

# CHRONOLOGY FOR 1963

( January—June )

*Prepared by Kyōko Motomochi*

**Jan. 1**—One and a half million people were reported to have visited Meiji Shrine on New Year's Day. This was said to be the largest number since World War II.

**Jan. 2**—174,740 people were reported to have visited the Palace to greet the Imperial Family.

✓ **Jan. 8**—Six leaders of Sōka Gakkai, including President Daisaku Ikeda, departed for the United States on a campaign to spread the movement abroad. Three leaders left the next day for Europe.

—Dr. Shōzō Kōno, Prof. Emeritus of Kokugakuin University and priest in charge of Tamashiki Shrine, died at the age of eighty.

—Dr. Shōson Miyamoto, Prof. Emeritus of Tokyo University, lectured before the Emperor on “the Idea of the Middle Path in Buddhism.”

**Jan. 9**—The new Internunciature, Archbishop Mario Cagna, arrived in Tokyo.

—A campaign was launched by Nishi Honganji to raise a ¥4 million fund for building Buddhist halls in leper colonies in Japan.

**Jan. 10**—Prof. K. J. Zwi Werblowsky

of Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel, gave a public lecture on Japanese religions under the sponsorship of the International Institute for the Study of Religions.

**Jan. 14**—Reiyū Kai received permission to open a high school in Tokyo next spring.

—The first meeting of promoters for the celebration of the 1200th anniversary of the Ganjin's death was held at Sensōji, Tokyo. (Ganjin [d. 763] was an eminent Chinese monk and the founder of the Ritsu-shū in Japan. He also initiated the formal ordination of Buddhist monks.)

**Jan. 20**—The problem of developing human resources and encouraging religious education was taken up at a meeting of the Liberal Democratic Party.

**Jan. 22**—A bill to add new national holidays, including Foundation Day (Feb. 11), Bon Festival (July 15), and Athletic Day (first Saturday of October) was proposed in the Diet by 24 Liberal Democrats.

**Jan. 24**—The Hiroshima Peace Marchers arrived in Warsaw, Poland, to attend a meeting of the International

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Peace Committee.

**Jan. 25**—The Japan Bible Society sent 100,000 more copies of the Indonesian Bible to Indonesia.

**Jan. 26**—The Japan Religionist Peace Conference declared their opposition to the revival of February 11 as National Foundation Day.

**Jan. 28**—The Kyoto Buddhist Conference (Kyōto Bukkyō-to Kaigi), the Japanese-Chinese Association for Buddhist Studies (Nitchū Bukkyō Kenkyū Kai), and the Japanese-Chinese Buddhist Conference (Nitchū Bukkyō Kondan Kai), united in a ceremony celebrating the 1200th anniversary of the Ganjin. (cf. Jan. 14)

**Jan. 30**—The Rev. Nichijō Fujii of the Kuonji, Minobusan, accepted the office of chief abbot of the Nichiren sect.

—The Gandhi Peace League (Gandhi Heiwa Remmei) held the sixteenth memorial service commemorating Gandhi's martyrdom at the Yasuda Seimei Hall, Tokyo. Telegrams were sent to both Prime Minister Nehru of India and Prime Minister Chou En-lai of Communist China, appealing for an early peaceful settlement on their border problem.

**Jan. 31**—The local court of Utsunomiya held the first hearing in a lawsuit over the ownership of seven buildings at the Tōshōgū, Nikkō, between Tōshōgū and

Ninōji.

**Feb. 3**—The Association of Shinto Shrines awarded honors to about 200 priests and laymen for their contribution to Shinto organizations.

—The Reverend Shōzen Nakayama of Tenri-kyō left for Brazil by way of the United States in order to promote overseas mission work.

**Feb. 5**—The Christian Scout Promoting Commission held its first regional meeting at the Palace Club, Tokyo, to decide the Christian standards in making awards to scouts in both Catholic and Protestant bodies.

**Feb. 7**—The Japan Branch of International Christian Leadership held a breakfast at the Hotel Marunouchi, Tokyo, with about 80 in attendance, mostly businessmen and politicians.

**Feb. 11**—About 150 meetings took place all over Japan celebrating National Foundation Day *Kigen-setsu*. In Tokyo about 3,000 met at the Hibiya Public Hall after which representatives went to the Diet to present a resolution demanding the revival of the day.

**Feb. 11**—150 men of the French navy paid their respects at Yasukuni Shrine. This is said to have been the first formal postwar visit paid by any foreign servicemen.

