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Hashimoto, Hideo

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OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

October 14, 1942

Avenue E Barrack 13 Apt 3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Sueno
Orinda, California

Dear Dr. Fisher:

Thank you very much for your letter of October 11.
When you go to Topaz, please give my best regards to pastors,
Fujii, Tanaka, Goto, Shimada, Yamashita, Aki, Kawamorita, and
others.

You seem to be quite optimistic about the new regulations about the release of evacuees for either temporary or unlimited outside projects. I do hope that you are right. However, it seems to me that there still exists quite a bottle-neck of public sentiment against resettlement outside the projects. On the other hand, if the W. R. A. is so liberal in its policies, as was published in the recent issue of the PACIFIC CITIZEN, then one bottle-neck is eliminated. As you say, "If many go out, the whole aspect of the Projects and of the religious work in them will inevitably be changed."

1. In this connection, does it mean that the Inter-denominational Board will be contemplating a reduced assistance to the religious activities in the Centers? I do hope that such is not the case because this thing is still very uncertain. From all indications, it seems to me that the major part of the work has to be done in the Projects. They will need all the support that has so far been contemplated. If these various Boards hear of mass relocation outside, I am afraid that they will think that there will be very little need of religious work in the Centers. Perhaps this is an undue worry, but it is easy for organizations to find means to reduce the budget or find excuses when they are not able to raise a fund. Dr. Chapman has been writing to us concerning certain plans of the religious work in the Centers, such as the \$5,000 Chapel for Centers of 5,000 population, etc. I do hope that these measures will be pushed rather than held in abeyance ^{by} expectant mass relocation.

2. In the second place, I am very much interested in working outside on resettlement as well as religious work among those who are being settled outside. In a long run, when we consider the serious problem of post war resettlement of 100,000 people with "Enemy Alien" labels on them when millions of war veterans are being demobilized and given jobs, this problem

October 14, 1942

very doubtful

of resettlement seems to be much more important. You know how much interested I am in this problem. Personally I am caught between the desire to serve the Project community in fostering the spirit of community cooperation as well as serving as pastor, and that of working on the problems of resettlement. For the last couple of months, I have been consulting friends of mine, many of whom are leaders of the Fellowship Of Reconciliation, upon this question. Their opinions are divided. Dr. Nevin Sayre is visiting me tomorrow, I think, concerning this phase of the program. At the present time, I am thinking of several things for me to do in case I should work "outside."

a. To work under the religious council for war relocation or some similar interdenominational Christian body which is organized to help permanent resettlement.

b. To work on some project of cooperative farm.

V

c. I believe the work of the pastors outside the Projects is one of a liaison between the community in which the people of Japanese descent are being resettled, the pastors, the community leaders, the Y.M.C.A., and the Y.W.C.A., etc., etc., and the Japanese--advising the Japanese how to become adjusted and introducing them to these community leaders. Of course, much of this has to be done by correspondence; but if possible, have personal contacts on some occasions. His job also would be that of communicating with key persons in the Centers, such as pastors, and who will act as counselors within the Centers in advising the people to leave the Centers for employment, etc. Perhaps "outside" pastor can serve also as the counselor to the students who are making difficult adjustments in the new situation.

I am enclosing a copy of the letter that I wrote to some of my F.O.R., friends in this connection. I shall appreciate very much your reaction.

Very sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

Enclosure: 1

1260 KERN STREET.
FRESNO CALIFORNIA.

PARSONAGE: 1228 KERN STREET,
PHONE 2-4867

The Japanese Methodist Church

HIDEO HASHIMOTO, PASTOR

June 23, 1942

Annex E Barrack 13 Apt 3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
National Security and Fair Play Committee
260 California Street, Room 311
San Francisco, California

Dear Dr. Fisher:

At the meeting of the council we ^{discovered} ~~discussed~~ that what you have been working for has brought results already-- that is, in regards to the milk supply. At present they are beginning to supply milk to children 2 to 10 years old both during the meal hours and between meals twice daily. We certainly appreciate what you and your committee are doing in this regard.

The tuberculosis situation seems quite serious. I hope some action be taken so that all of the people can be examined and those with active cases be hospitalized, preferably elsewhere. Hospital equipment is still meager but seems to be coming in slowly.

We had a very impressive commencement exercise last Friday with 142 graduates from 22 high schools from San Pedro to Sacramento. Dr. Hubert Philips of Fresno State College was the commencement speaker. His address, "Accident of History," was an excellent address especially prepared for that occasion. I wish the Fair Play Committee could reprint parts of his address and distribute them among some of the friends back East. I am trying to get hold of a copy of the address, too. Everyone of the graduates wore a gown and the whole commencement was dignified and appropriate. The lack of public addressing system was sorely felt. The amphitheater was built outside with a special platform and there were some 2500 to 3000 people.

Enclosed is the commencement program which may interest you.

Sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

Enclosure: 1

BOARD OF MISSIONS AND CHURCH EXTENSION
OF THE METHODIST CHURCH

PACIFIC JAPANESE PROVISIONAL CONFERENCE

FRANK HERRON SMITH
SUPERINTENDENT

2816 HILLEGASS AVENUE
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Sat
6-27-42

Dear Bro. Galen:

Wife and I are on the "San Joaquin" on the way to L. A. From Fresno I will send the clippings on Kebbs' argument of yesterday. His line is interesting - In the mail was a form letter from Masakba from Washington, D.C. re the bill of a Tenn. legislator. Whether this is of importance or not, I do not know. Have not had time to read it yet. yesterday

Our Commission met at 228 M^c Allister for 2 1/2 hours. Mostly routine business & reports. Bishop R. Schmuck - Major Newcomb - Miss M^c Guire - Mrs. Topping - Gordon myself +

It is a fact that all Japanese books except Bibles + hymn-books have been gathered up this week in at least Fresno + Tanforan. He had exact reports of only these two A. B. A. Centers. Per. ^{reported.} haps this was the most serious development.

Except Schmuck all of us went to call on Mr. Fager at 4:00 - (No tea) He called in Harvey Loverly - an Army Capt. and one other young assistant.

He shall be granted general passes to their projects. Every factor must be enrolled in their

Work Corps or pay \$20. each per mo. for him-
self and members of his family. He may send
in supplementary aid if we wish to do so.

We are not sure yet how to use the mis-
sionaries evacuated from Japan. Gordon is making
lists for Mr. F. & the Japanese in Projects. One
thing is certain - They must be invited from
within. Mr. F. said there should be some way
found to utilize these good people.

We suggested that we censor Jap. books as I
did for Missoula & Sharp Park. He seemed
to think that a feasible plan.

We offered to help recruit Jap. work parties from
the Projects for pressing agricultural needs
and to accompany such parties as Mr. Nash
himself went with a party from Manzanar to
S. Idaho. The 200 I sponsored for Malheur
bo. ^{one} seem to have succeeded in their mission.

All in all it was a pleasant interview.
Bovery did not entirely favor our suggestion
about ~~curbing~~ self-appointed religionists in
the Projects. He suggested standards at least
as high as used by the Railways in granting
reduced fares. The Manzanar Orphanage is already
functioning - a pattern for t.b. patients -
Best regards to all - yours jerkily
Frank Herron

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

June 23, 1942

Dr. Frank Herron Smith
Dr. Calen M. Fisher
Dr. Gordon K. Chapman

Gentlemen:

We just heard that the army ordered all the Japanese books to be banned from the Centers with exception of the Bible and the hymn books in Japanese. This is really serious. Many of the Isseis who are over 60 are not able to work and they have great deal of leisure time and unless they occupy themselves with reading, their minds stagnate or run into channels undesirable which ~~is~~ much be avoided. Innocent fiction material shouldn't hurt anybody, but our main concern is with the banning of Christian literature. Many of the Issei Christians who had been farmers or storekeepers who had very little time to read or study have brought in books such as "Pilgrims Progress," "Bible Commentaries," "Devotional Literature," and others with the intention of serious studies and development of Christian life. Too bad if these had to be stopped; also the Japanese speaking pastors need Japanese Bible Commentaries in order to study and prepare for the Services. It is hard to prepare adequately without these helps in Japanese.

