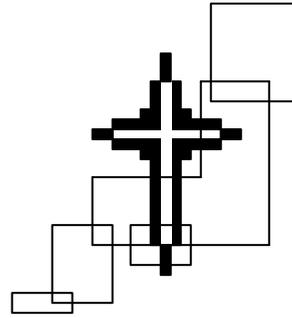


INTERCESSORS FOR JAPAN

PRAY FOR THIS NATION
Newsletter

December 9, 2001



Association of Intercessors for Japan

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Prince Shotoku and Ancient Christianity

Arimasa Kubo

Nestorians were already in Japan around 600 AD

A history book records that in 578 AD Mar Celghis, a Nestorian, and his family came from a "western land" to China and settled at Lintao, a about 500 km west of Changan. That is to say that Nestorians already came to China more before 600 AD. Professor Sakae Ikeda of Kyoto University, who is a Nestorian scholar and also a Hata family scholar writes a Nestorian named Mar Toma served Prince Shotoku at his side around 600 AD.

Mar Toma means "Master Thomas" in Aramaic, and is the same name as Apostle Thomas. He was believed to be a leader of the Nestorians who came to Japan at the time of Prince Shotoku.

So, Christianity was already in Japan at the time of Prince Shotoku. I believe it came to Japan earlier than this. There is a proof that leads us to believe it came no later than the fourth century.

I do not want to argue this right now, but when you study the surroundings of Prince Shotoku, strangely

enough there are many items that are closely related to Christianity.

Nestorian stories that were incorporated into the Prince Shotoku legend

For example, they can be seen in various legends of Prince Shotoku.

There are many myth associated with who Prince Shotoku really like. However, after several hundred years after Prince Shotoku passed away, adoration for Prince Shotoku swelled to bear many legends regarding him.

And strangely enough, we see evidences of the stories of Nestorian and the Ancient Christianity believed by the Hatas might have been appropriated into the legends of Prince Shotoku.

Prince Shotoku is said to be the "Savior Bodhisattva" who was born in a stable. That is to say that he was a kind of savior. Prince Shotoku was called "Prince Umayado (Stable)," Umayado means a stable.

It is normally considered derogatory to use a word such as "stable" in calling a person of noble birth and it should be avoided. However, the "Prince Umayado (Stable) was used as an honorific title. Dr. Kunitake Kume speculates that the Christian story that "Mary born Christ in a stable" was incorporated into Prince Shotoku's legends. There are no one but two:

Jesus and Prince Shotoku who were born in a stable among the saints in the world.

That is not all. In fact the story of the birth of Prince Shotoku and that of the birth of Jesus Christ are in reality are very similar to the details of sequence of the stories. The author of "Buddhism and Nestorianism in the Japanese History," Akinori Tomiyama, states as follows:

"In mid Heian era, at the time Michizane Sugahara was watching the moon in exile, there are evidences that intellectuals in Kyoto were reading the 'Book of Luke' (the Gospel according to Luke). It can be proven indirectly by 'Legends and the Record of Prince Shotoku' (917) which was believed to be written by Kanesuke Fujiwara.

That is to say that there the birth story of Jesus, the 'Book of Luke' 1:26~2:21 is written exactly in the same sequence as the birth story of Prince Shotoku."

So, he describes it in details. Also, when you look at the legends concerning Prince Shotoku, we notice there are many other stories that remind us of the Biblical story.

According to a legend, the "Savior Bodhisattva" appeared in the dream of Empress Kanjin, mother of Prince Shotoku, and prophesied the birth of Prince Shotoku. Similarly in the Bible, an archangel Gabriel appeared in front of Mary and foretold the birth of Jesus.

The other legend says that Saint Nichira, a Paekche, worshipped Prince Shotoku calling him the "Savior Bodhisattva." But as it turned out, he was later assassinated. This indeed remind us of a story in the Bible that John the Baptist worshipped Jesus calling him the "Savior" but later he was assassinated.

Prince Shotoku was made into a hero with legends that were sycretistically fused with the Bible

Masanori Tomiyama also writes as follows:

In the "Book of Daigo 'Legends and the Record of Prince Shotoku' (13th Century) not only contains the resurrection story of Prince Shotoku, but the composition of the whole book appears to have copied after the "Book of John." This gives a credence to the fact that an entire translation not an

abridged version of the Bible might have been available in Japan."

That is to say that the story of resurrection of Christ in the "Gospel According to John" might had been incorporated into the legend of Prince Shotoku. Regarding the other legends of Prince Shotoku, he writes as follows:

"For example, as something to remind us of the 'Book of Matthew' 25:34 and thereafter, there is a story of Prince giving the clothing and food to a starved at Mount Kataoka. Subsequent to the event, the starved man died and buried, but he resurrected several days later and only his clothing was said to be left on his coffin. This story from the 'Chronicles of the Japan' reminds us of the same vein of thought as the 'Book of John' 20:1~10."

Jesus taught us that if anyone gives food and clothing to a starved, he will be included in salvation; it is same as giving them to Christ himself. Also, the Bible says that when Christ died, buried, and after he resurrected only his clothing was left at his tomb.

