

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1965

(January—June)

January 1— An estimated 25,694,000 persons were reported to have visited the shrines and temples during the first three days of January. The figure for 1964 was 21,440,000.

—World Messianity (Sekai Kyūseikyō 世界救世教) celebrated its 30th anniversary. 15,000 attended.

Jan. 4—The governor of Kanagawa prefecture announced that National Foundation Day, or Kigensetsu, would be celebrated on Feb. 11 in his prefecture.

Jan. 5—The projected Religions Center became incorporated. (Mr. Jūjirō Furuta 古田重二良, president of Nihon University, is chairman of the board of directors.)

Jan. 7—Tsukushi Women's School (Tsukushi Joshi Gakuen 筑紫女子学園) of the Nishi Honganji Sect in Fukuoka, was established as a junior college.

Jan. 9—Higashiyama Gakuen, junior high school and high school of Jōdo Buddhism in Kyōto became affiliated with the newly established Kyōto Industrial University (Kyōto Sangyō Daigaku 京都産業大学) which starts in April. (The affiliation gives the graduates of the high school a priority in entering the univer-

sity.)

Jan. 13—The Lower Court of Tsu City dismissed the complaint of a communist city councillor that it is unconstitutional for the city to hold a ground-breaking ceremony according to Shinto rites as is the custom in Japan.

Jan. 16—Mutsumi Gakuen 睦学園 of the Jōdo Sect, Kōbe, celebrated its 40th anniversary.

Jan. 17—Shirayuri Junior College (Shirayuri Tanki Daigaku 白百合短期大学), and Kōbe Kaisei Women's School (Kaisei Joshi Gakuin 神戸海星女子学院), both Catholic institutions, were authorized to become 4-year colleges from April.

Jan. 18—176 delegates of the Sōtō Zen Sect departed on a 5-day visit to Okinawa to pray for the souls of those who died there in World War II.

Jan. 20—Atsuta Shrine announced that the students of its training school for priests will not be charged tuition.

Jan. 21—The Shrine Association (Jinja Honchō 神社本庁) protested to the High School Principals Association of Kagawa prefecture that its decision to prohibit the students of member schools to participate in shrine festivals was uncon-

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1965

stitutional.

Jan. 23—Ferris Girls School (Ferris Joshi Gakuin フェリス女子学院), in Yokohama (Protestant) was authorized to become a 4 year college in April.

Jan. 25—The Shimo Kamo Shrine (Kyōto) re-joined the Shrine Association after having seceded in April, 1960.

Jan. 26—The Religionists Peace Council (Nihon Shūkyōsha Heiwa Kyōgikai 日本宗教者平和協議会), a small leftist-oriented group, sent telegrams to President Johnson and the government of South Vietnam protesting against their alleged persecution of the Vietnamese Buddhists.

Jan. 27—Gedatsu-kai 解脱会, a postwar Buddhist sect, established a parish in Okinawa.

Jan. 30—The National Christian Council of Japan (NCC) held a panel discussion on the Image of an Ideal Member of Society, the draft of which the Central Education Council (Chūō Kyōiku Shingikai 中央教育審議会) released on January 11.

—Sōka Gakkai announced plans to rebuild the main sanctuary of Taiseikiji, head temple of Nichiren Shō-shū, at a cost of ¥400 million.

Jan. 31—The Buddhist Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Kai 全日本仏教会) sent the Rev. Sōgen Ōmori 大森曹玄 of Rin-zai Zen and the Rev. Shōgo Hino 日野

照護 of Shin Sect to accompany the Rev. Yoshio Ōtani 大谷よし雄, Buddhist member of the House of Councillor and leader of the Liberal Democratic Party's Commission, to investigate the situation in South Vietnam.

February 2—A peace mission consisting of nineteen representatives of various religious bodies started on a 20-day tour of Afro-Asian countries.

Feb. 3—The government presented a new National Holidays Bill to Diet. (Prime Minister Satō stated that he would welcome the revival of Kigense-tsu. Subsequently protests against this proposal were made by the NCC, scholars, and the Christian Association for the Protection of the Constitution (Kenpō o mamoru Kirisutosha no Kai 憲法を守るキリスト者の会).

Feb. 4—The Ōmoto Sect with drew from the Religionist Peace Council.

Feb. 6—The NCC sent a telegram to Prime Minister Satō protesting his endorsement of Kigense-tsu.

—A National Foundation Day ceremony was observed by the Association for the Celebration of Kigense-tsu (Kigense-tsu Hōshuku Kai 紀元節奉祝会) at Hibiya Public Hall, 800 attended.