We have also heard that even the English-Japanese dictionaries are prohibited. For great majority of the Isseis including pastors, it is hard to get the meaning of all the notices and English communication without the aid of a dictionary. Many of the Isseis are anxiously trying to learn English in these Centers and dictionaries are essential for that purpose. It is especially difficult for those in positions to be interpreting for others, such as the people in the Welfare Department and pastoral duties. There should be some way to discriminate between desirable and undesirable Japanese books such as censorship.

Will you please do all that in your power to get in touch with the army authorities that some sort of an adjustment be made that at least the books of Christian literature be allowed. I believe it would be entirely contrary to the purpose of the Americanization program of the Center if all these books were banned. We believe advancement and growth in Christian life is one of the prime essentials of Americanization. I am sure that when all these factors are presented to the proper authorities in the army they will make some sort of adjustments.

Anything you can do in this regard will be greatly appreciated not only by us, but by all the Christian workers in these Centers.

Very sincerely yours,

Major M. Imai

Rev. T. Sakaguchi

Rev. K. Inori

Rev. H. Hashimoto

M. Imai

K. Inori
Hideo Hashimoto

Editorial *Sharon*

Whatever is the decision in the suit to disenfranchise citizens of Japanese ancestry, it is unfortunately raised at this time.

Many matters will be readjusted after the war. How, will be influenced by public opinion created by time and events now beyond calculation.

A Constitutional amendment to specifically enfranchise Chinese, or to disenfranchise Japanese, doubtless would be approved and ratified in record time. Either would be a "quickie," bad in a matter of fundamental law. It is equally bad at this time to seek legal definitions which must be inconclusive in matters bound to undergo readjustment, even if that be only an affirmation of existing formula.

It is true as Mr. Webb says, that the Declaration, and the Constitution for that matter, was written by white men. It is not true that it was exclusively "for" white men. These charters are of human, not race principles, and to suggest otherwise now is to furnish excuse for unjustified accusation that America is not true to its principles.

We Want No Citizen-Japs, Webb Says

The right of Japanese and other persons of Asiatic ancestry to hold American citizenship went under fire yesterday in a Federal Court action aimed at disenfranchising perhaps 70,000 persons evacuated from the West Coast's Military area, No. 1.

Appearing on behalf of John T. Regan, secretary of the Native Sons of the Golden West, U. S. Webb, former Attorney General of California, urged Judge A. F. St. Sure to decide a test case contrary to a United States Supreme Court decision of 44 years ago.

ONLY "WHITES," WEBB SAYS

Webb described that decision, upholding the right to citizenship of a Chinese born in this country, as "one of the most injurious and unfortunate decisions" ever handed down by a court. Not since then had the court had "an opportunity to correct itself," he said.

Webb based his one-hour oral argument generally on the thesis that our naturalization laws and also the Fourteenth Amendment were meant to bar from citizenship persons other than the "whites," except for the American Negroes.

But, he said later, Congress had the power "and should pass an act citizenizing all Chinese born in the United States."

This suggestion was made by Webb after opposing counsel had accused him of advocating "fascist principles" in the midst of a "democratic war."

WHAT WOULD OUR ALLIES THINK?

"What," asked Charles R. Garry, representing the National Lawyers' Guild and appearing as a friend of the court, "would our allies think if we came out today and said, 'only those are Americans who are Whites?'"

Webb then referred to the "noble struggle China has made in the last five years" and declared Congress, "in a fortnight," could enact legislation giving the American-born Chinese citizenship.

American-born Chinese already are accepted as citizens, of course, under the decision in the Wong Kim Ark case of 1898 to which Webb objected.

Yesterday's hearing was on a suit against Cameron King, registrar of voters, to strike from the election rolls the names of at least 90 American-born Japanese who voted by mail at a recent municipal bond election. The action is being defended by Walter Dold, Assistant City Attorney.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY 14TH AMENDMENT

Said Webb: "The legal question is 'Is a member of the Japanese race, born in the United States, a citizen of the United States?' And, I may say, that incidentally raises other questions than the Japanese.

"It involves the citizenship and the right to citizenship of all peoples and all races who do not fall within the characterization of 'description of White people.'"

The purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment, ratified in 1868, was, said Webb, to enfranchise the Negro. His contention was that

Continued on Page 4, Col. 1

More About Webb: Court Is Urged to Disenfranchise All U. S.-Born Japanese

Continued from Page 1

it "citizenizes all persons born in the United States of parents who are eligible to citizenship," a point which, if upheld, he added, would limit citizenship to the White race except for the American Negro.

"It excludes the Chinese, the Japanese, Hindus, Hottentots and the islanders of the Pacific," Webb expanded, in disagreement with any contention that the amendment

would also make citizenship possible for "all persons born in the United States of parents ineligible to citizenship."

WEBB RECALLS REVOLUTIONARY WAR

The amendment itself reads that "all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

Marking back to the very beginnings of this Nation, Webb said that, except where American Indians were involved, only white persons were present at Bunker Hill, Lexington, Valley Forge and in the drafting of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.

Although modified 12 times between 1790 and 1870, the naturalization law, "like the Rock of Gibraltar" retained the term "white persons" as a limiting factor.

If only white persons can be naturalized, he argued, should children of ineligible aliens automatically be admitted to citizenship?

ANOTHER ARGUMENT AGAINST WEBB

In answer to Webb, who made no mention of Japanese "dual citizenship," Dold said Webb's argument had "come too late; the law has been established." In addition to the Wong Kim Ark decision, Dold cited a more recent case, Morrison vs. California, in which the late Justice Cardozo stated that "a person of the Japanese race is a citizen of the United States if he was born in the United States." Dold rested his case on these two decisions.

Webb answered that the question of citizenship was not considered in the Morrison case.

A second representative of the Lawyers' Guild, Harold Sawyer, told Judge St. Sure:

"If you had taken the authorities cited by General Webb and changed the word 'white' to Aryan you would have had the same language as in Hitler's 'Mein Kampf.' Any attack on the right to be a citizen is not democratic. We are fighting a democratic war and

not fighting a racial war."

(2) Answer to Dr. Smith's card of June 24.

The pastors had a conference with the director of the Service Division yesterday morning and again this morning and was with Mr. Dunn, the assistant manager, this morning. All Japanese books with the exception of Bible and hymnals will be collected between Wednesday and Saturday of this week. They are to be turned in to the Auxiliary police Force voluntarily. As the result of the conference yesterday and today with the Administration, the understanding now is that the dictionarys are included in the ban as well as (a) Bible Commentaries, and (b) translations of English Books. We have requested Mr. Dunn, and he said he will, to telotype the Headquarters requesting the ruling on dictionarys, Bible Commentaries, translations into Japanese from English, Japanese books such as by Kagawa which have English translations available, be changed. We expect that the ruling will be no, but I do hope that you will keep on working with the Headquarters for some change in the policy or interpretation of the rule. As I have written in the previous letter, many Issei Christians have come in to this Center determined to study the Bible and Christianity more seriously to develop deeper Christian lives through devotional literatures. Anything that you can do in this regard will be greatly appreciated.