Prince Shotoku is also respected as the "founder of carpentry" and treated as the "protector of carpenters." Among the carpenter there is even a "Guild of Prince." Similarly, Jesus' profession was carpenter.

Shinran and Nestorian Philosophy

As you can see legends about Prince Shotoku in later periods include many of those that were Christian origins. This is due to the fact that there were people who spread the story of Christ from the ancient times in Japan.

Christianity came to Japan in early days of Japan. Its thinking was incorporated, or in protest to it, there were people who tried to make Prince Shotoku the Messiah. Perhaps, this was a reason behind the legend of Prince Shotoku among the people.

Later, the founder of the True Pure Land sect of Buddhism, Shinran, made 115 hymns of Japanese translation of praise entitled, 'Praise of the Great King Asan Prince Shotoku.' Prince Shotoku who is recited there is the exact Japanese translation of 'Legends and the Record of Prince Shotoku' by Kanesuke Sugawara.

“Christ”, who was hidden there, must have given great influence upon the faith formation of Shinran.

Nestorianism and the Philanthropic and Welfare Works

Well, Prince Shotoku built the Shitenno-ji (Four Devas) temple in Osaka. There was the welfare facility called “Shiko-in” attached to it.

They are four institutions: “Seyaku-in” (pharmacy where free dispensation of medicine is available), “Ryobyoin” (free hospital, clinic), “Hiden-in” (Sanctuary for those with no relatives), and “Keiden-in” (Sanctuary of religious, arts, and music studies).

Prince Shotoku was the first one to begin the large scale social works, philanthropic, welfare works in Japan.

Japanese Buddhist scholars praise Prince Shotoku for starting these philanthropic welfare works first in Japan that were heretofore not practiced by Buddhists in China nor in the Korean Peninsula in those days.

However, these did not come from the Buddhist philosophy. Observing China and the Korean Peninsula of those days, their Buddhism was a guardian Buddhism for the state; it was far apart from salvation of individuals.

You may think Mahayana Buddhism has the philosophy of “mercy.” But Buddhist scholars state that the philosophy of mercy was not implemented as a pragmatic work in ancient China nor in the Korean Peninsula.

As it turned out that these facilities such as “Keiden-in,” “Seyaku-in,” “Ryobyoin,” and “Hiden-in” are identical to those built by Nestorians all over the Silk Road.

Nestorians built many facilities like these in Mongol and China. They worked unselfishly by building free schools, pharmacies, sanatoriums, orphanages, and hospitals.

They did not only preach the Gospel, but they also stressed philanthropic and welfare works. Due to their work, their Nestorianism penetrated into people early on.

Why did Prince Shotoku carry on the works of the

Nestorians in Japan?

It is because there were Nestorians by the side of Prince Shotoku. And their advice influenced greatly Prince Shotoku. Professor Sakae Ikeda of Kyoto University writes that the first person who built an orphanage in Japan was a Nestorian named Raka.

A Legend of Prince Shotoku: Borrowing from the story of Aaron’s staff

Shitenno-ji, to which Prince Shotoku built “Keiden-in,” “Seyaku-in,” “Ryobyoin,” and “Hiden-in” nearby, is now a Buddhist temple. However, this temple has a remarkable feature that cannot be seen at a normal temple.

The entrance to this temple is no other than the great torii (gateway) of a Shinto shrine. Moreover, the torii was there since the time of Prince Shotoku. Though, it was made of wood at the time of Prince Shotoku not a present stone built. When I asked a Buddhist priest about the temple, he replied:

“Once upon a time, since Prince Shotoku prayed to Shitenno before battles this temple was built.”

But, there is “Tamatsukuri Inari (god of harvest) Shrine” immediately nearby. According to the shrine history, Prince Shotoku prayed not to Shitenno but to a god of the shrine.

Here, too, we see an evidence of the Buddhist fabricating the history. Shitenno-ji temple used to be a Shinto shrine.

Also, according to the shrine history of Tamatsukuri Inari Shrine, Prince Shotoku made a pilgrimage to the shrine before battles and prayed as follows:

“If we are to win this battle, let a bud grow on this branch.”

And he inserted a chestnut branch. Then, it is said that it sprouted a bud. That was a sign that a god was with him.

This story, too, is very similar to the story of “a bud sprouted on the High Priest Aaron’s staff” of the Old Testament isn’t it? It was a sign that God was with Aaron. (Numbers 17: 5~8)

Prince Shotoku’s whole family was murdered by Buddhists

I stated that there were many Christians such as Nestorians, the Hatas (ancient Christians who came from the Central Asia) around Prince Shotoku, and under their influence he started the philanthropic and welfare work.

In the world, Prince Shotoku is generally considered as the “central figure of the Japanese Buddhism” and is responsible for spreading Buddhism in Japan. In conclusion, I believe it is mistaken. Prince Shotoku, in fact, had the same philosophy and religion (Christian Shintoism) as the Hatas.

