

CHRONOLOGY

(July 1966—June 1967)

July 2—The Japan Religionists Peace Council (*Nihon Shākyōsha Heiwa Kyōgikai* 日本宗教者平和協議会) released a statement against the US bombing of North Vietnam.

July 6—The Religions League of Japan (*Nihon Shākyō Remmei* 日本宗教連盟) held a meeting of American and Japanese men of religion with the Rev. R. E. Green, Unitarian pastor, Professor F. H. Ross of Claremont University, and Assistant Professor Shinkō Saeki of Sagami Institute of Technology as special guests.

July 9—The Japan Buddhist Federation (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai* 全日本仏教会) held a conference on Buddhist culture in Sendai with the theme "Buddhism and Education." Buddhist scholars, teachers, representatives of Buddhist temples of the area attended.

July 10—Eleven Japanese delegates to the Church and Society Conference, including President Nobushige Ugai of International Christian University, and President Masatoshi Matsushita of St. Paul's University, left for Geneva.

—Enryakuji (Hieiizan) celebrated the completion of its new building for ad-

herents which can accommodate more than 600 people.

July 12—Dr. Daisetz Suzuki died of arterial thrombosis at the age of 95. (A mourning service was held on July 18 with the Rev. Kōshō Ōtani 大谷光紹, heir of Higashi Honganji, as officiating priest at Tokyo Higashi Honganji.)

July 14—A Promoters Association for construction of Kirisuto-kyō Kaikan was started. The building, part of the ecumenical movement, calls for participation of all Christian organizations.

July 15—The East Asian Christian Council held an Asia Church Women Conference in Tokyo, with about 100 attendants from seventeen Asian countries.

July 20—The Kōmei Party 公明党 announced 32 candidates for the coming election to the House of Representatives. All candidates are executives of Sōka Gakkai.

July 21—The United Church of Christ in Japan reported a membership (March, 1966) of 198,492, which means an annual increase of 4,158.

July 23—Mr. Muneyoshi Tokugawa was installed as Chief Priest of Ise Shrine.

July 27—The Rev. Kōshō Ōtani was in-

stalled as Chief Abbot of Tokyo Higashi Honganji.

July 28—The Research Commission on National Foundation Day with Mr. Tsūsai Sugawara as chairman started as an advisory body to the Prime Minister.

Aug. 3—The Kyōdan Brazil Development Group, eight young men who are to be engaged in constructing hospitals and other facilities in Brazil, left for that country.

Aug. 6—The Memorial Service for the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Dead was held with about 20,000 in attendance.

Aug. 10—Hiroshima, twelve years after construction had been started, celebrated the completion of a pagoda to keep the Buddha relics which the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal J. Nehru sent to the citizens of Hiroshima through Nihonzan Myōhōji 日本山妙法寺.

Aug. 14—The Union of Bible Societies held a two-weeks training course for Bible translation in Tokyo. 27 foreigners and 27 Japanese attended.

Aug. 15—A Memorial Service for the war dead was held at Budōkan, Tokyo, with about 4,000 attendants. Among these were their Majesties the Emperor and Empress, the Prime Minister and representatives of the bereaved families and other groups.

Aug. 17—Kōdō Kyōdan celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Aug. 19—The Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church held a nationwide missionary convention for two days. About 1,000 ministers and laymen of the Church attended.

Sept. 2—The Anglican Church of Japan reported a membership of 46,843 as of December, 1965, which means an annual increase of 282.

Sept. 4—A delegation of the Japan Buddhist Federation left for Sweden to attend the ceremony of presentation of Buddhist books.

Sept. 5—The National Council of Churches held for the first time a joint orientation course for the newly arrived missionaries under the theme “Life and Culture of the Japanese.”

Sept. 11—YWCA of Japan set out in a campaign against the Vietnam War by writing letters to individuals, groups and organizations in the United States.

Sept. 15—The National Council of Churches, the United Church of Christ and the Theological Department of Dōshisha University held meetings in Osaka and Tokyo against the revival of *Kigen-sutsu*.

Sept. 18—Sōka Gakkai held a Cultural festival of the Kansai area with 100,000 participants and 2,000 guests including Mr. Kakuei Tanaka 田中角栄, Chief Secretary of the Liberal Democratic Party, members of the Diet and the governors ✓

of Osaka and Hyōgo prefectures.

