



Rev. J. William Lamb of the Centennial United Church

"I go to Japan every Sunday", I told my startled friends when I last visited Tokyo. I then explained about our unique experience here of three congregations sharing our church building. I'm very proud of it and eager to tell of our cross-cultural fellowship in Christ, of the deeply moving World Wide Communion service and the spirit of harmony with which we are blessed.

It is, therefore, a genuine joy for me to send you greetings from the depths of my own heart, and on behalf of the Centennial Congregation on this occasion of your 25th Anniversary. In doing so, I assure you that every member would join me in a unanimous and hearty "AMEN".

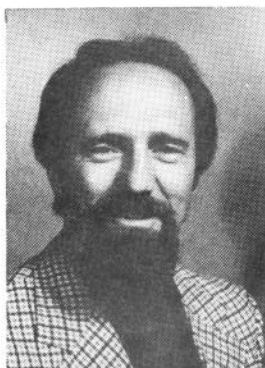


MINISTERS WHO SERVED THE NISEI CHURCH



1954-1955

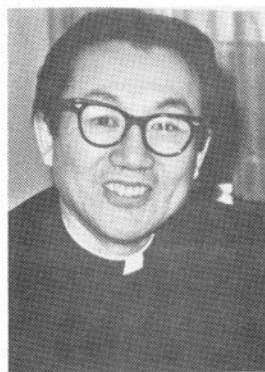
Rev. K. Shimizu, founder of the Nisei Church, with assistance from Emmanuel College students and guest speakers. Niseis met on first and third Sundays, and jointly with Isseis on second and fourth Sundays. Fireside fellowship on fifth Sundays.



1956-1959

Rev. Bruce Cunningham served on a half-time basis, sharing with the Church of All Nations.

In July, 1959, Rev. Cunningham left to serve in Bourlamaque, Quebec.



1960-1961

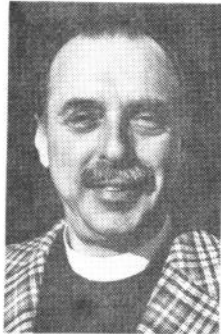
Rev. Edward Yoshioka served from September, 1960 to June, 1961. Nisei services were held every Sunday from September, 1960 with first full-time minister.

Rev Yoshioka left in July, 1961, to serve in Trinidad.



1961-1966

Rev. Minoru Takada was called from Alberta in July, 1961. He left in June, 1966, to serve at Kew Beach United Church.



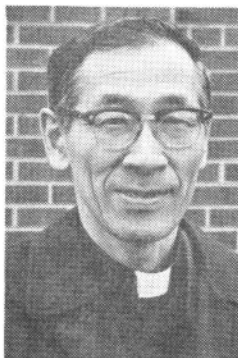
1966-1967

Rev. William Morris of Centennial United Church preached to the Niseis while Rev. Makio Norisue of the Issei Church conducted Board meetings for the Niseis.



1967-1969

Rev. Gordon Imai was called to serve the Niseis during his furlough from Okayama, Japan. He left in June, 1969, to return to Japan.



1969-1979

Rev. Ken Matsugu was called from Manitoba in 1969, where he served four years at the Northwest Interlake Pastoral Charge, and four years at the Fisher River Indian Reserve. He will leave June, 1979 for B.C.

REVEREND KOSABURO SHIMIZU, M.A., D.D.

The sudden death in June, 1962, of the Rev. Dr. Kosaburo Shimizu, founding minister of the Toronto Japanese United Church, while attending a Conference of Japanese United Churches in Winnipeg, Manitoba, saddened the hearts of Japanese Canadians throughout Canada. He was an uncommon man, dedicated to his calling and devoted to the welfare of the Japanese Canadians.

His life began in Japan, and in 1907, with his stepfather, young Kosaburo, age 14, emigrated to Canada. He came at a bad time; Japanese labourers were coming in by the thousands from Hawaii and Japan, and Vancouver was seething with racial unrest. Kosaburo was frightened but confident that the attitude towards the Japanese would improve. Understanding between the races was the key and he would do his utmost to bring harmony and peace to the community. But first, he must complete his education.

