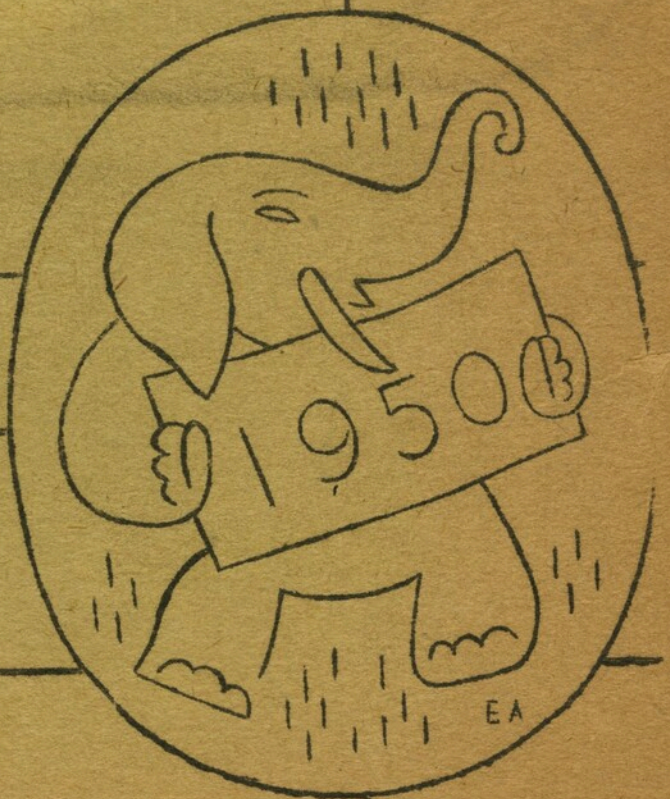
H. Suzuki

Christ Congregational Church

nisei



THE PASSAGE - WHY?

-Hank Suzuki, Editor

One of the invariable dilemmas of any growing organization is that expansion is intimately connected with a corresponding loss of unity and fellowship.

Such is the problem which faces us now and which will assume even greater proportions as new members join our ranks. Frequently, among our members can be heard the expression, "Who is that? It's getting so I don't even know who belongs to the church anymore!"

As the church gains in size and influence, so must all its facilities, including its medium of communication. It can live up to the purpose for which it was created only if you as readers encourage and participate in its publication.

The Passage has attempted to do its part in conveying a sense of "Oneness in Christ" - - this is our common meeting ground. If through its columns you have learned more about your fellow man, The Passage is accomplishing its goal.



THE CHILDREN'S CORNER
Mrs. Tosh Hirabayashi

A year ago we started our nursery with three youngsters, (Joanne Aki, Joan Nakayama, and Stephan Hirabayashi) but as time went by and our congregation grew, our nursery also grew. At present we have thirty-one children in regular attendance. They are as follows:

Joanne Aki
Galen Aki
Janice Doi
Stephan Hirabayashi
Marsha Hirano
Gordon Itani
Richard Itami
Jon Ezaki
Glenn Ezaki
Lucy Ikeda
Butch Ikeda
Jennifer Ikeda
Diane Ikeda
Sandra Kodani
Larry Kodani
Linda Miyake
Karen Miyake
Marsha Mushino
Morita
Morita
Rickey Nagai
Leslie Nagai
Asa Oye
Patsy Shintani
Susie Otake
Jimmy Otake
Janice Takemoto
Christopher Takemoto
Joan Nakayama
Marsha Yamada
Terry Yamada
Carole Yanagiwa
Toto Yamauchi
Helen Carol Suzuki

Sunday School is held on the 13th floor from 10:30 to 11:00. While the adult service is in progress, the children are taken down to the 5th floor where we have the use of two rooms for the children's recreation. Mrs. Aki has charge of the children between 5 and 9 years of age Honker has charge of the younger children.

We were very fortunate in having Miss Mary Venable, Director of Children Work for the Chicago Congregational Union, help in getting our Sunday School started.

