

THE FRIEND

Vol. CXXI

HONOLULU, HAWAII, DECEMBER, 1952

No. 9

World Meetings

There were two significant meetings of representatives from Christian Churches all over the world this past summer. The first meeting was that of the International Missionaries Council and it was held in Willengen. Church people from Asia, Africa, Europe and America were present. The main concern was "The Missionary Task of the Christian Church Today". The distinction between Christian lands and Missionary lands which has long been held in the minds of the people in the West has now become blurred. Christian churches are now established all over the world and these churches have national organizations. At the same time the Christian Churches of the West have come to be surrounded by a large pagan population. The Christian forces are therefore world-wide and the missionary task has to be understood as a world-wide responsibility.

In addition, two other matters were of deep concern. One was the realization that the missionary enterprise demands in our time a renewal of faith in the hearts of believers. One of the primary tasks of all Christians is to be sure that they are in themselves representative of the Christian faith. After all Christians ought to be in themselves the results of the message they profess. The second concern was the necessity for being alert to the possibilities of an outreach to the people behind the iron curtain. Anyone who serves the Christian faith must never be discouraged by a

situation and must be ever prepared to reach out with the Gospel.

The other big meeting was at Lund, Sweden and it was of the Faith and Order section of the World Council of Churches. This is the section whose primary responsibility is in the realm of theology, worship and church organization. These matters are of course crucial in the lives of Christian people for they are the forms through which faith is expressed. Everyone of us is all too conscious of the differences which separate denominations. Everyone of us would yearn for the time when, as Protestants, we might be united, yet everyone of us is deeply moved by the beliefs we hold and the practices we follow.

Representatives from the main divisions in Christendom talked together about these matters. The conference is to issue a detailed report which should be studied with great care by all of us. However, in a personal letter addressed to the editor, one word about the conference stood out "at the previous meetings on the subject of Faith and Order, feelings of antagonism and anger arose. Men who were present felt that the things which were dear to them were being falsely criticized. The meeting at Lund was characterized by a spirit of oneness and brotherliness. Differences still remain, beliefs continued to be held firmly, but through all these elements which divide there is a new unity". And this is probably the most significant thing that took place at Lund.

Sam Kalama Retires

Sixty-three years ago, a man by the name of Kalama began to work for the Hawaiian Board of Missions. He served the Board in a number of capacities, looking out for the offices of the Board, assisting in some of the transactions carried on by the members of the Board staff, and in making himself available to serve those who worked with the Board. He continued his position for twenty-two years and then he retired.

But immediately upon his retirement, his son stepped into his place with the same responsibilities. And this son has continued his work for forty-one years. Sam's presence on the Board's staff has meant a great deal. He has learned to know the members and leaders of the churches all over the Territory and those leaders and members have learned to know him. In this way he has become symbolic of the tie which binds the Board to the churches and vice versa. It will be strange at the Board without Sam Kalama.

Members and friends of the Board held a reception for Sam on August 29. They came to express their gratitude to him for the outstanding service he has rendered and to assure him of their best wishes as he spends his days in happy retirement.

Wainee Church

The new church building at Lahaina is on its way up. After a long period of study in the effort to keep the price of the structure down, the congregation of the Wainee Church finally approved some proposed plans and gave them to contractors for bid. When the bids were opened, the contract went to Muneo Yamamoto of Wailuku for a price of \$26,750.

The building will be of hollow tile, seating about 120 people, and will feature wide lanais with sliding doors on both sides. This feature will give maximum protection from the sun and will allow the cooling breezes to circulate in the church. The new building faces the direction of the strong wind and has a reinforced front wall designed to withstand any future gale that may come.

The members of the church have already raised some money toward the cost of the building and letters have been addressed to friends of the church asking for assistance. By vote of the Aha Paeaina all our churches will make this new structure a matter of their special interest and will see to it that their gifts are made. In the meantime, the Trustees of the Board have guaranteed the payment of the contract.

Hawaiian Missionary Sunday

Date - January 11, 1953
Occasion - the celebration of the landing of the missionaries in Hawaii. A special church bulletin cover is available.