✓ **Sept. 25**—The President of Sōka Gakkai, Daisaku Ikeda 池田大作, announced that Sōka Gakkai in other countries in the future will be called Nichiren Shōshū.

Sep. 30—The Japanese Association for Religious Studies (*Nihon Shūkyō Gakkai* 日本宗教学会) for two days held its 25th convention at Tokyo University. Besides two lectures, 150 reports were read.

Oct. 2—Nishi Honganji started construction of a ten-storied building to keep the ashes of its dead believers, at the expense of 2,000,000,000 yen.

Oct. 7—Rinzai-shū and Ōbaku-shū jointly celebrated the 1,100th anniversary of the death of Rinzai for four days at Tōfukuji, Kyoto, with meditations, chants and lectures. About 450 monks attended.

Oct. 8—The Japan Maha Bodhi Society celebrated the 2,510th anniversary of the death of the Buddha and the 10th anniversary of its foundation in Nagoya.

Oct. 12—Sankō Bunka Kenkyūsho, a Buddhist institute, newly set up a library which possesses Buddhist Sutras and materials on Buddhism and Japanese literature and arts.

Oct. 13—Dr. Teruji Ishizu 石津照璽 was elected President of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies.

Oct. 15—The Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan (*Shin Nippon Shūkyō Dantai Rengō-kai* 新日本宗教団

体連合会) celebrated the 15th anniversary of its foundation at the Palace Hotel, Tokyo, with 150 representatives of the religious world and other fields in attendance.

—Kōyasan University celebrated the 80th anniversary of its foundation.

—Sōka Gakkai held the Tokyo Cultural Festival at the National Olympic Stadium. ✓

Oct. 18—The Buddhist Ōtani University announced that in 1966 one fourth of its students were women and 60% laymen.

Oct. 19—The Japan Buddhist Federation sent a good will mission of 21 Buddhists to Europe to talk with Christian leaders and see the nursery schools of seven countries in Europe.

Oct. 20—The Buddhist Political Federation held a lecture meeting for two days in Tokyo with Mr. Hiroi Takase 高瀬広居, a critic, the Rev. Entai Tomomatsu 友松円諦, Mr. Kaoru Murakami 村上董, Mr. Isazō Togawa 戸川猪佐藏 as speakers.

Oct. 25—The Religions League of Japan celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation with about 100 leaders of the religious world in attendance.

—The Supreme Court of the Republic of Korea dismissed the appeal of Sōka Gakkai against the ban by the government. ✓

Nov. 3—About 60 Japanese Buddhist delegates to the 8th World Buddhist Conference left for Thailand. The delegation included for the first time twelve members of New Buddhist groups.

Nov. 12—The 8th National Cultural Conference (*Kokumin Bunka Kaigi* 国民文化会議) was held for three days. Six representatives of Sōka Gakkai who attended the meeting declared that they were opposing the National Foundation Day and national status of Yasukuni Shrine.

Nov. 15—The Lutheran World Federation inaugurated a mass communication institute in Tokyo, which is to make surveys of Christian activities by radio, television, film and literature.

Nov. 19—Dr. Hidenobu Kuwata 桑田秀延 was elected President of Ferris Women's School, Yokohama.

Nov. 20—Tokyo University held a panel discussion on the theme "Religion and Patriotism." Dr. Naofusa Hirai 平井直房, assistant professor of Kokugakuin Univ., Dr. Hisashi Aizawa 相沢久, professor of Sophia Univ., the Rev. Shōjun Mibu 壬生照順, chief-director of the Religionists Peace Council, and Dr. Keiichi Yanagawa 柳川啓一, assistant professor of Tokyo Univ., attended as speakers.

Nov. 26—The Japanese Association for the study of Taoism (*Nihon Dō yō*

Gakkai 日本道教学会) held its 17th convention in Kyoto, with nine scholars reporting on their research.

Nov. 26—The Rev. Sakae Akaiwa, author of the controversial book, *Kirisuto-kyō Dasshutsu-ki* (Exodus from Christianity), died of cancer at the age of 63.

Dec. 1—The United Church of Christ in Japan handed to the chairman of the Inquiry Commission on National Foundation Day its statement and signatures of about 5,000 people opposing the revival of *Kigensetsu*.

—The ground-breaking ceremony of Sōka Junior High School was held in the suburbs of Tokyo. The buildings will be completed by the end of 1967 at the cost of 1,050,000,000 yen.