But Buddhism later became a kind of Japanese “national religion” and began to rule Japan autocratically. At that time, Prince Shotoku was given a new identity as the “central figure of Japanese Buddhism” and the “great contributor to Buddhism.”

Firstly, the whole family and relatives of Prince Shotoku were murdered by Buddhists. Had Prince Shotoku been the central figure of Buddhism, why did Buddhists murder his whole family and relatives?

Also, Prince Shotoku himself appears to be assassinated. Since Prince Shotoku, in those days, held the position next to the emperor, it was natural to spend several months of “mogari,” a ceremony for the repose of the soul. However, the record shows little or no period of “mogari” for Prince Shotoku.

It appears that he was buried immediately. It was same in the case of Emperor Sushun who was murdered by Buddhists. He, too, was buried immediately without having a period of “mogari.”

In order to appease a vengeful spirit, set himself up as a great person

In those days, there was a belief system among the people that when an innocent was murdered he would become a “vengeful spirit.” So, it was necessary to quickly put the lid on the coffin and seal it.

Also, in those days, there was a thought that the best way to appease the vengeful spirit was to set himself up as a great person. They thought if a person was thanked and adored as a great individual even a vengeful spirit would be appeased.

So, for those who murdered Prince Shotoku, the

quickest and easiest way to protect themselves from the vengeful spirit was to set himself as a great person. That is to set Prince Shotoku as the “central figure of Japanese Buddhism” and the “great contributor to Buddhism” and have people venerate him.

They thought that by doing so the vengeful spirit would be appeased and Buddhism would spread. For them it was two birds with one stone solution.

I do not have enough space here to write about this in detail. I recommend for those who are interested to read the “Sealed Ancient History of Japanese and Jewish 2, Volume of Buddhism and Nestorianism.”

Prince Shotoku went after his demise to “Tenju-koku” = heaven

Back in 16th century, during the Azuchi Momoyama period, Ujisato Gamau (1556~95), the lord of Aizu, became Christian as a result of missionary work of Ukon Takayama.

He was a Christian lord with the baptized name of Leo, but the Buddhist world of Aizu advertised him as an ardent Buddhist.

When the Buddhist influence becomes strong, all the past great men become the great contributors to Buddhism. It has been repeated many times in Japanese history. So, we believe that Prince Shotoku’s case was no exception.

After the demise of Prince Shotoku, an embroidery picture that depicts the “Tenju-koku” where the Prince went still exists at the Chugu-ji temple in Nara. This was embroidered by Kuma Hata who was commissioned by Princess Taratsume Tachibana thinking of the Prince.

It is the picture called the “Tenju-koku Mandara (Mandala) Shuchomei.” If you look at it, it is obvious that the concept of Paradise other than Buddhism coexists. Masanori Tomiyama, who studied this aspect, writes,

“I believe that the ‘Tenju-koku Mandara Shuchomei’ undoubtedly means heaven of Jesus.”

“‘Tenju-koku’ where Prince Shotoku died and went to is the oldest concept of Paradise in Japan. This “Tenju-koku” or “Heaven” probably influenced the Pure Land concept of later Japanese Buddhism.

Prince Shotoku himself was a man who must have

had a thought of this “Tenju-koku.”

Also, there is a shrine called “Kamei-doh” at the Shitenno-ji temple built by Prince Shotoku. It existed since the time of Prince Shotoku. The faith that is practiced there is very similar to that of the faith of the Bethesda Pond (if you enter the pond while water is being stirred, you will be healed).

Prince Shotoku is a central figure who convinced many Japanese that “Japan is a Buddhist nation.” However, upon careful investigation, Prince Shotoku was more involved in Christianity rather than Buddhism.

Later when Buddhism controlled Japan like the national religion, the real image of Prince Shotoku was buried forever. Then, he became the “central figure of Japanese Buddhism.” Nevertheless, we should find the truth in the important part of the Japanese history.

Christianity is never a new religion that came recently to Japan or a western religion. It is the most precious faith that our ancestors also believed.

REGIONAL INTERCESSORY PRAYER MEETINGS

1. HOKKAIDO

Sapporo: Then Christ Church Sapporo Grace Church,
Rev. John H. Minagawa
Sapporo Grace Christ Church
3-27 Nishi 5chome Kita 32jo Kitaku
Sapporo 001-0032
Tel 011-717-1801

2. IWATE-KEN

Mizusawa: The Revival•Tohoku House of Prayer,
Mr. Noriaki Takahashi
Restaurant Praise, 26 Naka-machi, Mizusawa-shi, 023-6813
3rd Sun. 7:00 a.m., Tel 0134-62-3561

3. SAITAMA-KEN

Warabi: Warabi Intercessory Prayer Meeting, c/o Sagitani
Minami-cho, Warabi-shi, 335-0003
One Holiday, Every Month, 2:00 p.m., Tel 0484-42-0967

4. TOKYO-TO

Tokyo: Tokyo Central Intercessory Prayer Meeting,
Waseda Hohshien Seminar House (2-3-1 Nishi
Waseda, Shinjuku-ku), Contact Rev. John H. Minagawa,
6-1-17 Kamitsuruma, Sagamihara-shi, 228-0802,
Tel 0427-47-5703, Fax 0427-46-2119
3rd Mon. 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Tokyo Prayer Meeting,
Kirisutokyo Fujin Kyofu Kaikan, B1 (2-23-5 Hyakunin-cho,
Shinjuku-ku),
Contact Mrs. Moto Yamaura, King's Garden, Shuno Sono,
612 Shimo-Kosaka, Kawagoe-shi, Saitama-ken 350-0812,
Tel 0492-34-7049, Fax 0429-31-5552
1st and 3rd Mon. 6:30 p.m.