During the recreation hour the children work with modeling clay, crayons and paper cut outs.

Everyone is cordially invited to have their children join us in our worship and recreation periods.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Jack Okawara, Chairman

The Board would like to go on record as stating that ALL THE CREDIT for its successful operation is to be extended to each and every member of the Christ Congregational Church (Nisei) of Chicago.

Due to the wholehearted cooperation and the keen spirit in which this Board has responded to the needs of our Church, we were not confronted with the usual problems faced by a similar group.

The original Board included Messrs. Tetsuo Takayanagi, Dave Arakawa, Ken Kushino and myself. However, business took Tets and Dave out of the state and we were greatly handicapped until Kaz Nagai and Hank Suzuki were elected to fill the vacancies and a full Board was once more in operation.

One of the goals achieved by this Board was the ability to work smoothly and efficiently with the Board of Deacons. We considered our respective problems at the joint board meetings. Because our needs were common, we were able to act faster and to present a well thought-over plan or suggestion to the members of the congregation.

Our biggest problem is the streamlining of the present constitution as it was designed for a much larger church. It is sincerely hoped that the constitution, as revised, will be accepted. It will be an important step and a progressive one, much needed to enhance the administration of our Church. The constitution should fit the needs of the church and not the church to fit the constitution.

A word about the Common Council Meetings with the Issei Church. These meetings attended by a Deacon and a Trustee have smoothed the workings of our joint endeavors, such as the joint picnic, joint worship services and Christmas programs. From these meetings emerged a group and a committee which performed greatly towards a wonderful meeting of the minds.

A heartfelt thanks to each and everyone of you and to groups and committees and officers of our Church for a wonderful year of progressiveness. The Reverend Aki shares a major portion of our gratitude.

CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE REPORT



The amount of $25,000.00 is being held in reserve by the Chicago Congregational Union and the Church Building Society in New York City to help towards the purchase and the renovation of a building to serve as a meeting place for both the Issei and the Nisei Churches. Nineteen Thousand Dollars of the $25,000.00 is an outright grant for our Church Building.

The foundation of our building fund has been laid through the generosity and kindness of the family of the late Mr. T. Kushino, in whose memorium, the contribution has been set aside as the "T. Kushino Memorial Building Fund".

Although we have investigated a number of buildings, to date nothing suitable strategically located in the city has been found. We hope that in 1951 the home of our Church will be established. With the help and cooperation of all our members and friends, we will be able to secure our Church.

BENEFIT CONCERT PROVES SUCCESS

November 17, 1950 was one of our most eventful days in the brief history of our Church. On that day Miss Ruby Yoshino, accompanied by Mr. Rudolf Schaar at the piano, gave a concert at Kimball Hall under our auspices. This concert was a big success in every sense of the word. The Tribune and Herald-American gave Miss Yoshino excellent revues.

The financial success of this venture can be attributed to the hard work and initiative of General Chairman Vic Shintani; Ticket Chairman, Kaz Nagai; Publicity, Reverend George Aki and Joe Nakayama; Hall, Jack Okawara; Treasurer, Shinro Matsumoto; Liaison, John Yoshino; Posters, Eva Arakawa and Tay Nagai.

The fine cooperation and enthusiasm shown by the whole congregation in the buying and selling of tickets was the greatest single factor in making this project so successful.

STAFF REPORT

THE SECOND ANNUAL JUMBO EDITION IS THE WORK OF *

Rev. Aki, Eva Arakawa(Cover design), Edith Kushino, Hiro Nagai, Hide Tokumasu, Joy Kashima, Shinro Matsumoto, Joe Nakayama, Shig and Ellen Matsumoto, Tay Nagai, Honker Hirabayashi, Paul Yano, Miya and Jack Okawara, June Kushino, Sachi Takagi, Taka and May Takayanagi, Helen Nagai and Kiko Konagamitsu, and Gene Doi.



REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF DEACONS

June Kushino, Chairman

1950 has seen our Church, The Christ Congregational Church (Nisei) of Chicago, stretch forward with steady advances. As we all know, the Church is a mere "babe" in its years - - a little over two years since its inception. With the coming of the Reverend George Aki in 1949, the newly organized group was given a firm hand of leadership and guidance. A minister's responsibilities are many - - big and small. The Board of Deacons, therefore, is designated to help the minister carry forth his program. The Deacons are delighted to watch all phases of the life of the Church - - needs are discussed and probable solutions suggested. Their findings are brought before the congregation for further suggestions and final decisions. Other duties such as helping with the baptismal and communion services are also responsibilities of the Board of Deacons.

Warm appreciation is here expressed to the members of the Board of Deacons who have served this year; namely, Helen Nagai, Betty Ezaki, and Shig Matsumoto. They have been deeply concerned for the total welfare of the Church. They have represented you well.

There have been many developments within the Church. One of the distinctive growths has been the Sunday School. Mesdames Misaki Aki and Honker Hirabayashi have done a superb job. The Church, I am sure, joins with the Board of Deacons in expressing the deep gratitude we all feel for the fine work that is being done for the Christian education of our children.

We have a "special" group of people in our Church. You all have shown keen interest, catching enthusiasm and utmost cooperation in the program of our Church. Our Church is what it is because you are the Church.

1950 has been a good year for us - - Let's look forward to 1951 and wish for our Church, "wider horizons."

PUBLIC RELATION COMMITTEE REPORT
BY PAUL K. YANO

The words "public relations" separated into their respective meanings are as follows, "public" - of pertaining to or affecting the people or community at large; and "relations" - conditions in general which bring an individual in touch with his fellow men. Those two words put together most aptly describes the work, which the committee has endeavored to accomplish through the various social activities.

Oftentimes the lack of permanent facilities handicapped the efforts of the committee, but such difficulties were surmounted and with the co-operation of the members, socials, beach parties, picnics and bowling were enjoyed by all.

In particular, bowling has proven to be the most potent factor in creating a warmer fellowship among the members and guests of the church. This season under the able guidance of Kiyo Ikenaga and Tak Itame, a league of eight teams and a complete schedule has been formed and is now in progress.

Other events of the year besides the bowling league took place.

Bowling party, or rather a party in which the winning team captained by the editor, Hank Suzuki, was feted and dined, and presented with a very valuable "trophy". A most unusual feature of the evening was the square dancing, which was tiring, but enjoyed by all the members.

The annual joint picnic held at Jackson Park, during the summer months, proved to be a complete success. Oldsters and youngsters alike completed the day by winning various prizes offered by the church.

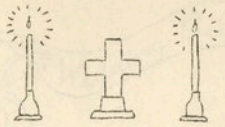
A beach party for the Nisei members of the church was held at the lake front during the latter part of the summer. Despite the bugs, sand and other minor discomforts, comments indicated that a good time was had by all.



During the month of ghosts, goblins and pumkins, a Halloween Box Lunch social was held at the Wellington Church. Jack Okawara displayed another one of his varied talents, in auctioneering the lunches. From the brisk bidding in evidence, the fairsex must have had many tasty delectables.

The final and crowning event of the old year is the Christmas Pary, which as this article is being written, is in the process of preparation. This is the time for young and old to enjoy themselves and we deem it very fortunate, that we are in a country, in which such things can happen.

In looking back at the events of the past year, the bgginning was awkward and uncertain, problems that seemed difficult then, now seem trivial and amusing, but through the experience gained, a larger and more complete fellowship can be envisioned.

