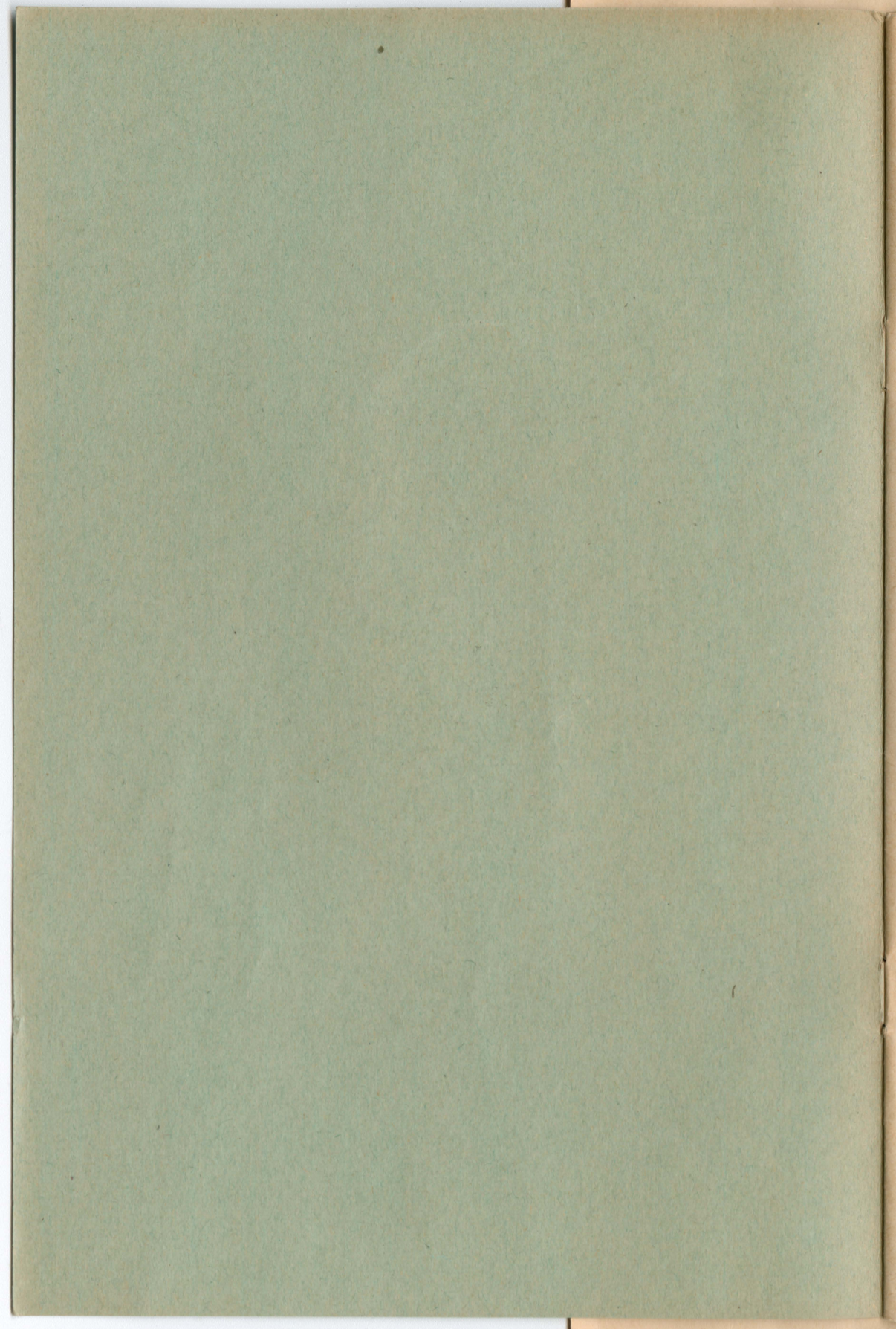


ECHOES
OF THE
N. C. Y. P. C. C.



"LIVING VALIANTLY FOR JESUS"
BERKELEY, CALIF.

1935



ECHOES

Of the

Eleventh Annual

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

YOUNG PEOPLES

CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE



PURPOSE

"The purpose of the Young People's Christian Conference is to unite the spiritual forces, to strengthen local forces, to cultivate Christian leadership, and to forward the realization of deeper Christ-like living." —Rev. S. Kato.

