

CHRISTMAS

Christmas has always been celebrated with a joint service with the Issei in the Main Sanctuary. The Christmas Story has been presented in pageant, at first by the Issei UCW, then later by the Sunday School pupils. In recent years, the presentation has been made in song and Bible readings with all of the Sunday School classes participating. This service is a homecoming for some families from the suburbs or out of town. In the '50s, Christmas morning services were held, but now a Candlelight Service on Christmas Eve in the Upprr Chapel with carol singing is conducted, when old and young can join together in worship and celebration.

All the children are invited to a party after the Christmas Sunday service. This was first organized by the Married Couples Club during 1956-60, but from 1961, the Sunday School teachers give the party to the children, with lunch, gifts and sometimes a Santa.

For a social get-together of all church members, the Issei were entertained on a Saturday evening from 1955-64, but as they became aged, evening functions became unsuitable and plans were changed to a turkey dinner after the Sunday morning service. Some years, this was given in the form of a tea. For this huge project, the whole church is involved - the UCW, Fellowship Club as well as the older Sunday School pupils. In recent years, the table decorations have been made by the young folks in the church, namely Explorers and CGIT.

Since 1975, the Niseis have joined together in a Christmas Card Project when some 75-80 families have participated. In lieu of personal cards, this provides the members' greetings to each other with economy of time and expense. The small income thus raised has been given as a gift to the volunteer teachers of the English classes held at our church on Monday and Wednesday mornings.

White Gift Sunday has been incorporated with the CGIT Annual Vesper Service by Noby Matsugu, our leader. The CGIT girls participating, have conducted the service with commendable skill and have made it a most inspiring event every year.





25TH ANNIVERSARY SONG

CELEBRATE

It was the start of something rare,
And each person put in his share,
We started out the rest of our lives,
It's time to celebrate

Twenty-five years of Christian devotion,
Three generations set in motion,
Reaching out to lend a hand,
It's time to celebrate.

Chorus: Yes we're on our way,
Though the going's sometimes rough,
But things will work out right,
When it's God who's leading us,
Living's so worthwhile
So let the sun shine through,
'Cause we've got a message to shout. -- to you

Through the years our love will grow,
Under His leadership, I know,
The future is what really counts,
It's time to celebrate

And wouldn't you say, we've come a long way
As time goes on, we'll work and pray,
Building God's community,
Come on and celebrate

Chorus:
Twenty-five years of Christian devotion,
Three generations set in motion,
So reach out and lend a hand,
It's time to celebrate,
So reach out and lend a hand,
It's time to celebrate

Carolyn Iwata/David Kai

CONFERENCES

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

- 1st 1956 - held for ministers only and sponsored by the Home Missions Board
- 2nd 1958 - held at Queen Street United Church with opening ceremony at the then new Covenant College. One session held at Wesley Building, 299 Queen Street West, United Church headquarters. All Issei attendance along with ministers, deaconesses, WMS workers
- 3rd May 12-14, 1960: Union College, Vancouver (UBC). Keigi Saisho, Nisei delegate, Rev. Dr. K. Shimizu, minister
- 4th June 28-30, 1962: Winnipeg University. Mas Endo, Nisei delegate, Rev. Min Takada, minister. Issei Dr. K. Shimizu
- 5th June 23-25, 1966: Toronto - Cedar Glen. Hide Shimizu, Nisei delegate. Minister Rev. Min Takada, Issei Rev. M. Norisue
- 6th November 5-7, 1970: Lethbridge, Alberta. Hide Shimizu, Nisei delegate and secretary of Conference. Minister Rev. Ken Matsugu; Issei Rev. C. Horikoshi (Mrs. C. Horikoshi)
- 7th April 26-28, 1973: L'Ermitage LaCroix, Pierrefonds, Quebec (Catholic Retreat Centre) Nisei delegate, Naomi Chiba, Margaret Sora, observer. Hide Shimizu, Conference secretary. Minister Rev. Ken Matsugu (Mrs. Noby Matsugu). Issei Rev. C. Horikoshi (Mrs. C. Horikoshi)
- 8th April 22-26, 1975: Toronto Japanese United Church and Cedar Glen, Ontario. Hide Shimizu, Margaret Sora, Nisei delegate, Tosh Otsuka, observer. Minister Rev. Ken Matsugu. Issei Rev. Hiraku Iwai. First Ethnic Conference held concurrently with the Japanese Conference.
- 9th July 24-26, 1978: Vancouver School of Theology (UBC). Tosh Otsuka, Conference Secretary, Rozie Ogaki, delegate, Dick Takimoto, observer. Minister Rev. Ken Matsugu, Conference Treasurer, (Mrs. Noby Matsugu). Issei Rev. Hiraku Iwai. The Ethnic Conference preceded the Japanese Conference.