Feb. 14—The Nippon Christian Academy sponsored a 2-day conference at its Oiso House between Rissō Kōsei Kai and Christianity on the theme: Modern

Society and Religion.

Feb. 18—The Standing Committee of the United Church of Christ (Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan 日本基督教団) sent a letter to President Johnson asking that the Vietnamese problem be brought to a peaceful solution. It also recommended that National Foundation Day should be observed on May 3.

—Risshō Kōsei-Kai announced plans to establish a women's junior college in 1966.

Feb. 20—The Religionists Peace Council held a memorial service for the South Vietnam Buddhist monks who burned themselves in protest against the alleged persecution of Buddhism by their government.

Feb. 21—The Japan Catholic Medical Facilities Association (Nihon Katorikku Iryō Shisetsu Kyōkai 日本カトリック医療施設協会) was inaugurated with Bishop Arai of Yokohama as director.

—The Ōura Catholic Church, the oldest Catholic church in Japan, celebrated its 4th centennial.

Feb. 22—Tokyo Union Theological Seminary (Tokyo Shingaku Daigaku 東京神学大学), after 2 years of discussion, decided to move to the campus of International Christian University (Kokusai Kirisuto-kyō Daigaku 国際基督教大学).

Feb. 26—The 4th Japan Keswich Convention was held for 4 days in Hakone,

1,526 ministers and laymen attended.

—The Buddhist Federation sponsored a Buddhist-Christian meeting for the exchange of opinions between the two religions. Dr. Heinrich Dumoulin, Professor of Sophia Univ., Dr. Joseph Spae Director of Oriens Institute, and the Most Rev. Lawrence Satoshi Nagae, Bishop of Urawa and six Buddhist leaders including the Rev. Riri Nakayama 中山理々, Director of the International office of the Buddhist Federation, participated.

Feb. 28—The Matsubara Catholic Church, formerly the Meidaimae Church, was consecrated, (The Oriens Institute for the Study of Religions occupies an adjacent site.)

March 1—The Religionists Peace Council sponsored a service commemorating the 11th anniversary of the Lucky Dragon's unfortunate encounter with atomic fallout at Bikini, 5,000 people from all over the country attended.

March 2—The Shrine Association presented a petition to the government protesting an investigation by the Special Promotional Committee for Athletics of the House of Councilors of the Meiji Shrine's permission to a professional baseball team to use its grounds. (On June 4 the Religious League passed a similar resolution).

March 3—Sōka Gakkai followers in Korea won their appeal to the Seoul

Higher Court, against the order of the Korean Government banning meetings and publications of the organization.

March 5—The World Prayer Day was observed by 50 Protestant and Catholic women under the auspices of the NCC.

March 11—Father Paul Yachita Tsuchihashi 土橋八千太 honorary president of Sophia University died at the age of 98.

—The 2nd Religious Youth Conference was held at Meiji Shrine under the theme “My faith and Modern Society.” About 90 youth of Shintoism, Christianity, and New Religions attended. (The conference is sponsored by Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan, the Shinto Youth National Council, the Youth Association of the Buddhist Federation, and the Christian Youth Association.)

—The former residence of Dr. and Mrs. Karl A Reichauer at Meiji Gakuin Tokyo was rebuilt in the campus of Meiji Gakuin Higashi Murayama High School, Higashi Murayama, as the Reichauer Memorial Hall.

March 16—The Kyōto Kyōō Gokokuji, head temple of the Tōji Sect of Shingon Buddhism, seceded in order to avoid interference from minor temples and the sect headquarters. (On the 18th nine other temples seceded.)

—A panel discussion on the Image of an Ideal Member of Society was spon-

sored by the United Church of Christ. Mr. Masaaki Kōsaka 高坂正顕, president of Tokyo Gakugei University and author of the draft was guest speaker, and Mr. Tsuyoshi Takasaki 高崎毅, Professor of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and Mr. Hideo Ōki 大木英夫 Instructor of Tokyo Union Theological Seminary participated in the discussion. Some 250 pastors and laymen attended.

March 17—The centenary of the emergence of “Hidden Christians was celebrated for 3 days in Nagasaki. The papal legate, Paul Cardinal Marella and about 4,000 attended.

March 20—The NCC announced that the total number of Protestant church members was 433,772, an increase of 25,463 over the previous year. (The statistics are made up as of December 31, 1964).

March 21—The 350th anniversary of the death of the Christian daimyō, Ukon Takayama 高山右近 was celebrated in Ōsaka, 3,000 attended.

