

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1962

(April—September)

April 1—At the 6th General Youth Assembly of Reiyū Kai, which was attended by nearly 20,000 delegates, plans were announced for a new center to be constructed on the Izu peninsula at an estimated cost of ¥2.5 billion (nearly \$7 million).

—The New Bible Translation Commission (Shin Kaiyaku Seisho Kankō-kai 新改訳聖書刊行会)—not to be confused with the Japan Bible Society—started work in Tokyo. Backed by the Rockman Foundation in the United States it plans to publish a new Japanese translation of the Bible by conservative scholars.

3—The Christian League for World Peace (Kirisuto-kyō Sekai Heiwa Dōmei 基督教世界平和同盟) sponsored a public lecture in support of the present Constitution. Speakers were professors. Nobushige Ukai (鵜飼信成) of International Christian University and Shinobu Tabata (田畑忍) of Dōshisha University.

5—Some 40,000 believers attended the 25th anniversary of the founding of Risshō Kōsei Kai at which time publication of a new illustrated magazine, *Kōsei Gurafu*, was announced.

7—On the eve of the anniversary of Buddha's birthday, a public discussion

on "The Task of Buddh'ism Today" was held at Yomiuri Hall, Tokyo, in which several noted Buddhist scholars and critics participated.

—The only surviving Urakami Kirishitan ("Hidden Christian") died. She was carried on her mother's back from Urakami to Wakayama in the early Meiji period when 3,400 Christians were exiled.

8—The birthday of Buddha was widely observed in Buddhist circles.

—The Catholic Committee for the Revision of the Prayer Book published the results of its second questionnaire which showed that the majority of the Japanese Catholics preferred the formal semi-classical style to a colloquial style.

11—The Japan Religionist Peace Conference (Nihon Shūkyō-sha Heiwa Kyōgi-kai 日本宗教者平和協議会) was organized in Tokyo by unofficial representatives ("progressives") of twenty-five organizations of Buddhism, Protestant Christianity, and Sectarian Shinto in order to continue the peace campaign of the World Religionists Peace Conference held in Kyoto, July, 1961.

12—Three delegates of the Japan YMCA participated in a work camp sponsored by the Philippine YMCA (April

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12-May 26).

19—A "Peace March" of four young adherents of Buddhism and Christianity left on a tour from Hiroshima to Auschwitz, Poland, with a view to visiting Asian and European countries enroute in order to make appeals for peace.

✓ 22—Several top leaders of both the Socialist Party and Sōka Gakkai met in a conference which was reported to have resulted in approval by the socialists of an amendment of the Socialist Party's March 28 directive making it permissible for Trade Unionists to become members of Sōka Gakkai.

23—The opening ceremony of Kōgaku-kan University at Ise was observed. 103 students were enrolled.

✓ —Director Akira Kuroyanagi (黒柳明) of Sōka Gakkai declared at a meeting of the National Cultural Conference (Kokumin Bunka Kaigi 国民文化会議) that a great number of its young members were supporting reformist political parties.

25—The Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō 神社本庁) decided on the persons favoring the Emperor system to represent the Association at public hearings of the Cabinet's Constitution Investigation Council (Naikaku Kenpō Chōsa-kai 内閣憲法調査会) which will be held May through August in various parts of the country.

—On the initiative of Dr. Matsuki Miyazaki 宮崎松記, a Christian, preparations were begun to establish a foundation to carry out Christian medical work for lepers in India.

—At the invitation of the Korean National Christian Council several Japanese young men attended a one-month training course for Christian leaders in Korea.

✓ April 26—*An Index of the Terms of Shōbōgenzō* (正法眼蔵), the first concordance of Buddhist scriptures which was prepared by the librarians of Komazawa University, was published.

—The Education Association of Christian Schools (Kirisuto-kyō Gakkō Kyōiku Dōmei キリスト教学校教育同盟) held a conference at Hakone on employee problems in Christian schools. To date teachers unions have been inaugurated in twenty-seven Christian institutions.

27—Rev. Kōshō Ōtani (大谷光紹), heir to the Patriarch of Higashi Honganji, left on a two weeks preaching tour of Hawaii.

—Bin Akao (赤尾敏), an extreme rightist ✓ announced the opening of an anti-Sōka Gakkai campaign.

