

Since I cannot go out of nights, I could think that Ercile White, the chaplain of the school of Correction, is baptizing some boys from the school, the young people are conducting the service with a boy 16 speaking and earnest and capable young Betty Anewalt leading the singing. (A Perfect Day)

### Forest Lawn

August 30, 1950. Among the sights of California, the mountains, the great forest trees, the waterfalls, the wide Pacific Ocean, the Old Missions, the colorful Mission Inn, the Huntington Library and Gallery of priceless books and pictures, Forest Lawn is probably the greatest Memorial Park and most unique in the world.

Unfortunately we had never visited it. But today Della Reid Parker, our relative, came and took Florence and me to see it.

The most famous piece, the reproduction "The Lord's Supper" by Michael Angelo in stained glass was a disappointment, especially the head of Christ. The Peter is good, the John is not good, the other apostles are not startling, the only one that is a real work of art like Milton's Satan is Judas, one that the lady who made the stained glass had made five times.

The reproduction of Michael Angelo's giant statue Moses of course is not equal to the original but is worth the trip to Forest Lawn alone to see in its superb grandeur.

Della had a friend who is an employee of the Park and she took us in her car over most of the Park to the very top where we saw the "Church of the Reccessional" built only three years ago as a replica of the church of Rottingdean where Kipling worshipped and near where he wrote "God of our Fathers, known of old." Outside is a great tablet on which is inscribed the hymn and there is a bronze bust of Kipling and other things connected with him. The view from the church to the north into the San Fernando valley is wonderful and the soft colors of the old stone of which the church is built is, I believe, one of the most satisfying sights of the whole Park.

Slowly riding along to go down, I suddenly saw a giant marble statue and exclaimed, "The David". It was the replica of Michael Angelo's statue of the Slinger and we climbed out and gazed at it in awe! Second only to Moses! Then we came on down and saw the History Room with a picture of Lincoln delivering the Gettysburg Address and numerous bronzes and memorials of many famous men, including the bronze replica of Theodore Roosevelt in the rotunda of the Senate Building, Ruskin and many, many others.

### The Communists in China

The Communists have taken over all of China except Formosa. Chiang Kai Shek is doubtless a real Christian patriot and if he could have put through his plans written into the new constitution of distributing the land among the farmers, the Communists would not have prevailed. But the selfishness of the wealthy classes, holding most of the land made the fulfillment of Chiang's plans impossible.

Socialism which I have long believed will in some form take possession of the world will never completely succeed without its being linked with Christian principles.

The lot of many very poor people in China will probably be improved.



All Christian schools and hospitals are being taken over by the Communist government. The government declares freedom of religion but demands that Christians maintain no relations with Christians of other lands. The hardships of Chinese Christians will probably increase for a time.

But Christianity is now a part of Chinese life and whatever the political outcome, Christianity will survive and grow in strength and influence as it has always done under trial.

Meantime the cutting off of all direct communication between us and our loved Chinese brothers and sisters, both to them and to us brings unspeakable sorrow.

The imprisonment of Henry Li and others and the enforced silence of Esther Sing, T. C. Bao and countless others of our dear Christian friends and our inability to get through messages of sympathy and cheer is an untold hardship.

But there is no reason to lose hope, for many times throughout the ages Christianity has survived and though I may not live to see the rebirth of a strong Christian life in China, I will know about it over there and I want all my Christian Chinese brothers and sisters and sons and daughters to know how Edith and I have borne them on our hearts in the presence of their Lord and our Lord Jesus, The Christ, the Son of God.

1950

I have spent much of the past year rewriting and bringing up to date this "Story of our Lives". It has been a source of real pleasure to look back at the years spent with Ivy Edith. After our marriage we were privileged to share our lives together for forty-four years. They were happy years in spite of the pain, and Edith suffered most of the physical pain, which shortened her life. We knew and loved each other for six years before we were married during our college and my theological years, making in all full fifty years. What blessed years. I am sure I could have been a better husband, a better father, a better Christian and a more useful person in the Kingdom of Heaven, but Edith in spite of her physical handicaps, gave herself without reserve to her family and to the Chinese for whom we worked. She was as true and useful a missionary as any man could be and if I have attained any success, much has been due to her help. It has been our success.

September 24, 1950. A day I never expected to see. I never hoped to live to be more than three score and ten. But today I am 80. It is being celebrated. Just why I do not know. I have had some happy years, even these five years since Edith passed over into the Heavenly land. I have been able to be of some help to people but I think I have hardly earned my salt.

Perhaps God has given me these added years not for my pleasure but that I might call to mind where I have failed in this life so that I might lead a more useful life in that endless life to come.

The one thing that has made life bearable without Edith's physical presence has been the consciousness of her constant spiritual presence and help.



1951

I saw thirty years of the 19th century and have lived in half of the 20th century. I was born during the administration of President Grant only five years after Lincoln died. More physical progress has occurred during these 80 years than in many previous centuries.

Much religious progress has also occurred during this time. But too many people even in America have been little affected. It is too much to be hoped for that there will ever come a time when every person on the earth will be an earnest student of the New Testament and a true disciple of Jesus, but if my 80 years have taught me anything of value, it is that:

Every person who does not become an earnest follower of Jesus just that much retards the time when unselfish living will make a reasonably peaceful, stable, happy world for every living person.