March 23—The Sōka Gakkai in the Philippines was incorporated.

—The Rev. Chitose Kishi 岸千年 was re-elected president of NCC at the 18th General Assembly of the Council.

—The National Christian Peace Council held a 2-days meeting on the theme “Peace — the Responsibility of Japanese Christians.” 200 attended.

March 24—The 18th NCC General Assembly issued a statement on Vietnam calling for an immediate cessation of military action.

—A delegation of 10 people led by the Rev. Nobuhiko Inoue 井上信彦, priest of Nagoya Gokoku Shrine left for Guam and the Philippines to pray for the repose of those Japanese soldiers who died there in World War II.

March 25—A reception in honor of Paul Cardinal Marella was held under the auspices of the International Institute for the Study of Religions, Oriens Institute for the Study of Religions, and the Religions League of Japan. Some 70 attended.

March 26—The Religionists Peace Council presented a statement to the American Embassy opposing the use of poisonous gas in Vietnam and calling for the cessation of military action.

March 29—The Rev. Shunzō Miyauchi 宮内俊三 was appointed general manager of the Japan Bible Society.

March 31—Sōjiji, great head temple of Sōtō Zen Sect, Yokohama celebrated the opening of Taisō-dō, the largest Buddhist Sanctuary in Japan.

April 1—A 50-day festival commemorating the 1150th anniversary of the founding of Kōyasan opened.

—A 3-day conference for missionaries of Interboard Committee for Christian

Work in Japan opened at Hakone. Ambassador Reichauer was one of the speakers.

—Tenri University announced that entrance is restricted to the believers of Tenri-kyō.

April 2—The Buddhist Council for World Federation (Sekai Rempō Nihon Bukkyōto Kyōgikai 世界連邦日本仏教徒協議会), (the Rev. Sōgen Asahina 朝比奈宗源 president) sent telegrams to the world leaders concerned requesting a peaceful solution to the Vietnam problem.

April 5—The Rev. Elshō Minowa 養輪英章, chief director of the Buddhist Federation was elected president of the Religions League.

April 9—PL Kyōdan held an inaugural meeting of the PL Young Executives Fraternity (PL Sōnen Jitsugyōka Renmei PL 壮年実業家連盟).

—The Rinzai Shū Myōshinji Sect made Formosa a special district. Five officers will be established and a missionary will be sent once a year.

—The Seventh Day Adventist 5-day National Youth Conference opened.

April 12—The Religionist Peace Council held a meeting to protest the Vietnam War.

April 17—The Japan Bible Publishing Society (Nihon Seisho Kankō Kai 日本聖書刊行会) was established for the purpose of publishing a new translation

of the Bible.

April 23—Asakusa Honganji, renamed Tokyo Honganji, conducted services for 5 days commemorating 700th anniversary of the death of Shinran 親鸞, founder of Jōdo Shin Buddhism. There were 30,000 visitors.

April 24—Dr. Paul Rusch, founder of Kiyosato Educational Experiment Project (KEEP), was awarded an honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities from St. Paul's University.

April 25—The Religions Center held its inaugural meeting at Hibiya Public Hall with Dr. Fumio Masutani, president of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies, Mr. Sohachi Yamaoka, a noted novelist, as lecturers 2,500 attended.

—Henry Cabot Lodge, US ambassador to Vietnam and Ambassador Reichauer invited three Buddhist leaders, Kōshō Ōtani 大谷光紹, the Rev. Sōgen Asahina, and the Rev. Riri Nakayama, to discuss the Vietnam problem.

Taiseikiji, head temple of the Nichiren Shō-shū, withdrew its suite against Rengeji (temple) which had seceded.

April 29—PL Kyōdan criticized Sōka Gakkai and the Kōmei Party because they aim at rule by one religion and one party, which it regards as a threat to freedom of faith.

May 3—Sōka Gakkai, at its 20th general meeting, announced that it had 3,400,000

families as believers, which denotes an increase of 3.8 times in 5 years.

May 8—The Tokyo University Young Men Buddhist Association (Tokyo Daigaku Bukkyō Seinen Kai 東京大学仏教青年会) (Dr. Reimon Yūki 結城令聞 chief director) held a lecture meeting commemorating its re-establishment and the inauguration of its new building. Dr. Seiichirō Ono 小野清一郎, Dr. Shōson Miyamoto 宮本正尊 and Dr. Hajime Nakamura 中村元 were speakers.

