



Canon Gordon Nakayama celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination this fall.

Lethbridge Herald Photo

## Renewal Brings Vibrant Sound to St. Martin's

The Rev. Canon Charles Alexander headed the St. Martin's Renewal Conference when he and friends from St. James' Church visited us. We enjoyed a sing-song prior to the lecture Charles gave on each of the three days, Oct. 21 through Oct. 23. His talks were spell-binders and held our attention to such an extent that we were changed from stiff-necked, cold-fish kind of Anglicans to vibrant, caring people. We certainly weren't going to be content to sit in a comfortable pew doing nothing any longer, judging by the feedback that we got from our members. Instead we would be up and doing in the Lord's vineyard, bringing in others.

At intervals during the final day of the conference, Canon Alexander played piano, guitar, organ for our sing-song of hymns of praise in whatever area of the building we happened to be at the time. On this day we formed groups of seven or eight people and each group went to a particular room to discuss ways of becoming more involved in working for Christ. Here each one introduced themselves to the others and gave a brief out-line of their background. We were encouraged by our leaders to speak up about any problems we had or what we would like to see happen

in our church.

The results from these workshop-like sessions were then presented to the meeting when all gathered in the church hall. Some of the suggestions were: to get to know the Scriptures better, to ask Jesus for guidance of the spirit, to show love to others and look for the good in them, to ask Jesus for help in being obedient to his teaching, to give more support to our Rector for we realize the lay person must assume some responsibility in communicating with our members. We are willing to be helpful, but think some leadership training is in order. We should appoint a committee and put these ideas to work as soon as possible.

Following this discussion, all gathered in the church where Canon Alexander invited those in need of a blessing by the laying on of hands to come forward. Here, he and Mrs. Sheila Elliot anointed those who heeded the call. A Communion service followed and it was with a joyful heart we partook of the Lord's Super.

Those who attended that conference came away filled with God's spirit. It was even evident the next day, which was Sunday, that there was a new vibrant sound to our voices as we took part in the service.

## Canon Gordon Nakayama Returns to Coaldale

Friends of Canon Gordon Nakayama gathered in early Fall to celebrate with him the 50th Anniversary of his ordination. Though he is now living in retirement in Vancouver, he returned for the occasion to the Church of the Ascension, Coaldale, Alberta — the parish which he served for 33 years.

This event marked a milestone in one of the most remarkable ministries in the Canadian church.

Gordon Nakayama was born in 1900 in Japan to a farming family and was raised as a Buddhist. After University studies in Kyoto, he came to Canada with the intention of studying medicine, staying in Vancouver with an aunt who had married a Methodist minister.

In 1920, he attended Good Friday services in St. James' Anglican Church, Vancouver. There he heard a sermon which spoke of Christ on the Cross, which stressed the three words: Forgiveness, Salvation and Love. The result was that he became a convert to Christianity.

He was baptized as a Methodist, but in 1926 he met his future wife, Lois — a lady missionary from Japan who had links with the Anglican church.

After studying theology in Vancouver, it was on September 26th, 1932 that he was ordained in that same city. He then served in the Church of the Ascension, Vancouver.

### GRIM EXPERIENCE

Together with all of his fellow Japanese living at the coast, in the 1940's, Gordon and his family suffered the traumatic experience of being evacuated to the interior because the clouds of suspicion which were generated under wartime conditions. Branded as "aliens", they were forced to leave their homes with as little as 24 hours notice. He not recalls, "We had to leave everything, we trusted the Canadian government so we registered everything to their custodians. But unfortunately, they sold everything — property, houses, furniture, everything — without our consent for a low price. That's the greatest mistake the Canadian government ever made."

The Nakayamas moved first to Slocan City, B.C., where they ministered to their fellow-Anglicans, many of whom were living in tents and makeshift shelters for as much as three years.

When Japanese were later moved to the sugar beet farms of Southern Alberta the Anglican church sent Gordon to this area. Restrictions on his people prevented him from settling in Lethbridge or Taber, but

Coaldale was ready to welcome the family, and they moved into living quarters above a local store.