5. KANAGAWA-KEN

Yokohama-shi: The Bible and Tea Meeting, Ms. Hisako Yoshida
8-9 Mankigahara, Asahi-ku, Yokohama-shi, 241-0836
Tel 045-363-5657, Every Friday, 2:00 p.m.

Sagamihara: The Christ Church Sagamiono Church, Rev. John H. Minagawa
6-1-17 Kamitsuruma, Sagamihara-shi, 228-0802
Tel 0427-47-5703, Fax 0427-46-2119
3rd Wed. 7:15 p.m., 3rd Thu. 10:15 a.m.

6. NAGANO-KEN

Chiisagata-gun: Maruko-machi Kirisuto Kyokai, Rev. Rieko Matsuyoshi

1710-1, Kami Maruko Kawahara, Maruko-machi,

Chiisagata-gun, Nagano-ken, 386-0404

3rd Wed. 7:30 p.m., Tel 02684-2-5264

7. SHIZUOKA-KEN

Shizuoka: Living Way Church, Richard Gordon 4-6-16-7

Kamiashigara

Shizuoka-shi, 420-0841

1st Sun. 2:00 p.m., Tel 054-248-4058

8. KYOTO-FU

Kyoto: Kyoto Prayer Group, Sister Eva F. Cereghino

5th floor, Catholic Kaikan, Kawahara-machi, 3 jo-agaru,

Nakakyo-ku, Kyoto-shi, 604-8006

Every Tue. 7:00 p.m. (ENGLISH), Tel 075-241-3867

9. OSAKA-FU

Neyagawa: Hinode Kirisuto Kyokai, Rev. Chitose Takimoto

26-9 Nakakida-cho, Neyagawa-shi, 572-0835

3rd Thur. 2:00 p.m. Tel&Fax 0720-22-9232

10. HYOGO-KEN

Takasago: Takasago Kyokai, Rev. Masaaki Tezuka

1-34 Kamicho Arai-machi, Takasago-shi, 676-0015

4th Wed. 9:30 p.m.-12:00 a.m. Tel&Fax 0794-42-4854

11. FUKUOKA-KEN

Fukuoka: Fukuoka Shinsei Kirisuto Kyokai, Rev. Hiroshi Takeda

3-33-1 Miyake, Minami-ku, Fukuoka-shi, 815-1344

2nd Wed. 7:30 p.m., Tel 092-561-4232

Ito Kirisuto Kyokai, Rev. Tokuji Tomono

12-4-1 Imajuku Ijiri, Nishi-ku, Fukuoka-shi, 819-0197

3rd Wed. 7:30 p.m., Tel 092-807-9080, Fax 092-807-2298

12. OHITA-KEN

Beppu: Full Gospel Iesu Kirisuto Kyokai, Rev. Seiji Nagano

10-1 Noguchi Moto-machi, Beppu-shi, 879-0933

Tel & Fax 0977-26-3692

e-mail:fg-jesus@poppy.ocn.ne.jp

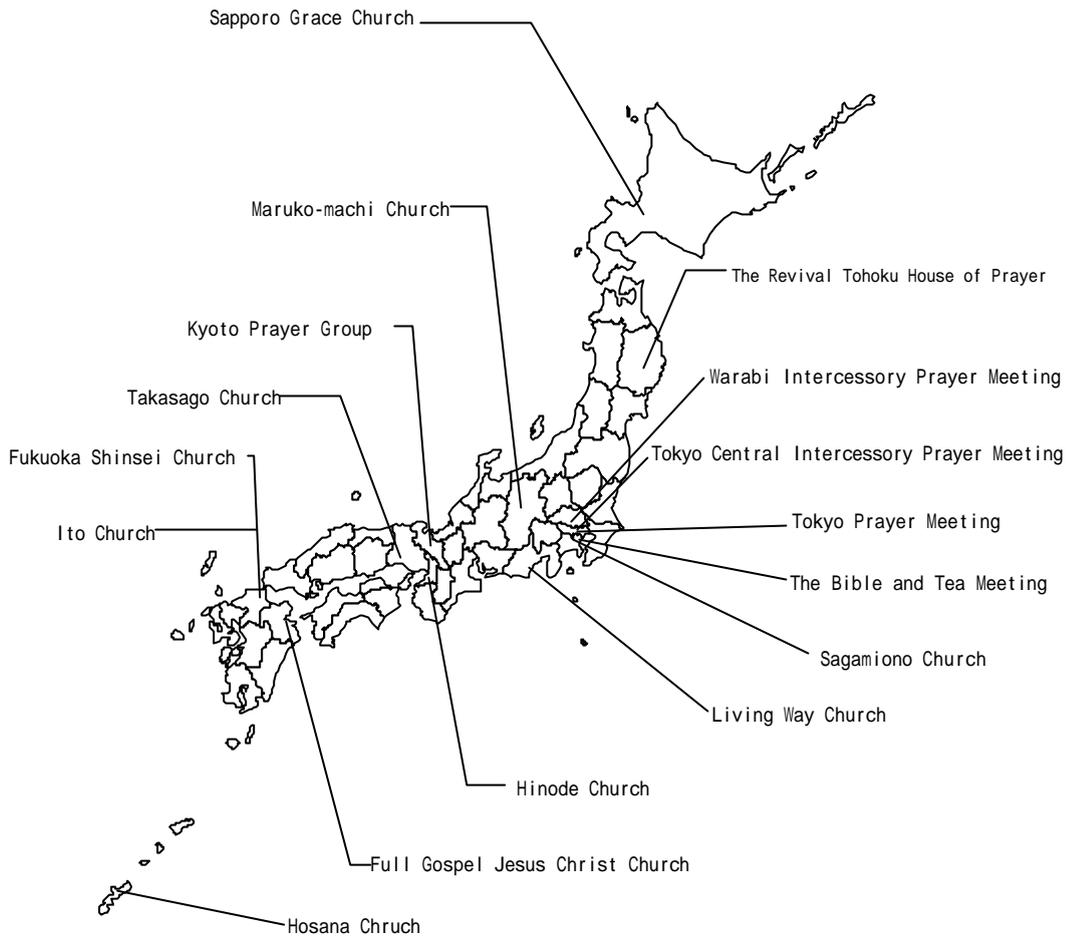
Fri. 7:30 p.m.

13. OKINAWA-KEN

Naha-shi: Hosana Kirisuto Dendosho, Rev. Shinshu Kase

9-6, 2-chome, Wakasa, Naha-shi, 900-0031

Sat. 6:00 p.m., Tel 098-868-5641



Focus of our Prayer for December 2001

(1) Pending Subjects for Prayer

1. Let's pray that the influence of the Souka Gakkai, a cult group, on Japanese politics be quickly curtailed..

[Editorial]

* According to the "Ruining of the Country by Liberal Democratic Party · Souka Gakkai" (Mikasa Shobo, 2001) by Taro Yayama, the Mori administration held the educational reform as a pillar of the Upper House election of 2001, but it fell through due to the Komei-to's opposition that reflected Daisaku Ikeda's opinion. Also, regarding the "compulsory service of one year for 18 year olds," Mr. Ikeda objected citing there is a possibility of violating the Article 18, which bans the slave-like restriction, of the Constitution (ref. to p. 101~110).