He worked as a houseboy with a Christian family in New Westminster, B.C. and during the day attended public school. Kosaburo graduated with high honours from high school and entered U.B.C. in 1915, receiving his B.A. in the Spring of 1919. After working one year to earn expenses for further study, Kosaburo attended Harvard University and obtained his M.A.

Kosaburo was torn between medicine and the ministry, and after much deliberation, entered Union Theological College. He served as summer student supply to Japanese churches in Victoria and the Okanagan, and as lay supply in Ocean Falls for one year. In 1926, he was called to serve the Powell Street Mission of the United Church.

The 1930's were difficult times, especially for the young Nisei coming into adulthood. Dr. Shimizu knew why. He had foreseen the clash of the old traditional value and customs of the Issei and the western ways of the Nisei. With skill and understanding, he worked to bridge the gap between the Issei and their offspring.

The end of the Depression brought a glimmer of hope and relief for Rev. Shimizu. He could now look for better days for the Japanese people, but hope for a new tomorrow dissolved on December 7, 1941. With his people, he went to Kaslo, B.C., and then to Eastern Canada.

Toronto, the new magnet for Japanese Canadians, was a cold and hostile city in the '40s. Opportunities were few, and discrimination still rampant. Although disappointed, but not disillusioned, Rev. Shimizu was called in 1945 to look after the Japanese needs, covering much of Eastern Canada. His cheerful disposition, unflinching optimism, words of encouragement, were an inspiration to the Japanese Canadians.

The decade, 1950-1960, were good years for the Japanese Canadians. Dark memories of the war years slowly faded. Hard work, diligence, perseverance, all the virtues ascribed to the Japanese Canadians were paying off. The Toronto Japanese United Church was established in 1946. Dr. Shimizu's long years of dedication and service were bearing fruit. His people were no longer disillusioned and fragmented, but confident and united.

Families were again working, living and praying together. The Japanese Canadians were back in the real world. And in 1955, the United Church conferred Rev. Shimizu with the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

Many Japanese Canadians say that it was the inherent characteristics of the Japanese race that pulled them through the dark war years and the troubled post war period. Many more say that it was the leadership and courage of men such as the Reverend Shimizu who inspired the Japanese Canadians to overcome such formidable obstacles.

Rev. Dr. Shimizu was a shining light during the darkest days, and even today, 17 years after his death, memories of the man Kosaburo are still enshrined in the hearts of many Japanese Canadians, especially in the minds and hearts of the congregation of the Toronto Japanese United Church.

Sam Ito



MRS. HIDE SHIMIZU

This is but a brief profile of a Christian woman who has given much of her life to the Japanese Canadian community during her past 71 years of life.

Mrs. Hide (Hyodo) Shimizu born in 1908, first became associated with the Christian church by the Gospel Hall summer preaching mission at the age of six. Her subsequent attendance at Sunday School was regular for ten years. But God's presence is evident throughout Hide's life.

Hide began her teaching career when, following university education at U.B.C. and one year of teacher training, she was appointed a teaching position in Steveston, B.C. Here, she remained until the evacuation.

In 1936, Hide was chosen by the JCCL to be part of an exciting and historical delegation sent to Ottawa to request franchise for all Canadians of Japanese ancestry. She was in good company: Dr. Ed Banno, Dr. Samuel Hayakawa, and Minoru Kobayashi.

The war did not signal an end to Hide's teaching skills and ambition. Hide strongly believed that the education of the Japanese Canadian children should not suffer. She would head for Hastings Park after a full day of teaching in Steveston to help plan daily primary grade studies. Stationed in New Denver, Hide then spent three years supervising grades one to three teachers at various relocation centre schools, also visiting the self-supporting areas in the Cariboo districts.