Berkeley, California - November 1, 2, 3; 1935.

"Men are rich only as they give. He who gives great service gets great returns." These lines are found in Elbert Hubbard's note book and it exemplifies our conference. We have received many letters from those who attended the conference as guests, visitors, or observers, and in every letter the writer commends the delegates, committee members, chairmen and the officers for the wonderful spirit shown in their coöperation and sociability throughout the whole conference. In the Japanese papers, columns of compliments were given us for the manner in which we conducted the gathering, and so we who had the pleasure of guiding the conference for the part year feel that our time and efforts were not in vain.

Since the conference is growing rapidly it needs the help of every one of its members, and thus we plead for greater coöperation from you for our new officers.

We who have just served will stand ready to help the newer members in every way possible so we hope that you will not hesitate to call on us.

We have taken another step forward toward the goal which Rev. Kato has set—to build a castle of Christian youths.

DR. HEISHIRO TAKAO.

Chairman of the Northern Calif. Y.P.C.C. 1935.

LIVE VALIANTLY FOR JESUS

Buried among the hub-bub of the programs of the conference and the world in general, the globe of Life shoots out streaking beams of light. The flashes of brilliance illuminates the world with the words "Live Valiantly for Jesus".

Just what do we mean? The interpretations are many and varied. With the passing of time, the change in application and definition becomes many and wide in range. To say "Live an abundant, true, and loyal life" would not be altogether wrong.

Taking apart the phraseology of the theme, we see that the only word seemingly in question is "valiantly". Finding out what this key word embraces, we would practically solve our question. Let us define it as "courageous, wisely, harmoniously, justly, and abundantly".

Let us not be afraid of life and its diverse pathways. Face it with a determined outlook and a chin held high; resolve a goal and strive for its accomplishment. Jesus asks it—"For My sake" live courageously. It doesn't mean to glorify one's self. It means simply to live an ordinary, straightforward life which is within the limits of every person. Yet, being courageous can be more clearly defined. It means being able to distinguish the right from the wrong; knowledge from ignorance; and good from evil. Our souls must be fashioned with the vision of goodness. Living with bubbling enthusiasm, ambition, and determination should be our manner of existence.

To top it all, live, work, play, and worship in the best manner possible always remembering this—"For His sake"; follow the teachings of Christ and thou shalt not fail.

As Rev. S. Tanabe said in his address—"Life is a football game; the victory of which would be for Jesus. With faith and conviction and the Man of Galilee to lead us, our team shall never fail."

—SHIG KOMATSU.

SECTIONAL REPORTS

BAY REGION

We can best see the 1935 edition of the Bay Region YPCC in retrospect as we turn the pages of the petite turquoise-colored covers of the booklet-program of the booklet-program of the gathering.

The cover tells us that it was our 10th annual conference and was held at the Oakland M. E. Church and the San Francisco Reformed Church on April 13 and 14.

The inside covers presented the delegates eight introspective challenges, urging them to evaluate the purpose of coming to the conclave, and eight retrospective challenges enabling the delegates to review their profit and activities at the conference.

The conference, as well as the program, was joyfully dedicated to our dear friend Dr. Smith, who has so unselfishly and unceasingly helped us through the past ten difficult years. The conference hymn: "Living for Jesus".

The Saturday program in Oakland ran, in short, as follows from one o'clock in the afternoon: Registration, Leaders' Prayer Circle, Singspiration, The Voice of Youth, Thought Exchange, Our Friends' Banquet, Cheeriod, Xth Anniversary Ceremony, Address by Dr. Downs, and the Angelus.

On Sunday, at the Reformed Church, the program consisted of Registration, Singspiration, Voice of Experience (Dr. Smith), Conference Picture, Wells of Wisdom (Interest Groups), a religious motion picture, business session, The

Last Supper, Sans Souci, and Mizpah (Closing Service) featuring the stirring play "Out of the Darkness Into the Light", and a cheerful address by Rev. Rollo La Porte.

From the internal viewpoint, the dominant idea of the executive board was to make the conference novel, different, out-of-the-ordinary, interesting and yet with a deeper, spiritual "pick-up" and movement through it all.

The credit and praise for the conference go to the executive board, the many committees, and to the receptive delegates who all cooperated splendidly to illustrate in action and obey the commanding theme: "Live Valiantly for Jesus".