2. Let's pray that the Emperor will be saved by the Lord Jesus and abundantly blessed by Him and the blessings will spread over the entire Japanese people. Also, pray that the Emperor's presence among the peoples of the world will be used as the foundation of blessings. And pray that the Japanese people understand and respect the Emperor as the leader and work toward the world peace.

[Editorial]

*The conclusion of "Emperor" - Japan's Intrinsic Characteristics – (Kairyu-sha, 2000) states that the "Emperor is the center of gravity in Japanese culture, the part that is hard to change. Let me quote a part here and introduce it to you.

"A ship called Japan had experienced several crises of potential shipwreck. If it was another country, it probably induced revolutions or changes of dynasties. However due to its low center of gravity, it recovered each time. The Japanese defeat of the World War II can be said symbolically that the ship's deck turned vertical, many people were cast into the sea, water came inside the cabins, and significant portions of ship's goods were soaked. But the ship called Japan recovered this time without sinking.....

In Japan the presence of the Emperor is the characteristic of the nation called ship; that is to say it addresses something Japanese, the Japanese conscious and unconscious value; it is the Japanese culture itself. The Emperor, in this way, is the center of gravity of the Japanese culture and the frame of reference to show its jolting." (ibid. p.280-261)

3. Let's pray that the Christian Church and the Jews, Catholics, Protestants, Pentecostals, and various denominations and churches that criticize and feud against each other repent and reconcile with one another.

[Editorial]

*Ecumenism (World Church Unification Movement) seeks the unity that contains diversity within, we would like to continue praying for the unity by the Holy Spirit, though we currently have many difficulties.

4. That the Japanese, by becoming a Christian, does not deny the Japanese tradition but become

servants who revive, enhance, purify, and complete it.

[Editorial]

*Please read the report by Rev. Kubo, "Prince Shotoku and Ancient Christianity."

5. That the works of the Markorsh Mission will progress. Since the number of subscribers of the Revival Shimbun has reached 2,700, let us pray that it will increase to 5,000. Also, pray that the contents of the Revival Shimbun to further enriched.

6. That the journalists who engage in TV, radio, newspaper, and magazine will cease arrogant and prejudiced reporting and news gatherings; and they will fear God and return to fair reporting of the news. Let's pray that those who are aware of such problems will raise their voice in protest and ask for retraction, and for them to play a role of the watchdog.

