

I was born on May 17, 1915 on Bainbridge Island, a son of immigrant parents from Japan. My parents were hard working people of the soil, creating a farm out of land which had been home for virgin Douglas firs. Eventually they had nearly 20 acres of land upon which strawberries and vegetables were raised. My early years as I recall were idyllic. Although we were poor there was time for ample play, fishing and adventuring on this little island located in the sound about nine miles west of Seattle.

There were only two children in the family, an older sister a year older and myself. She was the one upon which much responsibility was placed. Being the only son I was the favored one. My parents loved me, more so than my sister, with consequent repercussions in terms of her later development. Because I was indulged I have an indulgent attitude toward myself. I am not too harsh on myself and have accepted myself fairly well down through the years although I have had my moments of inferiority. The latter arising I believe from a recognition in the teenage years that I was different from others in being an ethnic person.

My mother was the dominant force in the family; father as I recall was the weaker one. She was the one who kept the family together ~~on~~ an even keel. It was through her encouragement and effort that I went on to college despite the fact that my father had passed away soon after my graduation from high school. She encouraged me likewise to go on to a theological seminary following seminary.

Important persons in my life included a high school teacher - Marion Marshall who encouraged my attendance at a local Sunday School; Victor Wickman, a scoutmaster and Esther McCollough, Baptist missionary who helped establish an ethnic Sunday School. These persons, there were others as well, helped me extend the horizons of my life, to discover other worlds.

I attended Seattle Pacific College (now SEU) from 1938 to 1939. Then to seminary training at Berkeley Baptist Divinity in 1939 from which I graduated in absentia in 1942 because of internment during the war years at Hunt, Idaho. I spent three remarkable and exciting years as a neophyte clergyman at the Minidoka Relocation Camp. At the close of camp I met Betty Adkins with whom I shared 33 years of married life.

We had two children of our own and later adopted three more children - Ameri-Asians from the Illinois Children's Home when I was a pastor in Iowa. My wife dedicated herself to the family and to my career as a "minister's wife". In recent years she yearned to get out of the marital system and finally a year and a half ago she moved out to seek a new life and career of her own. We are good friends and are in the process of a "do it yourself divorce".

My health is reasonably good. For example I ride a bicycle for transportation and exercise as much as I can. Also I am interested in outdoor life as well as swimming. Later I have taken up the pastime of dancing.

I have had one quarter of CPE on McNeil Island during the summer of 1969. Also I have attended innumerable workshops and continuing education courses during my pastorates.

Growing up in a non religious home my religious growth was shaped by attendance at a Congregational S.S. and later an ethnic Baptist mission. I grew up in a religious environment which was not rigid but fairly open and flexible. Except that my Baptist missionary teacher did not approve of dancing or drinking. As a student at Seattle Pacific University I encountered a rigid form of religion. This I never accepted and found myself continually arguing with my colleagues at school. One of the motivations for going on to seminary was to find a more adequate way.

I did not make a deliberate choice of entering the ministry. Circumstances led me to it as there was need for someone to work with the evacuees at the relocation center. Always I have found open doors for different forms of ministry. It has not been always what I wanted or chose to do as much as the need existing which called me to fulfill.

My present goals are:

(1) to continue my work as part-time chaplain (one half schedule) at the VA Medical Center at American Lake. This schedule enables me to be involved in the larger community. Currently I am the organizing pastor of a black American Baptist Church in Renton.

(2) to continue involvement in training opportunities - clinical training and in the future possible the DM route.

(3) to find time for myself in the area of recreation, relaxation and travel.

My impression of CPE is that it consists of a two pronged approach: (1) to become a competent professional in my field and (2) to continue in the direction of personal self awareness as well as of others with whom I associate.

Outside of my work at the hospital I am in touch with persons who are seeking my ministry. There are crisis calls. Currently I am meeting with a member of my church in Renton who has suffered an emotional breakdown. She has been suffering from her traumatic past. Also she and her husband want help in their marital relationship.