29—The Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan held a memorial service for the victims of the last world War II at the Tomb for Unknown Soldiers at Chidorigafuchi, Tokyo. An estimated 55,000 persons were present.

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—Week-long celebrations of the centenary of the Catholic Church in modern Japan were begun in Yokohama.

April 30—The Christian Association for the Defence of the Constitution (Kenpō o Mamoru Kirisuto-sha no Kai 憲法を守るキリスト者の会) was established. It plans to collect a million signatures and raise a fund of ¥800,000 to ¥1 million to support this movement.

May 1—The Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan (Nihon Seikōkai 日本聖公会) at its 27th General Assembly in Osaka decided to set an age limit of sixty-five years for priests and sixty-eight years for bishops and to increase the pensions of the priests.

—The Ministry of Education amended the regulations concerning the kindergartens maintained by religious bodies. Whereas previously they had been required to provide kindergarten buildings, instead of using facilities originally designed for religious purposes, by the end of January 1962, the new regulations allow them an additional five years to fulfill this requirement.

3—Three thousand persons attended a special training course for young leaders of Seichō no ie (生長の家) using the motto "Praying for Peace".

—Rev. Takeshi Mutō (武藤健), Chairman and three other leaders of the National Christian Council went to Korea

as the first official Christian contact of the two Councils since 1945.

5—The 3rd International Congress for Cultural Harmony sponsored by Annai-kyō (三五教) opened its session in Tokyo with approximately three hundred sixty delegates from twenty-eight countries attending.

—The famous Head Temple of Shingi Shingonshū (新義真言宗), Negoroji (根来寺), was destroyed by fire.

—Tenshō Kōtai Jingū-kyō, generally known as the "Dancing Religion," began constructing a large hall at its headquarters in Tabuse, Yamaguchi Prefecture.

6—As a part of many festivities celebrating the 100th anniversary of Catholic missions in modern Japan, the Yokohama Diocese conducted an open air mass at St. Joseph College with some 9,000 Catholics present.

7—Tenri-kyō (天理教) dedicated a twelve story modern office building in Kanda, Tokyo, which will also house its Tokyo offices.

11—Prison chaplains in the Kantō district met in Shizuoka to discuss important issues in connection with their activities. In particular the possibility of organizing the religious care in prisons which is currently done on a voluntary basis, and the establishment of a legal foundation was considered. 130 chaplain attended.

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11—The Ministry of Education appointed fifteen new members of the Religious Juridical Persons Advisory Committee (宗教法人審議会). The new committee consists of: Shigeyo Katori* 香取茂世 (Chief Priest of Katori 香取 Shrine), Tadakiyo Takamatsu* 高松忠清 (Chief Priest of Sumiyoshi Shrine in Ōsaka), Keigorō Moroi 諸井慶五郎 (general secretary of Tenri-kyō 天理教), Ken'ichi Shishino 宍野健弌 (chief abbot of Fusō-kyō 扶桑教), Ryūden Abe 阿部竜伝 (counsellor of Shingon-shū Chizan-ha 真言宗智山派), Shundō Kurimoto 栗本俊道 (general secretary of Japan Buddhist Federation), Shinyū Kunpa* 訓覇信雄 (general secretary of Shin-shū Ōtani-ha 真宗大谷派), Shūichi Kongō* 金剛秀一 (general secretary of Sōtō-shū 曹洞宗), Zenta Watanabe 渡辺善太 (minister of United Church of Christ in Japan), Tokuchika Miki* 御本徳近 (patriarch of PL-Kyōdan), Nikkyō Niwano* 庭野日敬 (president of Risshō Kōsei Kai), Juichi Shimomura 下村寿一 (former president of the Religious Juridical Persons Advisory Committee), Ichisuke Ōtsuka* 大塚市助 (professor of Tokyo University of Foreign Studies), Kiyosuke Inada* 稲田清助 (director of National Museum of Modern Arts), Hideo Kishimoto 岸本英夫 (professor of Tokyo University). (Names marked by an asterick * are new mem-

bers).

—The Apostolic Prefectures of Nagoya and Niigata were raised to Dioceses.

14—The Kinki Women's Religions League (Kinki Shūkyō Fujin Renmei 畿宗教婦人連盟) discussed the problems of youth at its 14th annual convention, 1,500 women attended.

18—The Union of Independent Buddhist Sects (Bukkyō Tanryū Hōjin Rengō 仏教単立法人連合) opened its first general assembly.