[Editorial]

*(1) Many Daisaku Ikeda interviews were reported.

The name of Daisaku Ikeda, Honorary Chairman of the Souka Gakkai, had seldom appeared in the general newspapers. So, it is a surprise to see him suddenly express his views on newspapers. The Asahi Shimbun, the Yomiuri Shimbun, and the Sankei Shimbun successively reported them. Particularly in the Sankei Shimbun, they have reported four times from September 17 to 20 daily under the title of "A Detailed Report of Honorary Chairman Ikeda Interview." The contents of it are diverse subjects: the simultaneous terrorism in the U.S., the role of religion, the evaluation of the Koizumi government, the relationship between the Gakkai and the Koumei-to, the current educational situation, an image of the nation, etc. In it Mr. Ikeda denies the vision of building the national ordination platform by saying, "there is no intention of making Nichiren-shu (Nichiren sect of Buddhism) the national religion." The Sankei group is busy advertising the Gakkai.

There are two reasons why the intensive campaign for the Gakkai advertisement. First is that since they recognize the limitation in advertising within the Gakkai related newspapers they have decided to use other mass media. Another reason is that for each newspaper in mass media the prolonged recession severely cut back their income and the viable sponsor for financing is limited to "sarakin (financing for salaried man at high interest rate). The Souka Gakkai pays upward of several hundred thousand dollars for the front page advertisement. (*Shukan Shincho*, 01.10.4 issue, p. 146-147.)

*(2)Prejudice regarding the simultaneous multi-terrorism incidents in US

The news coverage regarding the simultaneous multi-terrorism of September 11 is the simply passing of information that is released by the U.S. government to mass media. The US government decided that Osama bin Laden is the mastermind of the incident and regarded Laden as the worst terrorist in the history as the man who controls the Islamic fanatic group. As the concrete proof, they pointed out that Mohamed Atta, who was 33 year old Egyptian youth on board the American Airline flight 11 that crashed into the World Trade Center and Jalwan Archehi, who was a room mate to Atta on board the United Airline flight 175, the second plane. According to the investigating authorities of US and Germany, Atta was communicating with the Egyptian Islamic radical organization, "the Islamic Jihad." This organization merged with "the al-Qaida," which was organized by Osama bin Laden, in February 1998, and issued the joint manifesto

stating that “it is the duty of a Muslim to kill American.” But these information alone do not constitute enough and sufficient evidence that Osama bin Laden is the mastermind and “the al-Qaida,” the perpetrator. The “al-Qaida” did not issue the statement to take credit to the crime, and Osama bin Laden issued a statement, “I did not get involved in anyway,” in the Pakistani Urdu daily newspaper, “Ausaf,” on September 12.

In spite of this and without having enough evidences, the US government started the eradication campaign against the Taliban that protects Osama bin Laden with the blessings of the NATO nations. And, to whip up the war sentiment of the American people, they are busy manipulating the information. Particularly, the Pentagon and the CIA (the Central Intelligence Agency) are fervently trying to paint Osama bin Laden and the Taliban as the villains by releasing adverse information ceaselessly to mass media. Among them are reporting that bin Laden possesses chemical weapons and the nuclear device or planned to attack the Disneyland. The Japanese mass media with limited news gathering ability quote the American mass media without any checks discharge the news such prefaces as “according to the New York Times” or “according to the CNN.” The reporting of the Japanese mass media derive more than 90% from foreign sources. That is the reason why we should pay attention to various reports other than the news provided by them.

For example, according to “the International Commentary of Sakai Tanaka” (<http://tanakanews.com/index.html>) by Sakai Tanaka or “the Truth about the Rumor,” November 2001,

- Osama bin Laden and Sadam Husein are conspiring with the American right wing elements (particularly the CIA) to create the structure for “the Clash of Civilization” in the Middle East and the Islamic world.
- Multiple simultaneous terrorisms are the retaliatory acts by bin Laden who was almost assassinated by the U.S.
- There are two objectives for President Bush’s attack on Afghanistan. Firstly, by cleaning out the inventories of arms and ammunitions that had been accumulated to encourage the war industry for economic recovery from the current recession. Another is to secure the oil pipeline by eliminating the Taliban government to promote the U.S. petroleum industry, which is represented by Mr. Bush.
- Against this backdrop Osama bin Laden’s objective in waging war against US is to eliminate the US influences in Middle East, to bring down those pro-American governments such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, and to establish an Islamic fundamentalist government in Middle East.
- In order to accomplish this objective, it is said that they provoked US, invite US retaliation, and unite anger of the peoples of the entire Muslim world against such retaliation. If this is true, US may have been trapped in this ensnarement.

7. Let’s pray that the tendency to have a smaller number of children, that will destroy the country to stop, and the policy that will encourage having a larger number of children according to the will of God will be practiced with blessings of the entire society.

“God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase, fill the earth and subdue it.’”