DAVE TATSUNO,

Bay Region Sectional Chairman,
1935.

COAST REGION

"Live Valiantly For Jesus"—a great challenge sounded and resounded in the hearts of the young people who gathered for the Tenth Annual Coast Region Sectional Conference at Watsonville this year.

Among the multitudes of Christian youths, the necessity for valiant living is great. Youths, numbering close to one hundred and fifty, seeking new inspirations and new encouragements, met for the two days in the Presbyterian Church. We felt especially encouraged to know that the great army of Christ was ever growing.

Christianity is adventurous, so I feel that youths are the ones most fitted to answer the challenge,

which has been presented to us from all angles. Adventurous youths must obey the master who said, "Take up thy cross and follow Me." We have been assured that it is not an easy task, but the reward is great. Being equipped physically, mentally, spiritually, we are the ones who must carry on to overcome all until we reach the goal which has been set for us.

All in all, I feel that these conferences held in different sections have opened the eyes to young people to visualize youths themselves carrying the banner of Christ to meet this challenge.

—YAEKO SUYAMA,
Coast Region Sectional
Chairman—1935.

SACRAMENTO VALLEY REGION

The Tenth Annual Sacramento Valley Sectional Y.P.C.C. was held on February 22, 23, and 24 at the Westminster Presbyterian Church.

Through a fortunate turn in the dates, a three-day gathering was held for the first time in the history of the conference. Meeting concurrently with the conference in another church was the Northern California Baptist Young People's Convention with which we met on Friday night with a few of our young people taking part in the services. The several hundred young people assembled there were greatly inspired by the message "All Things Through Christ" given by Dr. George W. Phillips of the Tenth Avenue Baptist Church

of Oakland.

Through another fortunate contact the conference was able to obtain Dr. G. Pitt Beers of New York City, connected with the Baptist Home Mission Society, as the main speaker at the Saturday night banquet. He gave a stirring address on the theme of the conference, "Live Valiantly for Jesus".

One of the most impressive services was held on Saturday evening for the Tenth Anniversary ceremony. A candle-light service was presided over by Harry Mayeda and brief messages from chairmen of each year's conference were read. A resolve was born in this session among the young people to strive harder and higher in the coming decades for our Lord and Master.

Another outstanding session was the Union Church service held on Sunday morning where Rev. T. Aiura spoke to the group composed of adults and young people, and so successful was the meeting, the leaders of the conference decided to continue this union service next year.

There were a little more than two hundred delegates registered and it can be truly said that each one of them received something of great value in his or her Christian life. The Sacramento Sectional Y.P.C.C. extends heartiest wishes to the Eleventh Annual Northern California Y.P.C.C. for a great conference!

—DAVE OKADA,
Sacramento Valley Sectional
Chairman—1935.

SANTA CLARA VALLEY REGION

That the Santa Clara Sectional Conference is the "baby conference" of Northern California does not necessarily mean that the Santa Clara conference is the most immature and hence, incapable. No longer is our conference to be looked down upon, for our delegates have grown up, both in years and in number, and with these added assets, we hope to be an integral part of the great Northern California Y.P.C.C.

If the conference teaches our young people only the essence of organization and cooperation, the movement in itself is a needed unit; but beyond that, we find an interlocking friendship rising up among and within the members of the various sectional conferences. On top of that, we find that the Y.P.C.C. leads and shows the way toward that better plane of living, a life that is based after the principles of Jesus Christ, the best representative of our Heavenly Father.

As we young people grow older, both in years and in wisdom, we find questions arising on all sides demanding suitable answers. Here is where the conference movement could make us realize that our way of living, the Christian way of living, is the sensible and intelligent way of living. And to do this, we will demand a dynamic religion for we growing youngsters are changing in our dynamic society.

—HENRY TANI.
Santa Clara Sectional
Chairman—1936.

CENTRAL REGION

We, the cabinet of the Fresno Sectional have really experienced the success of our last Conference. Through many difficulties and stumbling blocks, we were helped on to a very successful Conference by some kind of a power—some people call it "luck" but I call this "God".

Many of our delegates realized the real living Christ in the person of Jesus. Many went home from the Conference with this promise that Jesus had made—"Seek, and ye shall find."

