

1.

A. Thank congregation.  
B. Changed with little bit

MY RELIGIOUS LIFE AND EXPERIENCE.

My background is very important when I consider the personalities who have helped me towards the ministry. Thus I would like to delve briefly into my religious background.

My grandfather was an assistant civil engineer of the Nippon Civil Engineering Company at the time of his baptism in 1890. After his baptism he began to propagate Temperance which was badly needed at that time. At a later time, he was responsible for converting two great Christian lay-leaders in Japan who in turn, converted many another to Christianity. After the Russo-Japanese War, he decided to make a Christian colony of Japanese nationals in South America, but in his visit to California, he found the ideal spot in Livingston, California. Up to the time of the Evacuation, Livingston was the only pure Japanese Christian community in the world. It is inspiring <sup>for</sup> me to know that he desired such a community in the presence of a promotion in the field of civil engineering. He passed away in Livingston on Feb. 8, 1959. Today, I recall very well his way of doing his work which was always preceded with prayer. His sincerity, humility, and forbearance in the sight of his fellowmen and before God, I hope to learn and to attain.

His daughter, my mother, was educated at the Doshisha Girls' School (a former Congregational Church Mission School in Kyoto) and trained for a life of Christian service. Naturally, she wanted to marry a minister, but married a physician, a decision which I'm sure, she did not regret too greatly.

My father was one of the founders of the Japanese Congregational Church in Fresno. He has also deeply influenced me towards the Christian way of living and towards my ultimate choice as a Christian minister. So much for my background.

I was baptised while I was a baby in Livingston and later confirmed at Fresno. As far as I can recall, I have never longed to get away from the Church. Throughout my childhood days and <sup>my</sup> period of youth, I have always sought the Church as a place of fellowship and prayer. My folks were good enough to show me that the Church was the place to go, not forcefully, but willingly; thus I, in turn,



## MY RELIGIOUS LIFE AND EXPERIENCE.

have always encouraged others to go to Church in the same manner.

In my college days at Fresno, I was working my way through school and so my time was limited. The Christian activities at College could not be attended all the time, but at my home church, I helped as a Church School teacher, and as an officer in the fellowship meetings. It was during these days that I took active part in the Japanese Youth Conferences.

During my college days, I used to drive my father out to the poverty-stricken country homes where many sick people lived... people so poor that they could not go to a doctor for treatments. My father used to look after them without any thought of a financial return. Watching my father work so unselfishly and quietly, in my sophomore year, I decided to become a minister to the people. Before and after the decision, I heard many comments about the superficiality, foolishness, the waste of time and money for those who would be so ignorant as to choose the ministry for his life-work... and even one statement from one minister himself who discouraged his son from going into that field, the reasons being that it was too difficult and unappreciated.... still, I have steadfastly held onto my decision and have struggled to find my place in and through a theological school... and you may be sure, I have not regretted it.

The unselfishness, heroism and ingenuity of my grandfather, mother, and father shall always stand before me as I move forward in the task that I have definitely chosen. As I have come to understand Jesus more and more, I see a task that is big and full of strife, but I believe in the Saviour Jesus and the Eternal and Almighty Father and in the Holy Spirit which shall guide me towards a Kingdom of God right here.

In my background I have so much to look back to, and as I look ahead I shall endeavor my powers towards attaining the highest and greatest level of the Christian standards in my thought, life and work.



7,  
MY CONSIDERATIONS POINTING TOWARDS  
THE MINISTRY, AND WHAT I HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH.

My first and deepest consideration that led me into the thought of the ministry was the devotional, tolerant, and unselfish uplift which characterised my grandfather, father and mother in their daily living. Consciously and unconsciously they were encouraging me in my life to be the true follower of Christ Jesus. Many were the times when I heard and read of the great ministers and missionaries and their sacrifices.... and then I thought of the great sacrifices which my loved ones had made for me and for the community at large. They had not faltered in their faith in God and in the great hope of the future, for they held that there must be some spark of the Divine Personality in every human soul and that each person has the potentialities of growing up into a Christian personality which shall eventually conquer the world. They have constantly shown me the way to live the most "abundant" life by following the perfect example of Jesus.

My second consideration was my youthful concern of the lack of ministers among the Japanese, especially among the Second Generation Japanese. (Nissei) I was and am still deeply concerned in not seeing those whom I found capable of becoming ministers, not being encouraged along that line. To find so few devoting <sup>themselves</sup> ~~themselves~~ to the most sacred interests of <sup>the</sup> human souls in the life here and the propagation of the truth of the life eternal, and to find out that no one was vowing to study God's Word and to teach and lead the people as the true Shepherd of the people, were deep concerns of mine, for I realized that without a leader, the sheep will eventually get lost. And the Nisseis, as I know them, get lost so easily because they have no leanings towards the things that are spiritual <sup>the</sup> and Bible-centered. Thus, knowing that I am not worthy of being the minister of God, and knowing that I shall make mistakes and be rebuked along the way.... I am hoping and praying that through my efforts, no matter how feeble, that I may inspire another to take up the yoke and do a better job than I may do.



