HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

The Bob Stewart Archives
The United Church of Canada, BC Conference
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May 10th 1947

Rev. R.W. Hardy, B.A.
2526 West 2nd Avenue,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Hardy:

Enclosed is a letter from Mr. Hanji Yamasaki, which is essentially a message to Conference, and as such I think a reply should be sent to him. I am confident that such action would meand a great deal to Mr. Yamasaki, who prior to the evacuation of the Japanese was a stalwart layman in our New Westminster congregation.

Yours most sincerely,

WPB/AM
Enc.1

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

March 24th 1947

Mr. Kenji Yamasaki,
c/o McLean Lumber Co.,
Carmi, B.C.

Dear Mr. Yamasaki:

I greatly enjoyed reading your recent letter, and regret that I have been so long in answering it. It was good to hear from you again and I trust that you may find it possible to get down to Conference which opens on May 14th in Canadian Memorial Church. I expect that Edward Yoshioka will be ordained at this Conference.

Once you have made the decision as to whether or not you wish to come, will you let me know, and I shall be very glad to approach the necessary authorities with a view to securing the permit for you to come to Vancouver.

With kind personal regards

I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

WPB/AM

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Carmi. B. C.
c/o- McLean Lumber Co.
1946?
(April, 1947 apprx.)?

Dear Mr. Bunt:

Ever since last year's conference of United Church of Canada I am thinking to attend this year's conference as an observer. If I ~~should~~ decided to make a trip to the coast I wonder if you would help me to get a travelling permit. Of course I will pay all my necessary expenses. When I was on the coast it was my habit(?) to attend the conference every year as an official delegate or as an observer. I used to get a great inspiration and knowledge of ~~what~~ how the church intend to meet the ~~reality~~ challenge of the day. During the war my mind was at the conference but obtained only a partial report through daily press. I was very much disappointed last year because the press gave did not give full account of discusions when the Japanese question came up before the conference. They printed the names of ministers who opposed the resolution (an open letter) but did not mention about the names who sponsored the open letter.

In regard to the "open letter" I was deeply moved when I read it in the press. and really appreciated the Chrit-like spirit manifested in the open letter.

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I know weaknesses of the Japanese people and their faults too. ~~more than anybody else~~. Also I was quite aware that those who sponsored the "open letter" knew those weaknesses and faults of the Japanese in this country more than anybody else. Just they tried to put all the blame for the Japanese situation upon themselves. That ~~was~~ I felt a real Christ-like spirit because "Christ died for sinners" ~~and~~ I prayed for the passage of the resolution ~~at the conference~~ without any resentments. I did so not because for the Japanese but for the cause of the christianity. But next day the pressed reported ~~that the conference~~ that the conference had refused ~~the~~ to endorse the letter. At that time I tried to get a full information of the circumstances under which the discussion took palace through Rev. Keyworth, Rev Hartley, Rev. McWilliams and some of the Japanese ministers. Keyworth ~~+ Hartley~~ wrote me he was away from the conference and Hartley was busy ~~at~~ & was'nt at the ~~of~~ conference at that time and McWilliams did not write me at all. Yoshioka was very cautious and did not say very much. However Ogura told me something more than what the press had reported.

According the press, Rev. J. D. Hobden told the conference that "Canadians have not discriminated against Japanese in this country" But at the same time he agreed

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that "the Japanese should have full citizenship rights". Another outspoken minister who opposed the resolution was Rev. Stevens has been anti-Japanese as his father, the Hon. H.H. Stevens, is. I wonder sometimes how a person could be a minister of Christian gospel and at the same time be a race-hater.

As I said before the Japanese have many many faults and made great many mistakes which put them into the present conditions. But they are human. They appreciate kindness and sympathy. It is entirely up to Christian people in this country to rescue these Japanese as Japan is looking to the Christian leadership from Canada for its salvation.

I made a ~~flying~~ short visit to Midway Greenwood & Grand Forks after the New Year and met a great number of Japanese people. In Grand Forks I had an opportunity to ~~speak~~ speak at the General meeting of Japanese association. In Greenwood I was approached by a prominent Japanese Christian so that I would visit the people at least once a month. But I feel that frequent visit by a person like Rev McWilliams will be more effective. Please pass ~~this~~ this on to him. I haven't heard from him for a long time. I wonder if he is well? Thanking you for your patience in reading my poor english letter, yours truly, H. Yamazaki

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Carmi B.C.
Oct., 28th. 1945.