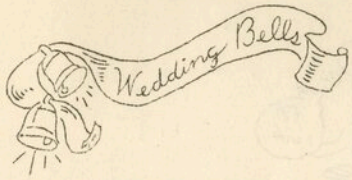


WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

You may recall at the beginning of this year the worship committee consisted of the following sub-chairmans: altar flowers; scripture reader; ushers; and laymen's service.
However with the increase in church membership and attendance we have streamlined the duties of the committee and made the following changes for simplicity and efficiency. We now have a permanent head-usher; the scripture is now read by Rev. Aki prior to his sermon with the purpose of getting a fuller meaning of the scripture; the altar flowers are still being donated by church members.
For the first time in our short history we had a joint worship service followed by a fellowship at the Lakeside Japanese Church. As you may recall we were well represented. There were somany favorable remarks made after this joint gathering that I would recommend more get-togethers with our neighboring churches.
I want to take this opportunity to thank those of you who have so graciously donated flowers for our altar. It is needless to say how they have aided in brightening up our morning worship. I also want to thank our capable ushers, Shinro Matsumoto and Hide Tokumasu, I know that ushering can be quite a problem at times, expecially with our ever increasing attendance and our limited room.
Once again our Tom Oye has come through with another interesting message at our laymen's service. We are certainly fortunate in having such a gifted speaker among our group---thanks again Tom. I also want to thank Mrs. Grace Miyamoto, Mrs. Margaret Hori, Mrs. Mary Fukui, and Mrs. Cherie Nakayama for their capable service at the pianos.
Last but not least, special recognition should be made to a young girl who has just joined our church this year and has already been up to her neck in work for the church. I am speaking of none other than Louise Lar, our pianist and music director who has been responsible for our guest vocalists and chior. I know I express the gratitude of the whole congregation when I say, "Thanks, Louise."
It certainly has been a pleasure working in the capacity of worship chairman this past year. I realize that our activities were few and limited --- however I am sure that with the increasing congregation the worship committee will have a more vital and active part in the work of the church.
Thanks again to you staunch church members.

Joe Nakayama, Worship Chairman.

CHURCH WEDDINGS - 1950

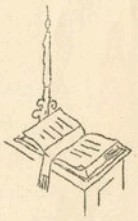


After Dave and Dort Arakawa got married, there has been a lull until May 27, 1950, when the brother of the minister, Willie Aki, married Lillian Goto....then came Chiyoko Kusumoto and George M. Nakagawa combination on the 11th of June; and in the same month, Atsumi A. Suzuki married George N. Ozawa.

In September, the 23rd day, Ray Sugai and Frances Yano made their vows to each other; then Frances' brother, Paul Yano and Ukie Takehara followed on the 4th of November and finally Fusa Tsumagari and Tom T. Higashioka said "I DO" on the 19th of November.

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CALL YOUR MINISTER



1. When you are facing a serious problem (your minister is trained to help people with their problems; or he will know whom to contact for the best help.)
2. When someone is interested in the Church (you will meet young people and adults who are new in your community and others who have not united with your local church.)
3. Where there is illness (your minister holds himself ready, day or night, to help with his presence and counsel. Your minister is as near as your telephone.)
4. When there is death (your minister should be notified immediately there is a death in the family.)
5. When there is to be a wedding (your minister requires both parties to meet with him for instruction; and it is advisable to contact well in advance.)
6. When planning your life work (talk it over with your minister. The more you stress view points in your thinking, the better.)
7. When any crisis-in-living arises (often the impartial and friendly judgment of such a person as your minister may be all that is needed to untangle some difficult problem.)
8. When you have a spiritual problem (many Christians have questions and fears that bring no little discomfort. Your minister is your spiritual advisor.)

YOUR MINISTER IS AS NEAR AS YOUR TELEPHONE.