The first Christmas service had an attendance of just six — which included the four members of the Nakayama family! But that tiny beginning was the start of a faithful ministry which later extended to include Occidental membership.

### MISSIONARY TRAVELS

From the earliest days, however, he began a much wider ministry. In 1947, he visited 39 cities in the U.S.A. and 29 in Canada to speak on two topics — the Japanese-Canadian situation, and his favorite subject — the Love of Christ.

In June 1951, he began a 14-month stay on the island of Okinawa. At that time there was only one Christian family, but by Christmas he had baptized 56 persons and was teaching a Sunday School with 850 children. Amongst those converted during his short stay, five men went on to be priests, and another became a bishop.

Since those days his frequent missionary travels have taken him to South America, Europe, Asia and Africa, in addition to many parts of North America.

Gordon and Lois are now enjoying retirement in Vancouver, where he is busy writing a book under Federal Government sponsorship. Their son, Timothy, for many years a popular priest in this diocese, is now Rector of St. Peter's Church, Seattle. Their daughter, Joy Kogawa, living in Ottawa, won the 1981 Canadian Nobel of the Year award for her book "Obasan."

### PERSONAL WITNESS

Buried in the Sower files is a report by a former diocesan clergyman on a series of meetings conducted by Gordon Nakayama several years ago. After describing the slides shown by the world traveller, our correspondent says this: "The most thrilling part was Canon Nakayama's personal witness telling how he became a Christian. His simple easy of presenting Jesus urged each one of us to go out and tell the Good News to our neighbours. The light and joy and peace of knowing Jesus Christ as shown in Canon Nakayama's face will long be remembered."

It is no surprise that such a man has achieved so much for our Lord and is so deeply loved. The Sower joins his many other friends in their congratulations and prayerful good wishes.

## NEW NOTES

### Student Retreat

Early in the Fall term, a group of students from the University of Calgary gathered at Enthos Lodge for a weekend of worship, work and play under the leadership of Rev. Trevor Walters.

While conducting a program of presentations, discussions, film and worship, there was also time for a barbecue and a grounds-project — building a fence!

For new students, it was a chance to develop a sense for the country in a spirit of trust and care at the beginning of a new academic year.

B.A.S.

### St. Mark's Renewed

St. Mark's Church Calgary served as a guinea pig for a new ministry in our diocese, the Parish Renewal Conference. Led by Fr. Tony Bullman and Mr. Cec Vissar, with the musical assistance of Marjorie Black and Marilyn Salisbury, over thirty members of the parish met for a Friday evening and all day Saturday to explore the authority of Scriptures, who Jesus is, the ministry of the Church, and the Holy Spirit in our lives.

During the concluding Mass, celebrated by Fr. Skoyles, an opportunity was provided for the laying on of hands.

An important factor in the success of the conference was the preparation by prayer. With all that intercession it had to work — and did. Was it a

100% success for everyone present? Of course not; but it was a helpful experience for most if not all.

Thanks to hard-working ladies, we ate like kings and thanks to "apostolic preaching, biblical teaching, and historic worship" we grew in prayer. May God richly bless this new ministry to our diocese.

### Entheos Cursillos

The Fifth Anglican Cursillo-weekends — for men at the beginning of October and for women two weeks later — proved to be uplifting spiritual experiences for close to 100 people at Entheos Lodge.

The words: "Community-living in the Spirit of God" may characterize the three-day events, but individuals may each find their own description for what they saw or felt when the

very closeness of human fellowship in listening, talking, singing and praying presented itself with intensity.

One can easily project a renewal for our Diocese with more and more men and women being released back into their every-day life after such an experience, touched by the Holy Spirit... B.A.S.

### Xmas Radio

Radio Station CHRB in High River which can be received throughout much of the Diocese is broadcasting a Christmas Lessons and Carols Service on Sunday, Dec. 19 at 11:00 a.m. from St. Benedict's High River, with Rev. Allan McQuaig officiating.

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