Dear Mr. Bunt;

In regard to a conference of workers amongst the Japanese the date which you have mentioned in your circular ~~is~~ seems little too late. It is my personal judgment that the Japanese are facing now the most difficult situations. Their positions are unique in the history of christian country. The church must understand the problem and give a solution which will be fair to all parties concerned. I do not agree with those people who advocate a total deportation of the Japanese people but at the same time I strongly object to those who blindly sympathize with the ~~pe~~ Japanese people who have signed for repatriation. The church should gather information about the motives of the Japanese when who they signed the repatriation forms. It is my personal opinion that our Moderator should have more knowlege ~~concerning~~ on this matter before he promised the people in Tashme to do something for them. It makes the churches stand weak if we approach the matter without full understandings.

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In this regard I hoped that the conference should be held sooner so that the workers amongst the Japanese would have a chance to exchange their opinions on this matter and our church leaders in Toronto could act on the outcome of the conference. ~~However~~, As I said at the beginning of this letter that the proposed date seems little too late, ~~but~~ however it is better than not having it at all. But ~~the~~ Nelson is not a suitable ~~place~~ ~~in which the~~ to have such a conference. ~~The~~ The one of the reasons is that Nelson is still a ~~forbidden~~ a protected areas to the Japanese. Therefore the place is ~~not fit~~ psychologically unfit for ~~the~~ gathering. I ~~suggest~~ think New Denver is again logical site for the conference.

In this spring and summer I have been in Trail, Greenwood and Grand Forks. and talked with as many people as I could. ~~Oct~~ early part of December I have a plan now to visit Slocan valley and Kaslo for about two weeks. I will talk frankly with the people. ~~about~~ about our problems.

I always appreciate of your kindness in remembering of me. Please pray for me so that I will live in hope and to glorify His Name,

Yours very truly,

Kanji Yamazaki

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

October 30th 1945

Rev. George Dorey, D.D.,
299 Queen Street W ,
Toronto, 2B, Ont.

Dear Dr. Dorey:

I am enclosing herewith copy of a letter received from Mr. Hanji Yamazaki, in reply to a circular letter sent by Mr. Bunt to the Japanese workers regarding the postponing of a Conference of Japanese Workers until the time of the Spring meeting of Kootenay Presbytery, which will probably meet in Nelson in February. I referred this letter to Rev. Hugh M. Rae, Chairman of the Japanese Committee, and in the course of conversation mentioned that your Executive in Toronto would be meeting early in November. He thought it might be well for you to have the information contained in Mr. Yamazaki's letter, and the resolution passed by the Missionary Conference in Vancouver in case you might be considering the Japanese question at your Executive.

Trusting you had a profitable trip to the Pacific Coast.

I remain,

Yours sincerely,

Office Secretary.

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

October 30th 1945

Rev. George Dorey, D.D.,
299 Queen Street W.,
Toronto, 2B, Ont.

Dear Dr. Dorey:

Miss Murray was sending you the enclosed copy of a letter from Mr.Hanji Yamasaki, and I thought it well to let you know what we passed at a Missionary Conference Rally on Saturday evening (Also enclosed).

We are fearful that Bill 15 goes beyond the scope of "The British Nationality and Status of Aliens Act 1914", and is directly aimed at the Japanese to make legal any drastic step contemplated. Perhaps it is this situation which is disturbing Mr. Yamasaki, as well it may.

Yours sincerely,

HMR AM

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

December 7th 1945

Mr. H. Yamasaki,
Cerni, B.C.

Dear Mr. Yamasaki:

Your letter of October 28th came along when I was in the North on a visit to the Indian Missions with the President of our Conference, Dr. Roddan. Since I have returned that has not been sufficient time to get our committee together to talk over plans for a Conference of our Japanese Workers. There seems to be so many things requiring my time and attention, that some of them are neglected.

I note what you say as to the place of meeti g, and when the Committee meets, I shall read them your letter.

I may say that a copy of your letter has been sent to Dr. Dorey, because it seemed important that he should know your mind regarding the matters about which you wrote.