**Feb. 12**—Seven distinguished scholars were nominated to membership of the

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Japan Academy (Nihon Gakushi Kai), including Dr. Enshō Kanakura, professor emeritus of Tōhoku University, who is prominent in the field of Buddhist philosophy.

**Feb. 13**—The All Japan Buddhist Federation held its regular meeting and discussed an ¥ 8 million budget for the coming year and decided the rules and membership of a non-sectarian Buddhist movement to be undertaken in cooperation with Buddhist Diet members. President Kōshō Ōtani stated that articles 20 and 89 of the Constitution should be revised and urged that the staff study the subject of their revision.

**Feb. 15**—A lecture meeting sponsored by the Japan Buddhist Youth Association and the Japan Buddhist Women's League was held at the Yomiuri Hall, Tokyo, in commemoration of Buddha's attainment of Enlightenment.

**Feb. 19**—A thanksgiving service was observed at the Christian Center, Ginza, Tokyo by the United Church of Christ in Japan to celebrate the distribution of the millionth copy of its hymnal.

**Feb. 26**—The second Japan Keswick Convention was held from February 26 to March 1st at the Kowakien Hotel, Hakone, with an attendance of 1,300 from some 65 organizations. Special guest speakers were the Rev. George Duncan of England and Dr. Paul Reese

of the United States.

**Feb. 28**—Because of internal dissension over whether to oppose all nuclear tests regardless of the country concerned, Kaoru Yasui, Executive Director, and the other directors resigned from the Council against Atom and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyō).

**Mar. 8**—Eighty-five Christian leaders of Asia met for four days at the Baptist conference center, Amagisan-sō, under the auspices of the East Asia Christian Council to discuss the problems of East Asia and means for better co-ordination of the activities of Christian churches and other agencies.

—The Japan Buddhist Council for World Federation was inaugurated at the Gakushi Kaikan, Kanda, Tokyo, with the Rev. Sōgen Asahina of Enkakujī as president.

—The Rev. Ryōken Saeki, abbot of Hōryūji and first chief abbot of Shōtoku-shū after it became independent of Hossō-shū, passed away at the age of eighty-two.

**March 11**—Six big temples in Nara (Tōdaiji, Kōfukuji, Yakushiji, Hōryūji, Saidaiji, and Tōshōdaiji) have declined to send Buddhist images and other articles to a special exhibition to be sponsored in connection with the 1964 Olympic games.

**March 14**—The All Japan Buddhist

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Federation inaugurated a Council to Study Current Problems at the Prince Hotel, Akasaka, Tokyo and to promote special welfare and character building activities. 61 sects participated.

**March 21**—Archbishop Mario Cagna, the Apostolic Internuncio dedicated St. Maria Cathedral, Osaka. (This will accommodate 3,000 persons and is the largest in the Orient.)

**March 24**—A "Silk Road Art Exhibition" opened in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Ōtani Expedition under the sponsorship of the Yomiuri Press and with the joint support of Nishi Honganji, Kyoto, and Tsukiji Honganji, Tokyo. (Ōtani Expedition, launched by the Rev. Kōzui Ōtani, the 22nd chief abbot of Nishi Honganji, was sent three times to trace the route of the transmission of Buddhism from India to China and to bring back archeological remains.)

**April 1**—A campaign for sending Buddhist books to Okinawa was launched by the All Japan Buddhist Federation. —The Cultural Properties Protection Commission held a five-day special meeting to prepare a report to the Minister of Education recommending new items to be designated, including thirteen new buildings, 73 other objects, and some traditional skills.

**April 2**—The 16th annual meeting of

the National Christian Council was held for two days in Tokyo. The Rev. Chitose Kishi of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Japan was elected chairman. (The total membership of the Protestant and Orthodox churches was reported to be approximately 442,000.)

**April 3**—The last meeting in Tokyo of the Baptist (Southern) New Life Movement Crusade was held at the Korakuen Stadium with an attendance of about 12,000. (More than 1,000 persons signed decision cards.)

**April 4**—The Rev. and Mrs. Eijun Ōtani, president of the Association for Japanese Chinese Buddhist Exchange Program (Nitchū Bukkyō Kōryū Kondan Kai) returned from the mainland after talks with the leaders of the Chinese Buddhist Association.

**April 11**—Yasukuni Shrine published a tentative draft of principles for changing its present status as a religious corporation into a special corporate body for the preservation of its unique character and tradition, which will require new legislation to implement.

**April 13**—Higashi Honganji celebrated the 700th anniversary of Saint Shinran's death.

—The Rev. Setsutane Konkō, the third patriarch of Konkō-kyō, died at the age of 82. His eldest son, Kagamitarō will succeed to the office temporarily.

