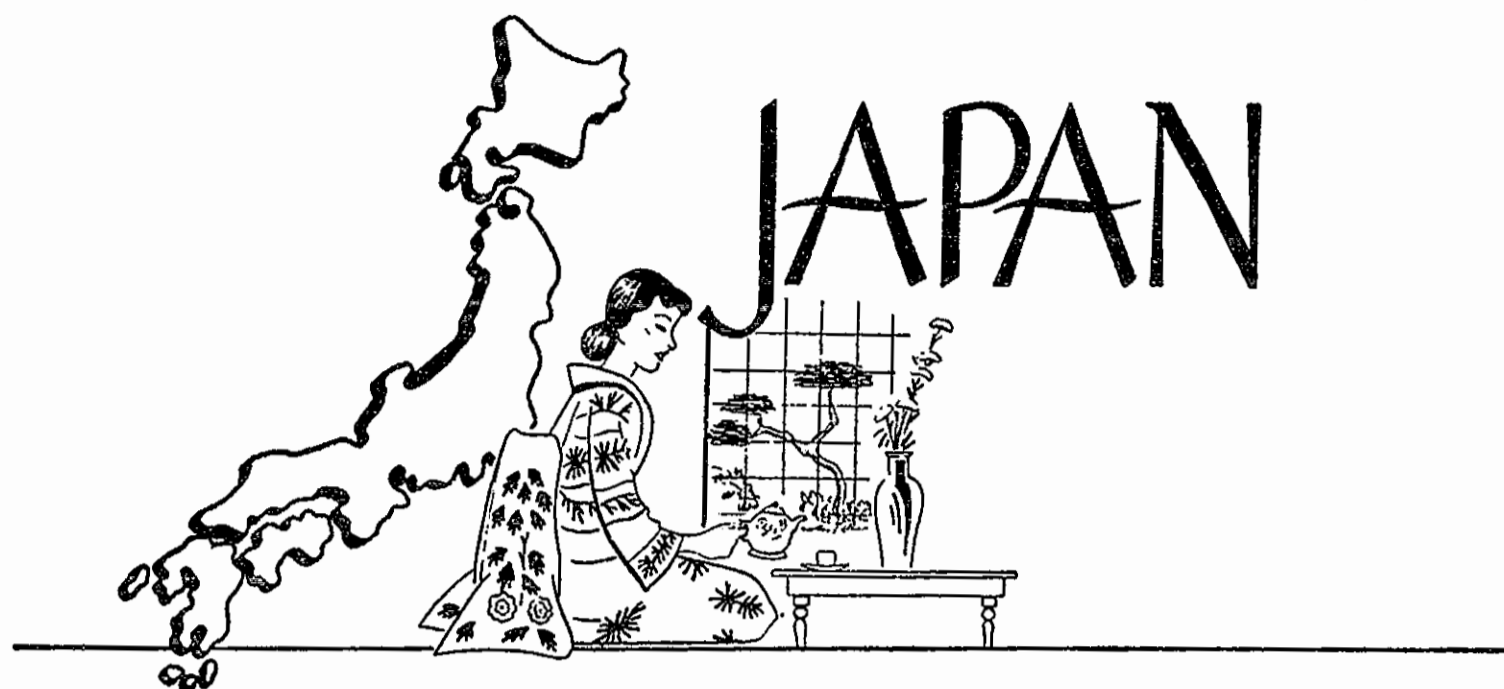


**BAILEY, BARBARA MAY**



Miss Barbara Bailey  
11 Konnocho, Shibuya  
Tokyo, Japan  
November 17, 1955

Dear Friends:

Yesterday Aoyama Gakuin observed its 81st anniversary. Usually the service is held outdoors with the entire student body in attendance, but because of rain and wet ground it was held in the Pratt-Sprowles auditorium which was packed with representative students from every department.

