



高らかに歌声響く聖堂に
この日この朝み神を称ふ

Takaraka ni utagoe hibiku seidō ni,
Kono hi, kono asa, mikami o tatou

*Voices raised on high
In His holy house this morn,
Singing His praises.*

*On this morning, on this day,
May His name be blessed.*

THE BEGINNING OF THE JAPANESE SPEAKING CHURCH OF POSTON II

The desert heat of Poston was intense the day we arrived in mid-July of 1942. After traveling through miles and miles of barren land, the train finally arrived in Parker, Arizona. We transferred onto buses for the 18-mile trip to Poston. The bus rumbled through a wilderness of dusty mesquite and scrub brushes as we weary travelers fanned ourselves and wiped the perspiration streaming down our faces. I thought to myself that if we are to survive in this desolate place, we must have an active church to uplift the people.

After going through the registration line and completing all the necessary requirements, we headed for our quarters, Block 208-4D. As soon as my family was settled, I immediately went to seek a friend from Watsonville, Kyusaburo Sakata, whom I was told had arrived two weeks earlier. Coming from Sacramento, the heat was not as shocking as coming from Salinas or Watsonville where it meant changing from 65 degrees to a possible 130 degrees. I found both

Mr. Sakata and Rev. Takeda flat on their backs suffering from the extreme heat. I asked them if a church had been organized. They replied that they have had no energy to do anything but try to keep cool. We agreed that we needed to get some church activities started, so we immediately made plans for our first meeting of the Japanese Speaking Christian Church of Poston II. Under the leadership of Rev. Takeda, Rev. Noji, Rev. Nagai and Rev. Kitaji, two services were held on Sundays, one in the morning and the other in the evening. Midweek Bible study-prayer meetings and cabinet meetings were also held each week.

We had a rich fellowship of believers, and our Lord bound us in Christian friendship despite the trying conditions under which we lived.

Riichi Satow



The ranks of the Issei are "thinning" 'as time goes by' but they are kept busy by their children and grandchildren. Calligraphy writing and Japanese T.V. programs are a favorite pastime.