

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST (JAPANESE)
under the Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 E. Chestnut Street

In May, 1942, the Church of Christ (Japanese) John Timothy Stone Chapel of the Fourth Presb under which this group met, under stress of t the short history of this church is worthy of to all those who have contributed so greatly sincere efforts in establishing this group.

Prior to the war the entire Japanese populat Of this number only 16 at most, made up the sought to keep burning the words of the Gosp in a second floor room of an old apartment bu side.

When war came the group found it necessary to suspend these religious meetings through an order from the Chicago authorities. So abruptly was the sustaining means of developing and receiving spiritual nourishment lost. However, this proved to be only a temporary condition, for as Christians in any country would strive for and have faith in the goodness and mercy of God, this group through the real power of prayer found itself full of hopefulness for the help of one of the established American churches in Chicago. From January 1942 to May of that year, after a series of meetings with Dr. Harrison R. Anderson, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, and with other members of his committee, an arrangement was made wherein the Japanese Christian group, under the leadership of Mr. Ai Chi Sai, could meet in the John Timothy Stone chapel of the Fourth Church. And on May 24, 1942, the first service was held.

This was the beginning of an organized church for Japanese Christians who reside in Chicago. A constitution was drawn up and approved by Dr. Anderson and his committee and the 23 charter members of the church. Membership at the present time numbers .

On November 8, 1942, Mr. Sai was ordained into the Congregational Association of Ministers. The ordination service was performed at the Fourth Church. At the same time three elders and three deacons were ordained and the church was recognized as the Church of Christ (Japanese) in Chicago.

Since the time of establishment of this church the Japanese population in Chicago has grown very rapidly, and is now made up mostly of Japanese-American young people. It must be remembered in connection with the further development of the young people's group that the Church of Christ (Japanese) was established because the older Japanese were unable to participate satisfactorily in an American church and unable to receive the full impact of the sermons and spiritual inspiration from the sermons and service because of the language barrier. It is still very necessary to have most of the sermons given in the Japanese language and the hymns largely picked from the Japanese hymnal and sung in the language for the benefit of the older Japanese who are a most vital part of this church.

From the beginning the program of the church has included an English sermon once a month for those who cannot understand Japanese. Later a ^{short} English sermon was included at every ~~thing~~ meeting, and the program expanded by having an All English service once a month.

Undated

Summary of how the Church of Christ (Japanese) resumed services in May 1942 at the Fourth Presbyterian Church in Chicago and its growth during the first year

Likely written by A.C. and Ryo Tsa

MEANWHILE PERMISSION WAS RECEIVED FROM CHICAGO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO CARRY ON THIS TYPE OF RELIGIOUS MEETING

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In May, 1942, the Church of Christ (Japanese) met for the first time in the John Timothy Stone Chapel of the Fourth Presbyterian Church. The conditions under which this group met, under stress of the war situation, are unique and the short history of this church is worthy of review, particularly as a tribute to all those who have contributed so greatly by their spiritual aspirations and sincere efforts in establishing this group.

Prior to the war the entire Japanese population in Chicago numbered about 200. Of this number only 16 at most, made up the Christian group which earnestly sought to keep burning the words of the Gospel. This small group met regularly in a second floor room of an old apartment building on Oak St. on the near North side.

When war came the group found it necessary to suspend these religious meetings through an order from the Chicago authorities. So abruptly was the sustaining means of developing and receiving spiritual nourishment lost. However, this proved to be only a temporary condition, for as Christians in any country would strive for and have faith in the goodness and mercy of God, this group through the real power of prayer found itself full of hopefulness for the help of one of the established American churches in Chicago. From January 1942 to May of that year, after a series of meetings with Dr. Harrison R. Anderson, pastor of the Fourth Presbyterian Church, and with other members of his committee, an arrangement was made wherein the Japanese Christian group, under the leadership of Mr. Ai Chi Sai, could meet in the John Timothy Stone chapel of the Fourth Church. ^{MEANWHILE PERMISSION WAS RECEIVED FROM CHICAGO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS TO CARRY ON THIS TYPE OF RELIGIOUS MEETINGS} And on May 24, 1942, the first service was held.

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For the past year and four months of the Church of Christ at its present location ~~services have been held regularly at 2:00 p.m.~~ has held ^{its} services.

For a full year Services were held in the John Timothy Stone Chapel ~~which holds about 40 people~~ but the increasing numbers made it necessary to have a larger place of worship and from ~~the~~ early part of this year services have been held in the middle chapel of the Fourth Church which will seat about 110 people. ~~Since the middle chapel of the Fourth Church~~

Services have been varied. In earlier days the English sermons ~~were~~ given by Caucasian friends attending the University's Divinity school or the Chicago Theological Seminary ~~and by Rev. S. J. Loveless~~ or by