Genesis 1:28

*Based on “the Angel Plan,” the national plan to assist the child rearing, each local government is planning to expand its nursery services. Also, examples of private sectors’ and volunteer assistances are springing up. For example, in Hokkaido, Seikatsu Club Seikyo has organized “the Ekkoro Kyouzai,” mutual assistance system using organized squads. It can be used not only for babysitting for the organization’s work but also for any time they need assistance in time of accident, illness, or childbirth they can ask the same squad group or the same division at cost. Also, in Sapporo if a family has more than three children in a kindergarten, they extend free fee to the oldest and 50% discount for the second child. Also, in Iwamisawa, a new nursery is completed adjacent to the Old Age Welfare Center by combining the two city nurseries: Futaba and Wakaba. The first floor is an open space nursery; the second floor is for the Child Care Center that is planned for future.

(2) Timely Prayer Subjects

1. That the Koizumi cabinet, in fear of God, will not set the wrong course for Japan, they will govern in such way that will contribute to the world peace while they securely maintain the Japanese independence.

[Editorial]

*Although Prime Minister Koizumi with more than 90% approval rate began his structural reform, but since the simultaneous multiple terrorism incident his focus has been diverted. In response to President Bush’s demand each country to make one’s color clear by dividing the world in two: the good, those who support him to fight against terrorism and the evil, those who support terrorism, it is understandable that Prime Minister Koizumi declared that he will stand on the side of those who fight against terrorism. However, we cannot condone that he accepted the Satanic concept of “the endless war” and declared that he would do “anything” together with the U.S. From time immemorial, the war that was deemed necessary evil to settle the disputes was always limited in scope. The endless war was the ambition of world conquest that was dreamed by Hitler and his staff. It will necessarily escalate not only over the earth but also to space as well. Even though Japan may need to have the army to defend herself in order to be a truly independent nation, but it may be wiser under the current extraordinary environment to use the Article 9 of the Constitution as the shield not to get dragged into the insane war.

2. Let's pray so that the world-wide war situation condition quickly end and peace to come.

[Editorial]

“Happy the peacemakers: they shall be called sons of God”

Matthew 5:9

As Jesus tells, the children of God will work ceaselessly to settle the disputes and create reconciliation. Let us not lose hope and pray for the peace.

3. “Holy Spirit Renewal Congress” (Rev. Masaaki Tezuka, Executive Director), which was established within the United Church of Christ in Japan, would help others to correctly understand the charismatic movement within the Church, and it will be used greatly to
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further the works of the Holy Spirit.

4. That one more committee member that have the strong sense of calling to be added to the Intercessors for Japan.
5. That the donation of eggs and surrogate birthing do not become legalized.

[Editorial]

*IFC (International Fertility Center) lists the following information on their web site (<http://www.ifcbaby.com/kaikin.html>).

Is egg donation legalized in Japan?

Regarding the in-vitro fertilization utilizing sperms other than husband or eggs other than wife, the Ethics Council of the Japan Obstetrics Society announced their summary view that they will “permit the procedure with certain conditions attached.” This is good news for the husbands and wives in Japan who need these therapy programs. While we are concerned with the problem of a small number of children, the insurance system and policies that were insensitive for those who require infertility treatments were unchallenged in Japan. But, now we can perhaps say that we made a giant step toward creating the environment where those couples troubled with infertility can receive proper treatments by starting to discuss this openly.

However, we at IFC having analyzed the Japanese current medical situations that we came to fully understand through the eye of IFC client couples and the current practices of American infertility treatments, we feel that it will take several years before the eggs donation program will be implemented with expected high degree of success rates in Japan.

*Let me list those items that are problems in Japan.

- (1) It takes at least 3 months before an egg donor donates eggs, and she must receive injections, prescription drugs and obstetric check-ups. Particularly, Japanese unmarried women dislike this check-up.
- (2) There are few personnel who can provide prior education and counseling to a egg donor candidate.
- (3) Since Japan is not a contractual society, it is difficult to have a contract with an anonymous donor.
- (4) It is difficult to protect anonymity.
- (5) There are few specialists who can perform psychological counseling to the egg donor and clients couples.
- (6) The Japanese traditional or social tendency is not conducive to this practice.

6. (1) That the American people, the Japanese people and other free democratic countries will not be daunted with fear of terrorism by the Islamic fundamentalists and continue its brave and vibrant economic activities.
- (2) That these people, particularly the Japanese will obtain the true salvation by the Savior Jesus Christ and hope of the everlasting life. Let them keep brushing aside the fear comes from terrorism and subsequent physical and psychological intimidation.
- (3) That the Koizumi reform to continue steadfastly. Particularly, private financing sectors will deal quickly and drastically with bad debt and quickly recover the free and flexible financial mediating functions. The Special Status Corporations reform and the National Investment and Loan reform will be carried out thoroughly, so that huge waste of national tax by the administration will be sliced off and help revitalization of the economy. That we can push back all resisting forces that try to protect their vested interest.