From Fresno

Hideo Hashimoto
E-13-3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California



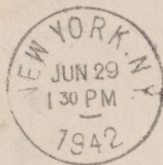
nm

~~40 Institute of Pacific Relations~~
~~129 East 52nd Street~~
~~New York City, N.Y.~~

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
~~National Security and Fair Play Committee~~
~~260 California Street, Room 311~~
~~San Francisco, California~~

Commodore Hotel
42nd & Lexington

Hold



GRAND CENTRAL
ANNEX

JUN 29 1942

MAILED



1260 KERN STREET.
FRESNO CALIFORNIA.

PARSONAGE: 1228 KERN STREET,
PHONE 2-4867

The Japanese Methodist Church

HIDEO HASHIMOTO, PASTOR

July 3, 1942

Avenue E Barrack 13 Apt 3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
National Security and Fair Play Committee
260 California Street, Room 311
San Francisco, California

Dear Dr. Fisher:

Thank you very much for your letter of June 24 from Boston.

The resolution is certainly excellent--not only in attitude but in programs of action. James Davis, who is your new field secretary for the Congregational Christian Committee for War Victims and Services, is a classmate of mine. I wrote him a letter yesterday commenting on the resolution and asking him if he has any questions or suggestions in regard to the problems confronting us. I am sure he will work hard on that and be able to accomplish a great deal.

As to the milk situation, you must have received my communications following your visit. As I wrote to you, the age limit extended to cover the ages 2 to 10. Also these children are given milk and cookies at 10 a.m., and 3 p.m.

I have been in communication with Dr. Smith and Dr. Chapman concerning the matter of book ban. I am happy to learn that your committee is bringing results. Dr. Chapman is coming here on July 5. I am anticipating the news from other Centers.

Sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

July 2, 1942

H. Ito Hashimoto

OUTLINE OF CHURCH WORK, FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER

Majority of the 5200 residents in this Center are from San Joaquin Valley—Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare Counties and some 1300 from Florin, Taishoku, Perkins and a sprinkling of evacuees from the coast.

The following are pastors serving in this Center: Rev. T. Sakaguchi, pastor of the Fresno Congregational Church; Rev. K. Inori, pastor of the Presbyterian Church in Hanford; Major E. Isai, Salvation Army of Fresno and Rev. H. Hashimoto, pastor of the Fresno Methodist Church. We are all on the payroll in this Center as directors at P. & T. rating. The Center has provided us with a very capable office secretary whom we selected, and an office boy, a very promising artist, who makes all our posters for the bulletin boards. We have been given an office with a desk and will be provided with cabinets and materials.

The following are our regular church services during the month of July:

1. Morning Meditations at 5:45 a.m., at the Center Amphitheater—both Issei and Nisei groups. Sunday School from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Japanese Worship Service at 7:30 p.m. Christian Youth Fellowship at 8:30 p.m. Prayer Meeting every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. Choir practice every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.

The program for June included an afternoon Service with a speaker from the churches in the City of Fresno. However, come as they did in the height of the afternoon heat, it was very difficult although the attendance was excellent. We have decided to discontinue the afternoon Services for the month of July but will try to have guest preachers in the morning or in the evening hours. On Sunday, July 5, we shall have Dr. Gordon K. Chapman, secretary-treasurer of the Western Area Protestant Church Commission for Wartime Japanese Service. The following Sunday, July 12, we shall have Rev. W. Q. McKnight. Dr. F. H. Smith may come on July 19. Since we are only 7 or 8 miles from Pinedale Assembly Center, we are trying to work out the schedule with the guest preachers so that they can go to Pinedale in the morning and here in the evening.

The Sunday School is divided into four departments with five separate assemblies. 1 - Children's Department (Beginners and Primary) two assemblies—geographically divided into four classes. 2 - Junior and Intermediate Department four classes. 3 - Senior and Young People, two classes. 4 - Adult Bible Class, one class.

and June

For the month of May, we had the following guest speakers:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| May 17 | — Dr. W. P. Rankin, First Methodist Church, Fresno. |
| 24 | — Dr. Neil K. McGowan, First Christian Church, Fresno. |
| 31 | — Rev. John H. Gregg, First Congregational Church. |
| June 7 | — Rev. Ralph Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian Church. |
| 14 | — Rev. Melvin Wheatley, First Methodist Church. |
| 21 | — Major E. H. Stillwell, Fresno Salvation Army. |
| 28 | — Rev. Chester A. Snyder, Belmont Avenue Christian Church. |

For the evening Japanese Services the three Japanese-speaking pastors have been taking turns. For the Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings, the four pastors are similarly taking turns to give messages. For the Youth Fellowship meetings,

OUTLINE OF OFFICE WORK ** 2

we have been having get-acquainted hours, community singing, hymnsprations, meditations, musical talent night, forums etc. On June 21, Rev. H. Hashimoto spoke on the topic, "Out of the Deep."

The Sunday School has an enrollment of about 400 with average attendance of 250. The Japanese Services, Fellowships and Afternoon Services are very well attended ranging from 250 to 300. The pastors are also busy in other activities. Major Imai is director of the Welfare work in this Center. Rev. H. Hashimoto is also connected with the educational programs. Rev. T. Sakaguchi and Rev. K. Inori are very busy with the visitation program. The Issei laymen's group was organized into a block representative council. The Nisei group is loosely organized after the pattern of the Youth Fellowship. The Sunday School has a superintendent and departmental superintendents and meets every Monday evening 6:30 p.m., at the Church office.

This Center is very fortunate with outside system because of the proximity and close contact ~~of~~ with Fresno church groups. The Fresno church Sunday Schools are providing us with progressive, up-to-date Sunday School materials for each class for the quarter July to September. This not only helps us but also helps the churches to keep their contact with us and to be able to remain alert to the problems confronting the nation and to take part in a ~~most~~ worth while Christian work. A lady in Fresno is providing us with flowers every Sunday which are brought in by the guest preacher in the afternoon Service.

We are anxious to receive any informations concerning other Centers.

The Japanese Methodist Church

HIDEO HASHIMOTO, PASTOR

July 8, 1942

Dear Dr. Fisher,

Thank you for your letter of July 6.
I certainly appreciate all that you are doing
^{on} for our behalf.

Dr. Chapin was here last Sunday and
Dr. Smith will be here next Sunday. The
matter of the book ban ~~has~~^{is} being quite well
taken care of.

I am very happy to hear about the
liberal policy of the W.R.A. heads. I do
hope the actual administrators of the
W.R.A. Centers be ~~so~~^{as} liberal. It seems
that all the letters from Tule Lake ~~have~~
~~been~~ are being censored now. I have
heard from first hand the recipients
of the letters from Tule Lake and there is
no doubt whatsoever. Perhaps there are
letters awaiting you at home - censored.

This is a serious matter! I do hope you will take this up with the WRA director in San Francisco.

Mr. Bodine of the Student Relocation Committee is in Fresno now. We are giving out questionnaires. I hope a few can go ^{very} soon.

The campaign for changed attitudes in the East is very important. I shall write again to my friends who are asking "What can we do now?" Resolutions such as those passed by the Cong. Christian Church and the Post War World Council are very helpful.

Very sincerely yours,
Hideo Hashimoto.

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

September 15, 1942

Avenue E Barrack 13 Apt 3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

Dear Friends:

I had an F.O.R., friend in Fresno mimeograph and distribute a four-page letter describing the experiences in an assembly center and my reactions to them. You will be receiving them soon. I concluded:

"As I see it now, I have two definite responsibilities to my people; the first, to say "Let my people go", to do all I can to get many out, aiding in finding schools, employment, etc., to seek ways and means of resettling a hundred thousand people of an enemy race after the war is over when millions of soldiers are being demobilized; the second, to endeavor to make our life behind barbed-wires an experience parallel to that of Israel in Babylon, for the deepening of our understanding of the human situation, for the undergirding of the faith in the Redeemer that can stand in the tragic day, and to make this an experiment and practice in the cooperative community life unhampered by the profit motive. Only in deep humility and with your prayerful fellowship am I able to go, seeking His guidance and strength to lead me on."

