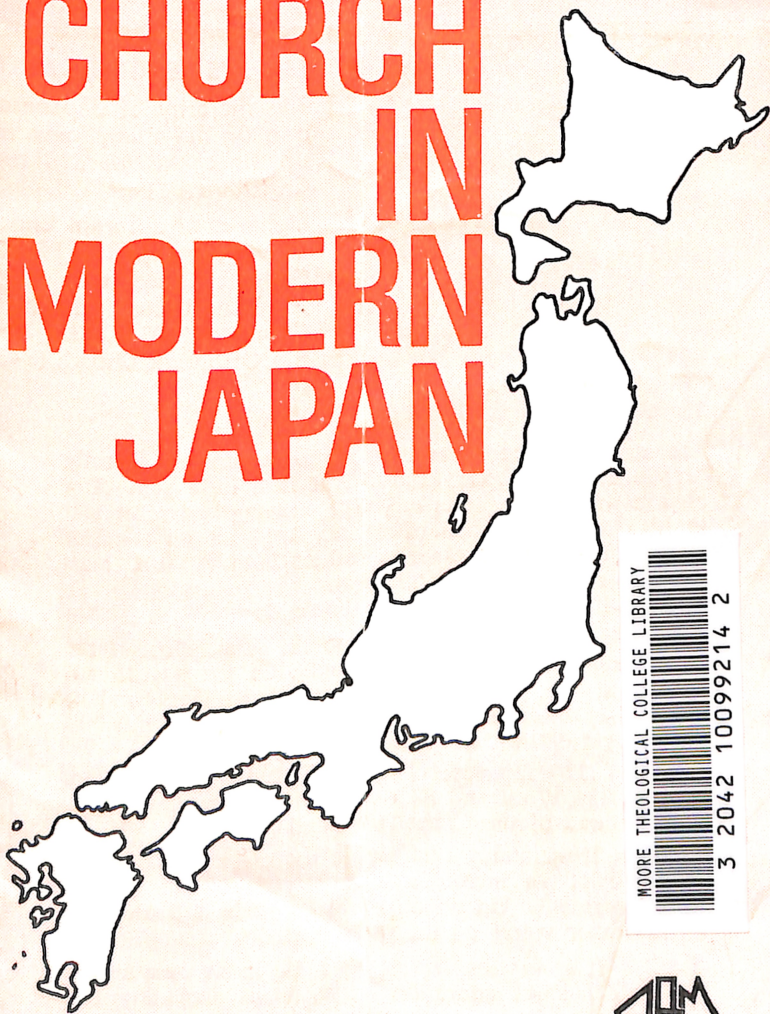
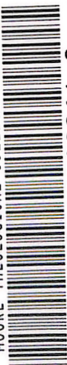


