

## Remembrance Service

Harold Wesley Robinson

On March 5th Harold Wesley Robinson, aged 95, a good and faithful servant of Jesus Christ, entered into the joy of his Lord.

He was an unusual person. Born and brought up on a farm in Vermont he acquired his education under difficult circumstances but graduated from both Dartmouth College and Union Theological Seminary (N.Y.) After his ordination into the Christian Ministry he was commissioned by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Congregational Church and served 33 years in China in both teaching administrative posts. Together with his wife, Mary, whom he had met on shipboard on the way out, he interested himself also in improving the social and economic conditions in the areas in which he worked. It was said of Harold that he was always ready to go wherever the Board wished regardless of his own inclinations and that he worked not only with competence but with enthusiasm.

Many of us remember the service here in the meeting house when the Board for World Ministries of the United Church of Christ (the church group formed by the merger of the Congregation and Reformed Churches) bestowed <sup>an award</sup> on Harold <sup>in</sup> recognition of those fruitful years of work in China. We are glad that Carolyn Roberts <sup>who</sup> acted as the representative of the Board at that time is also here today.

After Harold's return from China--a return made ~~ne~~ necessary by the shift to a communist government--he was a minister in Gourneyville and Sab Mateo until his retirement in 1963.. His Christian Ministry did not, however, end with his retirement. For he served on the Religious Activities Committee here at the Manor, and preached many times for us at Vespers.

He contributed in other ways also to our life at the Manor. I remember being impressed at the beginning of my own residence here by the way he conducted the Current Evnts sessions in the West Parlor, by the breadth of his reading and by his ability to elicit the interest and participation of so many .

He was a warmhearted and friendly person too and had a satchel-full of good stories which he told with much elan from time to time. When an <sup>came</sup> opportunity to join a class in painting, Harold did not feel too old to take up this new interest and apply himself to it with his usual enthusiasm and ~~and~~ <sup>perseverance</sup>. We all enjoyed seeing the results -- in pictures which show imagination in choice of subject and the ~~characteristic~~ characteristics of a True Primitive. Some of his pictures I believe are to be shown again at the Manor <sup>2</sup> that we may renew our acquaintance with them.

Harold bore the loss of Mary and his increasing physical handicaps with much fortitude continuing to participate in activities at Hillcrest and in attendance at religious services until very near the end of his life.

He kept the faith  
He finished the course  
He has, I am sure, ~~received~~ his Crown.  
<sup>won</sup>