## MY CONSIDERATIONS....

My third consideration was my deep concern of the lack of religious leadership among the Nisseis. This being mainly due to the lack of ministers who could be of help to the English speaking Japanese and their problems. I recall that the youth conferences in the beginning were able to do a good job since the able leaders were there to lead, but when they were exhausted and the younger set moved in to take over, the conferences began to decline in dignity, devotion and sincerity. I also recall that many of these leaders of youth conferences were forced to take over certain offices in the conferences, and thus, many of us saw the gradual downfall of Christianity among the Niseeis. To save the youths, I realized definitely that the ministers who could and would try to understand their troubles must somehow come into existence. I believe that true leadership comes from above and also through the inspiration and knowledge and tireless work of the ministers. The importance of leadership cannot be overstressed for they are the ones who in many instances show the public what Christian faith is in order that the eternal values will not be exhibited weakly.

To state the contributions that I may be able to make reminds me of a nomination speech which sounds so sincere at the time, but too sincere to bear the impact of tomorrow. But what I would like to accomplish are those which have been left undone by the ministers with whom I have come into contact.

It is my sincere desire to invade the congregation and try to inspire others to look forward to the work of the Christian ministry, to become Christian leaders and to seek to advance the Kingdom of God to all men. I hope to accomplish ~~that~~ through a working knowledge of the personalities in the Bible, by defining such religious terms which are so often used by the Church School teachers and by the ministers at the pulpit, by holding Christian Leadership seminars, and through my definite action towards a clearer out-look for a true kingdom.



3.  
MY CONSIDERATIONS...

I pray that I can with my utmost knowledge, and future knowledge and power imbedded in God, and inspired by the divine thoughts and actions of <sup>man</sup> ~~man~~, to help men and women I confront, to a deeper faith and love which shall make their every day experiences have a definite relationship to the will of God as revealed through Jesus. I have faith in the thought that the Christian ideal is woven into the very fabric of the universe and can be experienced in every age by everyone. I would humbly state that I wish to help all with whom I come into contact, whether they be loyal Christians or not. I wish to work as Jesus did for others, not for any reward, except the reward that God looks with favor upon what I do.

To move among people perplexed in wonder, confused in their choices and not caring too much about the final outcome is a difficult task, but I vow my best to ~~make~~ men willingly seek God above the sound of deafening and distracting strife. I am young and with very little experience and knowledge, but with faith in God and mankind, I would like to go forth into the souls of men, for a strong voice is always with me, saying, "Take heart, it is I. Have no fear."



## MY STATEMENT OF BELIEF.

I believe in God our Personal Father, the Creator and Preserver of all mankind, whose knowledge and wisdom is beyond our human comprehension and whose love and mercy is infinite. God is the personal power who speaks to us as individual persons. It is well to know God through different arguments, (Epistemologically, cosmologically and ontologically) but to hear and answer the voice of the living God is the point where argument is surmounted by experience. In that experience through knowledge do we find that God is Holy, Love and Faithful to us even in our sinful moments. God is truly a loving personal spirit, infinite, eternal and unchanging. In Him and in His will do I put all my trust, for without Him nothing is holy and eternal.

I believe in His son, Jesus Christ who was sent to earth to be our Lord and Saviour and who was able to understand the will of God as he confronted the people and their needs. We find in his personality an unfailing understanding of others, because he was human and sensed the hunger and thirst of man, but he overcame them in his perfect faith, hope and love so that he may show us what God the Father was truly like. In Jesus Christ there is centered the unique character of the Christian belief in God. I believe that the good life is found in the life and leadership of Jesus. I sincerely believe that Jesus lived and died for us so that God would be more real in our lives and that we shall forevermore be in true companionship with God through Christ Jesus. This salvation through Jesus Christ is a free gift from God to us who would accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the true essence of God's nature and personality which was in Jesus and has been the spirit behind the Christian movement. In other words, I mean that the true meaning of the Spirit came to us from the Old Testament, and has been made full in definition in the New Testament. In the life of the individual, the personal Spirit of God is working within us for the remaking, renewing of our human personalities. The spirit of God is forever trying to get our potential God-like characteristics into definite action. The Christian experience







3.  
MY STATEMENT OF BELIEFS.

In him do we learn to share the burden of the suffering of the world, and in Him do we find the eternal God our Father.