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your advice concerning which of these two responsibilities is the more important one. Out of the experiences in this Assembly Center and as I look forward beyond the life in a W.R.A., Center to the post-war resettlement problems, I am beginning to feel quite strongly that the first is, in the long run, the more important one for me. Perhaps a desire to be free is causing me to rationalize. But I think that whatever I can do in a relocation center is a passive and palliative sort of work. At any rate, in case there is enough leadership in the Christian work, which I think there is if pastors are distributed well, I want to leave the Center and serve in some capacity in aiding the people to leave the Centers and establishing themselves as students or members of a community. Recently I have heard of a Religious Council on War Relocation. The purpose and the program of the Organization seem to be a very important and helpful one. I wonder if they can use persons like myself in promoting the resettlement. As I see it now, the bottleneck of resettlement not only lies in the community sentiment throughout the United States, but also in the feeling of uncertainty and hesitancy in the minds of these Japanese residents in these Centers. I have some good contacts with the church leaders in New York City because while

September 15, 1942

as a student at Union Theological Seminary, 1937-40, I was the president of the Japanese Students Christian Association. If you think this is valuable, please consult with Rev. John Nevin Sayre who is a member of this Council about the matter.

Another possibility is to work with a cooperative farm or study at School for Living at New York, to study and gain experience in the ways and means of post-war resettlement through cooperative farms or self-sustenance cooperatives. What do you think of the possibility and the wisdom in this regard? I think I can serve my people, who will perhaps criticize me for leaving them, more by working on the program of resettlement now and especially after war, than if I had stayed with them as their pastor.

All of you know me quite well personally, but I would like to review my life and my background so that you can judge better. I was born on February 13, 1911, in a home of a Japanese tenant on a farm. At the age of 4, the whole family went to Japan. Then my father returned to the United States soon after. In 1924, after finishing seven years of school in Japan, mother and I came back to the United States. On Christmas night of the same year, when I was 13, I experienced, what would commonly be called a conversion, when Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa spoke in a little Japanese church in Livingston, California. I studied at the University of California majoring in Agricultural Economics, looking forward to being a worker in an agricultural cooperative movement. I graduated in May, 1934. Upon returning from a six month trip from Japan, I was appointed to act as a pastor of the Japanese Community Church in Salem, Oregon. After serving 2½ years, gaining valuable experiences and having contacts with the peace groups and progressive political groups in the City and the State. While in University, I was a charter member of the Eastbay Local of the Socialist Party. I entered the Union Theological Seminary in 1937 and majored in Christian Ethics. I wrote the thesis on "Conflict in California Agriculture and and Their Relations to the Christian Churches" under Dr. Ward and Dr. Niebuhr. I was the president of the Japanese Students' Christian Association, 1938-40, and acting executive secretary in summer of 1940. In the summer of 1939, I attended the World Conference of Christian Youths with the Methodist Youth European Seminar. Up until May 15, I have been serving as the pastor of the Japanese Methodist Church, Fresno, California, and since then, one of the pastors of this Center.

It has always been my dream, ever since hearing Kagawa and reading of his works, to be a worker for the rural reconstruction. I feel that the post-war readjustment in American is one of the greatest problems we are to face and the problem is doubly acute for people branded as enemy aliens who must compete with the millions of demobilized soldiers returning from war.

I am very anxious to be of some service in that field. I am asking for your counsel and your help in this matter.

Very sincerely yours,

HH:yd

Hideo Hashimoto

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

October 7, 1942

*Ans. 11 11
sent Gleason's booklet on "Bulky Sa. Cage"*

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Sueno
Orinda, California

Dear Dr. Fisher:

We finally received the order that we are to be relocated to Jerome, Arkansas, between October 12 and 30. Rev. T. Sakaguchi will leave on October 18; I, on October 24; and Major M. Imai and Rev. K. Inori on October 28.

I am enclosing a brief account of the church work in this Center. I am also enclosing a program of the Rally Day and Communion Service and few of the programs of the Worship Services. As a historian, if you desire further materials, please write to me. I shall enclose the Sunday School attendance record.

Bishop C. S. Reifsnider was here last Sunday and told us that Centers in Arkansas are the best and described in some detail, the organization and facilities of the Jerome Center. We feel quite relieved at this information.

Please keep in touch with us even after we are relocated.

Very sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

Enclosures:

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California - October 6, 1942

CHURCH WORK IN THE FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER

The Christian Church was born in the dark days following the crucifixion of the Master and grew through the catacombs and martyrdom. The modern missionary movement conquered seemingly insuperable obstacles. The Church has always been the light that shines in the darkness of critical world conditions. The work of the Christian Church in this Center was established for the purpose of gaining deeper understanding of the human situation and firmer undergirding of the faith in the Redeemer that can stand in this tragic day, and of making this life an experiment and practice of Christian brotherhood.

The Christian work in the Fresno Assembly Center began even while the evacuation was going on. The majority of the 5200 residents in this Center are from San Joaquin Valley—Fresno, Madera, Kings and Tulare Counties. There are some 1300 from Florin, Taishoku, Perkins and a sprinkling of evacuees from the coast. The staff of the Christian group includes four pastors: Rev. K. Inori, Hanford Presbyterian Church; Rev. T. Sakaguchi, Fresno Congregational Church; Major M. Imai, Fresno Salvation Army and Rev. H. Hashimoto, Fresno Methodist Church. The pastors are all on the payroll in this Center as directors at P&T rating. They take turns preaching for the Japanese Services on Sunday evenings and also for Prayer Meeting on Wednesday evenings. Rev. T. Sakaguchi and Rev. K. Inori are in charge of the Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. The pastors are also busy in other activities. Major M. Imai is director of the Welfare work in this Center. Rev. H. Hashimoto is also connected with the educational program. Rev. T. Sakaguchi and Rev. K. Inori are very active in the visitation program. The Issei laymen's group was organized into a block representative council. The Center Administration has provided the Christian Work with an office with tables, benches, book cases, file, etc.; also appointed an office secretary, Yeiko Dakuzaku, Oakland, and an office assistant, Joim Tamura, Florin, and a corps of messenger boys. The Service Division also provided some stationeries and mimeographing service.

The first meeting was held Sunday, May 17, when Dr. W. P. Rankin, First Methodist Church and Chairman of the local Fair Play Committee, spoke at an afternoon Service. The following preachers from Fresno spoke subsequently:

- May 24 - Dr. Neil K. McGowan, First Christian Church
- 31 - Rev. John H. Gregg, First Congregational Church
- June 7 - Rev. Ralph Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian Church
- 14 - Rev. Melvin Wheatley, First Methodist Church
- 21 - Major E. H. Stillwell, Salvation Army
- 28 - Rev. Chester A. Snyder, Belmont Avenue Christian Church
- August 30 - Dr. W. P. Rankin, First Methodist Church
- September 6 - Rev. Joseph M. Ewing, First Presbyterian Church
- 13 - Dean James M. Malloch, St. James Cathedral
- 20 - Rev. John H. Gregg, First Congregational Church
- 27 - Rev. Paul Anderson, First Mission Covenant Church

