

CHRONOLOGY FOR 1968

(January—June)

- January 17** The Korean Buddhist Association in Japan held a memorial service for Koreans killed by the atomic bombs in Hiroshima 広島 and Nagasaki 長崎, who are presumed to be more than 7 thousand. The Hiroshima Buddhist Federation (*Hiroshima-shi Bukkyō-Kai* 広島市仏教会) gave support to it and 200 bereaved families attended at Hiroshima Peace Park.
- Jan. 17** Kōmei Party (*Kōmei-tō* 公明党) held the first public meeting at Sasebo Port in Sasebo City 佐世保市, Nagasaki Pref., to protest against the calling of the US atomic submarine *ENTERPRISE*, with 20 thousand people attending.
- Jan. 21** Rev. Rōsen Takashina 高階龍仙, chief abbot of Sōdō-shū 曹洞宗, died at the age of 93. The funeral service was held at Eihei-ji Temple 永平寺, the headquarters of the sect, in Fukui. As successor, Rev. Taishun Satō 佐藤泰舜 was elected on January 22.
- Jan. 21** The National Christian Council of Japan and the Central Council of the Catholic Church held joint prayer services throughout Japan, observing the World Prayer Week for Ecumenism (from the 18th to the 25th of January). In Tokyo, these services took place at St. Ignatius Church, Yotsuya.
- Jan. 22** An US-Japan Religious Congress was held at the International Conference Hall in Kyoto under the joint auspices of the Religious League of Japan (*Nihon Shūkyō Remmei* 日本宗教連盟) and the Center of Japanese Religions. Fourteen American and 20 Japanese religionists attended, including Dr. Wesley Reod of the Methodist Church, Dr. John Burt of the Episcopal Church, Rev. Kōshō Ōtani 大谷光紹 of Higashi Honganji 東本願寺 and Rev. Yoshitada Takahara 高原美忠 of Yasaka Shrine 八坂神社.
- Jan. 23** Dr. Kōdō Kurebayashi 榑林皓堂 was elected President of Komazawa Buddhist University (*Komazawa Daigaku* 駒沢大学), Tokyo, in succession to Dr. Reirin Yamada 山田靈林.
- Jan. 30** Twenty Japanese representatives left for Bangkok to attend the 4th general assembly of the East Asian Christian Council, which was held from January 30 to February 8 celebrating the 10th anniversary of its foundation.
- February 1** The Religious League of Japan issued a statement opposing the bill on Yasukuni Shrine.
- Feb. 2** Commemorating its 65th anniversary, Risshō Buddhist University (*Risshō Daigaku* 立正大学) constructed a

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- new library to collect literature on the Nichiren-shū 日蓮宗.
- Feb. 5** Rishshō Kōsei-kai 立正佼成会, one of the new religions in Japan, celebrated its 30th anniversary.
- Feb. 11** The Christian liaison committee against the National Foundation Day held a lecture-meeting to protect religious liberty in Tokyo. They issued a statement opposing the bill on Yasukuni Shrine.
- Feb. 13** The US-Japan Daiichi Zen Kyōkai (*Nichi-Bei Daiichi Zen Kyōkai* 日米第一禪協會) in Kyoto together with Columbia University issued an English translation of the *Rinzai-roku* 臨濟錄, a basic text of Zen Buddhism.
- Feb. 15** The Buddhist Federation of Tokyo (*Tokyo Bukkyō Rengō-kai* 東京仏教連合会) brought out a register of Buddhist temples in Tokyo, *Jiin Meikan* 寺院名鑑.
- Feb. 15** Prof. Toshiharu Kondō 近藤寿治 was elected President of Sōji Gakuen 総寺学園, a Buddhist school in Yokohama. (The ex-president Prof. Tomoo Misawa 三沢智雄 died last November.)
- Feb. 18** The Shrine Association (*Jinja Honchō* 神社本庁) decided on its 12 recommended candidates for the next election of House of Councillors in July.
- Feb. 25** Higashi Honganji, the headquarters of Jōdo-shin-shū 浄土真宗 abolished a privilege which has exempted students of sectarian universities, Ōtani Univ. 大谷大学, Tōhō Univ. 同朋大学 and Senshū Univ. 専修大学 from the entrance examination for the Buddhist priesthood.
- March 8** Some famous Buddhist temples and Shinto shrines in Kyōto, Nanzen-ji 南禪寺, Tō-ji 東寺, Saihō-ji 西芳寺 and Heian Shrine (Heian-jingū 平安神宮) raised their entrance fees. Now 16 of 31 temples in Kyōtō take more than 80 yen entrance fee.
- March 19** At the 21th General Assembly NCC reported that the Protestant church-members were 461,205 as of December 1967.
- March 21** Sendan Gakuen 梅檀学園, a Buddhist school of the Sōdō-shū, elected Rev. Dōshū Ōkubo 大久保道丹 as its President.
- March 23** NCC sent a statement opposing the bill of Yasukuni Shrine to the Speakers of the House of Representatives and House of Councillors.
- March 26** The South East Asian Student Association (*Tōnan Ajia Gakusei Shinkōdan* 東南アジア学生親交団), which consists of students of Waseda Univ. 早稲田大学, St. Paul Univ. 立教大学, Nihon Univ. 日本大学, Meiji-Gakuin Univ. 明治学院 etc., sent relief goods worth 5 million yen to South Vietnam. Myōchikai 妙智会, a new religion, backed the enterprise.