I believe in the unity of the Bible. I find great and permanent ideas which run through the whole Bible <sup>and</sup> which comes forth in full fruition in the New Testament. The moral conception of <sup>the</sup> Lord God which the prophets expounded and achieved is rounded off into that great conception of the Holy Fatherhood in the teachings of Jesus. The great prophecy of Jeremiah on the New Covenant is fulfilled in the Upper Room by Jesus Christ. The suffering for God and with God as seen in Job, Jeremiah, and Hosea are found so explicit in the Cross. The "Spirit" which animated the Hebrew leaders time and time again is found in the very heart of Paul's teachings of the Holy Spirit. Thus I believe in the <sup>unity of the</sup> complete Bible. I believe in the freedom of interpretation of the Bible as fundamental towards the full realization of the will of God. I shall always strive for the intelligent interpretation of the Bible.

I believe in the institution called the Church of Christ which has come into being to proclaim to all peoples, the gospel of our Saviour so that we may walk and converse as becomes the gospel of Christ, to worship the one true God, our Eternal Father, who has proven His love for all of us by sending Christ Jesus. In our strivings for the knowledge revealed thru Jesus, I believe that we can promote justice, peace and human brotherhood.

Concerning Miracles, I do not want to be so obstinate as to say that all the miracles are true because they are recorded in the Bible. Even today, they remain obscure, in that it is unexplainable and <sup>entirely</sup> not understandable, thus we cannot tell whether each even occurred exactly as recorded or not. Although I do not literally believe that all the miracles did happen, I would say that they are true in that their teachings are true.

Christian Faith <sup>I believe</sup> means that which leads us into an experience of a personal fellowship with One who is conceived as majestic, holy and gracious. It seems to



## MY STATEMENT OF BELIEFS.

ME THAT we must always return to our <sup>own</sup> faith with renewed confidence because the highest ideal for men and the most perfect revelation of God <sup>came</sup> together in Christ. The great Christian assertion is that there is nothing higher than a Christian Faith in each other <sup>in God</sup> when hate and evil forces are working to build so-called Patriotism.

<sup>sin</sup> Fundamentally speaking, Adam and Eve story is a story, revealing a true teaching; the truth that sin came by man's free choice of right or wrong, and that men are all sinners. Since God was a forgiving Father, he gave us Jesus who in his life, teachings, and Cross made plain that if we repented of our sins and followed the God-like path of His Son, we would be forgiven. In this faith of ours, that if we repented in the right and sincere manner, we would always have <sup>an</sup> ever-growing experience of a true fellowship with God. It is our duty to face sin and conquer it and not evade it. I shall face calamities and tragedies which I probably have not as yet dreamed of, and sometimes I may find it easy to ask God to do something about it, and it may be that in my weak moments I may condemn God instead of myself. But through the Christian privilege of repentance, like Paul at the time of his conversion <sup>I shall</sup> ~~we should~~ ask God His wishes, and thus through <sup>my</sup> ~~our~~ meditation, ~~we~~ <sup>I</sup> ~~shall~~ <sup>should</sup> get our bearings and go ahead.

I believe that Prayer and Worship is not mere repetition of familiar rites but the opening of the heart to the responsiveness of mind and <sup>the</sup> ~~our~~ surrender of our wills to the Holy Will of the Loving God as revealed in Jesus Christ. In these moments when we examine ourselves before God, we find ourselves to be larger than we think, in that we can be and are the spirit and program of Christianity in action. In these moments do we definitely progressively unveil the living Spirit of Christ. I would not care to get lost in sentimentalism, transcendentalism, or in theological arguments, but I would like to combine education and practical work. I hope to seek and <sup>to</sup> ~~build~~ build leaders that will grow... a leadership that will



MY STATEMENT OF BELIEFS.

GET new glimpses of the truth all the time.

*(Cross!)*

Paul said: "God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." According to the revelation in Christ, God seeks unwearingly to redeem us through his sacrifice upon the Cross. God's love and his righteousness came together in the Cross of Christ, where he shares with men the burden of human sin. No lesser act could reveal the love of God and the holiness of God. It was the most definite and purest sacrifice to draw men to God. The Cross is the symbol of redeeming love and victorious faith.

*Resurrection*

Even Death could not conquer and hold Christ. The great life which Jesus lived among mankind became very distinct and clear in the minds of the people and the disciples. ~~And the resurrection of Christ has lived in the minds of the people and the disciples.~~ The quality of life which Jesus lived among men and the unique relationship which he held to God did not become a fragment<sup>mentary</sup> memory in the minds of the followers. And since his physical death, the Eternal Christ has lived in History ever since.

Finally, I believe that the Kingdom of God will come only through knowledge, love and service of each individual in the true spirit of democracy. It will come gradually as we work for the highest ideals in righteousness, fair play, and tolerance as we find it in the teachings of Jesus. I believe that the churches of Christ are the body of Christ endeavoring to make his spirit the greatest factor in the souls of all people. For the true fellowship of mankind through love, courage service and prayer shall I never cease to work and<sup>to</sup> pray.

(Resurrection: The most vital point in the development of Christianity. The Resurrection experience glvanized the disciples into action and convinced the disciples that Jesus was the Messiah, and the combination set loose forces that led to the development of the Christian Church. Miller, What We Can Believe. p.84.)