Coming to Toronto in 1945, Hide hoped to begin some handicraft occupation for the Issei with courses at the Ontario College of Art. It was here in Toronto that she joined College Street United Church and was married to Rev. K. Shimizu in 1948. She ably assisted her husband in his work with the Toronto Japanese United Church at Church of All Nations, Queen Street United and Centennial Churches. Her husband passed away in June, 1962.

Since those early days of the Toronto Japanese United Church, Hide has remained actively involved with the Japanese community. Her strong faith and concern for the welfare of others has led to her active support of numerous organizations. A listing of these organizations is merely a slight indication of the many hours of work that Hide has given so freely. She is an active supporter of: Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, Nisei Women's Club, Nisei United Church Women, Nipponia Home, Japan Fellowship Club, Toronto Centennial Committee, Momiji Kai, Spencer House, Annex of the JCCC, Metro Caravan, World Leprosy Mission, Church of All Nations Credit Union, knitting for the Red Cross. You will also find her behind the Regal Card table, attending to Clerk of Session duties for the Nisei Congregation which appointed her in 1976, in addition to personal visitations to the homes of elderly persons who may be lonely or restricted in their mobility.

The extent of this energetic lady's community involvement during her life is limitless. Her devotion and vitality have seldom failed her in carrying out the work God has asked of her. A humble tribute to this dynamic person.

Katie Nishino/Kim Uyede-Kai



REV. KEN KUNIO MATSUGU (AND NOBY, BRUCE AND DEE-ANN)

Rev. Ken Matsugu has served and supported the Toronto Japanese United Church congregation and the lives of the many he has touched. It is upon his imminent departure that both congregation and friends are enabled an opportunity to express their respect, appreciation, and love for this energetic and humble man who has served as our church minister for the past ten years.

Born in Vancouver, B.C., Ken attended Powell Street Japanese United Church Sunday School, as well as public and Japanese Language schools. During the tumultuous war years, he furthered his high school education in Kaslo, B.C., completing his grade 12 in Chatham, Ontario. His skills led him to a carpentry apprenticeship and nine years of employment in this trade.

A month at Five Oaks Lay Training Centre in 1955 was a turning point in Ken's life. There he met, was influenced and encouraged by Rev. Bev Oaten in his decision to become a candidate for the ministry. He eventually attained this goal through diligent study at the University of Toronto, Victoria College for his B.A., and then Emmanuel College for his B.D. degree. Subsequent student field work took him to northern Ontario and Winnipeg. Ken then became the first member of the Toronto Japanese United Church to enter the ministry, as he became ordained by the United Church of Canada in 1961.

Ken began his ministry with callings to the North West Interlake Pastoral Charge and Fisher River Indian Reserve, both in Northern Manitoba. In July, 1969, he accepted our call as minister to the Nisei congregation of the Toronto Japanese United Church.

Ken's years with our church have been active. Ken, appearing tireless and uncomplaining, has characteristically pitched in to tackle the necessary but often menial tasks: washing dishes, unclogging a sink drain, running the Gestetner machine so that we may receive our monthly newsletters or chaperoning a young peoples' dance. And in all these tasks, his sense of humour remained ever close at hand.

In addition to his minister's duties in the Toronto area, Ken has also lent valuable assistance and skills in carpentry to the repairs and alterations required at Camp Koyu. The many hours of work he has willingly contributed during the summer months of the early years of the camp have added much to the enhancement of Koyu.

Ken's wife, Noby, a deaconess, and their two children, Bruce, 14 years old, and Dee-Ann, 12 years old, have also given time and energies to the activities and high spirits of our church. Noby's warm personality always conveys sincerity, caring, and a welcome to all. Her love of young people is reflected in her active involvement as a teacher with the Sunday School and as the dynamic force behind the CGIT. It was not uncommon to see Noby lead her Sunday School class in a week's hectic activities at Koyu and appear still energetic at the week's end, her enthusiasm undaunted.

Rev. Ken Matsugu and his family will have been with the Nisei congregation for ten years in July, 1979. We have many fond memories of these past years and we wish Ken God's blessings in his future endeavours.