We hoped that the delegates have found out that it takes a Christ to take a Christ. We have found the need of our yearning for a better personality in order to earn the newer and more real experiences of our own lives.

When Jesus and his disciples were walking along and saw a dead, emaciated dog, the disciples said, "What an unclean, dirty thing!" But Jesus said, "Look at its beautiful teeth."

So, in living valiantly for Jesus, our achievement has been to *openly* see every act, thought, and other person from at last two different views.

May someone in the form of Christ, give to each one of you delegates the joy of Living Valiantly for Jesus—and for others.

—GEORGE AKI.
Fresno Sectional Conference
Chairman —1935.

REV. KATO'S MEMORIAL

*Because you passed, and now are not—
Because in some remoter day,
Your sacred dust from doubtful spot
Was blown of ancient airs away—
Because you perished—must men say
Your deeds were naught, and so profane
Your lives with that cold burden, Nay,
The deeds you wrought are not in vain!*
—Austin Dobson.

LIVING FOR JESUS

We are living valiantly for Him,
Who showed us courage in deserted paths
And peopled streets, the gallant dreams of youth,
And in our going, we can see the way
Toward upland hills, the summits touched with dawn.

We have caught up a song from out the earth
To bear us company along the road
That leads through cities in their darkness, hid
In weariness, inhabited by secret fears,
Where rest is denied to defenceless hearts . . .
With prayers we walk the path, though tired
Moments still eddy about us windily.

We follow His fair road where hope is peace
And faith the first white morning gleam of sun,
And now trace the day, forgetting nights
When light was stricken from our clouded view.
Laughter we share and leave it shining through
The singing grass that others might perceive
Where we passed on, through strange unknown bypaths
And lonely paved lanes, remembering,
Living His word in all our everydays.

—TOYO SUYEMOTO.

RETROSPECTION

Looking into the retrospective mirror, we see that the 1935 N. C. Y.P.C.C. was another great success. Success—not in the sense of having hit the highest goal which is so often superficial, but in the sense of an accomplishment. It did one important thing of having turned out Christians.

Too often we take the attitude of cynical critics. This young people's conference is looked down upon with disdain. In the opinion of such celestial persons it does not show enough results to satisfy or even make a dent in their self-important armor of dogmatic opinion. They expect too much, yet, they contribute little. In the three days of feverish, yet harmoniously varied program, they expect to find a three years' curriculum of theology and worship. Their attitude is much too pessimistic; no encouragement, no word of appreciation ever emanate from such individuals.

From the viewpoint of development, our attitude seems to be that of optimism. There may be a few minor disadvantages or weaknesses but think how small a proportion they will make in comparison to the good results obtained.

An optimistic viewpoint is the basis of any successful conference. Optimism is ambition; with such qualities in our leaders and delegates, no failure could be considered. Ambition then leads to initiative; and what else can initiative do but kindle the fire of enthusiasm and strengthen the steel of deter-

mination? These are the qualities that every man should possess. All advancement in this world can be boiled down to such a basis. Christianity is no exception; the conference is no exception; they too, are based upon such fundamentals.

Perhaps it was this same attitude of optimism on the part of some of our leaders that led the pessimistic group to hurl criticisms at our conferences. Perhaps the goal was set too high for us. Yet, who can deny that a high aim is essential? Have not the great men of all times always advised, "Aim high and keep shooting at the goal, and you'll get there some day"? Remember the analogy of Robert Bruce and the spider that was attempting to swing to a higher perch. This particular spider, in spite of failure after failure, had tried again and again until finally, it succeeded in its endeavor. This inspired Robert Bruce to lead his forces to a glorious victory which had been considered well-nigh impossible. Can we not see then, that a lofty goal is not necessarily an impossibility? With optimism and determination, our highest aim can be accomplished.

We see, then, that it couldn't have been the optimism of our leaders that was the cause of any unnecessary criticisms. The real reason, quite apparently, is the lack of optimism and other necessary qualities in the conference-goers themselves. This shows then, that the conference-goers should attend with an open mind, willing to take in the best and to give the best

HIGHLIGHTS

Unscrambling all our hastily written notes, we find there are multi-colored "roses" for our rose-jar of memories.

Friday's Fellowship period prepared by reception chairman LeRoy Kajiwara proved itself a highlight by the virtue of presenting such sterling amateur performers in Bill Fujii, Toshiko Kako, Harvey Suzuki, Haru Watanabe, Kats Nakajima and others.