May 12—A conference of the East Asia Council of Churches was held in Tokyo under the auspices of NCC. 40 attended.

May 14—The National Catholic Council of Bishops (Nihon Zenkoku Shikyō Kaigi 日本全国司教会議) established two new committees: one for the study of Christian terms and one on ecumenism.

May 15—The Buddhist Culture Institute (Bukkyō Bunka Kenkyūsho 仏教文化研究所) and the International Zen Buddhist Culture Institute (Kokusai Zen Bunka Kenkyūsho 国際禪文化研究所) were set up at Sōjiji, great head temple of the Sōtō Zen Sect, Yokohama.

May 16—PL Kyōdan celebrated its 10th anniversary.

May 20—Nikkō Tōshōgū 日光東照宮 held a 5-day celebration of its 350th anniversary.

May 21—The Democratic Music Association (Minshu Ongaku Kyōkai 民主音楽

協会) of Sōka Gakkai inaugurated a regular program "Min-on Hour" on national TV network.

May 22—The Department of Mission Work of Hanazono University (Buddhist) conducted a Peace for Vietnam demonstration in Kyōto, Zen itinerant priests taking the lead.

May 27—The first anniversary of the death of the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was observed by the Buddhist Federation and the Japan-India Association (Nichi-In Kyōkai 日印協会).

May 28—Kiyomizudera (Kyōto) established the Kita Hossō Sect, after seceding from the Hosso Sect.

—The 15th Inter-Seminary Conference was held for two days at Tokyo Theological Seminary on the theme "The Holy Spirit and the Church in Modern Japan."

May 30—The 16th academic conference of the Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (Nihon Indogaku Bukkyōgaku Kai 日本印度学仏教学会, (Dr. Shōson Miyamoto, executive director) was held for two days at Komazawa University.

June 3—The Rev. Tokuchika Miki 御木徳近, Patriarch of PL Kyōdan was presented with an academic award by the Nihon University Graduates' Association (Nihon Daigaku Gakushi Kai 日本大学学士会).

June 4—Tenri-kyō established a believers' organization called "Yonomoto Kai."

June 10—Konkō-kyō celebrated its 80th anniversary.

June 11—The Buddhist Federation sponsored a public meeting at which the president of the Saigon Buddhist University spoke.

June 12—Risshō Kōsei-kai sponsored a public lecture by Momoo Kitagawa 北川桃雄 on the subject: "The Expressions of Buddhist Statues."

—Two representatives of the NCC, the Rev. Chūzō Yamada 山田忠藏 and the Rt. Rev. Makoto Gotō 後藤真 visited the Catholic Matsubara Church to discuss ecumenical matters with Fr. Joseph Spae, Fr. Paul Phister, and Fr. Peter Seiichi Shiroyanagi 白柳誠一 of the Residence of the Archbishop of Tokyo.

June 13—Shōgoin, a head temple of Shugendō, which seceded from Shugenshū in 1962, established Honzan Shugenshū with 96 affiliated temples.

—A Memorial House of Ryōkan 良寛, a Buddhist monk of the 18th century was inaugurated in Niigata, his birthplace. His personal property, autographs, and literary materials are on display there.

June 15—The Japan-Islam Fraternal Association (Nihon Isuramu Yūai Kyōkai 日本イスラム友愛協会) sponsored a pub-

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1965

lic lecture by Fujio Komura 小村不二男, Chief Director of the association who had recently returned from a pilgrimage to Mecca, on the theme: "The Mystery of Mecca and Islam."

June 18—Rissshō Kōsei-kai began publishing an English Monthly "The Kosei Times."

June 19—The Buddhist Culture Council (Nihon Bukkyō Bunka Kaigi 日本仏教文化会議) held a conference in Kyōto to discuss on "The Buddhist Image of Man."

June 20—The Society for the Study of Buddhist Literature (Bukkyō Bungaku Kenkyūkai 仏教文学研究会) held a con-

vention at Kyōto Women's University (Kyōto Joshi Daigaku 京都女子大学).

June 21—The Rev. Kōshō Ōtani, heir-elect of Higashi Honganji, was elected president of National Buddhist Youth Federation (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Seinen Kai 全日本仏教青年会).

June 26—A memorial ceremony in honor of the three distinguished Buddhist scholars, Dr. Junjirō Takakusu 高楠順次郎, Dr. Kaikyū Watanabe 渡辺海旭 and Dr. Gemmyō Ono 小野玄妙 was held.

June 27—A consecration ceremony of its new organ was held at Tokyo Cathedral (Catholic).