Beginning July, the afternoon Services were discontinued. Visitations and sermons by missionaries and those who were giving full time to the Japanese Work enriched the program during July and August: Dr. Frank Herron Smith, Chairman (July 12), Dr. Gordon K. Chapman, Secretary-Treasurer (July 5), Dr. Galen M. Fisher, Vice-Chairman (also Executive Vice-Chairman of the National Security and Fair Play Committee) June 11 and July 29, respectively

of the Western Area Protestant Church Commission of Wartime Japanese Service; Rev. Fred Fertig (July 19 and August 9) Los Angeles; Rev. William Q. McKnight (August 2 and 23) Fresno. A women's mass meeting was held Sunday afternoon, August 23, with Rev. D. G. M. Bach as the speaker. A second meeting is planned with Miss Bertha Starkey, Needley, California, Thursday evening, October 8. An outdoor meeting was held on Wednesday evening, September 16, with Dr. Allan A. Hunter, pastor of the Mt. Hollywood Congregational Church, Los Angeles, as the guest speaker. Some 800 to 1000 young people attended this successful outdoor meeting. Rev. Dillon W. Throckmorton, Trinity Methodist Church, Bakersfield, spoke on Thursday evening, September 24. Bishop C. S. Reifsnider, Vice-Chairman (Southern California) for the Protestant Church Commission of Wartime Japanese Service, was the guest speaker at an successful outdoor Service on October 4. Professor John C. Bennett of the Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley, California, is scheduled for October 11. The Christian Youth Fellowship is loosely organized and takes charge of the evening youth meetings. Seichi Mikami, former Fresno Sectional Y.P.C.C. chairman, is the chairman and Grace Mano, Secretary. The Center Christian choir was organized under the leadership of Mary Kasai and have participated in many of the Services. The practice is held every Thursday evening. The morning meditation is being held at the Center Bowl every Sunday morning at 6:15 with both the Issei and Nisei groups. Attendance ranges from 30 to 50. The pastors and laymen take turns in leadership. The following then being the regular church Services throughout the week:

1. Morning Meditation at 6:15 a.m., Center Bowl
2. Sunday School from 10 to 11 a.m.
3. Japanese Worship Service at 7:15 p.m.
4. English Worship Service at 8:15 p.m.
5. Prayer Meeting every Wednesday evening at 8 p.m.
6. Choir practice every Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m.
7. Adult Hymn practice every Friday evening at 6:30 p.m.
8. English Bible Study for Adults every Monday and Wednesday mornings at 8 a.m.

The Sunday School is divided into four departments with five separate assemblies. It was started on May 24, with some 100 or 150 students and the attendance steadily arose to 336 on September 6. A special Rally Day Program was held on Sunday, October 4, at 9:30 a.m., at the Center Bowl with some 600 attending. All the Sunday School classes participated in this special program and Mrs. Sydney Glass of Fresno was the guest speaker. There were 36 pupils in the Beginner to Intermediate Departments with perfect attendance and 15 with only one absence. Worldwide Communion Sunday was observed with the service of the Lord's Supper at 2:00 p.m., (English) and 3:00 p.m., (Japanese) on October 4. The four pastors officiated. The following are classes and teachers:

- 1 - 2. Children's Department. Geographically divided into 2 assemblies.
 - A. Section 1 (A to F)
 - (1) Beginners: Mrs. S. Sugimoto, Fumi Mikami, Mary Mochizuki
 - (2) Primary: Shige Matsuyama, Fujiye Tahara
 - B. Section 2 (H to K)
 - (1) Beginners: Mrs. Kasai, Mrs. Kobayashi, Julia Dekuzaku
Tsuyu Abo, Sumi Sahara
 - (2) Primary: June Masuda
3. Juniors and Intermediate Departments. Four classes.
 - A. Juniors: Girls — Matsu Maewaki
Boys — Goro Asaki
 - B. Intermediates: Girls — Mitsu Sayegusa, Shizu Dekuzaku
Boys — Ernest Takeda

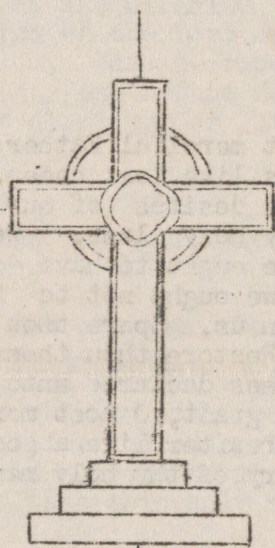
4. Senior, Young Peoples and Young Adults Departments. 4 classes.
 - A. Seniors: Girls — Mrs. Koda
Boys — Harvey Aki
 - B. Young Peoples: — Seichi Mikami
 - C. Young Adults: — Rev. Hideo Hashimoto
5. Adult Bible Class. One class.
 - A. Teachers: Rev. T. Sakaguchi, Rev. K. Inori, Major M. Inai

The following also taught: Mrs. Akamine, Mrs. Mary Tsukamoto, Ted Ono, and Beatrice Tamura. All teachers are teaching on voluntary basis. Most of the S. S. classes are corresponding with S. S. classes outside, including Sunday Schools in the Middle West and New England and are carrying various activities, such as making scrap books and club meetings. A volleyball league among classes and teachers has been organized.

This Center is very fortunate with outside assistance because of the proximity and close contact with Fresno Church groups. The Fresno Church Sunday Schools have provided us with progressive, up-to-date S. S. materials for each class for the quarter of July to September. This not only helps us but also helps the Churches to keep their contact with us and to be able to remain alert to the problems confronting the nation and to take part in a worth while Christian work. Several ladies in Fresno have been providing us with flowers every Sunday. Dr. Dwight Trowbridge and the Christian Businessmen's Association have been providing us with piano, piano tuning, portions of the Bible, etc. The local unit of the Fellowship of Reconciliation has been active in aiding the residents in the difficult days of adjustments.

The work of the Christian church received the full and sympathetic cooperation of the Administration—especially Mr. W. E. Pollock, director, Service Division, has been very helpful.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY



THE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER

OCT. 4, 1942
2:00 p.m.

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY SERVICE
October 4, 1942 - 2 p.m.

(* - Congregation Stand)

THE PRELUDE

*HYMN "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Sheet 1, #2) Congregation

WORDS OF CHRIST The Minister

COMMUNION COLLECT The Minister

GENERAL CONFESSION Congregation

"Almighty and most merciful Father: We have erred, and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against thy holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done. But thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare thou those, O God, who confess their faults. Restore thou those who are penitent, according to thy promises declared unto mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may hereafter live a godly, righteous and sober life, to the glory of thy holy name. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON The Minister

THE LORD'S PRAYER Congregation

Minister: O Lord, open thou our lips.

People: And our mouths shall show forth thy praise.

Minister: Praise ye the lord.

People: The Lord's name be praised.

*THE DOXOLOGY Congregation

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below,
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

CALL TO PRAYER The Minister

PRAYER The Minister

OFFERTORY SILENCE AND THE OFFERING

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

COMMUNION REMEDIATION The Minister

*HYMN "Break Thou the Bread of Life" (Sh 9) Congregation

INVITATION

O taste and see how gracious the Lord is: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

Ye that do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: Draw near with faith and take this holy sacrament to your comfort.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION The Minister

OFFERING OF THE BREAD The Minister

OFFERING OF THE CUP The Minister

*HYMN "O Jesus I Have Promised" (Sh 8 #6) Congregation

*CLOSING PRAYER The Minister

*BENEDICTION

THE POSTLUDE

rally - day

FRESNO ASSEMBLY CENTER
OCTOBER 4, 1942
CENTER BOWL
9:30 a.m.

THE CHRISTIAN CREED

"I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and the Saviour for whose kingdom it stands, one brotherhood uniting all mankind in service and love."

I LOVE TO TELL A STORY

I love to tell the story of unseen things above; Of Jesus and His glory, Of Jesus and His love, I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true, It satisfies my longings As nothing else can do.

(Chorus)

I love to tell the story!
'Twill be my theme in glory
To tell the old, old story
Of Jesus and His love.

I love to tell the story; more wonderful it seems, Than all the golden fancies, Of all my golden dreams, I love to tell the story, It did so much for me; And that is just the reason, I tell it now to thee.

