerly looking toward the mountains and the heights, wondering as we drove thru the sun-baked valley and hills, what new adventures and inspirations might be discovered and experienced in those four days ahead---living within the beautiful, refreshing surroundings of trees, lakes, mountains, streams---of our first Lake Sequoia Retreat.

Very soon we discovered there were many like us---who came eagerly and hopefully to meet old friends, make new ones, talk with other Christians, sharing experiences with Christian leaders to find new and added meanings to our existence and the existences of others. We did discover those good things - we realized what having true Christian friends meant in our lives, we discovered how knowing and loving the same Father in heaven could make us brothers with all kinds and races of people. We discovered how we must humble ourselves and do good in order to be pleasing in His sight, we discovered love, companionship and sharing thru sports, thru living, thru working with each other.

In some degree, I believe each of us realized that only God can "Teach us to Build" --teach us to build that world where men can stand with self respect, with love and kindness in their hearts, with tolerance and justice toward one another, with hope and inspiration for that kind of a world which He taught us to build.

Julia Goto

IN EARTHEN VESSELS

The dear Lord's best interpreters
Are humble human souls;
The gospel of a life like His
Is more than books or scrolls.

From scheme and creed the light goes out,
The saintly fact survives;
The blessed Master none can doubt,
Revealed in holy lives.

- John Greenleaf Whittier

THEY CAME - YOUNG AND OLD

FROM FAR AND NEAR

The total registration of Retreaters far exceeded the most liberal pre-Retreat estimates of the number of people expected to attend. Given below are the official registration figures as computed by the registrars, Bob Ohki and Julia Goto.

TOTAL REGISTRATION - 163

Children	3	College and young adults	80
Hi School age	40	Issei	9
Out of Hi School	15	Leaders	16

LOCALITIES REPRESENTED

Fresno	35	Parlier	2
Reedley	30	Los Angeles	2
Dinuba	25	Alameda	2
Livingston	14	Montebello	1
Sanger	14	Orange Cove	1
Cutler	8	Indio	1
Crosi	5	Winton	1
Oakland	5	Berkeley	1
Selma	5	Del Rey	1
Fowler	4	Merced	1
		Japan	1

FLOAT A BOAT FUND



Since a lake and the work of our Master are essentially related to each other; we are reminded of His days whenever we retire to such a scene. Water and human life, a boat and His work are combinations which cannot be separated. For without water we have no life, and without a boat our Master could not have carried on His work.

Lake Sequoia, with its grandeur of giant trees, beauty of granite bulwarks, and reflections of morning stars and twilight skies, was especially chosen for the inspiration and recreation it affords. It was fortunate for us that at our disposal were many boats which served as both means of recrea-

tion, and altars of worship in our morning watches and evening vespers.

It was suggested that we could express our appreciation of such facilities by showing it in a concrete way. Therefore a special offering was taken at the Sunday dinner hour for a boat fund. Many very kindly responded to the worthy cause and enough was collected to build at least one boat-to be exact, \$52.11. It is our plan to dedicate this boat at the 1947 Retreat. This boat will remind us of His call to be "fishers of men."

Rev. K. Imai

BEAR FRUIT

"Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away; and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." (John 15;2)

Those four days at Lake Sequoia were the most glorious four days for many who attended the Retreat. They were four days of inspiration, fellowship and wholesome recreation. There we all came closer to our Creator, just as the tall giant Sequoia trees reach out into the sky towering over all surrounding trees.

It is not enough that we have been inspired at the Retreat. We must be more faithful and better for our being at the Retreat. The real worth of the Retreat is measured in our homes, in our own churches and in our communities. There at the Lake, it is much easier for us to be religious, but it is not so easy to be Christians in our every day life, for the forces of evils will rush at us and surround us from all sides. We must deepen our individual spiritual life. We should pray more, we should read our Bible more, we should support the church more by our attendance, prayer and yes, income--too.

As the real winning of the war is not so much in the victory of the battle front as the winning of peace, so the real battle of spiritual warfare is won at places where you live. That is where you bear the fruits of the Lake Sequoia Retreat. Fight on for Christ's sake! Victory is yours when you trust in the Lord.

