

Lincoln Christian Center  
1526 Fifth St.  
Sacramento, Calif.  
May 25, 1942

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Dear

The evacuation is now completed and our Japanese friends are safely settled at Walerga, the evacuation camp 10 miles from Sacramento. It seemed to us that there was not enough time to prepare for the inevitable during the time prior to the issuing of the actual evacuation order. Daily it became necessary to contact, or go to the office of the W.C.C.A., the F.B.I. or the Attorney General on errands that deeply concerned the families involved. Questions of interpretation of the orders as they were issued, obtaining permission for a mother to visit her tubercular sons fifty miles away, how our activities were to be affected and other innumerable questions. These were all extremely time-consuming but also extremely important to the people concerned. Along with all these technical problems were the problems of the storage of goods, sale or rental of property, automobiles, furniture, etc. which also required our attention. A central clearing bureau was organized with the Christian Center as the hub with the Student Christian Association at the Sacramento Junior College assisting. Those who had things to sell listed them with us with a complete description of the property for sale, and those interested in buying, of whom there were many more than we had hoped for, contacted us for specific things to buy. We then directed these people to whatever article or articles they were interested in buying. In this way we were influential in disposing, at a fair price of a vast majority of the articles listed with us. We were also able to help several grocery men in our community sell out their entire stock of groceries, and in some cases equipment also, with a minimum of loss. These groceries were sold to the Sacramento Consumer's Cooperative.

It was our opinion that after the evacuation order actually came we could best serve by assuring these people that we would see that they got to the place of assembly through our help; that we would guarantee to pick up their baggage for them and to deliver it directly out to Walerga to save them the bother and expense of moving it either out to the camp or to the place of embarkation. Needless to say the demand for moving vans and trucks was at its height

during these days and many would have been in a bad way if we had not been able to help them. Also to store for them the things they would like to have sent to them at a later date.

Mr. Ferguson glad  
to find contact.

1. 50 mi order  
5 mi from home  
no church for some

Storage temp +  
for duration.

1. Explain  
2. Hard to contact  
3. Assurances both  
ways  
3. Other places NG

These aims were all carried out with assistance given to more than 200 families, approximately 1000 people, which included almost all the Japanese Christian population of Sacramento as well as other friends. About 5000 pieces of baggage were handled. More than 250 truck trips were made in the city during the four days of the evacuation period and 42 large truck loads of baggage were taken directly to camp. Almost the entire expense involved was covered by contributions from the people served. We of course could not have done this by ourselves and wish to acknowledge the help of the church council and many volunteer car and truck drivers as well as the loan of cars and trucks by many individuals. The Japanese young people served faithfully and well, in many cases until a few minutes of the time for their departure to camp. The women of the churches were very generous in the serving of tea, rice and sandwiches for the four day period as well as in the driving of cars. We should also add that many Mexicans in sympathy with our cause volunteered their trucks and any other service they could give and then refused compensation for it even to the extent of payment due for the gasoline consumed. Our plans could only be so adequately accomplished because so many were willing to cooperate. To bear out this fact the W.C, C.A. director of the evacuation, one of his assistants and an army sergeant came to the Center in a jeep to sample the sandwiches and to commend us for our services. We may add that our services were requested for the evacuation both in Isleton and in Elk Grove because of the success of our efforts here. However, we could not accept because of the greater needs still requiring our care in Sacramento.

All this is in terms of figures and does not express the true picture. Two examples are typical. One old man and his wife lived some distance out and had no means of transporting either themselves or their baggage. They were taken to the place of assembly to be transported to camp and on the way the man said, and his wife nodded approval, "All my life I Buddhist. You help us lots now when we need. I go to camp - make Christian." So many others also said thanks in many ways, but the most typical was the expression of a man who would be classified as non-religious. When he called to thank us for our Christian service to him he said, "You know, Mr. Muench, somehow I've been too busy to go to church or to send my children, but when we come back you can count on us."

I think we can.

Sincerely,  
*Frank G. Muench*  
Frank G. Muench