EASTERN REGIONAL CONFERENCE

- 1959 May (Victoria day weekend) - the first Eastern Regional Conference held in Toronto - Toronto Japanese United Church.
- 1961 March 11-13, 1961. Montreal Japanese United Church. Topical and panel discussions held.
- 1965 May - held at the Hamilton Japanese United Church - a one-day conference. About 20 Niseis attended from Toronto.

These conferences were well attended by members of the three eastern churches participating. A great exchange of discussion and fellowship was much appreciated. Discontinuance of the conferences was unfortunate due to full programs of individual churches.

Tosh Otsuka



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS/ANNUAL REPORTS

Since the inception of the Nisei Church on April 4, 1954, congregational meetings have been held every year with attendance averaging 60 people. From 1955-65, dinner meetings were held, generally on the first Saturday in February.

From 1966 to the present, meetings have been held after the service, generally on the last Sunday in January. For many years, Chinese lunch was the menu, but recently, pot luck lunch is enjoyed by everyone.

The meeting is chaired by the minister. Reports from various committees as printed in the Annual Report are reviewed and new business is discussed; also new Board members are confirmed. The Annual Meeting gives everyone an opportunity to discuss any facet of the church.

Annual Reports have been printed every year and the compilation of the reports has been looked after by the Committee of Stewards, ministers and most recently by the Communications Committee. The membership list is also updated at the end of each year.

The membership now stands at 265. In April 1954, membership started at 121.

The minister chairs the Annual Congregational meeting. The Annual report of the year compiled and typed in book form is distributed to the members prior to the meeting for perusal. The proceedings of the meeting are recorded and summarized for presentation at the beginning of the Congregational meeting. An updated membership list is also prepared and available to members.

CHRISTIAN FAMILY SERVICE

Christian Family Service, a Joint Service of Isseis, Niseis and Sanseis, is held every year on Mother's Day and is attended by many family groups. This day is a special day to pay tribute to the Issei members age 80 and over, and in

1961, there were 18 Isseis age 80 and over

1970, there were 52 Isseis age 80 and over

1978, there were 90 Isseis age 80 and over

Unfortunately, all the honoured guests are not able to attend the service due to age and health. The Nisei UCW prepare gifts as well as provide refreshments for everyone and this service is very much appreciated to make Mother's Day a happy occasion.

SPRING TEA

Another annual event was the Issei Tea held in the spring. It was arranged for the benefit of our Canadian friends who were continually requesting demonstration of Japanese art. As the requests were too numerous to fulfill, it was decided that a collective display and demonstration would better serve a large number at one time. This has always been in aid of Missions. The Nisei have assisted in this event by providing home baked goods and have donated this income for their share to the Missions. From 1973, this event has been changed into a Mini Bazaar with good results.

SUNDAY COFFEE SERVICE

This service was instituted by Rev. C. Horikoshi in the early '70s for the purpose of encouraging more fellowship by the members. The Issei UCW were in charge, but later the Niseis were asked to take it over. Church members are taking turns making sandwiches at home. This service is provided from October to May with the Isseis continuing the other months. This has become a great convenience for everyone as there are many group meetings and business to be carried on in the afternoons after the morning worship. Most important of all is the opportunity of socializing between Issei and Nisei and visitors who attend our services.

EVERY MEMBER VISITATION

Every member visitation has been carried out for over 15 years by the Board members, generally on a Sunday in November. From 1976, the visitation format was changed, and Board members have been inviting people in their locality to their homes, and it appears that good communication is being achieved in this manner.



CENTENNIAL LEGACY

A book entitled "A Centennial Legacy" was printed in 1977 to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Japanese Christian Missions in North America, 1877-1977. Rev. Casper Horikoshi, former minister of the Issei Church, was chairman of the Centennial Celebration Committee. In this book, there is a section devoted to Christian Churches in Canada and the following is the Toronto section written by Rev. Ken Matsugu.