Junichi Fujimori

O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH THEE

O Master, let me walk with Thee
In lowly paths of service free;
Tell me Thy secret; help me bear
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear winning work of love,
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me Thy patience; still with Thee
In closer, dearer company;
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future 's broadening way;
In peace that only Thou canst give,
With Thee, O master, let me live.

-Washington Gladden

THESE FAITHFULLY SERVED

Officers of 1946 Lake Sequoia Retreat:

Chairman	Lloyd Wake
Vice Chairman	Seichi Mikami
Secretary	Aiko Konatsu
Treasurer	Lillian Goto

Committee Chairman:

Registration	Bob Ohki and Julia Goto
Program	Haruye Nakamura
Publicity	Ethel Otomo
Food	Fumi Mikami
Transportation	Yo and Charles Nakamura
Reception	Velma Yemoto
Housing	Lillian Wake

THESE WILL SERVE YOU

At a special meeting held on Saturday afternoon of the big four days, the following officers were elected to direct the Retreat for 1947. Best wishes to the new cabinet!

Chairman - Haruo Tashiro, Graduate of Wheaton College in Illinois, now working for his Master 's degree in Botany at Cornell University. Capable? What a question! Bound to be a good 1947 Retreat with him at the controls.

Vice Chairman - Bob Ohki, rounded up the Livingston bunch this year. A hard worker. Patient when things go wrong. (Just ask the Livingston girls)

Secretary - Ethel Otomo. Efficiency plus. Served as the publicity chairman this year and did a bang-up job.

Treasurer - Haruye Nakamura. Vice Pres. of the Reedley Fellowship. Served as program chairman this year. She can handle the finances.

Program - Velma Yemoto. Full of good ideas. Backbone of the Fresno Fellowship, also its president. The program is in good hands.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

So nigh is grandeur to our dust, so near is God to man,
when duty whispers low, "Thou mist," the youth replies,
"I can."

- Emerson

ECHOES OF LAKE SEQUOIA RETREAT

Peter, James and John saw their blessed Master transfigured before them in a never-to-be-forgotten, mountain-top experience. Finite, mortal creatures as were they; yet the inspiration of those moments made those men face the realities of life with a stronger conviction and faith than ever before. Doubtless, the three favored disciples often looked back to that mountain top experience and recalled again and again the convincing fact of Christi's position as the beloved Son of God; then, literally, now, mystically, we have heard the echo of God's resounding words, "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." Did you not see and experience the Christ as the Son of the living God! Can not we lean on Him as our Sole Authority, having heard God whisper, "hear ye him." This sublime experience caused the disciples to be loyal to Christ in a new and vital way-He was not just their master, he became divine, he was the Son of the living God! And what a tremendous difference this rock conviction would make upon our lives!

The scene has changed - the atmosphere so conducive and ideal has disappeared - now, the environment becomes a workshop for an expression of the realities of those matchless moments.

Dr. John Makay writes in his recent book entitled, "A Preface to Modern Theology", a chapter called The Balcony and the Road. Much of Christian faith has in the past been relegated to the balcony - we see the masses in need, under-nourished spiritually and physically--they are beckoning to us, "Off the balcony, come down to the road-level and translate Christ in every day life!"

The emphasis is on being realistic about our faith, but in pursuing this challenge we must acknowledge the need of a new nature to overcome the common, human tendencies which are prone to spoil our mental determinations. We must needs be "born again" - become "new creatures in Christ Jesus", from an egocentric individual to gain a new nature which will prove victorious over every situation of life. Herein is the great spiritual dynamic and truth of our faith (we have no analysis except the transformed lives of God's saints); God is able to change our very nature, make us the Sons of God in a new and living relationship.

Morally my life may exceed the average, but I would know the joy of overcoming all temptations and having the Will of God totally performed in my life. The answer is found in the acknowledgement of your own sinfulness and unworthiness - the inability to live victoriously in your own strength; to pray the prayer of the justified publican, "Have mercy upon me a sinner," and accepting Jesus Christ as the Saviour of your life from sin, both in

(Cont. on p.7)

FAITH

The steps of faith fall on the seeming void, but find the rock beneath.