Mas Endo

## "WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR NISEI CHURCH?"

Have you stopped to look at what is happening in church recently? If you have, you will have seen a beehive of furious activity: young people taking judo; learning how to gracefully twirl a baton; singing in choirs; young people everywhere you turn; and a small core of adults serving coffee; attending endless meetings; working in the kitchen; selling tickets for this and that; ever improving on the church building by installing storm windows; painting the gym; fixing faulty doors. All good activities, you will agree. . . 701 Dovercourt Road has never looked better.

Yet, underneath all this attractive exterior, is there really evidence of growth in our church? Can we as a church look back on the past 25 years and state with confidence that we have progressed? Perhaps this 25th Anniversary Year might be a good time to reflect and ask some hard questions about the future of our church.

How does one measure a church's growth? Surely not by financial statements or quantity of programs. In the case of the Sunday Church School, is the measuring stick to be the number of graduates, dropouts, new members, or how many are still around?

We need a barometer by which we can measure growth or stagnation. Criteria such as these may start us on our way to conscious growth:

- a. Do our actions as a church and as individuals demonstrate or reflect our Christian beliefs? Have we become a "warm and friendly" church where we actively care for each other, particularly those in need?
- b. How many new faces have you seen lately? How many have returned?
- c. Are our individual actions and attitudes such that others stop, take notice and admire what they see?
- d. What are our priorities as a church? Let us make them known. We must set goals as well as planning and executing innovative programming.

The Nisei church is an ethnic church, thereby fulfilling a dual purpose. It has the responsibilities of any neighbourhood church in providing a place of worship with Christ as its head. It also serves a segment of the Japanese Canadian community in Toronto for perhaps primarily social fellowship purposes, a meaningful purpose in its own right. The question of priority, planning and goal setting becomes, thus, doubly important. Keeping in mind that we are Christians first, Canadian second, and Japanese third, our priorities for ministry seem to lie logically with the local Japanese community. But let's keep our priorities straight. Are we celebrating 1979 because we are part of the Toronto Japanese community? Or because as Christians, we have enjoyed a fellowship united in Christ for the past 25 years?

The future, as always, is uncertain. However, we must plan for it; it should contain our dreams, our hopes and our objectives. Think about it, pray about it. It is our church - yours and mine.

Roy Fukuzawa/Kim Uyede-Kai



Mr. Alfred T. Kondo, Issei Church

On the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Nisei Congregation, I wish to extend my heartiest congratulations to the members of the present and the past, and hope to witness your continuing efforts with God's blessing in glorifying His work in the days to come.

Looking back to the evacuation, there is similarity to the history of the Israelites and their return from exile with new hope in the Promised Land. While the compulsory dispersal of the Japanese during World War II did bring forth bitter resentment, hardship and grief, later adjustment to normal life produced some unexpected benefits.

While the United Church of Canada agreed with the Government policy of encouraging assimilation into the local church, the need for special separate Nisei work permitted the formation of the Nisei congregation in 1954. The new chapel was created, the Church School expanded, a campsite arranged for summer services and extra group functions. With the increase of these activities, church attendance and growth of spirit developed, worthy of praise and admiration.

The future for the congregation is dependent largely on the younger generation. It is worth noting the words of the prophet Jeremiah, "I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me. You will come and pray to me and I will answer you". (Jer. 29:11-12).

Mr. Norman Otsuka, Sansei

In these times of frequent doubt and difficulty, our Nisei Church is strong and active in the Japanese community, and has had this reputation for 25 long and prosperous years. During this 25th year of our Church's existence, there arises the question of supporters of the Church in the future. This question, however, is being forgotten due to the infusion of new blood, new energies, and new ideas into our prestigious Church. As we look in retrospect, we can go forward with the same pride and ambition as did our founding predecessors. Now, the Sanseis are left with the task of weathering the storms of the Church's future, and hopefully it will be done as well as it has been in the past 25 years.