TORONTO JAPANESE UNITED CHURCH (Nisei Congregation)

Some of the Nisei started to attend the Japanese service. In 1950, the Japanese congregation moved to Queen St. United Church. Since only 5% of Nisei 15 years and over in the families of church members were attending local churches, the Nisei congregation was formed in 1954. Nisei services were held on the first and third Sundays, Emmanuel College student supply; family services on second and fourth Sundays.

In 1958, the Japanese congregations moved to Centennial United Church where the Nisei built the Upper Chapel. At present, the Nisei meet four times with the Issei - Easter, Mother's Day (Christian Family Day), Outdoor service at church picnic in June and Christmas. On World-wide Communion, the three congregations worship together - Centennial (Occidental), Issei and Nisei.

The two growing concerns are Sunday School and Camp. Our Sunday School attendance has grown and what is most encouraging is our large senior groups. At one time the complaint was that after the Junior Department, the number of pupils decreased.

Previously, summer was a holiday away from church. It was a fallow season - just inactive. Four or at the most, dozen people used to attend the informal service at the church. At camp, attendance is good. On the last day of Boys and Girls Camps, there are more worshippers than at our regular services in the city.

What is the future of the Nisei Church? We are preserving and proclaiming the faith. We are not, however, preserving our culture and the Japanese language. Inter-racial marriages are common. For some, their identity would be Japanese first, Canadian second, and Christian third. Others would reverse that order. The future of the Nisei Church is a question mark. The Nisei are hoping the Sansei to take over the church, but because of inter-racial marriages, job situations, mobility and other factors, the Nisei anticipation of the continuation of the church on racial line only seems premature. Perhaps the day is coming when the word of Jesus becomes a reality for us.

The future of the Nisei Church is uncertain. But this is certain. God is alive. His Spirit is brooding and He is recreating the Church.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

JAPANESE CANADIAN CULTURAL CENTRE

The Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre in Don Mills has become a great gathering place for the Japanese in the Toronto area since its beginning in 1963. When there are special events, our church members give their assistance as well as at the ongoing functions - the Annual Bazaar, Festivals, International Metro Caravan (a 9-day event), Issei Day, etc. Some of our members have served on the Board of Directors - Katie Nishino, George Sato, Hide Shimizu, Kiso Sora, Shig Sora (deceased) and Ruth Yonemoto, and the present Executive Director is Keigi Saisho. The monthly Newsletter mailing bee crew included Mary Kayahara and Ruth Saito, also in the past, Sakae Fujioka and Hide Shimizu.

MOMIJI-KAI

This is a group get-together for the Issei at the Cultural Centre where they can enjoy fellowship and programs, outings out of town as well as visiting places of interest locally. They also have opportunity to learn some crafts and are enjoying the making of ceramics, tilework and various kinds of needlecraft, and novelties. The annual parties at Christmas and Spring are much anticipated events. Volunteers include Mary Inouye, Hide Shimizu and Ruth Yonemoto.

NIPPONIA HOME

Nipponia Home in Beamsville has been a project of a special interest to our church members as there are many residents there, former members of our Issei congregation. Visitation by groups of Issei, Nisei and Sansei every year is appreciated by the Home when programs of entertainment and supper is given. A Christmas Tea is given by volunteers; gifts from the Board are presented to the residents, staff and workers. The Annual Family Picnic in July is also assisted by volunteers, which include Hide Shimizu, Alice Takimoto and Ruth Yonemoto from our church. Members of the Board included Kunio and Susan Hidaka, Rozie Ogaki, Hide Shimizu, and at present, Dick Takimoto, Chairman.

ELDERLY CARE COMMITTEE

This is a very hard working group, striving for the betterment of life for the older folks. At present, they are working toward the creation of a nursing home for the aged Issei who are now in isolated Homes scattered throughout the city. The Issei are extremely lonely, all alone with difficulty of language handicap. For the original survey made of the needs of the Issei, much assistance was given by our members. The new J.C. Directory for Ontario was made possible by the help of these volunteers giving two years of continuous labour. Min Ota has been responsible for the PR for this Committee. Other members of this Committee are George Imai, Fred Sasaki, Saburo Takahashi, Dick Takimoto, and some six members of the Issei Church.