-Whittier

CHAIRMAN CHATS

"KIBITZER"

The person who said, "I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours" certainly did not express the attitudes of the planning committee members of the 1946 Retreat. When there was work to be done they didn't concern themselves with labor saving devices--they just rolled up their sleeves and went at the job with enthusiasm and efficiency. There were many hours of planning, details to be looked after, rough edges ironed out, and last minute changes to be made--in every day language, just plain hard work--in order that everyone could enjoy the Retreat. If you thank anyone for a good four days at Lake Sequoia, thank the ones who worked so faithfully. The credit goes to them.

Through all the effort put forth to keep the machinery of the Retreat running smoothly, the planning committee never forgot the primary purpose of the Retreat, that of helping Retreaters to find their rightful place in their relationships with God. Their prayers as well as their labors were behind it.

If any of you have met God during those four days and have been made to think seriously concerning the spiritual realities of life, we would consider our efforts well worthwhile. But, if, having met God, you fail to express this experience in the workaday world about you, we would be caused to think that the Retreat has failed in a measure. We're trusting that such is not the case with you.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the members of the planning committee for the 1947 Retreat. May God bless your labors abundantly.

Lloyd Wake

Our Retreat was off to a fine start - that is, after the Livingston bunch came straggling in because of truck trouble. With that bunch of young debs in the back of the truck, seems as though you could have flagged down some help in a hurry. Take a tip, Tom and Bob.

Our Oakland delegation also ran into some car trouble. When will these city folks learn? When you come to the country, you've got to be prepared for anything.

All the girls are still wondering why all the males shied away from the Personal Relations discussion group. Weren't scared were you, men? By the way, if I remember rightly I saw Sod Nakashima in that discussion group. Listen, gals, Sod firmly believes that "Retreat" is the place to meet a future wife. I wonder if that was what made him go on those early morning strolls alone(?). Well, gals, there's always next year's Retreat. Maybe by next year the fellas will have their courage all worked up and will give us their views on certain phases of life in our Personal Relations group. Incidentally fellas, we girls had a grand time in our discussion group and we're sorry you missed it. We learned a lot so you better beware at the next year's retreat.

"Why weren't we told?", was a common question. If all the gals knew that producer, director, handsome here life-guard, Ted Inouye was going to be there, we would have seen more bathing beauties in the water. Next year we'll warn you ahead of time so you can come all prepared with your
(Cont. on p. 7)

ECHOS OF LAKE SEQUOIA RETREAT

(Cont from p.5)
God's sight and in your daily life. When we are nothing, then Christ becomes everything; however, if we continue to justify self and permit self to live, then Christ takes his exit and selfish desires the preeminence. It is to say with Paul, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (May we meditate on this verse.)

I do appreciate the privilege in sharing the rich four days at Lake Sequoia with all of you. My prayer is that you might faithfully carry on the work of the Master in the various groups from which you come.

Paul Nagano

W. K. B I T Z E R

bathing suits. Julia Goto and I tried that "help, I'm drowning" business the first day we were up there but no Ted. We got a good response tho.

I wonder if everyone noticed the western cowboy struts Aiko Konatsu, Chiyake Renge, Lee Mullus, and Riuzo Aoki were showing off after their horseback excursion. Hope they realized that horses have a peculiar odor.

The high flying Cabin 4 Powder Puffs got dusted off in that softball contest against the mighty Cream Puffs. After the third inning, even the heroes like Hide Nakamura and Robert Tanji lost all their zip. Was it because they were losing so badly or was it because all the girls left to go swimming?

Rev. John Miyabe and Lloyd Wake were certainly popular and almost heroes out on the volleyball court. Wonder why more fellas didn't stick around that court.

(Cont. from p. 6)

Many of us enjoyed pulling Rev. Paul Nagano away from the crowd and talk with him. We was always so willing and so very inspirational. Thank you, Rev. Nagano.

One of the most charming persons I ran into in a long time was our pianist Kei Imai... She always had a smile and her talented fingers were ready, willing, and able to move into anything requested. Thanks to you also, Kei.

Hope Bob Ohki has calmed down by now. He was certainly flustered when he heard the pigeons coming. He insisted that they were flying away when they were coming in. What's the matter, Bob? Personal Relations group too much for you?