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- March 30** The Anti-War Buddhist League (*Hansen Bukkyōsha Remmei* 反戦仏教者連盟) was organized by young monks of the Shingon-shū 真言宗, who were graduated from Ōtani Buddhist Univ this spring.
- March 31** The completion of the main temple of Shinshō-ji 新勝寺, the headquarters of Shingon-shū Chizan-ha 真言宗智山派, was celebrated with 100 thousand visitors (from March 31 to May 22). The building costed 3,800 million yen. It took five years to build the temple.
- April 1** The foundation of the Christian Book Center (*Kirisuto-kyō Bunsho Center* キリスト教文書センター) was celebrated in Tokyo. This institution will serve to bring Christian books to about 50 Christian booksellers in Japan.
- April 2** The opening ceremony of Sōka Gakuen 創価学園, the denominational school of Sōka Gakkai 創価学会, a famous new religious movement in Japan, in Kodaira-city 小平市 in the suburbs of Tokyo, was held with 700 guests. It will start with 300 students of high school and 200 of middle school¹ level. All teachers (24) are Sōka Gakkai members.
- April 5** Ishin-kai 倭神会, one of the original members of the Union of the New Religious Organizations of Japan (*Shin Nihon Shūkyō Dantai Rengō-kai* 新日本宗教団体連合会) declared its separation from the Union. (Ishin-kai descended from Shintoism and has 50 thousand members.)
- April 6** The Kyūshū Student Association (*Kyūshū Gakusei Kyōgi-kai* 九州学生協議会) started a new movement under the slogan "Let's go back to the Campus". This association was organized by 1,200 students of 28 universities in the Kyūshū district, who belong to some religious groups, Seichō-no-Ie 生長の家, Shinwa-kai 神話会 etc. Some famous writers, Mr. Fusao Hayashi 林房雄, Mr. Michio Takeyama 竹山道雄, Mr. Yukio Mishima 三島由起夫 and others, support the movement as advisers.
- April 6** Celebrating the anniversary of the birth of Gautama Buddha, the Flower Festival, a parade with 700 citizens and a lecture meeting with 1,000 persons in the audience were held in Hiroshima city under the auspices of the association of 60 temples in Hiroshima city.
- April 10** Prof. Yukio Sakamoto 坂本幸男 was elected President of Risshō Univ. to succeed Mr. Tanzan Ishibashi 石橋湛山 (ex-Prime Minister) who had held the post for 15 years.
- April 7** Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, Kagoshima Pref. 鹿児島県 published a historical book "Kagoshima and the Meiji Restoration" (*Kagoshima to Meiji-Ishin* 鹿

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児島と明治維新) and distributed it to the students of middle schools in the prefecture free of charge.

April 11 The Religious Juridical Council (*Shūmu-ka* 宗務課) in the Ministry of Education published a classified collection of religious laws and regulations since the Meiji Restoration (*Shūkyō-kankei Hōrei Ruisan* 宗教関係法令類算). The price is 4,500 yen.

April 20 Higashi-honganji, Nagoya Branch, conducted memorial programs commemorating the 700th anniversary of St. Shinran. A memorial service with Rev. Kōshō Ōtani officiating, a procession of *Chigo* (specially dressed children) and a lecture meeting were held during the week.

April 20 Commemorating the 500th anniversary of its foundation, Chion-in 知恩院, the headquarters of Jōdo-shū, constructed a training hall for the youth at Seiryū-ji 青竜寺 on Mt. Hieizan 比叡山 where St Hōnen 法然上人, the founder of Jōdo-shū, had studied for 20 years.

April 23 The Anglican Episcopal Church of Japan held its 29th General Assembly, which elected the Right Rev. Michel Hinsuke Yashiro 八代斌助 Archbishop and put the age limit of priests at 70.

April 25 The Association of Jōdo Shinshū (*Shin-shū Rengō-kai* 真宗連合会) held the 15th annual convention at the Public

Hall in Sakaecity 鯖江市 in Fukui Pref. 福井県. The convention initiated a meeting to make public the results of research and a pilgrimage for Hokuriku 北陸 district.

May 3 The Youth Department of Seichō-no-Ie 生長の家, a new religion in Japan, held the 20th General Assembly with ten thousand attendants. They declared to back the Japan-US Security Pact and the amendments to the National Constitution.

May 6-16 The 24th World Conference of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, a Christian women's association promoting world peace, teetotalism and chastity, was held at Hotel New Ōtani in Tokyo. 150 representatives from 24 foreign countries and 600 Japanese attended. The theme was "Right and Need of Human Beings".