FINANCIAL REPORT 1950

Balance		$366.09
Receipts		
Offerings	1519.88	
Pledges	1473.51	
C.C. Union	3000.00	
Miscellaneous	40.25	
		$6399.73
Expenditures		
Pastors Salary	$3000.00	
Speakers	60.00	
Postage & Stationery	625.08	
Parsonage Rent	700.00	
Parsonage Expense	129.05	
Travel Expense	310.12	
Church School Nursery	163.67	
Social Activities	102.53	
Building Indebtedness	247.29	
Annuity Fund	90.00	
Other Expense	139.77	
Missionary Fund	150.00	
Per Capita Assessment	12.16	
		$6030.07
		369.66

Respectfully submitted,
Shinro Matsumoto, Treasurer



OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS
OF
CHRIST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH (NISEI)
FOR THE YEAR 1950

OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

Clerk - - Miya Okawara * (Mrs. Jack Okawara)
Financial Secretary - - Edith Kushino or Sachi Takagi to report on various funds- e.g.
Sinking Fund wiped out!
Treasurer - - Hiro Nagai **
Worship - - Joe Nakayama
Music - - Mary Fukui (Mrs. Henry Fukui) - Louise Lar
Membership - - Hide Tokumasu
Publicity - - Kazuma Nagai
Church School Superintendent - Honker Hirabayashi (Mrs. Tosh Hirabayashi)
Passage Editor - - 'Hank' Suzuki

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

Serving for one year - - Betty Ezaki (Mrs. James Ezaki)
June Kushino - Chairman of Board
Serving for two years - - Shig Matsumoto
Helen Nagai (Mrs. Kazuma Nagai)

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serving for one year - - Jack Okawara - Chairman of Board
Teteuo Takayanagi ***
Serving for two years - - David Arakawa ***
Ken Kushino

COMMITTEES OF THE CHURCH

Nominating - - Dorothy Arakawa **** (Mrs. David Arakawa)
Eva Arakawa
Fusa Higashioka (Mrs. Tom Higashioka)
Auditing - - Mab Nagai
Shinro Matsumoto
Victor Shintani
Public Relations - - Tosh Hirabayashi
Joy Kashima
Paul Yano
Church Building - - Kaz 'Mats' Matsuda
Shig Matsumoto

* Resigned - Ikue Itami appointed by the joint board with the approval of the Church.
** Called to military service. Shinro Matsumoto elected active treasurer.
*** Resigned September, 1950 - Kazuma Nagai and Hank Suzuki elected by the congregation to serve until the annual meeting January, 1951
**** Resigned September, 1950 - Tak Itami was appointed by the joint board with the approval of the Church.

THE PARTY OF THE YEAR

Do you enjoy the rhythm of the Ink Spots, the Inimitable humor of Jimmy Durante, the enchantment of the hula and the most delicious 35 cent turkey sandwich in Chicago all rolled into one? These were a few of the attractions featured at Hide Tokumasu's "Dive" last Dec. 16th in honor of the membership drive winners and the new members.

Headlining the fine floor show, M.C.'d by Jim "Sinatra" Hashimoto were the Club lovelies— "Jackie" Okamura, "Takoko" Itami and "Josephine" Nakayama whose hilarious "can-can" will never be equaled. The services of the Ink Spots, Jimmy Durante and Peter Lorre were obtained through Tom Hashimoto's inexhaustible talent.

Many faces of sons ad daughters of the Islands lighted up during Frances Suzuki's interpretation of traditional Hawaiian hulas. Her songs as well as those of June Arakawa with Louise Lar at the keyboard helped put over a thoroughly entertaining show.

Robert Benchley's "The Annual Budget" as delivered by Tom Oyo threw most of the 80 people present into convulsions. And where else could you get those huge ham and turkey sandriches via those cute waitresses, Joy, Betty and Cherie (in shorts too).

31 NEW MEMBERS WELCOMED

We were indeed fortunate last year in having as Membership Chairman, Hide Tokumasu, a fellow whose initiative has been attested for by the fact that 31 persons joined our fellowship in the last year.

