

## CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

(July—September)

**July 1** —The Association of Shinto Shrines added the following shrines to its list of Special Class (*Beppyō*) shrines: Kanda Myōjin, Miyagi Ken Gokoku Jinja, Hiroshima Jinja.

—A party of twenty-nine Christian leaders associated with the Council for Social Action of the United Church of Christ, USA, arrived for a ten-day visit to study the social situation in Japan.

**July 4** —A two-day Catholic Education meeting was opened in Sapporo under the auspices of the Catholic Education Council. Two hundred attended.

—The Franciscan Studium Biblicum has produced a colloquial critical translation of the Book of Wisdom.

—The Buddhist Layman's Association (*Zaike Bukkyō Kai*) inaugurated a two-month seminar for the study of Buddhist texts in English.

—Mr. Soichi Saitō, who for many years was general secretary of the National YMCA and a prominent Christian leader, died at the age of

74. (He was post-humously awarded the Second Class Order of Merit.)

**July 6** —The Japanese Buddhist Association received a telegram from the World Fellowship of Buddhists to the effect that the Sixth Conference of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, which was to be held in Pnom Penh, Cambodia in December, had been postponed on account of the death of King Sramarit of Cambodia. (The conference probably will be held early in 1961 in either Rangoon, Burma or Colombo, Ceylon.)

—The Buddhist Association for Democracy challenged the statement issued by the Japan Buddhist Association on June 23 calling for a harmonious spirit based on Buddhism to resolve the current emergency. (The criticism was based on the alleged failure of the Japan Buddhist Association to defend the "peace constitution," its lack of an understanding of democracy, and its ignoring the responsibility of

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

the government to fully evaluate the mass movement. "Golden silence," according to the criticism, was said to be nothing but approval of the notorious crimes committed by the government.)

**July 7** —In the presence of 80 priests at the Peace Memorial Cathedral in Hiroshima, Bishop Dominic Noguchi assumed direction of his diocese.

—The Kyoto Buddhist Association conducted its first hearing on the status of the Grand Shrine of Ise. (The Rev. Yoshitada Takahara of Yasaka (Gion) Shrine was among those who spoke on behalf of the proposal. He emphasized the need of a special law to protect the sacred mirror, one of the three Imperial Regalia.)

**July 8** —Mr. Zenjirō Kubodera resigned as vice president of the Shishin Kai and seceded from the organization.

—The Nichiren Sect organized four special departments—survey, mission, study and administration—to meet the challenge of Sōka Gakkai.

**July 10** —Ryūsenji temple on Mount Omine, which has forbidden women to enter the mountain, can-

celled this 1300-year old ban on all but the last sixty feet of the peak. —Empukuji Temple at Hachimancho, Kyōto announced that a Zen hall will be opened in the fall for foreign buyers, correspondents, and diplomats.

**July 12** —A Chugai Nippō editorial states that, according to a survey made by Myōshinji (Rinzai Zen) and the Soto (Zen) Sect, the number of Buddhist priests having side work and temples having no priests are continuing to increase. The editorial appealed to Buddhist authorities to work out a solution of the problem.

—It was announced that Mr. Daisaku Ikeda, third president of Sōka Gakkai, is to make a twenty-day trip to North and South America from Oct. 1st. (Sōka Gakkai reports that 460 families in North America and 150 in South America are among its constituents.) The chief priest of Daisekiji, head temple of Sōka Gakkai, and Mr. Ikeda will make a trip to South East Asia and India next January.

—The National Christian Council executive committee decided not to participate in the Sixth (1960)

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

World Conference Against A and H Bombs and for Total Disarmament.

—Twenty members of the Christian Liaison Committee met to draw up the 1961 budget and to discuss the question of Christian cemeteries.

**July 14** —Mr. Hayato Ikeda, newly elected president of the Liberal Democratic Party, worshipped at Meiji Shrine.

—Seicho-No-Ie held a national convention of students to nullify the revolutionary movement inspired by Marxism. Members distributed pamphlets and leaders made speeches on the street in support of the US-Japan Security Treaty.

**July 15** —The International Christian University reported that the largest contributor to the \$425,000 library building (150,000 volume capacity) was John D. Rockefeller 3rd, who gave \$250,000.

—A verdict of not guilty was rendered in the case of the officials of the Yahiko Shrine in Niigata, where a stone ballustrade collapsed on January 1, 1956 causing a large number of deaths.