Dec. 3—The Association for the Study of the Shinto Religion, which celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation, held its 20th convention with about 40 scholars reporting on their research.

—Four professors of Rishō University Tokyo, Zuiryū Nakamura 中村瑞隆 (Buddhism), Hajime Ōmura 大村肇 (geography), Shūichi Sakazume 坂詰秀 and Tsuneharu Kubota 久保田常晴 (archaeology), left for Nepal to investigate the Buddhist remains.

Dec. 6—The United Church of Christ in Japan released a study on the impacts of population mobility on Christian

churches.

Dec. 7—Tenrikyō disclaimed being a Shinto sect. (The organization was authorized as a Shinto sect in 1888 and still belongs to the Sectarian Shinto Federation (*Kyōha Shintō Rengōkai* 教派神道連合会).

Dec. 10—The government issued an ordinance setting National Foundation Day on February 11.

Dec. 17—Buddhist University (*Bukkyō Daigaku* 仏教大学) in Kyoto newly set up a Department of Sociology.

—Chishakuin, head temple of the Shingon-shū Chizan-ha (Kyoto), celebrated the completion of Chishakuin Raikan which provides accomodation and study facilities to the believers,

1967

✓ **Jan. 8**—Many candidates from the religious world, including 32 Sōka Gakkai members under the Kōmei Party banner, stood for election to the House of Representatives in the 31th national election.

Jan. 9—The Educational Committee of Kyoto Prefecture planned a cultural center to preserve cultural properties to be completed in 1973 in Miyazu City 宮津市 at the cost of 270 million yen.

✓ **Jan. 11**—Gedatsu Kai 解脱会, a postwar Buddhist sect, decided 'Conversion of Sōka Gakkai Members' as one of the

main objects of this year.

Jan. 13—The Political Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan (*Shin Shakyō Seiji Remmei* 新宗教政治連盟) was started on December 28th, 1966, with the Rev. Shūten Ōishi 大石秀典, executive director of the Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan, as president.

Jan. 15—A party of 117 consisting of members of bereaved families left for Guam to perform the ground breaking ceremony of a memorial tower for the war dead. This plan was formed by the Memorial Society for the War Dead in South Pacific Islands (*Minami Taiheiyō Sembotusha Irei-kyokai* 南太平洋戦没者慰霊協会).

Jan. 18—Under the joint auspices of the National Council of Churches in Japan and the National Christian Council of Japan, the first joint prayer meetina of the Catholic Church, the Orthodox Church and the Protestant Churches was held at St. Alban's Church in Tokyo as a function during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (from 18 to 25), with the Rev. Chūzō Yamada 山田忠藏 of NCC, the Rev. Tadayoshi Tamura 田村忠義 of the Central Council of the Catholic Church, the Rev. Masayuki Sawano 沢野正幸 of the Japan Baptist Union etc. as officiants and about 200 laymen in attendance.

Chronology for 1966—1967

Jan. 20—The United Church of Christ in Japan and the Catholic Church in Japan held the first official joint meeting to exchange their opinions in Tokyo. Among the attendants were the Rev. Masahisa Suzuki 鈴木正久 and the Rev. Isamu Ōmura of the United Church of Christ and the most Rev. Shōjirō Itō 伊藤庄次郎 and the Rev. Joseph J. Spae of the Catholic Church.

Jan. 21—A party of 19 left for a pilgrimage to India, the Holy Land of Buddhism, under the auspices of *Chūgai Nippō* 中外日報. The Rev. Shinden Inada 稲田心用, chief abbot of Kokutai-ji 国泰寺 was the leader and the Rev. Shinten Sakai 酒井真典, professor of Kōyasan University, the assistant leader of the group.

Jan. 22—17 churches in the Kyoto diocese of the Catholic Church in Japan applied for membership in the Kyoto Christian Council.

Jan. 23—The Rev. and Mrs. Okano, heads of Kōdō Kyōdan 孝道教団 left for Ceylon as state guests to attend the Independence Day of Ceylon (Feb. 4th) and the World Sangha Convention at Colombo.

Jan. 24—Izoo Church (Osaka) of Konkō kyō 金光教 celebrated the 40th anniversary of its foundation. Pope Paul VI sent a message appreciating the organization's inter-denominational effort for

world peace.

Jan. 30—The 100th anniversary of the death of Emperor Kōmei 孝明天皇 was celebrated at Heian Shrine with Prince and Princess Takamatsu as special guests.