I love to tell the story, 'Tis pleasant to repeat, What seems each time I tell it, More wonderfully sweet; I love to tell the story; For some have never heard The message of salvation From God's own holy word.

I love to tell the story; For those who know it best; Seem hungering and thirsting, To hear it like the rest, And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new, song, 'Twill be the old, old story, That I have loved so long.

WONDERFUL WORDS

Sing them over again to me
Wonderful words of life,
Let me more of
their beauty see,
Wonderful words of life.
Words of Life and Beauty
Teach me faith and duty.

(Chorus)

Beautiful words,
wonderful words
Wonderful words of Life,
Beautiful words,
wonderful words
Wonderful words of life.

Christ, the blessed one,
Gives to all;
Wonderful words of life;
Sinners list to
the loving call
Wonderful words of life.
All so freely given,
Wooing us to heaven.

Sweetly echo the gospel
call,
Wonderful words of life
Offer pardon and peace to
all,
Wonderful words of life.
Jesus only Saviour,
Sanctify forever.

RALLY SUNDAY PROGRAM
October 4, 1942 -- Center Bowl 9:30 a.m.
Chairman: Seichi Mikami

HYMNS	"I Love To Tell The Story" "Wonderful Love"	Congregation
SALUTE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG		Congregation lead by Ernest Takeda
SALUTE TO THE CHRISTIAN FLAG		
SCRIPTURE	Luke 10:25-37	Senior Boys' Class
PRAYER		Yukio Kawakami Young Adults' Class
TRUMPET SOLO	"America The Beautiful"	Kyoto Imai Intermediate Boys' Class
SONGS	"This Is The Way We Go To Church" "I Can Light A Candle" "Love Him, Love Him"	Beginners and Primary Classes (Sections H-K)
READING	"For Us"	Rosie Tomita Senior Girls' Class
SONGS	"The Church Bell Rings" "Helping Song" "I Saw The Sky"	Beginners and Primary Classes (Sections A-F)
SONG	"He Is Love"	Junior Boys and Girls
GUEST SPEAKER		Mrs. Sydney Glass
CHOIR	"Beautiful Saviour" -- "The Heavens Declare The Glory Of God" --	Fresno Center Christian Choir Old Crusaders' Hymn Beethoven
ANNOUNCEMENTS		Rev. Hideo Hashimoto
HYMN	"Give Of Your Best To The Master"	Congregation
BENEDICTION		

GIVE OF YOUR BEST TO THE MASTER

Give of your best to the Master,
Give of the strength of your youth;
Throw your soul's fresh, glowing ardor,
Into the battle for truth.
Jesus has set the example;
Dauntless was He, young and brave;
Give Him your loyal devotion,
Give Him the best that you have....
Give of your best to the Master,
Give of the strength of your youth;
Clad in salvation's full armor,
Join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the Master,
Give Him first place in your heart;
Give Him first place in your service,
Consecrate ev'ry part.
Give, and to you shall be given;
God His beloved Son gave;
Gratefully seeking to serve Him,
Give Him the best that you have....
Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth;
Clad in salvation's full armor,
Join in the battle for truth.

Give of your best to the master;
Naught else is worthy His love;
He gave Himself for your ransom,
Gave up His glory above;
Laid down His life without marmor,
You from sin's ruin to save;
Give Him your heart's adoration,
Give Him the best that you have....
Give of your best to the Master;
Give of the strength of your youth;
Clad in salvation's full armor,
Join in the battle for truth.

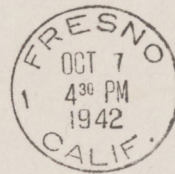
OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
 Avenue "C," Annex No. 2
 Fresno Assembly Center
 Fresno, California

OCT 7 1942

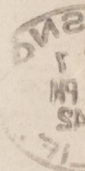
SUNDAY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

MAY	JUNE				JULY				AUGUST					SEPTEMBER			
31	7	14	21	28	5	12	19	26	2	9	16	23	30	6	13	20	27
254	219	235	256	252	244	264	359	296	313	387	330	301	311	336	322	324	217

OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
Avenue "C," Annex No. 2
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California



Dr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Sueno
Orinda, California



OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN WORK
C Annex #2, Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

October 16, 1942

Avenue E Barrack 13 Apt 3
Fresno Assembly Center
Fresno, California

Dr. Galen M. Fisher
11 El Sueno
Orinda, California

Dear Dr. Fisher:

It seems that whenever I write to you, I can think more constructively of new plans.

As I was thinking of these students that are going out in quite a large number, for which I am extremely grateful, I was thinking of their problems and needs. As I wrote briefly in my letter yesterday, there should be a counselor for these students--perhaps connected with the Student Relocation Council.

I know their problems because I have two nephews who are making these difficult adjustments and from two other boys from this Center writing back, and also because of my former connection with the Japanese Students' Christian Association. Perhaps there should be an office in Denver or New York or Chicago, with a Japanese secretary corresponding with these students, sending them informations; counseling with them in their adjustments; introducing them, mainly through correspondence, to the pastors and leaders of their respective community, etc. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Student Relocation Council, which I think should undertake to sponsor this.

I can think of several persons that can very nicely fill this position and who are connected with the old Japanese Students' Christian Association, 347 Madison Avenue, New York. Rev. A. S. Akamatsu, Rev. K. Sasaki, Mr. Toru Matsumoto, Rev. Masatane Mitani, Rev. Andrew Kuroda and I. The trouble with the others, than me, is that they are all aliens. Toru Matsumoto is interned at the present time. And another trouble is that we are all pastors of congregations.

Dr. Galen M. Fisher

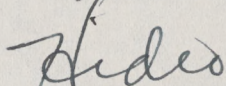
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October 16, 1942

Perhaps Rev. James Kuranosuke Sasaki, who is enrolled at Iliff School of Theology, Denver, and pastor of the Japanese Methodist Church, Pueblo, is the most logical candidate. All of us understand Nisei students quite well. We also have experiences in just this line of work with the students from Japan in former times.

Please write and let me know what you think of the possibility of establishing such an office. I am sure the Federal Council, the Home Mission Council and others will cooperate with the Student Relocation Council on this.

Very sincerely yours,



Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

November 2, 1942

Block 44 Barrack 04 Apt., B
Jerome W. R. A. Center
Denson, Arkansas

Dr. Frank Herron Smith
Dr. Gordon K. Chapman
Dr. Galen M. Fisher

Dear ~~Friend~~ *Dr. Fisher*,

This is a hasty note telling you about the first Sunday we had here in Jerome.

We arrived on Wednesday morning, October 28, 4:40 a.m., and after a very strenuous but a rather pleasant trip, we had to wait until afternoon before we were allowed to even enter our block which, as yet, is in quite an unfinished state.

As a minister, I was given a whole room 16 x 20' for myself *which* gives me a degree of privacy which I sorely needed in Fresno. The walls and ceilings are plasterboard and has three large windows and a door which is almost half glass. I have a nice cozy looking chimney with a cemented space for a stove.

I met most of the Administration personnel and found them to be men of good will and understanding. The spirit of the Administration is entirely different from that of the W. C. C. A. They are here to help us organize ourselves into a community. So far, I haven't even seen a policeman anywhere in the Center.

What I would like to tell you most about is Sunday. We started out with Sunday-school in a small recreational hall comparable to the size in Fresno away in the other side of the area. At 10:30 a.m., we had an English Service with Congressman-elect Hayes (who will be elected on the following Tuesday). He is one of the leading Christian laymen in this State, who regularly teaches a Bible class of some 400 members at a Baptist Church in Little Rock. He is a liberal and idealist, humanitarian with a solid foundation of good theology.

Almost the entire administrative staff was there including the regional director, Mr. Whittaker from Little Rock; Dr. Thompson, director of education; the high school principal, the elementary principal and several teachers. It gave me the impression that these men are hereto serve us in the best of their capacity.