[Editorial]

*As the result of the simultaneous multi terrorism against the U.S. and subsequent bio-terrorism, economic activities of the free economic countries greatly shrank and retreated centering around the national consumption. This is effective against the world economy that had been supported by vigorous American consumer appetite like a body blow. After the simultaneous multiple terrorisms, the basic US economic policy has shifted 180 degree from the small government and the efficiency is the supreme policy that maximizes the market to that of the security is the supreme policy even with additional time and cost and the big government. Security is number one rather than convenience. From this point of view, a great deal of patience is demanded of our people as an individual and as a corporation. But, if we give up and let economic activities stagnate, we play into the terrorists' hands. We pray that everyone under the current situations will patiently and wisely continue his economic activities with courage and hope. Particularly the Japanese are weak in responding to such crises and an easily affected country. Let us pray now that the Japanese will know the Lord Jesus Christ who is the unchanging and everlasting hope. Let us pray so that there will be abundant encouragement in Christ, and let us strive ahead with the good work of spreading the good news.

*So far the stock prices have been sustaining their values. This may in part due to the war time special procurement, and in Japan it may due to particularly the US institutional investors moving their money into the Japanese market. That the Japanese market complements the US market's crisis with shaky trust and shoulders the responsibility toward the world economy. Let us pray that the Japanese corporations will recover this kind of dignity and confidence.

*The resistance against the Koizumi reform is gaining considerable strength. However, unless we secure the large and certain flow of this nation's wealth and capital into the creation and technical development of future growth industries, even we can continue to eat off the accumulated wealth for a while Japan would certainly bankrupt after 50 years. Of course, it may be acceptable if the Japanese would repent before the Lord then, but isn't it proper and important direction for us to pray that the current wealth and power of this nation to be used vigorously for the work of the Lord and the world

evangelism. Some says that the Koizumi reform is helping the US and other foreign capital to buy Japanese blue chip companies at bargain prices, but such view is too naïve. The current situation is like the critical patient in ICU merely staying alive by help of the life supporting devices. Is it better to watch idly for it to stand decay and die? Rather, even it may invite foreign capital at one time, isn't better it better to use it as a leverage to challenge again to restart it? Or has Japan lost the challenging spirit and the will that carried out the Meiji Restoration? Let us appeal to the Japanese to grasp on to the Good News and to try harder with more effort.

7. Let us pray that we can totally mobilize the brains of Japan to reconstruct the nation. Also, pray that Japanese Christian churches can nurture true patriots who are in Christ and the rich who do not resort to self-advertisement and self-interest but dedicate their financial resources to God and the country.

8. That the Japanese government will not hand former Peruvian President Fujimori and his brother-in-law, Mr. Aritomi to the Peruvian government.

[Editorial]

*Against the Japanese government that firmly rejects handing over Mr. Fujimori and Mr. Aritomi, the Peruvian government is keeping a hard position in order to find a lead in favorably negotiate to obtain economic assistance from Japan. (July 31, Morning Edition, the Sankei Shimbun)

9. For the peace of Israel. Psalm 125:5

[Editorial]

*That the countries of the world will accept Jerusalem is the capital of the Israel Republic.

*That, with the intervention of God, the virtual war condition to end soon and it will not develop into the Middle East War.

《FINANCIAL REPORT》 (AUG. 1~SEP. 30, 2001)

(Unit = Yen)

INCOME	AMOUNT	EXPENSES	AMOUNT
Offering	92,010	Travel	0
		Printing	0
		Materials	7,700
		Postage	20,658
		Office Expenses	7,938
		Bank Charge	590
		Telephone	4,555
SUB TOTAL	92,010	SUB TOTAL	41,441
Brought Forward	23,847	Balance Carried Forward	74,716
National Activities Fund, Income	0	National Activities Fund, Expense	0
B.F.	15,700	C.F.	15,700
International Conference Fund	0	International Conference Fund	0
B.F.	35,474	C.F.	35,474
TOTAL	167,031	TOTAL	167,031

【Names of Contributors】

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Setsuyo Sato (Kanagawa)	1	Anonymous (Chiba)	1
Fumi Hakoda (Kagoshima)	1		

【Editor's Note】

* We deliver the December issue of the Newsletter.
The feature article is again by Rev. Arimasa Kubo,
Executive Director of the Remnant Publication.

* Rev. Arimasa Kubo started a new ministry at
Ikebukuro, Tokyo since October 21. May the
ministry be abundantly blessed!
Church Name: Remnant Ministry Ikebukuro Christ
Church
Address: 3-31-5 Park Heim Gallery 1F,
Nishi-Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo (West side of
Ikebukuro Station, back of Marui, in front of the
park)
Contact: Remnant Publication (Tel. 0495-72-6203)
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM

* Regarding the 9/11 simultaneous multiple
terrorisms incident and the subsequent
“anthrax terrorism?”, we need to discern it
carefully since there are too many
mysteries.

* According to the article, “the Study of Self
Detonation” by Takashi Tachibana, in the
November issue of the Bungei Shunju is
well worth reading. In it he said that the
collapse of the World Trade Center
buildings were due to the third explosion
that took place after two planes crashed
into the buildings and we should take note
of it..

By John H. Minagawa