19—The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (Nihon Indo-gaku Bukkyō-gaku Kai 日本印度学仏教学会) held its 13th convention at Fyūkeku University, Kyoto.

21—Abbot Daikō Furukawa (古川大航) (92) of Myōshinji departed on a missionary tour of Okinawa.

22—Myōshinji, Kyoto, which has been actively engaged in publicizing Zen by means of training courses, opened a conference with the top management officials to discuss adequate methods for adult religious training.

29—The League for Pure Politics (Kōmei Seiji Renmei 公明政治連盟) composed of Sōka Gakkai members of the national Diet and of the local prefectural assemblies, published its policy for the Upper House election scheduled in July.

—The Society for the Study of Chinese

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Buddhism (Chūgoku Bukkyō Kenkyū Kai 中国仏教研究会), is reported to be planning an exchange with Buddhist scholars in Communist China.

June 1—The 10th convention of the Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) was opened in Ōsaka. Some 1,000 delegates discussed the condition of the missionary activities of urban Buddhist temples.

—The Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō) adopted a three-year plan for strengthening the activities of Ise Shrine by putting more emphasis on the distribution of the sacred amulet (*taiwa* 大麻) which is said to be declining because of the propaganda of new religious movements.

5—Rissshō Kōsei Kai sent an official document to Sōka Gakkai charging it with publication of malevolent and false information about Rissshō Kōsei Kai.

6—The Education Association of Christian Schools (Kirisutokyō Gakkō Kyōiku Dōmei) held its 50th meeting in Hirosaki. Some 160 delegates from 218 schools belonging to 79 incorporated institutions attended.

7—The International Institute for the Study of Religions opened the 8th Round Table Conference on Religion and Modern Life" in Fukuoka, Kyūshū. The special subject for the three-day discussion was: Religion and Happiness.

8—The centenary of Catholic missions in modern Japan, was observed in Nagasaki with special services commemorating the twenty-six martyrs.

—A convention of the Jōdo Shin-shū Honganji-ha approved a plan to modernize the sect by shifting emphasis from household to individual believers.

10—It is reported that the Shinto *goma* ceremony, an esoteric rite which originated in the time of Shinto-Buddhist syncretism, is being revived in many Hachiman shrines throughout the country.

12—The reorganized Jōdo Sect held its first convention following its reunion in March with the Hompa Sect.

14—Lutheran Church of Japan (Nihon Rūteru Kyōdan 日本ルーテル教団) launched a ninety-ton boat on the Inland Sea for missionary purposes. It was christened the Shinkō Maru 信仰丸, that is, the "Faith Ship."

June 18—The committee of prison chaplains of the Religious League of Japan (Nihon Shūkyō Renmei 日本宗教連盟) was dissolved and the business of the committee was taken over by the League's executive committee.

21—A small number of adherents of the Nishi Honganji Sect formed a group to discredit scholars who advocate the theory that Mahayana Buddhism is not the original teaching of the Buddha.

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23—The Japan Bible Society reported that it distributed 2,524,409 copies of the Bible between November 1960 and October 1961. As compared with the preceding year, this was an increase of 280,000.

June 23—The Ōkura Institute for Spiritual Culture (Ōkura Seishin Bunka Kenkyū-sho 大倉精神文化研究所) has established a study center for Shinto in order to enhance activities in Shinto social education.

26—The leftist National Cultural Conference discussed the relation of the American cultural policy to Japanese Christianity.

27—The International Buddhist Institute (Kokusai Bukkyō Kenkyū-sho 国際仏教研究所) held its annual summer course at Takeji, Kamakura. Lectures were delivered by several noted scholars including Dr. D. T. Suzuki.

28—Mr. Shin Furuya (古屋新), the newly appointed general secretary of the Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō), stated that the Association would increase its effort to revive the prewar emperor system.

July 1—In the Upper House election twenty candidates with a religious background were successful. All nine Sōka Gakkai candidates were elected.

5—The City of Ise in cooperation with Ise Shrine is reported to have decided to build a large-scale Sports Center in

the vicinity of the Grand Shrine.

9—The Reverend Eiji Deguchi (出口栄二), General Director of Ōmoto and two Buddhists attended the World Peace Council in Moscow.

10—A special one-week seminar for Christian students from South East Asia was opened on “The Life and Responsibility of the Church” at the International Christian University, Tokyo. Some fifty students attended.

