

June 15, 1943

RECEIVED
JUN 16 1943
J. THOMAS

Dear Mr. Thomas,

It seems that at last, my brother Takeso will be arriving. I expect him sometime next week. I am very sorry that there was such a long period of uncertainty since the time I first spoke to you about him.

Takeso has sent in his application and admission fee. The semester is scheduled to begin on June 28th.

The enclosed card shows the cost per term. Several weeks ago I wrote

to Mr. Egbert Hayes who is on the faculty
at Syracuse and is an acquaintance
of my husband's regarding part time
positions. However, I have received
no reply as yet.

At one time, I believe, Tades had a
small sum saved for his education,
but it seems that during the year
in the center, the family exhausted
it too for his expense and that.

Therefore, he is practically penniless.
I shall take him to your office upon
his arrival.

I wish to thank you very much
for your kindness in helping my sister
also. She is thoroughly enjoying
her new life at Barnard.

With sincere appreciation for
all you have done for us, I remain

Gratefully yours,

Harn Akamatsu

(10)

July 6, 1943

Mrs. Haruko Akamatsu
323 West 108th Street
New York City, New York

My dear Mrs. Akamatsu:

Forgive my delay in answering your letter.

Unfortunately it got mixed up in some of the second class mail on my desk, and so the delay.

I shall do everything I can to secure the scholarship money for your brother as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

Secretary
Department of Cities

JWT:WHA

Japanese Methodist Church and Institute

323 WEST 108TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

RECEIVED
JUL 16 1943
J. THOMAS

July 15, 1943

Dear Mr. Thomas,

Thank you very much for
your kind letter and for the
phone call from your office.

I believe that you have
heard from Mr. Egbert Hayer of Syracuse
about the tuition ^{fee} of \$195.00. My
brother has found work in the cafeteria
and receives his meals there. As
far as clothing expenses are concerned,
his parents will take care of it.

Aside from tuition, he
needs \$2.50 per week for room. If

The scholarship ~~does not~~ take care of the rent,
please let me know, for he has written
something about finding employment on
Saturday afternoons. However, if it
is to be provided, I wish for him
not to work on Saturday, because
the accelerated program seems quite
heavy.

I have tried to give him as
much financial aid as possible, but
it has only been to the extent of perhaps
purchasing few text books and other
necessary equipment.

We are very grateful to you
for your kindness.

Sincerely yours,
Hara Akamatsu

July 16, 1943

Mrs. Haru Akamatsu
323 West 108 Street
New York City

My dear Mrs. Akamatsu:

I have written Mr. Hayes telling him that we would be responsible for your brother's scholarship. I am sure that everything has been arranged through Mr. Hayes.

I am sorry that we have not been able to care for this matter more promptly. I do appreciate your willingness to understand our desire to cooperate.

Sincerely,

Secretary
Department of Cities

JWT:DJS

Japanese Methodist Church and Institute

323 WEST 108TH STREET

NEW YORK CITY

RECEIVED

SEP 8 1943

J. THOMAS

September 7, 1943.

Dear Dr. Thomas:

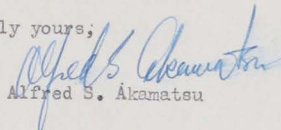
I am taking the liberty of sending you copies of the report and recommendation as well as the excerpt from the letters that have come from ministers in relocation centers. These are being submitted to the New York Church Committee for Japanese Work, which had appointed the three ministers as a committee for that purpose.

Of late the attendance at the Federation service has become so great that we feel that a new quarters must be immediately secured to accommodate the daily increasing number of evacuees who are anxious to participate in the worship service. I do hope that the plan for the unification of three churches will materialize as soon as possible.

Hoping that you will find it possible to come to the service sometime in a near future,

I am,

Sincerely yours;


Alfred S. Akamatsu

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE TO ASCERTAIN THE
DESIRE OF JAPANESE MINISTERS IN RELOCATION CENTERS

REPORT:

On July 3, 1943, this committee sent out letters of inquiry to over 100 ministers residing in ten relocation centers. The question was to find out their desire as to what the church life of the evacuee in New York should be, and it was sub-divided into two sections:

- (1) Should the evacuees be dispersed among the Caucasian churches according to their denominational affiliation?
- (2) Should the Japanese churches be organized into a union church, to which evacuees should affiliate? (Prior to the war the three churches had already voted for unification.)

To date 32 ministers have answered, indicating their preferences as follows:

Dispersal 7 (22%) Union Church 24 (75%) Either 1 (3%)

Of the 7 dispersalists only 3 took an uncompromising approach, while the other three saw the necessity of some nisei church group, and 1 proposed a nisei group within a Caucasian church.

Most of the ministers who answered for a Union Church recognized dispersal as an ideal, but for practical and more effective church work among nisei they thought that a unified Japanese church would be the most satisfactory solution.

Only 1 replied that it does not matter whether an evacuee went to a Japanese or Caucasian church. The important thing is that he goes to a church. He added that he is for a unified church, nevertheless.