—At the 31th national election for the House of Representatives, 25 out of 32 candidates of Kōmei Party were elected. ✓

Feb. 2—The Rev. Masahisa Suzuki and the Rev. Ken Saeki 佐伯俊 of the United Church of Christ in Japan officially visited the United Church of Christ in Okinawa to discuss better relations between both associations.

Feb. 5—Yamaguchi Prefecture authorized the establishment of an incorporated religious nursery school. (There are still many prefectures prohibiting this.)

Feb. 6—Dr. Stanley Jones, a Methodist missionary, came from America for a three-months mission in Japan.

—The Council of Religionists for the Current World Situation (*Jikyoku Taisaku Shūkyōsha Kaigi* 時事対策宗教者会議) held the 2nd mass convention at Myōchi Kaikan 妙智会館 with 250 in attendance and demanded from the Liberal Democratic Social Party to have no relation with the Kōmei Party with respect to the coming election of the Governor of Tokyo Metropolis.

Feb. 9—NCC presented books and musical instruments to elementary and

Chronology for 1666—1967

junior high schools in Hokkaidō which had suffered from the recent cold weather.

Feb. 11—The first National Foundation Day. The Association for the Celebration of Kigensetsu (*Kigensetsu Hōshuku Kai* 紀元節奉祝会) organized by 88 bodies, including the Shinto Shrine Association (Jinja Honchō 神社本庁), Seichō-No-Ie Kyōdan 生長の家教団, held a ceremony for the day at Hibiya Public Hall in Tokyo.

Opposing this day, some students demonstrated at Tokyo Univ., Tokyo Metropolitan Univ., Tokyo Metropolitan Univ. and Tokyo Univ. of Education.

✓ **Feb. 13**—At its 4th regular convention, the Kōmei Party elected Mr. Yoshio Takeiri 竹入義雄 chairman of the Party and recommended Mr. Ken'ichi Abe 阿部謙—a Sōka Gakkai member, as a non-affiliated candidate for next the election of the Governor of Tokyo Metropolis.

Feb. 18—The Ōsaka Educational Committee prohibited the Ōsaka Branch of the Japan International Society from presenting Bibles without fee to a public high school in Ōsaka which had requested them.

Feb. 19—The Shrine Association decided a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration on March 14th, 1968.

Feb. 24—The Liberal Democratic Party

and the Democratic Social Party recommended Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita 松下正寿, an Anglican and former president of St. Paul's Univ., as candidate for the election as Governor of Tokyo Metropolis. (Many representatives of almost all the religions in Tokyo except Sōka Gakkai, were giving their recommendation to him.)

March 3—The Council of Religionists for the Current World Situation decided to back Dr. Masatoshi Matsushita at the election to the governorship of Tokyo Metropolis.

March 4—Risshō Kōsei-kai 立正佼正会 celebrated the 29th anniversary of its foundation at the Great Sacred Hall in Tokyo for four days.

March 6—The first Japan Missionary Cooperative Council was held at Gotemba, with about 90 attendants including delegates from WCC and United NCC and foreign missionaries and representatives from the Christian Churches. Lecturers were Prof. Masao Takenaka 竹中正夫 and Prof. Masatoshi Doi 土居真俊 of Dōshisha Univ. 同志社大学, Prof. Kazō Kitamori 北森嘉藏 of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary, the Rev. C. H. Germany, a pastor of the United Methodist Church, and the Rev. Masahisa Suzuki 鈴木正久 of the United Church of Christ.

March 12—The Shrine Association

Chronology for 1966—1967

petitions the Prime Minister to cancel the plan to cut the old cedar trees (太郎杉) of Tōshō Shrine at Nikkō.

March 14—1,500 dollar collected by Asian Church women through the 'Least Coin Movement' were sent to 'Kanita Women's Village' a relief facility for woman in Tateyama City 館山市 towards establishment of a church.

March 15—The plan to construct a Buddhist inter-denominational Shakyō Hall (Hall for copying sutras) is being pushed on by 17 volunteers in Toyama Prefecture.

—Sixteen Catholic priests were ordained in Japan.

March 16—Some Christians, including the Rev. Masahisa Suzuki and the Rev. Isamu Ōmura 大村勇, at Yamate Church in Tokyo held a meeting to encourage Dr. Ryōkichi Minobe 美濃亮吉, a candidate for election to governorship of Tokyo Metropolis.