—Representatives of the Committee on Temple Cemeteries of the

Tokyo Buddhist Association visited the Metropolitan Police headquarters and appealed against the alleged illegal actions of Sōka Gakkai.

**July 16** —Enno-kyō celebrated the forty-second anniversary of its founder.

**July 17** —Some 4,000 adherents of the Myōchi Kai Kyōdan attended a memorial service at the tomb for unknown soldiers at Chidorigafuchi in Tokyo.

—President Ikeda of Sōka Gakkai addressed some 12,000 persons at a mass meeting at Naha in Okinawa. (He appealed to the people to unite for the development of the Japanese nation. Sōka Gakkai claims that 7,000 families in Okinawa are among its adherents.)

**July 18** —Dr. Bob Pierce's Tokyo office announces that a Tokyo Christian Crusade will be conducted in May and June 1961.

**July 19** —The Japan Buddhist Federation has distributed four petitions in a nation-wide movement to amend the law governing cemeteries.

**July 20** —The Student Division of the Japan Buddhist Federation

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

criticized the attitude of elder Buddhists toward the current emergency, that is, the anti-Kishi, anti-US-Japan Security Treaty. (A new policy was formulated to break-up the feudalistic hierarchy of the temples and reduce social injustice, such as the "caste" system, and to promote a powerful movement for world peace. A National convention of the organization will be held in Kyoto on December 2—4.)

—Eighteen Japanese and seventeen foreign young people participated in a World Council of Churches-sponsored ecumenical work camp to assist in the rehabilitation of typhoon victims at Nagoya.

**July 21** —The Kōdō Kyōdan sent a telegram of congratulations to Mrs. Bandaranaike in connection with her election as prime minister of Ceylon. (Kōdō Kyōdan cooperated with the late prime minister, Mr. Pandaranaike, in the erection of a pagoda at the United Nations; it sent relief for the flood victims in Ceylon, and presented machinery to the government for the manufacture of rubber bands in order to assist rehabilitation of the people.

**July 22** —The Atsuta Shrine in

Nagoya, where the sacred sword, one of the Imperial Regalia, is enshrined, opened a three-week summer school for elementary school children.

**July 24** —The Temman-gū Shrine in Osaka celebrated its 1,000th anniversary.

—A bus carrying forty-four members of the Kobe Bereaved Families Association to the Enryakuji temple on Mount Hiei fell over a cliff and twenty persons were killed.

—The headquarters of Sōka Gakkai ✓ began a special English training course for Americans, Indonesians, and Japanese wives of the Americans in the Fuchu area. (Questions raised in the discussion were about the difference between God and Buddha, is life eternal, what is suffering, the scientific basis of the Nichiren Shō Sect and the object of worship. According to Mr. Kamio, the leader, the participants are sincere but find it hard to understand the truth because they have no Buddhistic background or, he added, "they may be dull."

—The Japan Bible Society announces that 25,351,175 copies of portions or the complete Bible have

CHRONOLOGY EOR 1960

been distributed in Japan since the end of World War II.

**July 25** —The Association of Shinto Shrines sent a notice to the headquarters of each of its prefectural associations urging Shintoists to withdraw from the Japan Teachers Union. (Subsequently two representatives of the Union visited the Association's headquarters with a letter of protest.)

—The Reverend Kojiro Teraguchi, patriarch of Nikkō-kyō, died at the age of eighty.

**July 26** —The annual three-day conference of the Fellowship of Christian Missionaries (FCM) opened at Lake Nojiri with 200 present.

—The Catholic Kindergarten Convention opened at the Futaba Girls' School in Tokyo.

**July 27** —The Honorable Ichiro Kiyose, Speaker of the House of Representatives, worshipped at the Grand Shrine of Ise.

**July 28** —In order to resolve the conflict over temple cemeteries, the Ministry of Welfare has decided to survey the need for the establishment of more public cemeteries.

**July 30** —The Youth Division of the Japan Buddhist Federation

opened its Fifth Summer Convention at Yakuōin Temple on Mount Takao. (Subjects discussed were Buddhism and Politics, Buddhism and individual problems, and international friendship through Buddhism.)

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**Aug 2** —The Liberal Democratic Party special committee on the Religious Juridical Persons Law was dissolved.

—Three hundred representative youths of World Messianity (Sekai Kyūsei-kyō) met at the National Youth Hall at Gotemba.