RECOMMENDATION:

Whereas though the number of the replies did not suffice to constitute any conclusive answer, it at least indicates that the majority of the ministers in the centers desire a unified church for evacuees; and

whereas the number of evacuees arriving in this city increases daily, calling for an effective, immediate administration, spiritually, socially, and otherwise; and

whereas, prior to the present war, the three Japanese churches through their respective official bodies had already voted for the unification, provided that new quarters be found; (this had been tabled temporarily)

this committee recommends that a plan of unification should at once be reconsidered and its actualization be sought for as soon as possible.

Respectfully,

Sojiro Shimizu, minister Giichi Kawamata, minister
Japanese Christian Institute Japanese Christian Association

Alfred S. Akamatsu, minister
Japanese Christian Church & Institute

EXCERPTS FROM LETTERS RECEIVED BY THE COMMITTEE

Dispersal:

"We write a letter of introduction for those going out, and for those who do not request it, we send their new addresses to superintendents of various denominations."

"To Caucasian church of their own denomination"

"Japanese church may be more convenient, but nisei should open their way in Caucasian church."

"Caucasian church of their own choice...ought to be scattered in many churches....use a portion of the church for nisei worship service, but they should remain a part of the church."

"At the same time they should meet together, say, once a month..."

"Disperse...a nisei minister may be necessary for a certain portion of nisei...."

"Disperse...but those who cannot take an active part or those who do not like to join Caucasian church, a union church may be necessary."

Union Church:

"Dispersal should be encouraged, but union church is more desirable..."

"To understand nisei psychology is possible only with Japanese ministers..."

"Dispersal if the number is small, but if great, there should be a union church...."

"Dispersal is easy to propose, but difficult to actualize...."

"Generally nisei want the church of their own...."

"More than 60 years of history testifies to the necessity of a Japanese church....the real problem is: number, money, and faith."

"Japanese union church is absolutely necessary for: converting Buddhist nisei, and many who are bashful....Union church is far better than a nisei group in an American Church with Assistant nisei pastor....A Japanese church should serve the community, including white, negro, etc."

"And let nisei take responsibility for their own church...."

"Encourage other races to join... Form a really Christian and unique church...."

"Union church for the conversion of those who are not Christian...Don't send any nisei to any Caucasian church which limit the number....Let evacuee share responsibilities, financially and otherwise....Never a 'guest' member..."

Neutral:

"Does not matter where he goes....important that he goes to a church... Not too many are denominationally minded among the young people..."

September 13, 1943

Rev. Alfred S. Akamatsu
323 West 108th Street
New York City, New York

My dear friend:

I want to tell you that I appreciate the work that you did on your survey.

Sometimes I fear that my honest difference with you as to future procedure might lead you to feel that I do not appreciate the work that you are doing. I want you to know that I am aware of the fact that no other person in New York has meant more to incoming nisei than you have.

I want also to assure you that when the Committee arrives at its decision, you can depend upon my backing that decision to the best of my ability. My best regards to you.

Sincerely,

Secretary
Department of Cities

JWT:DJS

Japanese Methodist Church and Institute

323 WEST 108TH STREET

NEW YORK 25. N. Y.

RECEIVED
NOV 23 1943
T. THOMAS

November 23, 1943.

Dear Friends:

Throughout these tragic and difficult days we have always been uplifted by the warmth of Christian fellowship. Without your genuine sympathy and loyal support, it would have been impossible for us to carry on our work and to widen our service to our community and to the evacuee coming from different relocation centers into the city in ever increasing number.

With grateful hearts we are calling upon you once again to be with us at our Fifteenth Annual Christmas Bazaar for fellowship and sharing the spirit of Christmas--peace, good will, and hope--the spirit needed now more than ever.

Please do come. Enjoy our delicious food. Look over our beautiful yet reasonable shopping booths. With the cooperation of the Women's Federation of Granada Relocation Center in Colorado, we have exquisite hand-made Christmas gifts available this year.

Enclosed please find subscription tickets, each of which entitles you to a Special Japanese Dinner. Even if you are unable to attend, we would appreciate deeply if you can subscribe to our Bazaar so that we may be able to carry on our service now needed by our people. May we count on you?

But most of all, we wish to invite you to be with us to help us feel the strength of Christian fellowship, the hope in these times for a bright future.

Most cordially yours,

Mrs. C. W. Iglehart
Mrs. C.W. Iglehart, Pres.,
Woman's Society of Christian Service

Alfred S. Akamatsu
Alfred S. Akamatsu
Minister

Please use the enclosed, self-addressed envelope and make your check payable to the Japanese Methodist Church.

December 7, 1943

Rev. Alfred S. Akamatsu
323 West 103th Street
New York 25, New York

Dear Mr. Akamatsu:

Unfortunately, I could not come to your annual Christmas Bazaar. I do, however, want to express my interest in what you are doing, so I am inclosing a contribution of two dollars.

My best regards to you.

Sincerely,

Secretary
Department of Cities

JWT:DJS
Inclosure