

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1961

(July—September)

July 1 —The International Buddhist Institute of Risshō 立正 University (Nichiren), Tokyo, opened a four-day summer course on Buddhism in English at Kamakura.

—A delegation of six prominent Tenrikyō leaders departed for South East Asia, the Middle East, Africa, and North and South America to promote its mission abroad.

July 2 —The sixty members of the Harvard Glee Club participated in a Zen meditation exercise at Myōshinji Temple in Kyoto.

July 5 —Prof. Chōshū Takeda 竹田聰洲 of Dōshisha 同志社 University, Kyoto, and his colleagues started the work of editing a book which, it is reported, will have more than 1,000 plates on the Gion Festival.

July 7 —Twenty-one ministers from the United States and Canada arrived in Tokyo to assist designated churches of the United Church of Christ in Japan for approximately two months.

July 8 —The three-day annual convention of The Japanese Association for Buddhist and Indian Studies, which opened at Tokyo University, marked the tenth anniversary of its founding.

July 13 —A round table conference of

ten leading scholars of various religions met at Hakone under the sponsorship of the International Institute for the Study of Religions to discuss "What is Religion?"

July 15 —Kokugakuin University in reply to the demand of its students to abolish the obligatory course on Introduction to Shinto, (cf. June 11) decided to issue a statement at the beginning of the new term in September announcing its basic policy.

July 16 —The Second Asian Youth Council sponsored by the World Association of Baptist Churches opened at International Christian University in Mitaka, Tokyo, with more than 250 delegates from Asian countries attending.

July 17 —A four-week ecumenical work camp, sponsored by the National Christian Council of Japan, began at Hiroshima with thirty-five selected participants, including eleven from abroad.

—The Tokyo District Court began consideration of a suit of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) against administrative decisions of the Ministry of Welfare relative to the rights of temples in respect to their graveyards.

July 20 —An extensive study on Zen, sponsored by the Ministry of Education,

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started in Kasuisai 可睡齋 Temple in Shizuoka 静岡. During the week some twenty Zen monks were made the object of medical and psychological study by a joint team of twenty-five leading scientists using modern techniques. (cf. Chronology for March 6)

July 22 —The 6th summer assembly of the Japan Buddhist Youth Federation was held in Yamagata. Ninety-two people representing thirty-eight organizations participated.

July 24 —Japan Church World Service (Nihon Kirisuto-kyō Hōshi Dan) put a medical service car in operation.

July 25 —A Wor'd Religionist Peace Conference was opened in Kyoto with some 250 participants, of whom about 50 were from fifteen foreign countries.

July 30 —The 6th summer seminar of the Japan Buddhist Federation opened in Kagawa prefecture with about 300 people in attendance.

August 1 —A five-day convention of the Catholic Student Association of Japan (Nihon Katorikku Gakusei Renmei) opened at Sophia University in Tokyo.

August 5 —An installation service was conducted for the Reverend Setsutane Konkō 金光摂胤, 81, who was elected patriarch of Konkō-kyō 金光教 for the fifth time.

August 6 —The Shinto Teachers Association (Zenkoku Shintō Kyōshokuin

Taikai 全国神道教職員大会) met in Fukuoka. The Association, which was founded in 1960 with a membership of 300 and now has 1,600 on its rolls, has a policy opposed to the Japan Teachers Union (Nikkyōso 日教組).

August 8 —The Rev. Shin'ichirō Imataka 今岡信一良, Prof. Fumio Masutani 増谷文雄, together with eight other delegates, participated in the World Conference of Free Religionists held in Davos, Switzerland.

August 9 —The Rev. Ryōjin Soga 曾我量深, 87, was elected the new president of Ōtani 大谷 University, Kyoto.

August 18 —The Kōdō Kyōdan 孝道教団 observed the 25th anniversary of its founding at its headquarters in Yokohama.

—Tosei News reported that Fr. Roggendorf, S. J. had recently addressed the Cabinet Research Council, consisting of the Ministerial Directors and Section Chiefs of the various Ministries. The subject of the talk, which lasted for an hour and was followed by a lively discussion, was "The Moral Situation of Contemporary Japan as Seen by a Foreigner."

Two months earlier, Fr. Roggendorf also delivered an address to the University Reform Council, a body of civil servants, university presidents and professors, and other public figures, spon-

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sored by the Ministry of Education. About a hundred persons were present in the auditorium of the Ministry, including the Minister himself, to listen to the lecture entitled "Western Ideas on the University in the Industrial Age."