The Opening Banquet at the International House featured Howard L. Brown, noted songwriter and leader of Christian youth; official greeting-givers; Wilbur Taki-guchi, toastmaster; Berkeley's double quartet; Miss Dorothy Rusted, state C. E. pianist; and of course, salad, "dressed-up" beef, potatoes, squash, and (ymmmmm) ice cream 'n cake.

Saturday found delegates in two groups—the High school group at First Presbyterian and the High school graduates at Trinity Methodist.

"If you want to hear one of the best speakers of the conference, he's speaking now," Rev. Tanabe came to tell us at 9:15 Saturday morning, so off we dashed to hear Dr. Patton on "The Place of Religion in Life".

"Our idea of authority in religion has passed away," he said, "not in the sense of historical value but in the sense of its being an infallible set of rules—of laws.

If the Bible is to be taken as authority—people must read and understand the Bible for them-

selves—thereby making *themselves* the authority.

"Religion is never the same thing in two succeeding generations . . . because it is an integral part of the inner soul which is never still . . . Religion is inherent in us . . . is instinctive . . . is the working of the divine spirit in us . . . answers the deep questions of our spirits . . . Religion is not merely morality . . . it is a picture of the universe . . . a philosophy of life."

At 10:00 Discussion Groups were called and the High school graduates divided into "Sex and Home" led by Mr. Henry Grant; "New Bible" by Dr. Parker; "Christ and Economic Order" by Mr. Proffitt.

Origin of the Bible, reasons for negligence in its perusal, and its importance as the Truth, were discussed. "The Bible is true as a great, glorious and magnificent literature . . . is true as a record of man's discovery of God . . . if you look into the Bible you will find God."

Our younger brothers and sisters separated into discussion groups: "Friendships" led by Mrs. William Takahashi; "Should You Go To College?" by Mr. Ari Inouye; "New Bible" by Rev. J. Tsukamoto; "Our Ideals" by Miss Elizabeth Takahashi.

"Friendships" are based on certain qualities, it was discussed. One Professor King stated five essentials necessary for true friendship (1) breadth of personality; (2) depth of personality; (3) common interest; (4) mutual revela-

tion; (5) mutual self-giving.

At another group, some of the reasons given in favor of attending college were: for development of personalities, for acquisition of higher earning power, sense and understanding of values; for opportunity for scientific and general research; for discovery of one's life-work; for development of one's self-efficiency in necessary initiative, leadership, etc.; and self-sufficiency in solitary leisure.

Qualities which should be found in an ideal person; the method of their attainment; and the problem of the second-generation church were among the topics discussed in "Our Ideals" led by Miss Elizabeth Takahashi. Assimilation, amalgamation, and coöperation were discussed as three ways in which the race problem could be solved, although no definite solution was expressed. "More nisei ministers, more adequately equipped leaders, and second-generation churches are needed."

The morning activities came to an end when all the delegates gathered in front of the Trinity Methodist Church to smile in their best manner for the conference picture chairman, Harry Takahashi.

The entire delegation then trooped to the First Presbyterian Church where we ate from lunch boxes in the recreation hall. Packed closely in the hall, the crowd was easily led into a feeling of jolly unity and closeness by Chairman Ben Yoshioka. Charades presented by some talented groups proved to

be the feature entertainment of this hour.

At 2:00 the High school delegates heard Rev. La Porte on "Visions of Youth". He defined "vision" as the act of perceiving color, outline or movement of something beautiful in contrast to a "sight" which he defined as something spectacular and not necessarily beautiful. Moral astigmatism is too prevalent in our lives, he said, only through the eyes of Christ can we see clearly and ideally.

Following this address, the delegates went into the same discussion groups of the morning with some going into different groups deriving variety in their program.

At the same time, the High school graduates heard Dr. Paul Bucholz on "Is Christ Out of Date?" He stated in part: "The thing that characterizes this day more than anything else is a certain, definite loss of self-assurance . . . Our ideas of success are still ideas of accumulating wealth . . . We need a compelling idealism to integrate our whole lives around . . . Christianity banishes fear . . . eliminates hatred . . . promotes brotherhood . . . makes for strong, fearless living. . . Is Christ out of date? Is Love out of date? Is Patience out of date? Is Humility out of date? . . . In fact, there is no date . . . Jesus is an eternal thing".