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—Among 123 graduates of the Department of Shinto Studies at Kokugakuin University only 22 became Shinto priests.

✓ **April 17**—In the fifth postwar general local election, Sōka Gakkai sent 56 members to prefectural and ward assemblies. Thus its Kōmei Seiji Remmei has become the third party.

—Mrs. Rhena Eckert, only daughter of Dr. Albert Schweitzer, arrived in Tokyo at the invitation of the Japan Schweitzer Friends Society (Nihon Schweitzer Tomo no Kai) for a fortnight of lectures on her father's work in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Schweitzer Hospital in Lambarene, Republic of Gabon, Africa.

**April 18**—A Noh Drama dealing with the Resurrection of Christ was produced at the Noh Theater (Nōgaku Dō) in Tokyo.

**April 20**—The All Japan Buddhist Students Self-governing Association (Zen Nihon Bukkyō Gakusei Jichi Rengo) was launched at Ryūkoku University in Kyoto with an attendance of representatives from nine Buddhist universities.

**April 21**—Dr. Edwin O. Rischauer, American Ambassador to Japan, paid a visit to Enryakuji, Hieizan, to present a copy of his translation of *Ennin's Diary* and to attend a service in commemoration of the 1100th anniversary of Ennin, Jikaku Daishi (Great Teacher).

**April 23**—Sophia University (Jōchi Daigaku) opened a two-year night school course for the theological training of lay believers.

—A committee for the celebration of the 1200th anniversary of Ganjin was launched at the Toshi Central Hall, Tokyo, attended by about 200 representatives. The Rev. Ryusen Takashina, the chief abbot of the Sōtō Sect, was elected president.

**April 25**—Meiji Shrine gave permission to use the Outer Garden (Gai'en) as the site for the May Day celebration on the understanding that it would be the last one to be held there.

**April 29**—A Christian Rally was held at St. Paul's High School, in Saitama Prefecture. (2,500 attended)

—About 6,000 people met at the auditorium of Nippon University in Tokyo to organize a national council to preserve the national flag. (The Association of Shinto Shrines and Seichō-no-Ie were among the participating organizations.) Mr. Shigeru Yoshida, former prime minister, was elected president.

**April 30**—The Japan Christian Liaison Committee announced its opposition to the bill revising the national holidays.

**May 1**—The Christian Association for the Defence of the Constitution, headed by the Rev. Shogo Yamaya, sent a protest to President Kōshō Ōtani of the

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All-Japan Buddhist Federation and President Kenzō Takayanagi of the Constitution Investigation Council concerning the Rev. Kōshō Ōtani's statement favoring revision of the Constitution.

**May 3**—A general assembly uniting Lutheran denominations into the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Japan (Nihon Fukuin Rūteru Kyōkai) took place at the Lutheran Seminary in Tokyo.

—The Rev. Chitose Kishi was elected chairman. The Kinki Lutheran Church (Kinki Ruteru Kyōkai) did not participate. The Lutheran Church of Japan (Missouri Synod) attended as an observer.

—Seicho-No-Ie held a national rally to stress the necessity of revising the Constitution.

**May 4**—The Japan Society for Indian and Buddhist Studies held its 14th meeting at Nippon University for two days. The theme for the symposium was "Buddhism and Peace."

—Chinese representatives arrived in Tokyo for a fortnight stay to participate in commemorative services for Ganjin.

**May 5**—A quarterly magazine in Korean was inaugurated by Tenri-kyō to promote missionary work in Korea.

**May 8**—The Rev. Josen Kenchu was elected chief abbot of the Shōtoku Sect succeeding the late Rev. Ryōken Saeki. (The head temple of the Shōtoku Sect

is the famous Hōryūji in Nara Prefecture.)

**May 11**—The Rev. Gihō Kimura was elected the 53rd chief abbot of Ōbaku-shū. He has served in the headquarters since the age of twenty-one.

**May 15**—The Supreme Court gave a verdict of guilty in the case of a priestess, Yae Nishida, who had caused the death of a believer by the use of "magical" means for healing.

**May 17**—The Japan Science Academy (Nihon Gakujutsu Kaigi) held a symposium on the science of man at Kyoto University in response to the increasing interest in developing human resources.

**May 18**—The All Japan Buddhist Federation took exception to the protest of the Christian Association for the Defense of the Constitution. The Federation states that it is neither for nor against revision of the Constitution, but only desires that a closer examination of the subject be made. (cf. Feb. 13 and May 1)

**May 21**—Ōtani University launched a two-year research project on Manshi Kiyozawa (1863—1903), the first president of the University, which will be focused on the subject of the modernization of Buddhism. A grant to assist in this study has been received from the Ministry of Education.