14—Five Christian delegates departed for England to attend the Keswick Conference in England.

15—The Japan Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai) is reported to have made a proposal to Mr. U Chan Thoon, president of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, that the World Congress scheduled for 1963 be held either in American Mainland or in Hawaii.

16—Rev. and Mrs. Kōshō Ōtani, chief abbot of Higashi Honganji temple, left for Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Buddhists.

22—Sōka Gakkai held the 5th general meeting of student leaders at Hibiya Hall in Tokyo with some 3,000 delegates attending.

29—The Association of Shinto Shrines (Jinja Honchō) appointed a committee to promote the standardizing of Shrine rituals.

29—The Grand Head Temple Shōgo-

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in (聖護院) in Kyoto seceded from the Shugen-shū sect.

30—The Reverend Shizuka Matsubara, chief priest of Kenkun Shrine in Kyoto had an audience with Pope John XXIII. He is reported to be the first Shinto priest in history to do this.

30—The Reverend Michio Kozaki (小崎道雄), pastor emeritus of the Reinanzaka Church, departed for a visit of one month in the Soviet Union as a guest of the Russian Orthodox Church.

31—The Sumiyoshi Shrine in Ōsaka, carried the sacred palanquin through the streets by automobile at the time of the summer festival.

August 1—The 8th World Conference of the Council against Atom and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyō 原水協) opened in Tokyo.

—Dr. Makoto Nagai (長井真琴), former professor of Tokyo University and himself a Shin Buddhist, published an article in the August issue of Dai Hōrin (大法輪) magazine entitled "An Imperial critique of Tanni-shō" (Tanni-shō no Gensei Hihan 歎異抄の嚴正批判) in which he challenged the fundamental doctrine of Shrinran that sinners, instead of the righteous, are the object of salvation. The article caused a heated controversy among Buddhist scholars.

5—It was announced that Sōka Gakkai had succeeded in obtaining broadcasting

time on religious programs of private broadcasting companies which had previously excluded it.

—A Buddhist temple in Hakodate, Hokkaidō, joined an organization established by middle and smaller companies to secure social security for its employees.

6—Buddhist temples in Kyoto have organized their own travel service company to handle pilgrims.

7—In connection with the Asian Boy Scout Jamboree, the boy scout organizations of Higashi Honganji and Thailand concluded an agreement to cooperate in their programs and activities.

11—Kokugakuin University initiated a three-year survey of the culture of the Kumano area of the Kii peninsula.

18—The Ministry of Education inaugurated an inspection system for the protection of cultural objects owned by religious bodies.

22—The Japan Shinto Priest Teachers Council (Zenkoku Shinshoku Kenmu Kyōshokuin Kyōgikai 全国神職兼務教職員協議会) held its 3rd annual convention at which it merged with another small organization of Shinto priest teachers and re-affirmed its policy of introducing Shinto principles into education.

30—Sōka Gakkai reportedly established 110 new regional groups during the month of August.

Sept. 1—The Doctrinal Department of

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Risshō Kōsei Kai announced the introduction of a new plan for training its teachers.

4—Japan Christian Peace Council (Zen Nihon Kirisuto-sha Heiwa Kaigi 全日本基督教者平和会議) met for the first time in Tokyo with its slogan of “total disarmament, abolition of nuclear weapons, and protection of the Constitution.”

5—The Nichiren Sect has established a special organization of professional preachers to counteract the damaging influence of Sōka Gakkai.

7—Mr. Eiji Yoshikawa(吉川英治) died. He was the author of widely read novels about Shinran.

9—Over one hundred leading Buddhist scholars and clergymen met in Tokyo to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Buddhism's introduction to the U. S. The program included lectures and panel discussions.

10—The lay believers of the Sōtō Sect held a conference at Sōjiji temple and urged a more active missionary effort on the part of the clergy.

16—The National Christian Council started a campaign to collect ¥2 million to support a program to combat leprosy in India.

24—The Ministry of Education is reported to be planning a three-year survey of Mt. Hiei.

26—The Union of New Religious Organization of Japan initiated a series of conferences for its leaders on political and social problems.

28—A two-day public hearing meeting of the Constitution Investigation Council was held in Tokyo. Dr. Hideo Kishimoto (岸本英夫) of Tokyo University, who had been chosen by the Council to represent the religious world, was one of the participants.