May 14 The inaugural meeting of the Japan Evangelical Association was held with thousand attendants, including Rev. Ryūkō Tokiba 常葉隆興 as chairman. (*Nihon Fukuin Dōmei* 日本福音同盟 is composed of eight Evangelical organizations with 481 churches, 818 priests and 29,453 members.)

May 15 The Union of New Religious Organizations of Japan made a dissenting official comment on the question of Yasukuni Shrine.

May 17 The Investigation Committee

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- of Jōdo Shin-shū (*Shin-shū Kaku-ha Kōdō Chōsa-Kai* 真宗各派共同調査会) composed of ten sects of Pure Land Buddhism, had the first meeting at Higsahi Honganji and discussed 'Missionary work' and the '800th Anniversary of St. Shinran 親鸞, the founder of Jōdō-shū'.
- May 23** Kyoto University for Foreign Studies (Kyoto Gaikokugo Daigaku 京都外国語大学) in Kyoto adopted 'Zazen' as a required subject of physical exercise in general education.
- May 18** The Japan Buddhist Association (*Zen Nihon Bukkyō-kai* 全日本仏教会) decided on its ten recommended candidates for the next election to the House of Councillors on the 7th of July. Of these 15 candidates belong to the Liberal Democratic Party, one to the Social Party, one to the Democratic Social Party and two are independent, including Rev. Tōkō Kon 今東光, Mr. Shintarō Ishihara 石原慎太郎 and Mr. Hirobumi Daimatsu 大松博文.
- May 29** International Christian University (*Kokusai Kirisuto-kyō Daigaku* 国際キリスト教大学) announced an enrollment of 1,286, of whom 1,186 are Japanese and 200 foreigners chiefly from the U.S.A. and Asian countries.
- May 30** The Japan Bible Society printed thousand volumes of the Bible in Vietnamese and sent them to Vietnam.
- May 31** The Social Service Committee of NCC constructed a camera factory 'Jiritsu-sha 自立社 (self-support)' as a rehabilitational facility for the physically handicapped.
- June 1** The Japanese Association of Indian and Buddhist Studies (*Nihon Indogaku Bukkyōgaku-kai* 日本印度学仏教学会) held the 19th annual congress at the Buddhist University (*Bukkyō Daigaku* 仏教大学) in Kyoto, with 325 reporters.
- June 1** Yakushi-dō Temple of Nikkō 日光 known for its *Nakiryū* (roaring dragon) on the ceiling, destroyed by fire in 1951, was restored after seven years work.
- June 6** In some religious universities, Komazawa Univ. 駒沢大学, Risshō Univ. 立正大学, Tōyō Univ. 東洋大学, Kokugakuin Univ. 国学院大学, International Christian Univ., St. Paul's Univ. (*Rikkyō Daigaku* 立教大学) etc., campus disputes continue.
- June 8** Commemorating the 1st anniversary of its foundation, the Religionists' Association for Japan-China Friendship (*Ni-Chū Shūkyōsha Yūkō Kondankai* 日中宗教者友好懇談会) held a lecture meeting at Gakushi Kaikan Hall in Kanda 神田学士会館 with 200 persons in attendance. Lecturers were Rev. Mumon Yamada 山田無文 and Rev. Bon Shiraishi 白石凡.
- June 8** A branch of the Secretariat for Non-Believers in the Vatican was set up in Japan. Bishop Satoshi Nagae 長

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江惠 was elected as the chief and Prof. Mutsuo Yanase 柳瀬睦男 of Sophia Univ., Prof. Masao Matsumoto 松本正夫 of Keiō Univ. etc. as members.

June 11—17 Commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration, the Meiji Shrine Worshipers Association held as gathering at the Tokyo Gymnasium in Sendagaya 千駄ヶ谷. Sixty thousand people, including Mr. Tsūsai Sugawara 菅原通済, Mr. Sazō Idemitsu 出光佐三 and Mr. Tsuneari Fukuda 福田恆存 as special lecturers, attended the gathering and worshiped Yasukuni Shrine (*Yasukuni Jinja* 靖国神社), Ise Shrine (*Ise Jingū* 伊勢神宮) and Meiji Shrine (*Meiji Jingū* 明治神宮) from afar.

June 22 The United Bible Society announced the situation of the Bible distribution in the world in 1967. In the U.S.A. 43,941,553 volumes were distributed and in Japan 4,825,603.

June 25 A mass-meeting of Jōdo-shū in Hokkaidō 北海道 was held to com-

memorate the 100th anniversary of the reclamation of the district. Parades, lecture meetings and memorial services for the dead took place.

The 465 temples of Sōdō-shū also opened a commemorative meeting at Sapporo City Hall with three thousand monks in attendance.

June 26 The Shrine Association made an investigation about the six shrines which had been on the Ogasawara Islands 小笠原諸島 before the Second World War. The association wants to reconstruct them at the moment of the restoration of the islands from the U.S. A. to Japan.

June 26 The Japan Mission Year Book 1968, the first joint edition by Catholic and Protestant churches, was published commemorating the 100th anniversary of the Meiji Restoration. The publishers were Kyōbun-kan 教文館 and Oriens Institute for Religious Research.