**May 20**—About 30,000 people attended

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the funeral ceremony for the late Rev. Setsutane Konkō of Konkō-kyō at the headquarters. (cf. Apr. 13)

**May 22**—The Rev. Iichirō Kanai, president of the Japan Biblical Seminary, died at the age of seventy-six.

**May 23**—The Institute for the Study of Zen Culture (Zen Bunka Kenkyū Sho) applied to the Ministry of Education for incorporation. The Institute is supported by all Zen schools, and is scheduled to be inaugurated in September at the library of Hanazono University.

**May 26**—The world convention of the United Bible Society was held for a week at Hakone, attended by representatives from twenty-three countries.

**May 27**—The Buddhist Peace Conference was held in Tokyo under the joint sponsorship of the Headquarters of World Peace Movement (Sekai Risshō Heiwa Undō Hombu), the Japan Buddhist Youth Association and the Buddhist Peace Council of Nihon-zan Myōhōji in order to expand their activities in promoting the Buddhist campaign for world peace and to deepen their mutual understanding.

**May 30**—The officials of Meiji Shrine were subjected to public criticism because of a decision to rent the baseball stadium to professional baseball teams. The Diet sent members to study the case, and condemned the shrine for its lack

of consideration of public feeling and the Ministry of Education for its neglect to properly guide the Institution.

**June 3**—The eleventh conference of the All Japan Buddhist Federation was held for two days in Fukuoka, Kyūshū. The theme was "How to realize the idea of harmony of Prince Shōtoku."

**June 4**—The king of Thailand, visiting Japan as an official guest, sent a messenger to present flowers and a donation to Yasukuni Shrine and pay respects at the tomb for the unidentified war dead at Chidorigafuchi Park.

**June 6**—Peter Tetsuo Cardinal Doi, archbishop of Tokyo, left for Rome to attend the conclave to elect a new pope.

**June 11**—A mass for the late pope, John XXIII at St. Ignatius Church, Yotsuya, Tokyo, was attended by the Crown Prince, representing the emperor, Prime Minister Hayato Ikeda, and other dignitaries.

**June 15**—A party in honor of the publication of a Japanese translation of Dr. Edwin O. Reischauer's *Ennin's Travels in Tang China* was held at Gakushi Kaikan, Kanda, Tokyo.

**June 19**—The Japan Peace Conference held a meeting at Denzui'in, Koishikawa, Tokyo, to protest the violation of the freedom of faith by the South Vietnam government.

**June 20**—The Supporters Association

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for the construction of the Tokyo Catholic Cathedral was inaugurated at the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce. A campaign was launched to raise 100 million yen toward the total expense of 400 million yen.

—The South Vietnamese ambassador to Japan invited a number of representatives of the All Japan Buddhist Federation to the embassy for a discussion of the recent religious struggles in South Vietnam.

**June 21**—Dr. Teruji Ishizu, professor of philosophy of religion and chairman of the Department of Humanities, was elected president of Tōhoku University.

—The executive committee of the Council against Atom and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyō) voted to re-organize and hold another world conference in Hiroshima in August. (cf. Feb. 28)

—The standing committee of Higashi Honganji sent a telegram of protest to President Ngo Dinh Diem of South Vietnam, sympathizing with the South Vietnam Buddhist Council, and demanding mediation between the two by the Pope.

**June 24**—A round table discussion, held under the sponsorship of the Chūgai

Nippō on how to cultivate the religious mind, was attended by Liberal Democrats as well as representatives of religious and academic organizations.

**June 25**—The executive committee of the All Japan Buddhist Federation sent an appeal to the chairman of the World Fellowship of Buddhists, requesting mediation between the president of South Vietnam and Buddhists.

**June 26**—The National Christian Council of Japan and the United Church of Christ in Japan issued statements against the bill to revise the national holidays and sent copies to members of the cabinet, the chairmen of the Lower and Upper houses of the Diet, and the editors of local newspapers. (cf. Jan. 22)

**June 29**—The Kantō Branch of the International Buddhist Institute, a student organization in Buddhist universities, held a four-day summer retreat at Hakone, under the sponsorship of Komazawa University.

