

CHURCHES

Churches, both Buddhist and Christian, were very important institutions in the Japanese community. Especially important was the community center aspect of Christian churches, considered the dissemination of Buddhism in Japan. For the many years missionaries from Christian churches across the church congregations often provided the kind of personal support which the family and village had given them in Japan, particularly for widows, orphans, and the elderly. Moreover, the Christian church

facilitated the learning of American ways. In this country, the Buddhist also retained the congregational system. For him, the most inspiring of which had this experience in associating socially with others, the entire community church was essential, but even so the English-speaking flock, the entire church was practical. Some members in the entire society contributed to the maintenance.

The churches contributed significantly to the high standard character of the Japanese community. Each church often drew heavily from particular areas: professional groups, and thereby maintained somewhat separate life styles. Entertainment and church meetings and other church groups for family living developed gradually as social and community centers. The young people's church conferences, part of the Buddhist and an independent Christian, tended to draw people together both at points of the faithfulness and other organized religious activities of members.



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