

*"So then ye are no more strangers and
sojourners but ye are fellow citizens with
the people of the household of God."*
Eph. 2:19

The Thirtieth Anniversary

1909 - 1939



Japanese Christian Association Inc.

453-455 West 143rd Street

New York, N. Y.

THE LATE REV. EARNEST A. DHOBI
The Founder and Minister
1878-1931

*"So then ye are no more strangers and
sojourners but ye are fellow citizens with
the saints of the household of God."*

Eph. 2:19

THE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, BETHLEHEM
brought in 1927 by the JCA
453-5th 143 St. Rev. GIICHI KAWAMATA
the present Minister

THE LATE REV. EARNEST A. OHORI
The Founder and Minister
1909-1931



THE JAPANESE CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION BUILDING

bought in 1927 by the JCA.

453-5 N. 143 St.

REV. GIICHI KAWAMATA
the present Minister

HISTORY

Over thirty years ago, a young Japanese theological student came to the city of New York, and was sadly impressed by the condition prevailing among his fellow countrymen in the metropolis; all young and ambitious, but lonely strangers in the cold big city. Lacking the warm protection of home life, their loneliness naturally exposed them to many temptations.

The sorrowful youth now turned to a constructive plan. For one full year, he prepared intensively with prayers, and on May 2, 1909, he organized the Japanese Christian Association under the auspices of the Women's Board of Domestic Missions of the Dutch Reformed Church, in a room of the Bible Teacher's Training School. Thus Rev. Earnest A. Ohori became its founder, eager with the hope of extending to the Japanese people the message and comfort of Christian Gospel and to foster mutual understanding and friendship between the people of America and Japan.

Moved by his high motives and endless efforts, many American friends assisted him liberally. Regardless of the financial crisis and international tension, they remained loyal, and their generous contributions continued, so our church stands today a most eloquent tribute to the foresight and ideal of our founder, a beautiful crystallization of true Christian spirit, a proud symbol of friendship and cooperation between American and Japanese Christians.

With the gradual increase in numbers, the church moved from a single room to a chapel of the Harlem Reformed Church; then moved to a rented house on 102 West 123 Street, and in 1927 the Association purchased the present building. The young people who were members in the earlier years now have families, and many of them are active in their professions either here or in Japan. Our founder, Rev. E. Ohori, passed away in 1931, and was succeeded by Rev. Giichi Kawamata, by whose faithful service the church is growing steadily.

Our most urgent mission now is the spiritual education of the Japanese children born here. We must teach them the spirit and cultures of their fathers that they may grow not only as useful American citizens, but also as a bond and bridge of good-will and understanding between the United States and Japan.