THE ANNEX

The Annex of the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre began its Japanese Canadian community and social services in January 1978. Since that time, many Japanese Canadians in the Toronto area have visited, been served by, and heard about the Annex. Issei, Nisei, Sansei, and Shin-ijyu members of our church have been no exception. They have participated in craft workshops, weekly "Go" and shogi games, seminars, Minasama walkathons, coffee houses, the Annex Senior Citizens group, as well as being active volunteers, financial and moral supporters, and official Annex Board members.

The Annex cares about its Japanese Canadian community in the wider community, and the United Church shares this concern, demonstrated through its support.

TORONTO JAPANESE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS

"TJCAYO" or the Youth Association is a newly-formed group which was created in November 1977, in order that members of various Japanese Canadian youth organizations and unaffiliated JC youth may meet together to share concerns, plan and participate in social events, make new friends, and open up lines of communication. The Toronto Japanese United Church youth are included in this umbrella organization, some of whom are active supporters and participants.

The Youth Association, still in its growing stages, is constantly undergoing changes in structure, focus, and people. All JC youth concerned with the existing communication gap between other JC groups and individuals are encouraged to participate in the Youth Association and be a part of an exciting and innovative concept.



MR. DICK TAKIMOTO

Dick Takimoto has been involved with church and community work for many years. One of his contributions for which he is well known is his directorship of Camp Koyu for several years as well as the organization of the Centennial Teen Jamboree in August 1977.

At the Centennial Jamboree, a booklet was presented to Dick stating "We offer this booklet as a collective Thank You, and as a statement of our thoughts and feelings toward a man distinguished by his caring, and his concern for all of us at Camp Koyu '77".



Excerpts from this booklet are:

"Camp Koyu '77 was a unique experience for young Japanese Canadians in this, our Centennial year. Sanseis have come from different parts of Canada to gather together and share in the pleasures of camp life; and to learn of the rich Japanese heritage they have in common. Regional differences, various church affiliations, and personal viewpoints on our culture, these have all blended at Camp Koyu, into an awareness that we Japanese Canadians share the same cultural roots. The Issei are our grandparents; the Nisei, our parents; and we, the Sansei, are both the heirs of the past and the leading generation of the future Japanese Canadian community".

"Camp Koyu '77 has strengthened our self-awareness, made us sensitive to the beauty within our culture, and has shown us that we have much to be proud of".



WHAT IS A MAN??

What is a man? Is he someone to lean on,
To respect and to love?
Is he someone to argue with, but also
someone who'll stand beside you right or wrong?
Is he someone who'll fight for something
he believes in?
Is this what makes a man?

What is a man? Does he have to always
prove himself time and time again?
Does he have to keep his "cool" even
when you wear his patience thin?
Does he have to always come to your aid
when you messed things up again?
Is this what makes a man?

A man is someone you want to look up to
knowing he's always around.
A man is someone who's there to help you
even when deep inside he's really down.
A man just does his best not looking for
any reward or praise
These are what makes a man.

In your life you will meet many people
who call themselves men.
They will tell you all the good they've
done over and over again
But this special man is not like the rest
because you see in the end
Mickey Kaneko is more than a man,
Mickey Kaneko is also our best friend.

Anonymous



25th Anniversary, April 4, 1954 - April 4, 1979

The 25th Anniversary Service of the Nisei Church was held Sunday, April 1, 1979 in the main sanctuary. Rev. Ken Matsugu and Rev. Hiraku Iwai participated in the service, and Rev. Albion Wright, Deputy Secretary of General Council of the United Church of Canada was guest speaker.

An Anniversary Banquet was held in the Friendship Centre with Dick Takimoto as Master of Ceremonies. Program included:

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| Introduction of head table guests | - Dick Takimoto |
| Greetings from the Issei Church | - Alfred Kondo |
| Blessing | - Rev. Ken Matsugu |
| Chinese dinner | |
| Banquet preparation acknowledgements | - Rozie Ogaki |
| Guest Speaker | - Rev. Gordon Imai |
| Speaker acknowledgement | - Audrey Fukuzawa |
| Sansei Stage Band | - (11 boys and 1 girl) |
| Anniversary cake cutting | - Toyo Taira |
| Honour Roll Call | - Dick Takimoto |
| Anniversary Song (lyrics by Carolyn Iwata
music by David Kai) | - C.G.I.T. |
| Closing Benediction | - Rev. Hiraku Iwai |

Our sincere thanks are extended to Dick Takimoto, Coordinator, members of the Program Committee, UCW and all those who helped with the service and banquet.

