**June 30**—The Hiroshima-Auschwitz Peace Marchers returned home after their Peace March, which included visits to more than 50 countries. (cf. Apr. 19, 1962 and Jan. 24, 1963)



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## GLOSSARY

- Amagisan-sō 天城山荘  
 Asahina, Sōgen 朝比奈宗源  
 Chidori-ga-fuchi 千鳥ヶ淵  
 Chūgai Nippō 中外日報  
 Denzūin 伝通院  
 Doi, Tatsuo 土井辰雄  
 En'nin 円仁  
 Enryakuji 延暦寺  
 Fujii, Nichijō 藤井日静  
 Fukuoka 福岡  
 Gakushi Kaikan 学生会館  
 Gandi Heiwa Renmei ガンジー平和連盟  
 Ganjin 鑑真  
 Gensuikyō 原水協  
 Ginza 銀座  
 Hakone 箱根  
 Hanozono 花園  
 Hibiya 日比谷  
 Hiei-zan 比叡山  
 Higashi Honganji 東本願寺  
 Hiroshima 広島  
 Hōryūji 法隆寺  
 Hossō-shū 法相宗  
 Ikeda, Daisaku 池田大作  
 Ikeda, Hayato 池田隼人  
 Ishizu, Teruji 石津照璽  
 Jikaku Daishi 慈覚大師  
 Jōchi Daigaku 上智大学  
 Kanai, Ichirō 金井為一郎  
 Kanekura, Enshō 金倉円照  
 Kenchū, Jōsen 間中定泉  
 Kigensetsu 紀元節  
 Kimura, Gihō 木村宜法  
 Kinki 近畿  
 Kishi, Chitose 岸千年  
 Kiyozawa, Manshi 清沢満之  
 Koishikawa 小石川  
 Kokugakuin 国学院  
 Komazawa 駒沢  
 Kōmei Seiji Renmei 公明政治連盟  
 Konkō, Kagamitarō 金光鑑太郎  
 Konkō, Setsutane 金光摂胤  
 Kōno, Shōzō 河野省三  
 Kōraknen 後楽園  
 Kowaki'en 小涌園  
 Kuonji 久遠寺  
 Kyoto Bukkyō-to no Kai 京都仏教徒の会  
 Kyūshū 九州  
 Meiji 明治  
 Minobu 身延  
 Miyamoto, Shōson 宮本正尊  
 Nakayama, Shōzen 中山正善  
 Nara 奈良  
 Nichiren 日蓮  
 Nihon Fukuin Rūteru Kyōkai  
     日本福音ルーテル教会  
 Nihon Gakujutsu Kaigi 日本学会会議  
 Nihon Gakushi'in 日本学士院  
 Nihon Kirisuto Kyōdan 日本基督教団  
 Nihon Rōdō Kyōkai 日本労働協会  
 Nihon Schweitzer Tomo no Kai  
     日本シュヴァイツァー友の会  
 Nikkō 日光  
 Nishida, Yae 西田ヤエ

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Nishi Honganji 西本願寺  
 Nitchū Bukkyō Kenkyū Kai  
     日中仏教研究会  
 Nitchū Bukkyō Kōryū Kondan Kai  
     日中仏教交流懇談会  
 Nōgaku Dō 能楽堂  
 Ōbaku-shū 黄檗宗  
 Ōtani, Eijun 大谷瑩潤  
 Ōtani, Kōshō 大谷光照  
 Reiyū Kai 霊友会  
 Rinnō-ji 輪王寺  
 Risshō Kōsei Kai 立正佼成会  
 Ritsu-shū (Risshū) 津宗  
 Ryūkokū 竜谷  
 Saeki, Ryōken 佐伯良謙  
 Saidaiji 西大寺  
 Seichō-no-ie 生長の家  
 Sekai Risshō Heiwa Undō Hombu  
     世界立正平和運動本部  
 Sensōji 浅草寺  
 Shinran 親鸞  
 Shōtoku-shū 聖徳宗

Sōka Gakkai 創価学会  
 Sōtō 曹洞  
 Takashima, Rōsen 高階瓏仙  
 Takayanagi, Kenzō 高柳賢三  
 Tamashiki 玉敷  
 Tenri-kyō 天理教  
 Tōdaiji 東大寺  
 Tōhoku 東北  
 Toshi 都市  
 Tōshōgū 東照宮  
 Tsukiji 築地  
 Utsunomiya 宇都宮  
 Yamaya, Shōgo 山谷省吾  
 Yasuda, Seimei 安田生命  
 Yasui, Kaoru 安井郁  
 Yasukuni 靖国  
 Yoshida, Shigeru 吉田茂  
 Yomiuri 読売  
 Yotsuya 四谷  
 Zen Bunka Kenkyū Sho 禅文化研究所  
 Zen Nippon Bukkyō Gakusei Jichi Rengō  
     全日本学生自治連合