1910



The first group picture taken



A "get-acquainted" gathering



The Easter Sunday group, April 9, 1939

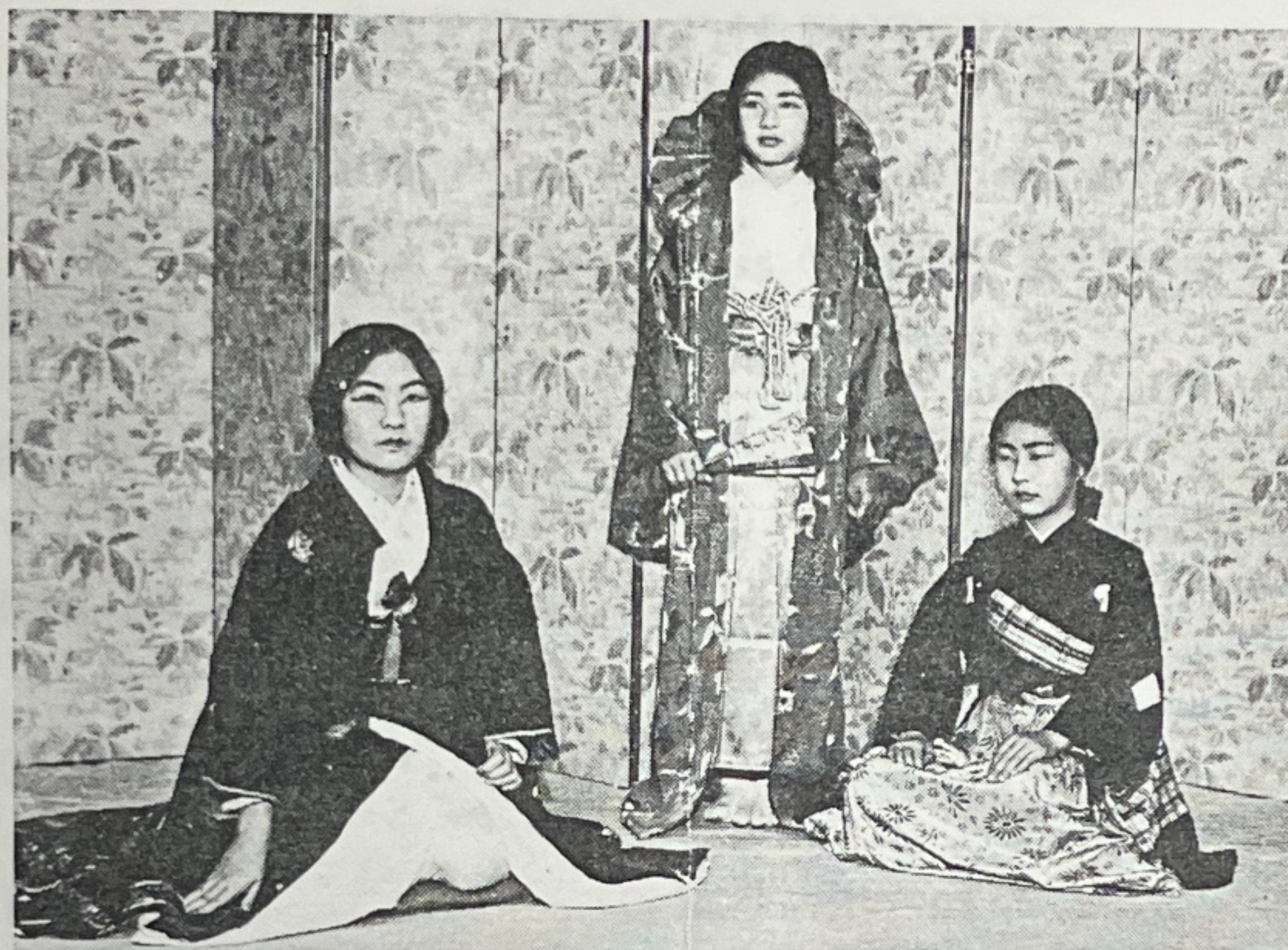
ACTIVITIES

- Sunday Services
- Sunday School
- Adult Bible Class
- Mid-week Prayer Meeting
- Japanese Language School
- Coney Island Branch School
- Women's Club
- Young People's Club
- Dormitory Service
- Free Employment Service
- Mutual Aid
- Evangelical Work through Weekly Bulletin



Young people in the church, 1939

Every year the Japanese cherry trees bloom along the Potomac and give untold pleasures to many thousands of people, acting as silent messengers of good-will between the United States and Japan. Like these transplanted trees, we would like to see our young people who are Americans of Japanese parentage, grow to become worthy citizens of this country.



Leading characters in "Sendaihagi"

Since 1934 the annual entertainment presented by the pupils of our church has become an eagerly anticipated event for many of our American and Japanese friends. The event usually consists of classical Japanese dramas, folk dances, and music.

The purpose of the entertainment is to teach the second generation of Japanese, and also to introduce to our American friends, the true Japanese spirit and culture.



The entire casts of "Terakoya"

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FINANCIAL

THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

The total income of the Board during 1938 was \$7,645.94, which was derived from various fees, contributions of Japanese, Easter bazaar and the annual entertainment. This was used for church work, school and dormitory expenses. From this fund the Board was able to reduce the mortgage by \$1,000.

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The total income of the Board, which was mainly donated by the women's Board of Domestic Missions of the Dutch Reformed Church and other American friends, was \$2,987.99. This was used for the minister's allowance, mortgage interest, taxes, and insurance.

MORTGAGE SUMMARY

1927	House bought for.....	\$57,000
	Paid cash	15,000
		<hr/>
	Balance (at 6%).....	\$42,000
1930	Reduced to (6%).....	\$36,000
1936	“ “ (4½%).....	\$16,000
1938	“ “ (3½%).....	\$15,000

OUTSTANDING OBLIGATION

Mortgage of \$15,000 — held by the Bank for Savings