—The committee on temple cemeteries of the Japan Buddhist Federation held a meeting to discuss revision of the law regulating cemeteries and to consider ways of assisting suites involving temple

**Aug 3** —The annual four-day conference of the Evangelical Missionary Association of Japan (EMAJ) met at Karuizawa with 400 present.

**Aug 4** —A Kagawa memorial evening was observed at the Bunkyo Public Hall.

## CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

—Some thirty persons including both witnesses and court personnel climbed Mount Fuji in connection with the suite of the Fujinomiya Sengen Shrine against the government for the right to ownership of its 400 meter park (above the eighth station). The case has been in the courts since 1957. A decision is expected some time in 1961.

**Aug 6** —The Bishop of Hiroshima celebrated mass on August 6 for the 78,000 persons who died, 15 years ago in the world's first atomic holocaust. (The Catholic community at the time consisted of not more than 150 persons, many of whom lost their lives in the bombing. Today there is a great Cathedral on the site of the former chapel and there are eight other parish districts, six of which have new churches with resident pastors and schools. Two new high schools have been constructed in the last 15 years, the Notre Dame High School for girls and the Jesuit High School for boys. The School of the Holy Souls and the Jesuit House of Studies have been completely rebuilt or expanded. Hiroshima was recently raised to the status of a diocese.)

**Aug 7** —Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda paid homage at the Grand Shrine of Ise.

—A memorial monument to General Hideki Tōjō, costing some \$41,000,

was dedicated on a 25 acre site atop a small mountain in a village not far from Nagoya.

**Aug 8** —President Ikeda of Sōka Gakkai in an address at the Daiseikiji, head temple of the Nichiren Shō Sect stated that the best way to propagate the faith is to hold political power.

—The Japan Broadcasting Corporation broadcast the first of five programs dealing with Japanese ideas of religion, broken down into the Japanese attitude toward nature, religion, things old and new, heroes, and patriotism. (*Contemporary Religions in Japan* has received permission to publish a translation of some of these programs. The full program or pertinent extracts will appear in subsequent issues.)

**Aug 9** —The 14th annual meeting of the Japan Baptist Convention decided to inaugurate an evangelistic campaign to increase the number of churches from seventy to one hundred fifty in five years.

—The Moscow International Congress of Orientology was attended by the Reverend Shozen Nakayama, Patriarch of Tenri-kyo, and six scholars of the history of religions.

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

**Aug 10** —Rev. Francis X. Takashi Oizumi, S. J., President of Sophia University, left Tokyo for Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, to represent the Tokyo Jesuit University in the Fifth Congress of the International Federation of Catholic Universities. —The Christian Nursery Association (Protestant) opened a three-week summer workshop at Aoyama Gakuin for thirty teachers of kindergartens and nursery schools.

**Aug 12** —Six families, adherents of the Sōka Gakkai, were ostracized by their fellow villagers in Kawagoe City because they refused to contribute to a local shrine festival. They appealed their case to the division of Universal Human Rights at the Urawa local office for redress.

**Aug 15** —Services were held throughout the nation commemorating the anniversary of the end of World War II. In Tokyo former servicemen and representatives of bereaved families attended a meeting at the Kudan Hall to which Their Majesties, the Emperor and Empress, sent bouquets. Christians and Buddhists conducted ceremonies at the tomb for unidentified soldiers at Chidorigafuchi.

—A Peace Memorial Service was held under Shinto auspices at Hiroshima Public Hall with 3,000 present.

—The Imperial Household Office announces that H. I. H. The Emperor will make a donation to fifty one shrines for the war dead.

**Aug 16** —According to a survey by the Nishi Honganji headquarters, twenty percent of the priests have side work and thirty percent of the temples have an annual income of less than \$300.

—The Wakamiya Hachiman Shrine in Kyoto observed the Buddhist Festival of the Dead (*obon*) in a Shintoistic manner for the first time. (The shrine officials assert that the ancestors can be commemorated in either a Buddhist or Shinto manner.)

**Aug 17** —The Fifth Summer Conference of the Buddhist English Study Group opened at Tanchōji temple in Amatsu, Chiba, sponsored by the Buddhist Laymen's Association (*Zaike Bukkyō Kai*)

**Aug 18** —An image of Miroku (Bodhisattva Maetreyā) a national treasure was damaged when a university student in Kyoto attempted

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

to kiss the image.

**Aug 19** —The Association of Shintō Shrines reports that a total of 6,549,000 amulets (*taima*) were disbursed to worshippers during 1959. (That the total was slightly less than the previous year may have been due to the typhoon which seriously damaged the area and interrupted traffic. The number is about half the total for the 13.4 million distributed in the record year of 1944, and approximately the same as in the early 1930s.)