We had a Japanese Service in the afternoon and a community sing sponsored jointly by the Christians and the Buddhists in the evening.

Dr. Frank Herron Smith
Dr. Gordon K. Chapman
Dr. Galen M. Fisher

2

November 2, 1942

Late in the afternoon, I was pleasantly surprised to have a visitor from Monticello; the Rev. Arthur Terry, district superintendent of this district of the Little Rock Conference of the Methodist Church. He is a typical Southern circuit writer (who is worrying about gas rationing and lack of tires) tall, lanky and genial with a typical Southern hospitality. He invited me to attend the Little Rock Conference and I hope it can be worked out.

I am just on my way now to a meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Religious Activities in this Center. I feel hopeful and confident in spite of the sore lack of facilities, that the work of the church here will grow.

Very sincerely yours

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

HH:yd

C H R I S T M A S G R E E T I N G S

44 - 04 - B
Jerome Relocation Center
Denson, Arkansas

Christmas, 1942

After more than a year of the most widespread devastation and suffering, we are celebrating the second Christmas of the War. In these twelve months, our lives have been affected basically. No one can and expects to remain untouched or unconcerned in these turbulent days. These months have proved to be trying for me also. After months of uncertainty and increasing restrictions, I was placed with 5000 others in the Fresno Assembly Center on May 15. After five months of extreme heat, distressing experiences, and annoying restrictions behind barbed wire fences, we were "relocated" to this Center, thousands of miles from home.

We must frankly admit how difficult it is to say, "Merry Christmas," this year, so different from the usual gay Christmas seasons of the past. People in the Centers are becoming irritable, impatient, or just apathetic. Concentrated in a congested area with very little privacy and a great deal of occasions for friction, people are becoming ingrown--thinking of food, wood, and mud. As Norman Thomas pointed out to me several months ago, it is quite impossible to establish a cooperative community under compulsion. The important task now, and one that may have lasting values and may help to eradicate some of the ill effects of evacuation, is to cooperate with the War Relocation Authority to place as many of the Center residents in "outside" employment and in schools after their records are thoroughly investigated by the F. B. I.

It is even more difficult to be merry when we realize the incomparably greater suffering of the peoples of other nations actually in the midst of this most terrifying destruction.

In all these difficult days, not completely free from moments of discouragement and resentment, it was the sympathetic understanding and the kindness of friends that helped to bring to me and to my people the joy and the faith that overcomes bitterness. Some have gone out the way to hire Americans of Japanese descent, some have risked their positions to defend American democracy and the constitutional rights of these citizens, some visited us, some gave us messages of good will and faith, many wrote and sent gifts. Now at this season, the Christmas presents are coming in by the hundreds. Every child in this Center, whatever his religious affiliation, 12 years of age or under, will receive a gift. To all of you, most hearty thanks! The Community Christian Church of this Center, just being organized, is holding two grand Christmas programs on the afternoon and evening of the Christmas day.

* * * * *

There are only a few flickering lights in the almost pitch darkness of this hour. Yet it is these small insignificant-looking lights of unflinching good will and stubborn creativity of the consecrated men and women that determine the future--and the present.

"...whereby the dayspring from on high hath visited us
To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
To guide our feet into the way of peace." (Luke 1:78-79)

Christmas means the birth of a Babe--not a fully grown Messiah. God does not force a kingdom upon us, all finished and served on a golden platter--to a greedy and warring humanity. But

"...it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." (Luke 12:32)

As we become ready to receive the kingdom in our penitence, humility, and in our actual willingness to obey His will, God gives us the kingdom--a Babe, a grain of mustard seed.

As individuals and small fellowship groups endeavoring to turn the world upside down, we are easily discouraged these days. Yet we do know that it is the babies, the flickering lights, and the mustard seeds that sways the future. Evil can only tear down that which the good has created. Not even all the darkness in the universe can put out the tiniest ray of light.

The Christmas angel still proclaims, as in that dark but glorious morn:

"Glory to God in the highest, and earth peace, good will toward men."

May this glorious Light again enter the war-sick hearts of men on this Christmas Eve, and guide our feet into the way of peace.

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto

THE COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Block 20, Recreation Hall
Denson, Arkansas
May 31, 1943

Dear Friends:

A few days ago I received a card from Allan Hunter in which he asked me, "Where in the world are you now?" It is certainly about time I wrote, even one of these periodical mimeographed letters, to which I resort in desperate moments when unanswered letters cry out in my sleep with a loud voice.



We just concluded the most blessed six days of the Christian Mission, held in this Center, May 16-21. It was a rather new experience for all of us including Dr. Jesse M. Bader, the originator of the National Christian Mission. The

Federal Council is planning to hold these Missions in each of the relocation centers this year. I certainly encourage each Center to undertake it. The team here consisted of Dr. Albert P. Shirkey, Travis Park Methodist Church, San Antonio, Texas, the Mass meeting speaker and leader of the Seminar on "Being Christian in Time of Conflict"; Mrs. Jessie B. Eubank, Seminar on "Marriage and the Home";

Rev. John B. Cobb, Spokane Japanese Methodist Church, Japanese Mass meeting speaker and Seminar on "Spiritual Growth"; Miss Jessie M. Trout, former Secretary to Kagawa, Seminar on "Bible and the Home (in Japanese)". Besides these full-time members, we had Dr. E. Stanley Jones on Thursday evening and Friday morning; Dr. Harold W. Tribble of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky, on Friday evening Mass meeting; and Dr. Jesse M. Bader. We had 200 to 350 attending each of the two (English and Japanese) Mass meetings every night and about 1100 Thursday evening. Over two hundred rededicated their lives to Christ in the English Mass meetings alone. Some 30 accepted Jesus Christ for the first time, and nine were baptized during the Mission week. It was a wonderful experience for all of us.

May 15 marked the anniversary of my entry into the Fresno Assembly Center. These last twelve months provided me with rich, unexpected opportunities for service and experience as well as heartaches in seeing the trampling done of civil liberties and a great deal of suffering on the part of American Japanese. There have been some excellent articles on the evacuation many of them understanding and fair. I need not repeat the heat, dust, food, prison psychology of administration, and the humiliation of it all at the assembly center or the deadening and stagnating life in the relocation center. I find the War Relocation Authority (WRA) personnel and policy to be well-meaning and progressive, though not always efficient or wise in carrying out the policies. The present WRA plan of dispersal resettlement is a constructive and forward-looking one. However, we should not lose sight of the whole injustice of the evacuation especially for American citizens who comprise two-thirds of the total evacuated population.



In all the different phases of the evacuation, a blot on our democracy, the basic issue is that of civil liberties--not so much what the American citizens of Japanese ancestry had to go through, for many in the nation and in the world are enduring immeasurably greater suffering, but how our Bill of Rights suffered a fundamental setback at the hands of small, organized prejudiced minorities. This is already proving to be an embarrassment for the United Nations and an axis weapon in the ideological and political phases of the war. Many progressive and Christian leaders are working for the reversal of the policy. The recent outburst of Lt. General John L. DeWitt of the Western Defense Command, "Jap's a Jap" is a direct result of a move of this sort. The war for freedom as well as the defense of our national integrity and tradition makes it imperative that the evacuation order be rescinded. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty"--Thomas Jefferson. I hope the Supreme Court will uphold its motto: "Equal Justice Under Law" in the test cases now pending before the high tribunal.

However, even if all restriction were to be removed, I still hope that dispersal resettlement will go on, resulting in the better assimilation of racial minorities. The reception of our people who resettled in various localities by the residents demonstrates a very inspiring evidence of the reality of Christian brotherhood. People have taken them into their homes and churches, helped to find employment and housing, and in every way showed the spirit of the second mile in going out of their way in making these Americans with Japanese faces feel at home and to show their concern for their welfare. When the final picture of the history of evacuation is painted, it will show a bright light of Christian love shining throughout the story against the dark background of prejudice and war hysteria.