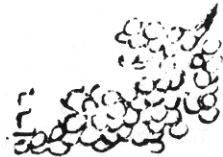
A vote of thanks goes to Mary Fujimoto who arranged for the after dinner entertainment. Don't blame her for all the extra corn we had after the meal.

Velma Yemoto



ORCHIDS AND

SOUR GRAPES



This column is dedicated to those who, in their quiet and modest ways, did those little things that so easily go unnoticed, but which would be so noticeable were they not done.

ORCHIDS TO:

Mrs. Hirose and Mrs. Imai who willingly spent so much time helping Mrs. Hardison out in the kitchen. Try going without a meal once, then you'll appreciate what they did.

Betty, Bonnie, and Fumi, who also worked themselves to a mere shadow so that we could enjoy our meals..

Selma Aurenheimer. She kept the "sanitation detail" in line, and kept the work schedule moving like a clock.

Velma Yemoto for the swell job she did on those two ice-breakers. Some of the kids certainly got acquainted in a hurry. Did you notice all those twosomes after the affairs?

Bob Ohki, and Charlie and Yoshiyuki Nakamura for hauling us kids and the grub on their trucks. We certainly could not have done without them.

Lillian Goto. She had the big headache of keeping our finances straight. (And she did keep them straight)

Rev. John Miyabe and the choir, plus two more to Lillian and Lois for the beautiful vocal and violin duet. It added much to our morning worship service.

All of you who donated fruits and vegetables. We surely made use of them.

SOUR GRAPES TO:

The 4:00 A.M. club, and to the local chapter of the Night-owls. They were the ones who made us lose our beauty sleep.

We're running short of flowers and grapes so we'll cut it right here. See you at the 1947 Lake Sequoia Retreat.

SMILE A WHILE

Rev. John Yamashita to his congregation one Sunday morning: "Brothers and sisters, the subject of my sermon today is 'liars'. But before I begin, I have a question: "How many of you read the 69th chapter of Matthew?" Nearly every hand went up. "You are the people I'm preaching to," he replied. "There is no such chapter."

MEMORIALS OF A HAPPY WEEKEND

Robert Burns, the Scotch poet, once said, "They never sought in vain that sought the Lord aright." This thought keeps recurring over and over again as I think of the four wonderful days spent in God's great outdoors. Some sought the Lord aright, and wonderful things have happened. The songwriter said:

"I cannot tell thee whence it came,
This peace within my soul;
But this I know, there fills my soul,
A deep and hallowed rest."

Whether such is the experience of everyone who finds peace with God is common, cannot be determined by the writer. But, that there occurs deep and wonderful disturbances in the life of man when God becomes a reality, is not to be denied. Out of such experiences is born all that is fine and good.

The thought that through the days spent at the Retreat some of us have met God, and that our lives shall be used for the blessing of mankind, and the happiness and joy of a world in need, is a great inspiration. We cannot cross grains with the principles of life, but he who has found that principle in his own being as a living reality--he has found life, and through him others too shall find life. Man can claim no higher privilege.

"We've sought and found thee in the secret place
And marveled at the radiance of thy face;
But often in some far off Galilee
Beheld thee fairer yet while serving thee."

My earnest prayers are with the C.C.Y.S.C.C. You have the highest privilege, and the possibilities of the greatest year through Christ our Lord. Permit me to thank you for the great privilege of being with you.

John Miyabe

OUR DISCUSSION GROUPS:

PERSONAL RELATIONS

The Personal Relationships group faced at the outset the fact that our everyday human relationships are the inescapable proofs of our Christianity. We considered five ways of getting along with people as basic to our success in meeting the problems that confront us in Issei-Nisei, Buddhist-Christian, and inter-racial relationships, as well as in matters of friendship and marriage.

These ways, as mentioned in the book "Take a Look at Yourself", were outlined as follows: 1., learn to like people and be
(over)

deeply and genuinely interested in them; 2., look for the best rather than the worst in others; 3., remember that people are different and therefore must be treated differently; 4., be willing to do your own job and forget about who gets the credit; 5., practice deliberate and unrestrained goodwill in the face of a certain amount of inevitable criticism and friction. If we really follow these five ways of getting along with people, we would find ourselves practicing in our personal relationships the great teachings given us by Christ when He said, "Love thy neighbor as thyself", and "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

It was evident from the questions asked and the opinions expressed on the subject of Issei-Nisei relationships, that the Nisei need to take more time and use greater tactfulness in order to win the understanding of the Issei. For example, the discussion of boy and girl friendships revealed the difficulties that stand in the way of cultivating such friendships through social intercourse because of the reluctance, and often opposition of Issei parents toward their children following the American social customs. Different members of the group told how, by being tactful, honest, patient, and undiscouraged in explaining things, they had successfully gained parental understanding. Christian Fellowship gatherings were recommended as ideal places for the cultivation of friendships.