August 20 —The International Corporation for Spiritual Culture (Seishin Bunka Kokusai Kikō 精神文化国際機構) sponsored by Ananai-kyō 三五教 with the collaboration of people of other denominations, opened. Dr. Toraji Makino 牧野虎次, 90, former president of Dōshisha 同志社 University, acted as chairman.

August 22 —Bishop Hinsuke Yashiro 八代斌助 of the Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan left for the U. S. A. to attend the General Assembly of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States.

August 26 —The Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan opened a three-day seminar for 150 of its youth leaders.

August 27 —The Orthodox Church of Japan (Nihon Harisuto Sei Kyōkai) celebrated the 100th anniversary of the coming of Archbishop Nicolai to Tokyo.

August 28 —The Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan, in commemoration of the tenth anniversary of its founding, opened a six-day seminar in Tokyo for the leaders of member-organizations. The seminar, which consisted of lectures on various problems

concerning group leadership and administration by distinguished experts, was attended by over 800 people.

August 28 —A group of nine Sōka Gakkai 創価学会 leaders returned from a sixteen-day visit to North and South America. During their visit they helped establish three branch churches.

August 31 —Sōka Gakkai announced that it had added members from more than 80,000 new households during August.

Sept. 1 —The Japan Bible Society began printing 10,000 copies of Bibles in Malay which will be sent as a Christmas gift for Indonesians.

Sept. 7 —The United Church of Christ in Japan proposed to settle the minimum standard of salaries for its ministers at 12,000 yen (about \$38) a month. The average salary was under this level during the last year.

—Jinrui Aizen Kai, an affiliated organization of Ōmoto 大本, submitted an official letter to the embassies of the United States of America and the Soviet Union demanding total disarmament and suspension of nuclear weapons tests.

Sept. 8 —The Rev. Kan'ichi Hirata 平田貫一, 76, was elected president of the Jingū Kōgakkai 神宮皇学館 University, which is scheduled to be re-opened in 1962. He held this post before the University was closed at the end of World

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War II.

Sept. 10 —The Catholic Bishops' Conference in Japan decided to celebrate 1962 as the 100th anniversary of the re-establishment of the Catholic Church in Japan.

Sept. 13 —The Japan Christian Doctors Association (Nihon Kirisutosha Ishi Renmei 日本キリスト者医師連盟) approved a plan to send a medical staff to India by the end of the year. Doctors and nurses sponsored by the society, are already working in Indonesia and Nepal.

Sept. 14 —The Japan Buddhist Federation issued a statement opposing the nuclear weapons test.

Sept. 18 —The National Council of Shinto Youth (Shintō Seinen Zenkoku Kyōgikai 神道青年全国協議会) handed copies of a statement opposing the nuclear weapons test to the American and Russian embassies.

Sept. 19 —The Religions League of Japan (Nihon Shūkyō Renmei 日本宗教連盟), consisting of representatives of Shrine Shinto, Sectarian Shinto, Buddhism, Christianity and the Union of New Religious Organizations, issued a statement protesting against the nuclear weapons tests of the U. S. A. and the Soviet Union.

Sept. 25 —According to the Chūgai Nippon, the Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō 神社本庁) is creating a

special committee to deal with the problem of parish work in the mass housing areas which have increased rapidly in the post-war years and are constituting serious problems for the established religions.

Sept. 27 —Sōka Gakkai has announced, plans to put up nine candidates for the House of councillors election to be held next year.

Sept. 29 —To encourage marriages among Christians, the United Church of in Japan established a marriage counseling office in Tokyo.

Oct. 1 —The Second International Conference for Cultural Harmony sponsored by Ananai-kyō 三五教, following the First one in May, opened in Atami 熱海 City with some 50 Japanese and 180 foreign participants.

Oct. 4 —President Daisaku Ikeda 池田大作 of Sōka Gakkai started on a 20-day trip for Europe.

—Konkō-Kyō opened its annual ceremonies in honor of the founder. Memorial services were subsequently held on 7th, 10th, and 13th, with a total attendance of several tens of thousands.

Oct. 5 —The Church of World Messianity (Sekai Kyūsei-kyō 世界救世教) dedicated the new sacred hall (Shinden) at its Atami headquarters with ceremonies lasting about three weeks.

—The Young Religionists' Peace Con-

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ference (Shūkyō Seinen Heiwa Kyōgikai 宗教青年平和協議会), composed of Buddhists, Christians, and Omoto youth, was inaugurated in Tokyo with the primary objective of promoting total disarmament and the prohibition of nuclear weapons.