With kind personal regards,

I remain,

Yours most sincerely,

WPB/AM

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

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COPY

CARMI, B.C.
October 28th 1945

Dear Mr. Bunt:

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In this regard I hoped that the Conference should be held sooner so that the workers amongst the Japanese would have a chance to exchange their opinions on this matter and our church leaders in Toronto could act on the outcome of the Conference. As I said at the beginning of this letter, the proposed date seems a little too late. However, it is better than not having it at all. But Nelson is not a suitable place to have such a conference. The one of the reasons is that Nelson is still a protected area to the Japanese. Therefore the place is psychologically unfit for the gathering. I think New Denver is again logical site for the Conference.

In this Spring and Summer, I have been in Tashme, Greenwood, and Grand Forks, and talked with as many people as I could. In early part of December I have a plan now to visit Slocan Valley and Kaslo for about two weeks. I will talk frankly with the people about our problems.

I always appreciate your kindness in remembering of me. Please pray for me so that I will live in hope and to glorify His Name.

Yours very truly,

(signed) Hanji Yamasaki

March 2nd 1945

Mr. H. Yamazaki,
Carmi, B.C.

Dear Mr. Yamazaki:

When I returned to the office this morning, I found your letter of February 27th awaiting me. I greatly appreciate the spirit shown in this letter and especially the very evident desire which you have to do Christian work. While it will be a loss to our Church in not having you in its employ as a Lay Missionary, yet, I feel quite sure that you are doing the honourable thing in standing by Mr. McLean, to whom you have given the impression that you would remain with him for this year. I am glad to know also how splendidly he has stood back of you, at a time when so many are trying to arouse feelings of hatred against your people. If the situation changes so that you would feel free to help us in full time Christian work, I hope you will communicate with me right away, as I feel quite sure that there would be a place for you in our work.

With very kind regards to Mrs. Yamazaki and yourself, and in the hope that the situation for the Japanese in Canada may improve beyond what now seems likely.

I remain, With every good wish,

Yours most sincerely,

WPB/AM

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

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Carmi B.C.
Feb. 27th 1945.

Rev. W. P. Bunt,
207 West Hastings St.
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Bunt:

I am in receipt of your very kind letter of the 16th instant. It gave me a great compliment which I surely do not deserve. While I feel strongly that I am not fit for the work which you have suggested me to undertake, I could not but help to give some consideration to it because I always cherish a desire to do ~~am~~ missionary work among my own people ever since I became a christian.

At the same time I feel it is very difficult for me to leave my present position because I know that the mill needs me here. Also I have given Mr. McLean an impression at the beginning of this year that I will not move away from Carmi for sometime yet. He was very considerate and has done every thing for us during the past two years when the public feelings were very critical for Japanese. I feel now that we owe him a great debt for our present living which my family and myself are enjoying so much.

Under such circumstances I came to the conclusion, with much regret, to inform you that I am unable to accept your kind offer at the present.

However it is my intention, if an

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opportunity comes, to resettle either in Grand Forks or Greenwood so that I can help in the Christian work among our people who reside in those areas.

Again I appreciate for your kind letter. Please remember me in your prayer so that I will always keep faith ~~with~~ in God and in Christianity of this country.

With kind regards, I remain,
yours very sincerely,

Kanji Yamazaki.

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Taxmi B.C.
March 22nd,
1945.

Rev. W.P. Bunt,
207 Hastings St. West,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Mr. Bunt:

I am enclosing a letter which I sent to the B.C. Security Commission asking for a permission to travel to Tashme, B.C. The letter will explain my intention, but I have to apologize you for using your name in the letter. I sincerely hope you will not mind it.

I went to Grand Forks for Easter last year. But this year I want to have a christian fellowship with my friends in Tashme. Moreover I wish to have a good chat with Mr. McWilliams concerning the future of Japanese people in this country.

Please remember us in your prayer so that we can act like Christ in any tribulations.

Yours very very truly,

Kenji Yamazaki

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Carmi B.C.
March 22nd 1945.

The B.C. Security Commission,
360 Homer St.,
Vancouver, B.C.

Dear Sir:

The saw mill which I am employed will be closed down for several days for Easter. I want take this opportunity to visit Tashme and spend the Easte Sunday, April 1st, with my christian friends there. It is also my urgent desire to attend church service and hear Easter message from my former minister Rev. W.R. McWilliams who is now working among Japanese people in Tashme.