Delegates went, following this address, into discussion groups: "Reason for Living" led by Dr. O. H. Houser; "World Situation Today" by Dr. Guy; "Science and Religion" by Dr. Fisk.

"Reason for Living" proved very interesting and absorbing as Dr. Houser directed the group with spirit and enthusiasm. "The very fact that we are living is reason enough for living", he said. "Life is worth living for the work there is to be done . . . The thrills of overcoming obstacles, of helping others; the joy of the "home-coming" are reasons enough for living . . . Life is beautiful . . . There is beauty in the constant change of life . . . Obstacles are the spice of life . . . The earth is the workshop of God. He finds satisfaction in His masterpiece . . . is happy in loving you and me . . . For this alone, life is worth living".

The discussion, "World Situation Today" proved informative and interesting, giving the attending delegates a general view of the existing problems in various countries. The Christian attitude toward this situation is to work for realistic justice and to go out on a campaign of love. Dr. Guy gave his opinions on various questions which delegates asked in the later part of the discussion period.

"Science and Religion," the third discussion group of that afternoon brought forth questions as "What are the seeming conflicts between science and religion? If religion is true, and science is true, can there be any conflicts? . . . Religion is the mother of all sciences, architecture, art, music, medicine. Institutionalized, religion does not approve of the aspects it has begotten . . . Milliken, a great scientist in the field of physics, said:

"Religion and science are great sister-forces".

After the business meeting at Trinity Methodist Church, "Twilight Melodies", a recital of pipe-organ music by Mrs. Elizabeth Woods was given for the delegates.

Following the musical program, the delegation divided into two groups again with the High school students gathering at Trinity and the graduates at First Baptist. Nobu Nishimoto chairmanned the "kiddies" banquet and led the crowd in a period of one grand, peppy time. "It's not going to be like the old togeys' banquet at the First Baptist Church" he said. Willis Hirata acted as song leader; Yumi Sato as pianist; and George Yamamoto as presenter of the Ice-Breakers' Club award to Min Akamatsu of Alameda.

At Baptist, Dave Okada took over the toast-mastership and steered the prevailing moods into channels of mirth and gaiety. Joe Sasaki was song leader; LeRoy Kajiwara was presenter of the ice-pick to Miss June Kawakami, of Fresno.

After consuming every edible thing in sight, everyone went to the International House where the Quartet Contest was sponsored with all of the quartets in close competition for high honors. "The Bishop's Candlesticks," an adaptation from Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" was presented by the members of the San Francisco Young People's Union Church. Starring were Fred Hoshiyama as

the benevolent Bishop; Minoru Endo as the realistic Jean Valjean; and Toki Miho as the convincing Bishop's sister, Persome.

Sunday morning found early-risers at the Sunrise Consecration Service at Lake Merritt with Rev. Francis Hayashi as speaker on "Faith in Action".

Following the address, delegates drove to hostess churches where they attended the respective Sunday schools and church services. After being guests at luncheons, the delegates returned at 2:00 to the Berkeley Congregational Church where closing services were held after a singspiration period conducted by Ruth Dekuzaku. The Sacramento quartet was announced as the winner of the quartet contest of Saturday night at this time. In the chapel Rev. S. Tanabe gave the closing address on the conference theme: "Living Valiantly for Jesus" in which he stressed that it meant a game of life; self-control when things went wrong; a battle of supremacy and nobleness; faith and deep conviction for philosophy of life. With his inspiring words still lingering in the minds of the delegates, farewells and sad but cheery partings took place and the four hundred and — turned their faces homeward with the 1935 theme firmly enstilled in their hearts—"Live Valiantly for Jesus"!

Retrospection

Continued from page eight.

to help along the conference.

Finally, our very understanding of the success of the conference is misinterpreted. Of course, we all hope to influence and make all the attenders real Christians but this is something that we can't do as yet. Remember, however, what one leader said: "It's all right if *every* delegate to the conference doesn't become a perfect model." It is impossible to have complete perfection in this world. But if *one* person is really influenced and put on the right road, isn't that enough? And our conference has done this very thing. Several real Christians, whether recognized or unrecognized, have been turned out.

Who, then, can say that our conference has not been a great success!

—SHIG KOMATSU.