—The Cultural Interchange Institute for Buddhists (Bukkyōtō Bunka Kōryū Kyōkai 仏教徒文化交流協会) finished its field survey on the social function of Buddhist temples in urban areas and Part II. of the study is now ready for publication. The report concludes that Buddhist temples in urban areas are gradually losing their functions and, therefore, are doomed to decline.

Oct. 7 —Kannagara-kyō 神ながら教 celebrated the 50th anniversary of its founding at its Nagoya headquarters.

Oct. 8 —A translation of Catholic canon law was completed after ten year's of laborious work.

Oct. 11 —The Japanese Association for Christian Studies (Nihon Kirisutokyō Gakkai 日本基督教学会) held its annual convention at Kyoto University.

Oct. 13 —The Japanese Association for Religious Studies (Nihon Shūkyō Gakkai 日本宗教学会) opened its 20th annual convention at Kyūshū University, at which some 120 papers were read.

Oct. 14 —The 11th general assembly of the Church of Christ in Japan (Nihon

Kirisuto Kyōkai 日本基督教会, also called "Shin Nikki" 新日基) approved unanimously a confession of faith which was first introduced in 1953.

—The Buddhist Peace Council (Bukkyōsha Heiwa Kyōgikai 仏教者平和協議会), a group of "progressive" Buddhists, issued a statement opposing the proposed law for the prohibition of political violence (Seibō Hōan 政暴法案).

Oct. 16 —The Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan (Shin Nihon Shūkyō Dantai Rengōkai 新日本宗教団体連合会) celebrated the 10th anniversary of its founding.

Oct. 18 —According to a report in the Chūgai Nippō 中外日報, Yasukuni Shrine is establishing a committee to consider the status of the shrine, because the members of the Bereaved Families Association (Izoku Kai) have submitted petitions with nearly two million signatures to the Diet urging the state administration of the shrine.

Oct. 22 —Twelve branches of the Lutheran Church in Japan met in Kobe to take necessary steps for their union which is scheduled for October 31, 1962.

—Nearly 200 leaders of Rissshō Kōsei Kai 礼正佼成会 visited several Christian institutions in Tokyo under the guidance of the International Institute for the Study of Religions.

Oct. 26 —The Kyoto Buddhist Council

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(Kyoto Bukkyōto Kaigi 京都仏教徒会議) compiled a new Buddhist reader for youths and intellectuals, which uses the colloquial language.

Oct. 27 —A party of 10 members representing various religions left for the United States on a four-week tour.

—The Tendai 天台 Sect inaugurated a five year plan, which included, among other things, the establishment of a foundation for the revival of Tendai.

Oct 28 —The 3rd Shinto Parishioner Youth's Meeting was held at the Ise Shrine with an attendance of some 150 delegates from all over the country. On the agenda was the establishment of an overall organization of Shinto Youth.

✓ **Oct. 29** —Taisekiji 大石寺, the Head Temple of Nichiren Shō Sect, together with Sōka Gakkai, announced the installation of a new committee for the development of the Temple, which is composed of nine officials each from the temple and of Sōka Gakkai.

Oct. 30 —The National Catholic Social Welfare Conference opened in Tokyo.

Nov. 2 —At the triennial convention of Japan YWCA, Miss Teruko Kōmyō 光明照子 was elected president. She replaces Mrs. Tamaki Uemura 上村 環 who retired after being in office for the past 25 years.

—The film "Sakya" had its premiere in Tokyo in spite of the protests of various

Buddhist groups who objected because its contains passages misrepresenting the life of the Buddha.

Nov. 3 —Tenkō-kyō 天光教 celebrated its annual festival at its headquarters in Osaka.

—The Japan YMCA opened a Laymen Leaders Conference in Gotemba.

Nov. 4 —Sōka Gakkai held its 10th general Young men's assembly at the National Stadium in Tokyo. The attendance exceeded 100,000.

Nov. 7 —On the Gotō 五島 Islands, Nagasaki Prefecture, 156 persons belonging to 34 households, which for the past 350 years have maintained their faith as "Hidden Christians" were mass-converted to Omoto 大本.

—The Minister of Justice reported that the government is considering a revision of the criminal code in a few years which will have provisions relative to lese majesty.

Nov. 10 —The Japan Buddhist Students Conference (Zen Nihon Gakusei Bukkyōto Kaigi 全日本学生仏教徒会議) opened in Otani 大谷 Hall in Kyoto. Nearly 300 delegates from 10 Buddhist universities and institutes gathered to discuss the problem of peace, etc.

