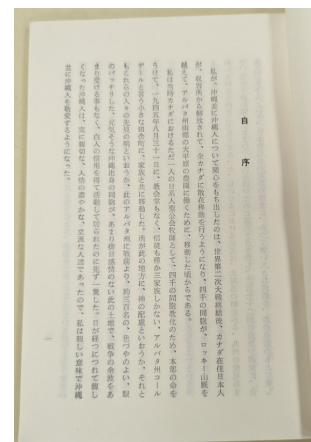
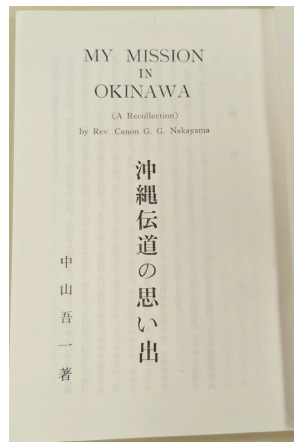
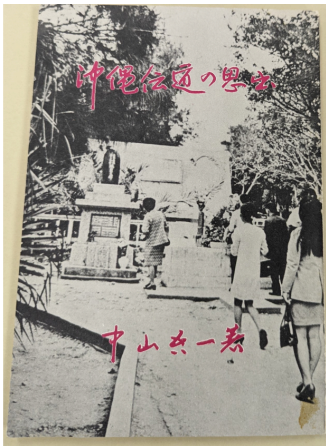


My Mission in Okinawa



Preface

I became interested in people from Okinawa as much as Okinawa prefecture when, after the end of the second world war, Japanese people living in Canada were released from concentration camps and began to move all over Canada. Four thousand compatriots crossed the Rocky Mountains to a farm on a wide plain in the southern part of Alberta for getting work.

As the only Nikkei pastor of the Anglican Church at the time in Canada, I was ordered to enlighten the four thousand compatriots, and on 31st August 1945, I moved with my family to a small rural town called Coaldale in Alberta. There were no churches and only three families as believers. However, since before the second world war, there were around three hundred compatriots from Okinawa, who seemed energetic with a healthy complexion and bright eyes, in Alberta. First I was surprised that, in this area where there was less anti-Japanese sentiment, they were not in much aftermath of the war and active with trust from Caucasians. I wonder if it was thanks to their foresight or God's consideration. Since people from Okinawa, whom I became close to as the days go by, were so kind, affectionate and respectable, I came to respect them as much as Okinawa prefecture in a friendly way.

Pictures in 「My Mission in Okinawa」



The first baptism
56 people were baptized, Christmas 1951.



Spring 1951
A part of the juvenile members of Okinawa-Mihara-Seikokai, Cathedral of St.Peter and St.Paul.



The first baptism

The officiator: priest Goichi Nakayama

The baptism recipient: Kyo Shinjo* (The present head priest of All Saints' Church, Shimabukuro)

August 1951

*I could not find his name in Hiragana, so it could be wrong.



The first baptism

The person in a baptism robe is the evangelist Chosin Kabira.

There is the present priest Kyo Shinjo in this picture.

August 1951



伊是名島小学校の生徒達 当小学校六年生だった池原貞雄君は現在司祭として活躍しておられる 1951

Students of Izena Elementary School *1.

Sadao Ikehara*2 was in sixth grade at this school, and he is renowned as a priest currently. 1951

*1 I could not find 'Izenazima Elementary School (伊是名島小学校)' but 'Izena Elementary School(伊是名小学校)'. Those could be the same.

*2 I could not find his name in Hiragana, so it could be wrong.



伊是名島に大台風あり、350数戸の家が倒れた (1951.10)
この家で1人の幼児が亡くなった

The large-scale typhoon hit Izenazima and broke around 350 houses (1951.10)

One infant passed away in this house.



A part of the maiden group of Okinawa Seikokai Mihara church
The second person from the right is Nae Yoshihira*1, who became the wife of
priest William Hefner*2.

*1 I could not find her name in Hiragana, so it could be wrong. (Nae could be
Mitsu, Tane, or else. Yoshihira could be Yoshibira, Yoshihira, Yoshidaira, Zenhira,
Zendaira, or else.)

*2 I could not find his name in English, so it could be wrong.



The first congregation at Yagaji Elementary school*.
Spring 1952

*1 I could not find ‘Yagajishima Elementary School (屋我地島小学校)’ but
‘Yagaji Elementary School (屋我地小学校)’. Those could be the same.