The vital subject of marriage was discussed. Emphasis was placed upon the importance of the physical health, congenial temperament, harmony of intellectual ideas and religious faith of the couple contemplating marriage. And, then, as to the ways and means of becoming formally engaged, the length of the engagement period, and details of the wedding ceremony, it was urged that the Nisei be considerate of the customs of their parents while at the same time winning their consent to the adoption of whatever American customs the young people desired.

The experience in some places of having Buddhist-Christian joint meetings for an exchange of religious views and social fellowship suggested a helpful way of promoting understanding and good will in the respective communities.

While the value of maintaining either a Nisei Christian Church or Fellowship group in a place where there is now Nisei church was clearly recognized, there was stressed the importance of having joint meetings with other racial groups and of all Nisei being more sociable in their contacts with young people of other racial origins.

A WISE MAN ONCE SAID:

The end of all learning is to know God, and out of that knowledge to love and imitate him.

-Milton

FUTURE OF MISSIONS

The future of missions of The Church depends on the zeal and the consecration of the missionaries, and their complete acceptance of the admonition of Jesus to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them...." (Matthew 28:19)

This is the mission or the commission for the Church today as it was when Jesus spoke to His Christians two thousand years ago. The Church must have "expendables" whose souls and imaginations are on fire with a purpose: to witness for Christ, each in his own acceptable, most effective way.

The Church has its glorious message which contains the inescapable triumphant Cross, which is irresistible in its appeal and all revealing in its truths. It reveals God through Christ, that men may conquer the power of evil, that freedom granted by God may be used constructively in a world which tends to destroy itself. The future of Missions is the living and teaching of the reality of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Only so can the future

of missions of the Church be assured if there are enough "expendables" to obey the divine command. Truly given, Christ will become the Universal Savior, the Living Son of the Living God.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM

The Personal Evangelism group met at the chapel under the leadership of Mr. John A. Strain. It was emphasized that to be most effective in personal evangelistic work, one must be sold on what he tries to sell to others. The love of God must be embedded in our hearts through the Holy Spirit. We must accept Christ as the One who died for our sins and as our Lord and personal Savior.

Mrs. J. Strain, a returned missionary from French-Indo China, gave an account of her personal work in that country. Rev. Paul Nagano, and Mrs. Pence gave a brief resume of their interesting work.

The meeting climaxed with several accepting Christ as their personal Lord and Savior.

THANKS TO

Aiko Konatsu and Mrs. Don Iwahashi for all the stencil work in this publication.

Rev. John Miyabe who cut the stencil for our cover sheet. It's a swell job!

Nobu Imai and Betty Wake for running these pages off on the mimeograph.

All you who contributed articles to this "Retreat Echoes."

Dinky Creek.

Miss Tomi Ono

Balansfield

Kings "Redwood"

Aug 1st -

Aug 7 to 10th

Rev. Greer

April 8th

Registrar - Chiaki Renge
~~Phyllis Kinoshita~~

Publicity + Publications - Kakko Yemoto
Alice Osaki

Food - Aiko Konatsu, Lydia Nagata
Velma Kurikawa

Transportation = Frank Sakohira -
Yo Nakamura
Min Okubo

Reception - Lucy Kishi
Naomi Tagawa

Housing: Marshall Hirose & Nellmade.
Louise Hayakawa

Music - Betty Wake
Retreat pianist - Kai Inai

Recreation: Recreation - Loyd Wake
Mary & Eijimoto

Discussion - Julia Goto.
Tod Nakashima

+ Study Group.

Congre.

Page, Kirby Dr.
Jones

Cuthbertson
through P. Nagayo.
Cuthbertson, Write

Hunter, Allan, A.