Nov. 11 —The Kyoto Buddhist Council (Kyōto Bukkyōto Kaigi 京都仏教徒会議) held its 8th annual convention.

Nov. 12 —The 10th convention of Japa-

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nese Association for Religious Freedom (Nihon Jiyū Shūkyō Renmei 日本自由宗教連盟) was held in Tokyo, which featured a lecture by Dr. Hideo Kishimoto 岸本英夫.

—A mass-meeting for young women members of Sōka Gakkai was held in Yokohama in which some 70,000 participated.

Nov. 14 — Twenty-three Buddhist leaders, of whom three were official delegates, attended the 6th Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists in Phnompenh, Cambodia.

Nov. 15 —At the Osaka District Court the public prosecutor demanded a ten months imprisonment of President Daisaku Ikeda and other members of Sōka Gakkai involved in the violation of the election law in the general election of 1957. The final judgement is scheduled for 1962.

Nov. 18 —More than ten delegates representing various Protestant Christian institutions in Japan attended in the Third World Council of Churches assembly which opened in New Dehli, India.

—According to the Japan Bible Society, the distribution of Bibles in Japan during the year ending October 31, amounted to 2,524,409. This included 300,000 copies of the Christmas story which was distributed through department stores. The

remainder was still 400,000 more than 1960.

Nov. 23 —A public discussion meeting on the theme: "Can religion solve the present-day crisis?" was held at Toyo University, Tokyo.

—At Otani Hall, Kyoto, a newly composed Buddhist opera, "Nembutsu Tarōsa" 念仏太郎左, was enthusiastically received by the public.

Nov. 25 —The Federation of Buddhist Schools (Bukkyō-shugi Gakkō Renmei 仏教主義学校連盟) held its 10th public recital in Tokyo.

Nov. 26 —The Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan established a new youth federation which will have a total membership of about one million youths.

Nov. 27 —Patriarch Shōzen Nakayama 中山正善 of Tenri-kyō left for Europe.

Dec. 1 —Four delegates were sent to the Asian meeting of the International Movement of Catholic Students, which opened in Bangkok, Thailand.

—The Institute on the Mission of the Church of the United Church of Christ in Japan received about 3,500 answers to a questionnaire concerning the Japanese Christians' attitude toward the Emperor. The final evaluation of these answers will be published in 1962.

—Four Catholic students departed for Bangkok to attend the Pax Romana

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Asian Meeting.

—The Kirisuto Shimbun reported that Dr. E. Stanley Jones, had 7,000 decisions during his evangelistic campaign.

—The Youth Organization of Risshō Kai, which has a membership of about 350,000, was placed directly under the society's president.

Dec. 2 —The School of Journalism of Sophia University (Catholic) in Tokyo, one of the earliest of its kind in Japan, celebrated its 30th anniversary.

Dec 7 —Tenri-kyō inaugurated a three-months course for the blind among its followers.

—The Jigen 慈眼 Society, a group of Buddhists who have volunteered to translate books into braille, made a gift of braille books to a school for the blind in Okinawa. Rev. Fntai Tomomatsu 友松円諦 is the president of the Society.

Dec. 8 —The True Pure Land Counseling Study Group had its first regular monthly meeting in Heian High School, Kyoto.

Dec. 10 —Seichō no Ie (House of Growth) initiated a two-week campaign to collect money to be used for social welfare.

Dec. 11 —A union of incorporated independent Buddhist temples, of which there are some 160 in Tokyo, has been established.

Dec. 14 —Higashi Honganji temple sent

copies of the English version of *Tannishō* to the major universities and institutes in twenty-three countries.

Dec. 16 —The Shinto History Association has inaugurated a large scale survey of the Itsukushima Shrine in Hiroshima prefecture.

Dec. 21 —The Utsunomiya prison, housing nearly 1,300 prisoners, is reported to be considering the possibility of appointing a Soka Gakkai chaplain because of the rapid increase of Soka Gakkai adherents among the prisoners.

Dec. 23 —The two main branches of Jodo Buddhism, Jodo-shū and Jodo-shū Honpa, which have been separated for the past 15 years, have decide to reunite. The application for authentication of the regulations of a new religious juridical person to hold property for the two bodies was submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Dec. 24 —A student group of Kōyasan University, belonging to the Shingon Sect, left for Okinawa to carry out missionary activities.

Dec. 26 —Nishi Honganji temple has established a foundation for the promotion of learning, the chief function of which is to award scholarships to about 600 young students among its adherents.