Now to be more personal, I shall try to start out where I left off in my Christmas greeting. We had glorious Christmas programs, afternoon and evening of the Christmas day. I left on Sunday evening, December 27, for Columbus, Ohio, where I attended the Interracial Youth Conference of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. It was the first time "out" for me in nearly eight months. It was wonderful to be free again even for a limited time, to travel and to meet old friends and make new ones. The Interracial Conference held at a Negro Church demonstrated to me the reality of fellowship that transcends racial barriers. After the conference I went to Delaware and Wooster, Ohio, then visited Ralph Galts and Carl Landises, and the C.P.S. Camp in Merom, Indiana, then stayed about a week at the Herman Wills in Chicago, preached at the First Methodist Church in Peoria, Illinois, spoke at Galesburg; visited Donald Lemkaus in Little York, Illinois, and the Lowell Hazzards in Bloomington, Illinois; and then to St. Louis and home. When I left the Center, I did not even hope to be speaking so much, but I discovered a great deal of concern and interest and the need for helping the people to understand the whole problem of evacuation. I would have left the Center for three months' lecture tour, soon after my return to the Center, if it were not for the unrest that ensued.

On January 28, Secretary Stimson announced the organization of a separate Japanese American combat team consisting of volunteers, and requested compulsory filing of a special Selective Service questionnaire by all male citizens seventeen and above. At the same time WRA required the registration of all residents for leave clearance. During the course of explaining this very confusing situation, the residents for the first time began to show outwardly the inner discontent which was brewing for nine months. People resented the segregation within the army and unfair questions in the questionnaires, and having to file leave clearance when they had no desire to leave. The atmosphere became very tense for the following six or seven weeks. The camp divided. Two persons were attacked on March 6. One of the non-Christian church split up on this issue. Some extremists refused to register at first and later applied for expatriation or repatriation. Now the Center is again assuming outward semblance of quietness though the division still exists. The great majority is loyal to America.

The church went ahead with the program in spite of the fact that the ministers were misunderstood and often branded as the "stooges" of the administration. Coming of Easter season was a great blessing to the church. On Palm Sunday we baptized forty persons. We held daily Holy Week meetings, with the Communion Service on Thursday evening. Sunrise service at 5:45 a.m. on Easter drew 500 people, and Easter services both morning and afternoon was filled to capacity. The forty-five voice choir, which had been practicing since Christmas, sang "Hallelujah Chorus" triumphantly. No sooner was the Easter season over, we were plunged into the preparation for the Christian Mission. Never a dull moment for a preacher in a place like this in these days. We have in this Church seven ministers: one Episcopal, at present on leave; two Congregational; two Presbyterian; one Salvation Army Major; and myself, Methodist. We are working together as a "Federal Union" Church, "Now". (See my letter in the Christian Century, April 28.)

Now I am planning to leave the Center for three months. For a week or ten days during the first part of June, I intend to be in Chicago to assist resettlement. The latter part of the month, I plan to be in Colorado, visiting my brother's family at Granada Relocation Center and attending the Interdenominational Japanese pastors' Conference and the Methodist Annual Conference. At present, I am free for a week or ten days following June 15. The remainder of the summer is more definite: July 1-July 8 and July 19-August 19 at International Service Seminar at Guilford College, North Carolina; July 9-18, Institute of International Relation at Cazenovia College, New York, both under the auspices of the American Friends Service Committee. During June, please address all correspondence to care of Rev. Charles F. Boss, Jr. 710 Rush Street, Chicago, Illinois. Mail addressed to the Church (see letter head) will reach me eventually.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your kindness and thoughtfulness during the past year. You have sent us letters, Christmas gifts, books, office supplies, church equipment, a bicycle, Sunday School supplies and quarterlies, monetary gifts and numerous thoughtful items. We have not always been prompt in thanking you, but we certainly do appreciate your kindness. Now young people are leaving this Center daily in large numbers. The need remains both for those who stay here and for those who will be arriving in your community. A cup of cold water of thoughtfulness given to these timid, lonely, home-sick young people will help them a great deal. At this critical hour, many have found warmth and friendship in Christian people and are very appreciative. These young people have been behind barbed-wire fences for twelve months, left in stagnant waters outside the main stream of American life. They need your advice and assistance to find their rightful place in American life, assuming responsibilities and hardships of a nation at war, forgetting their petty difficulties and applying themselves earnestly to the task of building better America and a better world.

Very sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto
Hideo Hashimoto



Christmas Bells



*I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

*And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
"For hate is strong, and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good will to men."*

*Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth he sleep!
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, good will to men!"*

*Till, ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,
Of peace on earth, good will to men!*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



... and shalt call his name **Jesus**

1822 West Washington Blvd.
Chicago 12, Ill. (Monroe 9837)
December 14, 1943

Dear Friends:

Again I must apologize for this long silence. I really began to write this letter in July. What I thought in June to be a three-month leave of absence from the Community Christian Church, Denson, Arkansas, has become an "indefinite leave." During the months of June and July, I travelled quite extensively: Chicago, Denver, Laramie, Greeley, Amache, Cazenovia, New York City, Philadelphia, Cleveland, Jerome, Chicago, and many points between, attending conferences and institutes, visiting committees and councils of churches and on relocation, calling on friends, etc. Since August, I have been in Chicago most of the time. I was appointed at our Annual Conference (Methodist) at Denver to the ministry to the resettlers of Japanese ancestry. Several ministers representing major denominations are working with the Church Federation of Greater Chicago in this program.

The program of dispersal resettlement has now passed the initial stage--quite successfully. The concerted effort of the War Relocation Authority, the Service committees, churches, and social agencies in providing hostel facilities, aiding in finding employment, housing etc. have produced good results. Our main present task is that of adjustment, personal and social--of meeting the needs of companionship, social life, and of the feeling of "belonging" and of "being at home." Basically, it is the psychological and religious problem of loneliness, of finding and reorienting oneself in the total scheme of things which looks bewildering and discouraging, to say the least. This is easier analysed than solved. Depriving ourselves of the ordinary "American" way of racially segregated church with fairly well established pattern of ministry, we are still in search for the best approaches of service. This program of integration and non-segregation is a new experiment in American urban community.

Nearly all of the resettlers are American citizens between the ages of 17 and 38, most of whom are unmarried and separated from families. For a great many, this is the first time away from home, on their own, and held a job. When we consider that they face many difficulties additional to those confronting any young person coming to Chicago at this time of great tension, it is remarkable how well so many have adjusted themselves after having been forced to live in a completely segregated concentration camps for 12 to 19 months. And with all the vicious propaganda over the radio and in the press, many Chicagoans are going out of their way with natural and unaffected grace to make the new comers feel at home. This speaks very highly for the innate goodness of people and the real influence of the Christian religion.

* * * * *

This is the third Christmas of this War, which seems to be entering upon a new and more decisive, and more destructive, phase. Again the voice of the Herald Angel is heard above the noise of bursting blockbusters.

"Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy,
Which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
Which is Christ the Lord."

This is our only hope of salvation from utter despair; the only power that can yet redeem this world from the clutches of demonic forces.

And God's agent of redemption is not some Superman--but a Babe, helpless and weak bundle of potentialities! And a Cross at the other end of that Birth--and then the Resurrection and the Triumph! With Mary, we must ponder long and deep on this miracle of the Babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in the manger.

May the spirit of Christmas flood your hearts with new hope and faith--and with a new Light in the oppressive darkness of these times.

Very sincerely yours,

Hideo Hashimoto