March 17—The Tourist Bureau of Kyoto City started an investigation about cultural properties. Subjected to this investigation are about 300 temples and shrines in Kyoto City.

March 21—Bukkyō Daigaku in Kyoto established the graduate course in the department of literature with a course on Pure Land Teaching (浄土学) for the first time in Japan.

March 23—About 30 abbots of Bud-

dhism, including the Rev. Daisen Furukawa of Myōshin-ji of the Rinzaï sect (古川大船, 妙心寺, 臨濟宗), the Rev. Ryōkei Ōnishi of Kiyomizu-dera (大西良慶, 清水寺), issued a statement opposing the US bombing of North Vietnam. This statement will be sent to President Johnson, the Japanese Government, Pope Paul VI and the governments of South and North Vietnam. (The Rev. Sōgen Asahina 朝比奈宗源, chief abbot of Enkaku-ji 円覚寺 of the Rinzaï sect, rejected to sign his name on this statement because of its leftist tendency.)

March 24—The NCC announced that the total number of Protestant Church members as of December, 1966, was 456,294, 0.5% of the Japanese population.

March 26—The NCC published a statement about the responsibility of the United Church of Christ in Japan during World War II, which confessed their cooperation with the Allies, under the name of chairman Masahisa Suzuki. (There were arguments for and against this announcement in the Christian world.)

March 30—The religious section of the National Cultural Council held a meeting about the next election of the Governor of Tokyo under the theme 'How about the Entry of Religions into Politics,' with Dr. Shigeyoshi Murakami 村上重良, an instructor of the Tokyo Metropolitan University (東京都立大学)

in the chair.

April 1—The Young Buddhist Council of Colleges (*Daigaku Bukkyō Seinenkaigi* 大学仏教青年会議) held a leaders' camp at Tōrin-ji (東林寺) in Kanagawa Prefecture for three days, and decided to make 'Modern Society and Religions' as its theme of this year.

April 3—Nishi Hongan-ji 西本願寺 held a memorial service for the defunct members of the Ōtani Expedition to Tibet (from Meiji 35th to Taisho 3rd) with Kōshō Ōtani 大谷光照, head of Nishi Honganji, as officiating priest.

April 6—Japan Christian Academy held a discussion meeting under the theme 'How do you think about religions?' with students, housewives, with-collar workers, workers and religious men from Shinto, Old Buddhism, the Christian Churches and New Religions, including Sōka Gakkai, as attendants.

April 6—Tenrikyō 天理教 established the Tenri Nurses' Training School (天理高等看護学院), which began its curriculum with 90 students.

April 8—The library of Komazawa University (駒沢大学) catalogued Buddhist scriptures in libraries of Buddhist universities in Japan.

April 9—The Ministry of Education held a committee meeting for the study of Christian terminology at the International

House of Japan (国際文化会館) in Tokyo with the Rev. Chūzō Yamada of NCC, the Rev. Ryōzō Hara 原良三 of UCC, the Rev. Shōzō Kondō 近藤昇三 of the Orthodox Church in Japan, Mr. Seiichi Yanagi 柳誠一 of JCC and administrative officials from the Ministry.

April 10—The chairman of the board of directors of International Christian University (国際基督教大学), Prof. Hachirō Yuasa 湯浅八郎, called the police to the campus to settle the dispute with the students.

April 11—The Tendai sect (天台宗), Wa sect (和宗) and Seikannon sect (聖観音宗) organized the Union of Related Sects.

April 13—Hanazono College (花園大学), a Buddhist college in Kyoto, reported that 41% of its freshmen were laymen.

April 15—The Liberal Democratic Party instituted a religious group in the National Organization Committee (*Zenkoku Soshiki Iinkai* 全国組織委員会) with Mr. Masatoshi Kusunoki 楠正俊 as head.

—Dr. Ryōkichi Minobe was elected Governor of Tokyo Metropolis. Dr. Matsushita backed by almost all religious organizations in Tokyo and Mr. Abe recommended by Sōka Gakkai were defeated.

April 19—The Union of Bible Societies held a Catholic and Protestant joint meeting of Bible translators at the

Franciscan Bible Institute with 24 Catholics and 13 from the Union of Bible Societies including the Rev. Yasuo Hotta 堀田康雄 and Fr. B. Schneider of the Franciscan Bible Institute.

