

Farewell to Kagoshima, June 1908

In the nature of things—where we were and what we were doing—it would not be possible to keep secret what had been decided. Very pleasant and really quite happy was the relations of the missionaries and Christians of the four Protestant groups in Kagoshima. In fact whenever we had occasion to be with those of the Roman Catholic faith the fellowship was friendly and cordial enough.

But since it became generally known that when we left for the summer we would not be expected back at Kagoshima in the autumn, it became a part of the program at the beginning of summer that our sobetskai in the early summer would be shared by all the protestants that cared to take part. This was to be our first experience of such a meeting.

It is a social meeting which will be just as serious or just as light hearted as the leaders choose to make it, but it is an essential part of politeness and good manners. It would be only fair to say that at welcome meetings and farewell meetings the Japanese people are at their best. Both they and the guests they honor are apt to be happy on these occasions.

There may be some mild exaggerations in what is said at these meetings, but it is a part of good manners not to call attention to over-statements at the time or later.

It warmed our hearts and we went on our way feeling good.

Our language examinations for the second year are at hand and we must go to Fukuoka.

The railroad was being extended toward Kagoshima and the bus-line was shorter than before. From Hitoyoshi to Yatsu Shiro we were among the first to ride on a train on a new part of the road—in fact for our first trip over the new part the railroad people would not accept any pay from us, since it was only a trial run for the train.

After examinations were over and the usual business was transacted and plans made for the next months, we scattered for the summer, and we found ourselves at Nino oka again, but in a little house of our own that we had bought the first summer we were there. It was a one-story house built of cedar and cost us about \$112.50 in U.S. money. By correspondence we had got another room built before summer, and were able to have one other young family with us for the holidays.

To Fukuoka Again.

I was not yet 27 but how can I keep people from despising my youth? This situation was evidently not planned by any modern expert. But we shall be too busy to worry very much about such things.

We rented a house from the Methodist Mission and got settled before school began. The Seminary had been going a year and Dr. McCollum had gone to America for his health. He had a fine command of the Japanese language and no stripling could take his place.

But Dr. Chiba and the others treated me with unfailing kindness. When the question of what I should teach was mentioned someone suggested New Testament interpretation. I suggested that such an important subject should be taught by a more experienced teacher. Dr. Chiba said if I thought that was a most important subject then I was the one to teach it. And so it was settled. But all agreed that the problem of a language was a formidable one, and they agreed to get me a Japanese helper. They employed Mr. Kiyoshi Sato, a student in the Tokyo Imperial University who needed to earn some money before he could finish at the University. He was a quiet young fellow, was always at my side in the classroom, but I never knew whether he enjoyed the year's work or not, for with typical Japanese politeness he would almost always say that my Japanese was good enough and he did not wish to translate my English.

Did I marvel at the patience of the students in letting me practice on them? Letting me learn Japanese at their expense? They have been polite about it until this day.

Dr. F.G. Harrington a northern Baptist, had translated Broadus on Matthew, and it was a challenging volume. Each student was given a copy and I never found out how much they read it and what they thought of it.