Kindly grant me a permission so that I can leave here on Thursday, March 29th, by train for Tashme and return to Carmi on April 3rd.

I have already obtained a leave of absence from my employer.

Regarding to my connections with church please refer to Rev. W.P. Bunt, superintendent of Home missions for the United Church of Canada in B.C., who will, I am sure, give you some information.

Thanking you for your trouble,
I remain Yours truly,
Kanji Yamazaki Reg. Nr. 08871

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

January 10th 1945

Mr. H. Yamasaki,
Carmi, B.C.

Dear Mr. Yamasaki:

I have your letter of the 8th and note your fear lest Mr. Ogura be moved from Grand Forks. I am afraid that you are like some of the rest of us at times, in that we listen too much to rumour. It may ease your mind to know that as far as I am concerned there was never any thought of moving Mr. Ogura from Grand Forks and Greenwood. Of course in facing the situation of a shortage of ministers, we had to consider all possibilities, one of which was moving Mr. Ogura to New Denver. You will realise that we have to look at the problem from all sides and do what seems best in the interests of the work as a whole, regardless of how any one point may be affected. It would not be good judgment, nor the part of wisdom, to place our ministers where there are relatively few people, and leave areas in which there are great numbers of them without ministerial supply. However, I do not think that the Grand Forks Mission should be left without a minister, and I have no thought of proposing that Mr. Ogura be moved.

Trusting that Mrs. Yamasaki and yourself are well.

I remain, with very kind regards,

Yours most sincerely,

WPB/AM

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Carmi. B. C.
Jan. 8th 1945

Dear Mr. Bunt;-

I have received a letter from my friend in Montreal who imformed me of an appointment of Rev. Shimizu to Eastern Province where many Japanese are residing now. There were constant rumors in New Denver when I was there to attend the conference in Oct. last that if Mr. Shimizu goes to East Mr. Ogura will be transfered there from Grand Forks. I do not know if there is any truth in it but it seems very unwise to leave Grand Forks without any ~~Japanese minister~~ at present.

Perhaps as you know that the number of the Japanese in the districts of Midway and Green Wood are steadily increasing and are there ~~is~~ every reason to believe that more of them will find their homes in those areas from other settlements of interior

If Mr. Ogura goes to new Denver it leaves Miss Bock alone in Green-Wood where she needs his help very much. On the other hands there are many missionaries in New Denver who are able to speak Japanese language and can carry on their works without any Japanese minister.

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

It is my strong believe ~~that~~ to move if Mr Ogura to New Denver is not in the best interest for the Japanese people as a whole. I am convinced Mr. Ogura will not be happy there and I know the people of New Denver do not need him as much as the people of Grand Forks and Greenwood need and appreciate the services of Mr. Ogura. You know as well as I do how the late Rev. Nomoto was treated there

Wishing this may draw your sympathetic attention to the matter,

Yours truly,

Kanji Yamazaki

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)

Carmi, B.C.
December 24th/45

Dear Mr. Bunt:

When I came home from a visit to the interior towns I found your letter of December 7th awaiting me and I note that you have sent a copy of my last letter to Dr. Darey. Although it was my candid opinion but I had no desire to rebuke the actions which had been taken by our high church officials nor to minimize my appreciations to the United Church of Canada which has done so much for the Japanese in these trying times. But on the other hand I always maintain that the Japanese people should be fair to this country. Now I sincerely hope that you and other church officials will understand my real motives in sending you such a letter as I did on Oct. 28th.

I have visited almost every Japanese settlement in Slocan valley. The people are extremely worried about their futures. There are many christians are congregating in New Denver where Rev. T. Koniyama is very popular among the young people as well as the older folks. I was very much surprised to see that he masters the Japanese language so well that one cannot tell if he was born and educated

in this country. This is largely I think due to the influence of his parent who are devoting all their times and energies to his works

I must ask you and other christians to keep praying for the Japanese (in this country) christians because they are in a peculiar positions. In peace time they were almost segregated (psychologically) from the rest of the Japanese community because of their christian believes and too friendly attitudes toward this country. But when the war came they are treated just like any other Japanese by the Government.

Please pray for me too for I need it most.

with best regards,
yours very sincerely,

Hanji Yamazaki.

HOME MISSIONS SUPERINTENDENT (BUNT)