A novel idea in the form of a membership contest was conducted with every member of the Church participating. Teams were organized under the following: Marie Nakagi, Frances Sugai, Tak Itami, Jack Okamura, Tay Nagai, and Tom Oyo. Under a point system which credited each team for every guest brought to church and who joined our fellowship, weekly results were indicated on Tay Nagai's "Fever Chart" Captained by charming Marie Nakagi, the team of Gene Doi, James Ezaki, Don Ikeda, Kiyo Ikenaga, Louise Lar, Ka_ Matsuda, John Takemoto, Hachi Nagai, Chiyo Nakagawa and Ukio Yano proved themselves the "High Fever Kids" of the year and were feted at the Night Club Social.

Proudly we present the new members——

Teruo Nagai	Paul Yano	Tom Oyo
Hachisu Nagai	Albert Ikeda	Atsumi Ozawa
Ukio Takehara	Toshi Ikeda	Tomio Hashimoto
Takeo Itami	Bob Imon	Masagi Morita
Ikuo Itami	Gerald Kimura	Sachiko Morita
James Ezaki	Michiyo Kimura	Kimi Murosaki
Frances Yano	Louise Lar	Yuri Tajima
Donald Ikeda	Marie Nakagi	Susie Watamura
Kiyo Ikenaga	Martha Oyo	Chiz Watanabe
Jack Y. Yoshikawa	George Kimura	Sumi Kimura
Yoshi Fujiwara		

The Passage salutes and welcomes the above who are now active in our endeavour for a better and greater Church



OUR MINISTER'S PAGE

MY SECOND YEAR with you good people has come to a close. It sounds as if "taps" should be sounded -- but after reading the comprehensive and sincere reports in this JUMBO EDITION OF THE PASSAGE, the key-note is not upon a Final Rest, but a REBIRTH seems in order for I see new avenues of work, service and fellowship clearly suggested within each report.

AS YOU HAVE READ EACH ACCOUNT, I hope you will not only count how many activities accomplished, but how well we moved together to get these various things done. It is easy to see that each of us is slowly grasping the meaning and the work of the CHURCH, and finding an inexpressible joy in the participation of it.

SO OFTEN, my wife and I speak so satisfyingly of having you people over, the scurry of the Sundays' activities, my haranguing you to attend church (as if), being invited into your homes, working with the various committees, the Passage Work Nights, and the other activities of yours where you are always seeking to lighten my work -- such as the LAYMEN'S SUNDAY where you have made it "taboo" for the minister to take part -- PLEASE ACCEPT Misaki and my sincere appreciation for all these things which have give ALL OF US A STRONGER COMMON FOOTING TO FACE AND TO DO THE WORK WHICH IS AHEAD OF US!!

May I take this opportunity to thank the following people and churches --

Dr. Miel E. Hansen, Director of the Chicago Congregational Union, for his unselfish timely advices and ever-present help in making our Church to be constructive; and our heart-felt gratitude to his able staff who have probably given our Church more time than any other Church in Chicago.

Dr. Stanley U. North of the Dept. of City Work of the Board of Home Missions, who has literally searched for opportunities to help our Church in her work for a city populated overnight with almost 20,000 new and bewildered citizens.

Winnetka Congregational Church, Dr. Harkness and members who have taken us as their mission church -- helping us quietly but surely so that we might, in the very near future, be in a position to help another Church to dig deep and thus ensure a strong foundation for the work of Christ and His Kingdom!

Our sister churches in Chicago and Illinois who think of us, pray for us, and invite us into their fellowship from time to time.

Issei Congregational Church who have given unstintingly to the birth and the nurture of this Church - - - - - -

To all the above mentioned and others who have given us of their prayers, time, financial aid and encouragement, my heartfelt thanks to you and to God.

MISAKI and I want to confide in you that we know of no other minister and his family in the entire U S A, who is more fortunate and happier than we are. We look forward eagerly to another year of adventurous Christian Living with each of you. And I am certain that as long as you and I keep JESUS CHRIST as our COMMON DENOMINATOR in every Big and Little thing we do, YOUR CHURCH and MINE will be the Lamplighter right here in 1951!! -- SEE YOU IN CHURCH!! --

George Aki