THE CHURCH IN MODERN JAPAN

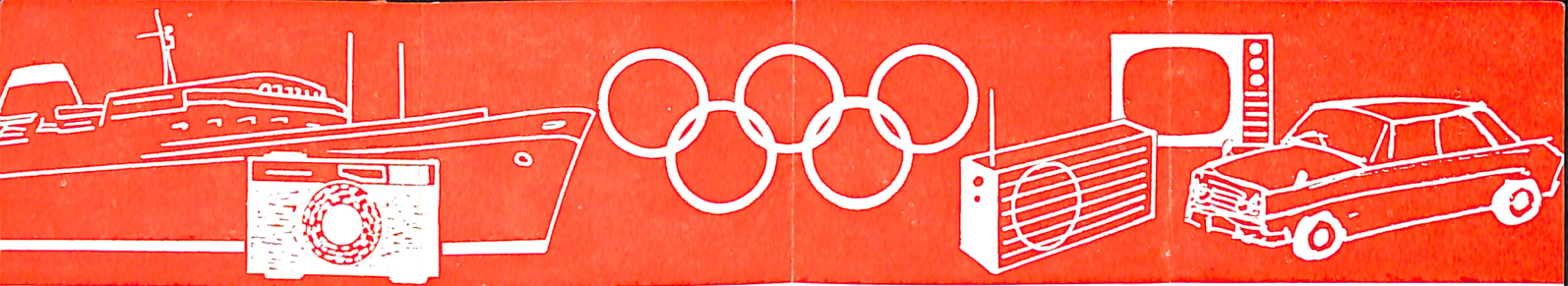


MOORE THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE LIBRARY



3 2042 10099214 2

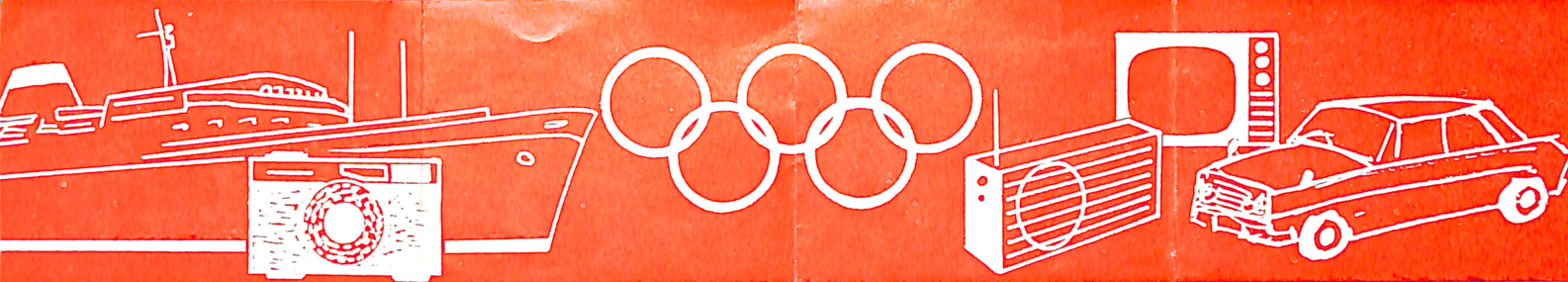




Transistors, Cars, Ships, Olympics — these flash to mind as we think of Japan today. Mt. Fuji, Cherry Blossom, Emperors and geisha girls are still there but in modern Japan they have a minor place.

There are 95 million Japanese people. All of them go to school for twelve years at least. 67 per cent of the work force of the nation in 1961 had completed a High School education. There are 300 universities with well over a million students enrolled. Someone has said — "Japan is mad about education." As a nation it is among the best educated in the world and its education is having effect in industry, business, government, art and religion. The United Church of Christ in Japan has more clergy with university doctorates than it can properly use.

Japan is a new nation come to birth out of the ashes of defeat in the Pacific war of 1941-45. The new nation has still to find the solution to many of the stresses of re-birth. For example, the destruction of the old family system is complete but the task remains to establish a new modern family relationship. The population explosion was stopped in the early 1950's by legalising abortion, but the nation is still searching for a less drastic solution.



JAPAN'S RELIGIOUS MIXTURE

The majority of Japanese follow Buddha, Shinto, or one of the many new religions which have sprung up since the war. Three-quarters of a million are Christians.

Eighty-nine different Christian Churches or sects were at work in Japan in 1963. The largest was the Roman Catholic Church with 300,000 members. Next in size were the United Church (187,817), The Spirit of Jesus Church (47,010), The Anglican Church (44,135) and the Orthodox Church (34,391).

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH (NIPPON SEIKOKAI)

The name of the Church in Japanese means literally "Japan Holy Catholic Church". It is a little gem of a church with some facets brightly gleaming and some still to be cut and polished. The first Anglican missionaries arrived in 1859 from America and England. All that exists now has come to life in 105 years.

It does all the things a church should do:

Conversions: It makes converts to the faith. Most of the baptisms in any year are of adults. Of the 44,135 adherents in 1963, 30,443 were baptised members, and of these 18,351 were communicant members. Adherents had grown by 5,000 in five years.

Ministry: 324 Japanese clergy and 10 Japanese Bishops minister the Word and Sacraments to the faithful in the yearly round of the Church's Calendar.

Witness: It maintains a witness in the nation more by the influence of its members than by the weight of any pronouncements. On public issues its voice is heard with all the other voices on the mass media.

Service: It serves the Japanese people in its own special ways. It has 43 educational institutions including two theological colleges, two universities and an atomic research centre. Its 119 kindergartens fill the pre-school gap in many suburbs and towns. It has 35 medical or social service centres including 5 hospitals, a leprosarium and a school for the blind.

Worship: It maintains the worship of God in its 271 churches and 67 chapels or mission centres. It has its own Prayer Book and Liturgy adopted unanimously by its General Synod in 1959.

Order: It orders its own affairs in ten Dioceses each with its own Bishop and Synod. It has a General Synod for the Province meeting every three years.

Communities: The Society of St. John the Evangelist has a religious order for men in Japan. The Community of Nazareth is a Japanese order for women.

Urban and Rural: Most of its members are urban intellectuals, but there are projects and parishes in the rural villages. One of these is the parish of St. Mary's, Izu, in the Diocese of Yokohama, started in 1949 by an Australian missionary but now staffed entirely by Japanese workers.

Most of the Anglican work in Japan is done by the Japanese Nippon Seikokai in its own strength, but it gladly accepts help from other parts of the Anglican Communion. It has maintained its own overseas missionary enterprise in Okinawa since 1954 with Japanese staff and funds.

Missionaries: There were 65 missionaries helping the Nippon Seikokai in 1963. They were 29 clergy, 5 laymen and 31 laywomen. Only people with particular specialised training or experience are now needed — most of the work of the Church can be done by the Japanese themselves. 35 of the missionaries are from the U.S.A., 17 from Canada and 13 from England. One of the latter, the Reverend David Chamberlain in the Diocese of Yokohama, is an Australian who first went to Japan in 1949 as a layman teacher sent by the Australian Board of Missions.