Dr. Toyoda gave a short address telling of the beginning of the school. A woman from Indiana gave \$1000 to start a school for Japanese girls and Dora E. Schoonmaker offered herself as a missionary for the task. She was only 23 years old. It was late in October when she reached Tokyo, but on November 16 in a rented room of a small temple some distance from the present site of Aoyama Gakuin with the help of Sen Tsuda, who was an unusual Japanese man in those days because he believed that Japanese girls could be educated, the school was opened with seven pupils. The saying goes that two of the children were boys dressed in girls' kimono, so Dr. Toyoda said, "The school was co-educational from the very beginning!" He went on to speak of Dr. Goucher of Goucher College who gave money to buy the land where the school now stands. With great emphasis Dr. Toyoda spoke of the high purpose of opening the school and its mission as a Christian school to build men and women of noble character who will render Christlike service to their fellowmen.

Following the ceremony there was a church service for teachers and school employees. Afterward more than three hundred of us, faculty and officers had a Japanese box-lunch together. One more service marked the anniversary--the dedication of the beautiful addition to the school library. It took place in the spacious reading room that will seat about 130 students. Large windows reaching from ceiling to floor around two sides of the room give ample daylight, while fluorescent lighting over the desks supply the light for evening study. Comfortable chairs add to the attractiveness of this reading room. The students are most grateful for such a pleasant place to study.

NOVEMBER 21, 1922

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As to my own work I am enjoying teaching high school and junior college students quite as much as ever. The response given by the students in preparation and in class makes me feel that they are really progressing. At the evangelistic retreat held earlier this autumn the number of students attending was half again as many as last year. Attendance at my high school Bible class has been good. At least one of the members who has been in the class this past year is to be baptized at Christmas. The girls in the older class are making blankets for babies which will be given to poor mothers at Christmas. We are simply hemming, with a fancy stitch, yard squares of flannelette.

Bishop Raines has just been here. We Methodist missionaries in the Tokyo-Yokohama area had a dinner together with him. Forty were present; some were not able to be present. It is not, often we are together, so everyone enjoyed the pleasant evening and Bishop Raines' inspiring address on, "Come Ye Apart."

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As my health has been good this past year, I am hoping to be well enough to pass a fine physical examination in January and have permission to stay another year. We are very short of workers at Aoyama Gakuin since John Squire, J-3 from 1952 - 1955, left in the summer. Miss Register, Miss Cheney and I have added hours to our schedules to help fill the gap. The four new missionaries who came in September and two former J-3's who have returned for regular work are hard at work at the Language School. We hope that there will be some new J-3's to come next autumn, as Miss Cheney goes home for retirement next summer.

This letter carries Christmas greetings and loving good wishes to each one of you. May peace and goodwill abide in your hearts as we again celebrate the coming of Him who is our Lord and Savior.

Yours sincerely,

Barbara Bailey

Leonard Ferryman  
Board of Missions of the Methodist Church  
150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11, N.Y.

Japan Honors Women Missionaries

Two retiring missionaries to Japan of the Woman's Division of Christian Service, Methodist Board of Missions, have received recently high honors from the Emperor. They are the Miss Barbara May Bailey, Lowell, Ind., and Miss Alice Cheney, Minneapolis, Minn.

At a special ceremony at Aoyama Gakuin Woman's Junior College in Tokyo, the following certificate accompanied the Imperial Decoration for Miss Cheney:

"The Emperor of Japan invests Alice Cheney, citizen of the United States of America, with the Fifth Grade of the Order of the Sacred Treasures and causes his Imperial Seal to be affixed at the palace."

Following Miss Cheney's reception of the Order, she was granted the additional honor of an audience with the Empress. A missionary for more than forty years, Miss Cheney spoke in fluent Japanese to the Empress, whom she described as "friendly and easy to talk with."

Miss Bailey was granted the Order of the Sacred Treasure in absentia, since she had previously returned to America because of illness. She first went to Japan in 1919.

Both women served most of their missionary years at Aoyama Gakuin in Tokyo, an institution related to the Woman's Division. Miss Bailey has been supported by the First Methodist Church, Topeka, Kan., and Miss Cheney by the Iowa-Des Moines Conference Woman's Society of Christian Service. They are now beginning their pre-retirement furloughs.

Photographs from this  
file have not been  
included but are  
available upon request.  
For more information  
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[research@gcah.org](mailto:research@gcah.org)