



Mennonite Library & Archives Fresno Pacific University

MB Mission work in Japan An Inventory of Records

OVERVIEW OF THE COLLECTION

Creator: MB Mission
Title: Records of mission work in Japan
Inclusive dates: 1950-2004
Quantity: 5.4 linear ft.
Record Group No.: A250-8

HISTORICAL NOTE

The Board of Foreign Missions began planning for a mission work in Japan as early as 1948. The first Mennonite Brethren workers to go to Japan—H.G. and Lydia Thielman—did so in 1949, though under the auspices of Mennonite Central Committee rather than the Board of Foreign Missions. The first MB missionary to Japan, Ruth Wiens, arrived there in August of 1950. Other missionary families followed in subsequent months and years, centering their operations in the Osaka/Kobe area. Since 1950 more than 30 Mennonite missionaries have served in Japan.

The first Mennonite Brethren church services in Japan took place in May of 1951 and the first church members baptized in August of that year. In 1964 the Japanese churches organized as an independent Mennonite Brethren conference, the "Nippon Menonaito Burezaren Kyodan." The Osaka Biblical Seminary, founded in 1965 by the Mennonite Brethren and two Baptist groups, is now run solely by the MB conference in Japan. The conference periodical is *Yoki Otuzure*.

ORGANIZATION AND ARRANGEMENT OF THE COLLECTION

This record group is organized into six series: I. Minutes, 1951-1982. II. Individual files, 1950-1980. III. Congregational records, 1957-1968. IV. Schools, 1958-1978. V. Other records, 1953-1985. VI. Photographs

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF COLLECTION

Box 1

Series 1: Minutes and reports
Missionary Council, 1951-1960
Missionary Fellowship, 1960-1987
Missionary Administrative Committee, 1959-1967
Missionary Executive Committee, 1967-1981
Missionary Affairs Committee, 1977-1981
Field visit reports, 1957-1987
Other reports, 1948-1970, 1977

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Series 2: Individual files

Arita, Masaru, 1965-1973
Balzer, David & Mary, 1955-1959
Balzer, Esther, 2003-2004
Barnhart, Tim and Debbie, 1985-1986
Bartel, Jonathan & Alice, 1952-1983
Enns, Robert & Ruth, 1963-1970
Esau, Barry & Manon, 1989-1990
Fehr, Ann, 1993-1994
Franz, Ken and Heidi, 1987-1988
Friesen, Harry & Millie, 1951-1985
Friesen, Steve & Bobbie, 1979-1984

Box 2

Series 2: Individual files (cont.)

Gaede, Harold & Marianna, 1951-1953
Goertz, Doris, 1985-1986, 1992-1995
Gunther, Rubena, 1951-1970
Hamm, Phil & Lydia, 1976-1978, 1984-1989
Hiebert, Laurence and Leona, 1993-1997
Heinrichs, Miriam, 1990
Ishiga, Makoto, 1983-1985
Janzen, Lois, 1991-1993
Janzen, Steve, 1992-1994
Kitano, Kyoichi, 1957-1968
Kliwer, Lorelei, 1985-1993
Koop, Abe & Kay, 1965-1971
Krause, Sam & Renetta, 1954-1986
Neuman, Deanne, 1996
Peters, Gerry and Debbie, 1981-1983
Schmidt, Tony and Pat, 1999-2004
Stobbe, Vernon and Ruth, 1984-1992
Thiessen, Randal and Saciko, 1997-2002
Totzke, Jim & Leona, 1976-1981
Washio, Lisa, 2000-2002
Wiens, Roland & Anna, 1951-1989
Wiens, Ruth, 1950-1959, 1964-1979
Wohlgemuth, Ivan & Jean, 1964-1982
Zerbe, Ben & Esther, 1964-1970
Correspondence, other, 1951-1987

Series 3: Congregational records

Amagasaki, 1958-1964
Hirano, 1958-1964
Imozato, 1964
Ishibashi, 1957-1964
Kasugade, 1957-1964
Kuwana, 1960-1964
Minato, 1957-1964
Mukogawa, 1964
Nagase, 1957-1964
Nagoya, 1968
Neyagawa, 1964
Sakkai, 1987
Toyonaka, 1964
Tsurugaoka, 1959

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Box 3

Series 4: Schools

- Osaka Biblical Seminary
 - Constitutions, ?-1969
 - Board of Directors, 1959-1976
 - Home Administration Committee, 1968-1973
 - Property Settlement Committee, 1974-1978
 - Correspondence and reports, 1958-1978
 - Design drawings, undated
 - Pamphlets, undated
 - Clippings, 1967
 - Miscellaneous, undated
- Canadian Academy, 1966-1970
- Nagoya International School, 1967-1968

Box 4

Series 5: Other records

- Christian education, 1976-1985
- Church Member Profile (Robert Enns), 1985-1986
- Church planting and evangelism, 1970-1984
- Design drawings, undated
- English teaching, 1974
- Expo-Sure Program, 1969-1970
- Expo-Sure Program: Senri New Town Project, 1970-1972
- Finances, 1953-1984
- Historical accounts, 1963-1976
- Japan Mennonite Brethren Church, 1977-1981
- Maps, undated
- Mennonite Fellowship of Japan, 1957-1958, 1971
- National scholarships, 1974-1975
- News releases, 1954-1978
- Nosegawa Camp, 1957-1971
- Pastoral profiles, ca. 1975
- Property transactions, 1953
- Publications, undated
- Project Bridgebuilding III, 1967
- Radio broadcast, 1957-1972
- Rokko Children's Hostel, 1959-1961
- Student essays written for Harry Friesen, undated
- Study guide: Missions in Japan, undated

Box 5

Series 6: Photographs

- Baptisms
- Buildings/Construction
 - Boys' home
 - Camp
 - Buildings
 - Group photos
 - Recreation
 - Miscellaneous
 - Services/Meetings
 - Dining hall/Living quarters

Churches

- Unidentified
 - Buildings
 - Worship services

(Record Group A250-8: MB Mission work in Japan)

- Groups
 - Amagasaki
 - General
 - Baptisms
 - Emasato
 - Hirano
 - Hiroshima
 - Imazato
 - Ishibashi
 - Kasugade
 - Kawachi
 - Kuwana
 - Minato
 - Mukogawa
 - Nagase
 - Nishihatsushiba
 - Osaka
 - Senboku
 - Senri
 - Sojiji
 - Tamagawa
 - Tatsumi
 - Tawaramoto
 - Tokumaya
 - Wago
 - Pastors
- City scenes
- Committees, Boards, Groups
- Conferences
- Country scenes
- Evangelistic work
- Exposure 1970
- People
 - Individuals
 - A-Z
 - Arita, Masaru
 - Kitano, Kyoichi
 - Kura, Akiyoshi
 - Nakamura, Takao
 - Takeda, Hiroshi
 - Takeda, Jiro
 - Unidentified
 - Groups
- Japanese Consultation, 1979
- Mennonite Central Committee
- Missionaries
 - General
 - Children
 - Residences
 - Missions groups
- North American board visits
- Radio Ministry
- Schools
 - General
 - Japan Bible Institute
 - Osaka Biblical Seminary
 - Buildings

Exterior
Interior
Dedication
Faculty, staff, student body
Classroom
Chapel
Student life
Graduation ceremonies, graduates
Sunday school
Traditional religion
Transportation
Typhoons, earthquakes
Weddings
Youth
Negatives