The total number of Japanese staff workers in parishes and in educational and medical centres has not been reported but in addition to the 324 Japanese clergy and 10 Bishops there are at least 1,000 Japanese serving the church full time. The 65 missionaries are assisting them at key points.

Funds: The money contributed by Japanese church members is insufficient to meet the opportunities facing the Church. This is partly because individual Japanese are far from rich and the Church lost all its central funds during the war. Money to help comes from the Anglican Church in U.S.A., Canada and England.

The Bishop of Yokohama, the Rt. Revd. Isaac Nosse (left), and the Revd. Isaku Kubotta (right), with the Revd. Hisashi Miyazawa on the day of his ordination to the Diaconate.



Australian Help: Four missionaries have been sent from Australia. The Revd. and Mrs. E. R. Harrison, 1914-1938; the Revd. and Mrs. F. W. Coaldrake, 1947-1956; Mr. David Chamberlain, 1949, and the Revd. and Mrs. H. D. Butler, 1957-1964. Each of these was, by agreement with the Bishops in Japan, "a gift from the Australian Church to the Japanese Church".

Since 1964 it has been felt that the Japanese church does not need a missionary from Australia but can well use money as a gift from the Australian Church. Through A.B.M. Budget grants the Australian Church is now sending over £3,000 each year to the General Synod Committee for External Relations. About half the grant is sent by that Committee to subsidize the parish in Izu which was started by the Australian missionary in 1949 and is not yet quite self-supporting. The Committee has used the balance of the grant for such things as:—

Hokkaido Diocese: Purchase of land for a new church and student centre at Iwamisawa.

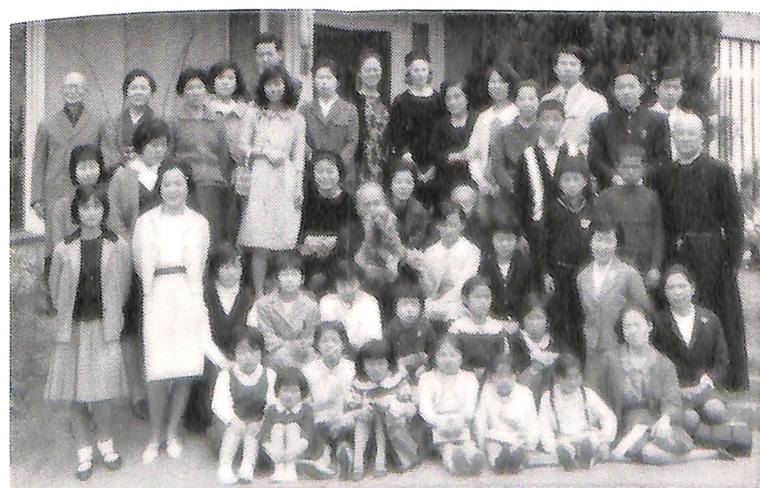
Tohoku Diocese: New buildings at Sendai and Iwaki.

North Kanto Diocese: New building at Ashikaga.

The grant is a block grant given to the Church to use at its own discretion.

Presiding Bishop: The Bishops of the Nippon Seikokai elect one of their number to be their Presiding Bishop. The Most Reverend Michael H. Yashiro has been Presiding Bishop since 1948. He paid a memorable visit to Australia in 1950, being the first Japanese into Australia after the war. He visited the Australian Church again in 1965 after spending some weeks in a ministry of reconciliation in the Pacific Islands.

The congregation of St. Mary's Church, Izu. On the right is the Revd. Hisashi Miyazawa, now in charge of St. Mary's.





THE PRESIDING BISHOP OF THE NIPPON SEIKOKAI
The Most Reverend Michael H. Yashiro.

Future Relations : The Australian Church should now be looking for opportunities to bring Japanese Church members to visit and minister in the Church in Australia. In 1965 the Inter-Church Trade and Industry Mission brought two Japanese priests to Australia for specialised work and experience in industrial chaplaincies in Melbourne.

In 1960-62 the Australian Church, through the Community of the Holy Name and the A.B.M., brought Sister Chiyo of the Community of Nazareth to Melbourne for training and experience. Soon after her return she was elected Mother of the Community.

A.B.M. has brought three Japanese for theological study in Australian Colleges since 1954.

The helpful exchange of people and money is the way to develop interdependence between the two Churches. There is a mutual obligation on the members of the two Churches to grow together in the service of the Lord of the Church.



THE AUSTRALIAN BOARD OF MISSIONS

N.S.W. : 511 Kent Street, Sydney.

Victoria : Cathedral Buildings, 201 Flinders Lane, Melbourne.

Queensland : Church House, Ann Street, Brisbane.

South Australia : 18 King William Road, North Adelaide.



Western Australia : Anglican Missionary Council of W.A.,
38a St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Tasmania : Overseas Department, 26 Fitzroy Place, Hobart.