—Seicho-No-Ie observed the completion ceremony of its new shrine, Hozo Jinja, at Uji, Shiga Prefecture.

**Aug 20** —One Tokyo minister and two students of International Christian University, who recently returned from participation in an ecumenical work camp in Korea, reported that Koreans (ROK) (1) will not forget for many years what the Japanese did to them during the Japanese occupation of their country; (2) are against the repatriation of Koreans from Japan to North Korea, and (3) are concerned that so many Japanese students are sympathetic with communism, as expressed in the anti-

security treaty activities.

**Aug 21** —The Association of Shintō Shrines of Shimane Prefecture passed a resolution favoring the re-establishment of February 11th as National Foundation Day.

**Aug 22** —A small interdenominational Christian cemetery was formally opened by the Christian Liaison Committee.

**Aug 24** —The Association of Chinese Buddhists presented a ten volume edition of the Shuryogon Sutra to the Reverend Yoshimaro, Onishi, chairman of the Kyoto Buddhists Federation and priest of Kiyomizudera.

—Sixteen leaders of the American Baptist Church on a round-the-world tour spend a week in Japan during which religious institutions, especially those sponsored by the American Baptist Convention, were visited.

**Aug 25** —Mr. Tokumei Matsumoto, Chairman of the Conference on Tibetan Problems has received a request for aid from the exiled Dala Lama asking for aid in petitioning the General Assembly of the United Nations on behalf of his country.

**Aug 25** —The Isuzu Kai, an organ-



## CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

ization of alumni of the former Shinto College at Ise (Jingū Kōgakukan) met at the Atsuta Shrine in Nagoya and decided to assist in the re-establishment of the institution.

**Aug 26** —The Iwashimizu Hachiman Shrine outside Kyoto has begun publication of the shrine's ancient documents in commemoration of the eleven hundredth anniversary of the Shrine. The first volume is on the Archeology of Otokoyama.

—Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, President of International Christian University in reporting on a conference on theological education in Edinburgh stated that a total of \$256,200 had been granted for theological education in Japan.

**Aug 27** —A ground-breaking ceremony was observed for a branch building of the Japan Bible Society in Osaka.

—In connection with the annual meeting of the Association of Shinto Shrines of Hiroshima Prefecture, fifty priests seceded from the association and formed a new organization to be called the Jingi Honchō (Association of Shinto, literally, Shinto Deities Association)

**Sept 2** —The Buddhist Political

League held a general conference to discuss measures for achieving a clean election.

—The Christian Historical Association opened a two-day session: the first day was at Sacred Heart University and the second at Tokyo Eiwa Junior College.

**Sept 4** —The establishment of a national organization for the youth of religious organizations affiliated with the Union of New Religious Organizations in Japan was decided. It is estimated that more than a million youth will participate.

**Sept 6** —Two members of Sōka Gakkai were examined by the Kawaguchi procurator for an alleged threatening attitude in connection with their evangelistic efforts.

**Sept 11** —Twenty-seven Japanese scholars participated in the Tenth International Congress for the History of Religions at Marburg, Germany

**Sept 14** —An official messenger reported the return of the Crown Prince and Princess at the Grand Shrine of Ise.

**Sept 16** —The Franciscan Studium Biblicum has published in one volume the Books of Tobit, Judith and Esther. (In translation are the

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1960

Twelve Minor prophets, the Book of Exodus, the two books of Maccabees, and the Gospel according to St. Mark,)

**Sept 17** —Regarding the secession movement of Shinto priest-teachers from the teacher's union. The Japan Teacher's Union protested to the Japan Association of Shinto Priest-Teachers (Zenkoku Shinshoku Kennin Kyōin Kyōgi Kai 全国神職兼任協議会). The Japan Conference of the Representatives of Ujiko (Zenkoku Ujiko Sōdai Kai 全国氏子総代会) support the action of the priests.

**Sept 26** —The Nagoya Christian Community Center(Protestant)was dedicated on the first anniversary of the Ise Bay typhoon.

**Sept 28** —Five hundred Protestant ministers representing various Protestant denominations attended a preparatory meeting for the 1960 Tokyo (World Vision) Crusade.

**Sept 30** —Twenty-five representatives of the Disciples of Christ Church in the USA visited Japan enroute to a world meeting of the Disciples of Christ Church in Edinburgh.