April 22—The Union of Buddhist Students in Japan (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō Gakuseiremmei* 全日本仏教学生連盟) held a lecture meeting at Ōtani University under the theme 'Buddhism and Life' with Prof. Kazuya Funabashi 舟橋一哉 of Ōtani University and the Rev. Kōkun Sonoda 藪田香勲 as lecturers.

—World Messianity (世界救世教) seceded from the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan after Kōdō Kyōdan, Seichō-no-Ie Kyōdan and Nembutsu Shin-kyō 念仏真教.

April 23—Shishin-kai 思親会 held its 30th anniversary at Bunkyo Public Hall in Tokyo.

April 25—The Bureau of Legislation of the House of Representatives released a draft concerning the status of Yasukuni Shrine (靖国神社).

April 26—The Rev. and Mrs. Masaharu Taniguchi 谷口雅春 invited the new Pro-nuncio Archbishop Wüstenberg to a welcome luncheon party at the Hotel New Ōtani. The main topic of discussion was the united fight against the present attitude toward abortion in Japan.

—The Kyoto Christian Council ac-

cepted the application for membership (January 22th) by Catholic churches in the Kyoto diocese.

April 27—The East Asian Christian Council (*Tōa Kirisuto-kyō Kyōgikai* 東亜キリスト教協議会) held the East Asian Convention Devoted to Medical Care (*Tōa Iryōkankei Kirisuto-sha Kyōgikai* 東亜医療関係キリスト者会議) at Gotemba for five days, with about 60 attendants including 32 Christian doctors and nurses from 12 Asian countries.

—Yoshimizu High School (吉水高校) of the Jōdo sect (浄土宗), known as the only high school for the training of Buddhist nuns, was opened to girls of all Buddhist sects because of lack of applicants.

May 1—Takayama Branch Temple (高山別院) of Higashi Hongan-ji 東本願寺 for five days celebrated the completion of its new main temple together with a memorial service commemorating the 700th anniversary of the death of Shinran 親鸞.

May 2—According to statistics of the United Bible Society, the number of Bibles sold in Japan was third in the world, ranking next to America and Brazil.

—The International Buddhist Society (*Kokusai Bukkyōto Kyōkai* 国際仏教徒協会) opened the hotel Rakutō 洛東 at Kyoto, which has 22 Japanese-style

rooms, as a center for intercourse with foreign monks.

—The auguration of the Japan Religious Leaders Committee for World Union (*Sekai Rempō Shakyōsha Inkai* 世界連邦宗教者委員会) was held at Kanda Gakushi Kaikan 神田学土会館 with 60 attendants from Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity and the New Religions. The Rev. Sōgen Asahina, the Rev. Isao Deguchi 出口伊佐男, the Mr. Tetsu Katakayama 片山哲 and the Rev. Eiji Hayashi 林宗次 were elected representatives of the Committee.

✓ **May 3**—Sōka Gakkai held the 30th mass convention to honor the 7th anniversary of the installation of president Daisaku Ikeda at the auditorium of Nihon University (日本大学) with 20,000 attendants and announced that Sōka Gakkai would recommend 14 candidates, including Mr. Ken'ichi Abe for election to the Upper House next year and would aim at a membership of 10,000,000 households by 1979.

May 13—The first comprehensive research on Saint Getsurin 月輪大師, founder of Senshō-ji 泉涌寺 of the Shin-gon-sect (真言宗), was started by professors of Ryūkoku 竜谷, Ōtani 大谷, Hanzono 花園 and Bukkyō universities.

✓ —Sōka Gakkai constructed its head office of America, which is its third foreign head office after the ones for

East Asia and Europe. The first branch temple of Sōka Gakkai abroad was established in Los Angeles.

May 15—A movement to accept Vietnam War orphans to Japan took place in the Christian world. NCC held a meeting about the movement at the Christian Center in Tokyo with the Rev. Masahisa Suzuki, the Rev. Shirō Abe 阿部志郎, the Rev. Yoshitaka Funado 舟戸良隆 in attendance.

May 16—A conference on Church and Society was held at the Ōiso Academy House under the auspices of NCC. 70 delegates from Protestant and Catholic Churches and lecturers attended.

May 17—The annual Bishops' conference of the Catholic Church in Japan was held at the central office of the Catholic Church at Tokyo for eight days. The Japanese liturgy was one of the main topics of discussion.

May 20—The 4th National Sports Festival of YMCA was held at Tokyo with 350 sportsmen from all over the nation.

May 23—The United Baptist Church in Japan held its 10th convention at the International Hotel in Kagawa Prefecture. About 200 pastors and laymen attended.

May 24—Rishō Kōsei-kai 立成佼成会 revised the official regulations of the Kōsei Educational Association. Since April 1, also non-members are entitled

Chronology for 1966—1967

to receive scholarships from the Association.

May 25—A Busshari-en 仏舎利園 was planned with the approval of Kyoto City. According to the plan, it will be 380,000 sqm large with a chapel center, tomfields, welfare facilities for physically handicapped persons etc. The originators of the plan were the Rev. Hiroyoshi Oku 奥博良 and the Rev. Nittatsu Fujii 藤井日達.

May 27—The 14th convention of the League of Jōdo Shin sect (*Shinshū Rengō-kai* 真宗連合会) was held for two days at Kyoto Women's Univ. with 15 speakers.

May 29—An inaugural general assembly of the Religionists Association for Japan-China Friendship (*Nitchū Yūkō Shūkyōsha Kondankai* 日中友好宗教者懇談会) was held at Dentsūin 伝通院 at Tokyo with about 30 religionists including the Rev. Benkyō Shūio 維尾弁匡, head abbot of Zōjō-ji 増上寺 and the Rev. Kyōjun Shimizudani 清水谷恭順 of Sensō-ji 浅草寺. The Rev. Eijun Ōtani 大谷栄潤 was elected honorary president and the Rev. Keibun Nishikawa 西川景文 president.

June 1—The 2nd International Conference of Shinto Studies was held at International House in Tokyo under the theme 'Continuity and Change' for four days. Prince Mikasa, Dr. C. B. Fahs, Cultural

Attache of the US Embassy, about 10 representatives from foreign countries including Prof. Ross of Claremont University and many Japanese speakers attended. Prof. Masayoshi Nishitsunoi 西角井正慶 was chairman of the conference.

June 4—A party of the 'Vietnamese Buddhists Association for Unity of Two Vietnams', consisting of 44 members, arrived from South Vietnam for inspection in Japan.

June 10—The Association for Shinto Historical Studies held the 13th convention at Atsuta Shrine (熱田神社) in Nagoya. Prof. Nobuhiro Shigematsu 重松信弘 of Kōgakkan Univ. gave a lecture on 'Criticism of Japanese Classical Literature.'

—The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies held the 18th conference at Rissō Univ. (立正大学), 288 scholars from Tokyo Univ., Taishō Univ., Komazawa Univ. etc. reported on their research.

June 11—Shinnyō-en 真如苑 dispatched 27 delegates for Norway to present about one thousand Buddhist scriptures and materials to Oslo Univ. The Buddhist Federation, the Union of Bible Societies in Japan, the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Chūgai Nippō* etc. also sponsored this venture.

Chronology for 1966—1967

June 16—The Gion Festival (祇園祭) of Yasaka Shrine (八坂神社), one of the three biggest festivals in Kyoto, was broadcasted by Nippon Hōsō Kyōkai (NHK) to foreign countries via Telstar.

June 17—A party of 77 dispatched by Gedatsu-kai left for Okinawa to hold a memorial service at various battlefields of World War II.

—The Ministry of Education planned training meetings for the practical business of religious cooperation at five places from July to November.

June 18—The Ministry of Education set about to look into the situation of so-called 'bubble religions' which have neither headquarters nor chief.

—At Shiten-o-ji 四天王寺, main temple of the Wa-sect in Osaka, a building of 370 sqm for the preservation of cultural properties was planned.

—A ceremony commemorating the

erection of a monument to Dr. Daisetz Suzuki 鈴木大拙 at Rokka-en 六華苑 and a memorial lecture meeting took place at the Social Education Center in Kanazawa, the birthplace of Dr. Suzuki. Prof. Shōkin Furuta 古田紹欽 and Mr. Sazō Idemitsu gave lectures.

June 23—A meeting in memory of students who died in Okinawa during the war was held at Yasukuni Shrine in connection with the day of the end of the War in Okinawa, June 23th.

June 24—A circle for translation of Buddhist scriptures at Ryūkoku University completed an English translation of the *Kyōgyō Shinshō* 教行信証, the chief work of Shinran. The translation has 260 pages with notes and an index. The chief of the staff was Mr. Yūki Ishida.

June 30—The Committee of Women of NCC held a training meeting for 45 Christian women under the theme 'Unity under Christ's Command'.