

Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum



Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum today (Nyokodo is at the left)

Dr. Nagai Takashi spent his own funds to establish a private library for children called *Uchira no Honbako* ("Our Bookcase"), located beside his makeshift house (not Nyokodo).

In May 1950, Miyazaki Takae, a native of Sasebo, resident in Brazil, visited Dr. Nagai at his bedside during a temporary visit to Japan, and suggested the construction of a full-fledged library. In December the same year Dr. Nagai discussed the idea with Mr. Miyazaki's brother in Sasebo and over the following two years received more than 1.7 million yen in donations from Japanese residents of Brazil. Combined with funds from Nagasaki City, this money was used to build the "Nagasaki City Nagai Library" which opened in December 25, 1952.

Renamed the "Nagasaki City Nagai Memorial Museum" in April 1, 1969, the facility was completely reconstructed and reopened in April 5, 2000 as the "Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum," and it continues to convey Dr. Nagai's message of peace to visitors from both Japan and abroad.



Our Bookcase (1950)

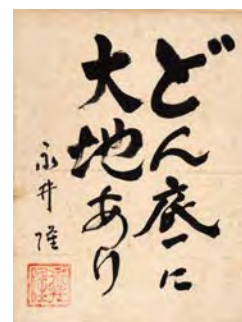


Nagasaki City Nagai Library (1952-1969)
Nagasaki City Nagai Memorial Museum (1969-1999)

Museum Admission	Individual	Group 15 person or more
Adults (Over 15)	100yen	80yen

- No charge for primary school pupils and high school students.
- The library(2F) can be used free of charge.

Hours: 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Holidays: Dec. 29 to Jan. 3



Takashi's Calligraphy
"At the very bottom, there is the great earth."

Photograph [1]



The Nagai family home in Mitoyacho, Shimane Prefecture. Dr. Nagai was the eldest of five children.

Photograph [5]



When Dr. Nagai enlisted in the 11th Infantry in Hiroshima, he received a Catholic catechism from Midori, the only daughter of the Moriyama family. After returning to Japan, he converted to Catholicism and married Midori.

Photograph [9]



→ Helen Keller

"Helen Keller paid a visit to Nyokodo without any warning... She came toward me, her hand searching the air for my hand. Finally our fingers touched, and we grasped each other's hand. In an instant I felt the warmth of her love flow through my extremities like electricity through a closed circuit."

(from *Itoshigoyo*["Beloved Children"])

Photograph [2]



Dr. Nagai commuted to Matsue Middle School and High School. He became absorbed in nature observation, debates and the theory of materialism in high school days. When he graduated he was 171cm tall and weighed 70 kg.

Photograph [6]



As a medical lieutenant serving for two and a half years during the war with China, Dr. Nagai witnessed front-line combat 72 times and provided treatment to local resident as well as to injured soldiers on both sides.

Photograph [10]



↑ Emperor Showa

"His Highness (Emperor Showa) approached me and said affectionately, "How are you? And your illness? I pray for your speedy recovery." He even turned to Professor Kageura, who was treating me, and said, "Please take care of him." How grateful I felt at these words.

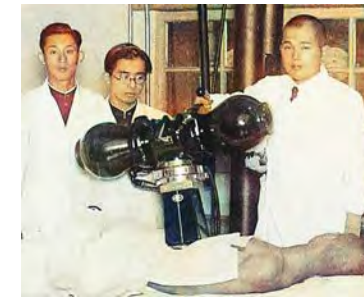
(from *Itoshigoyo*["Beloved Children"])

Photograph [3]



Dr. Nagai and his mates founded a basketball team at Nagasaki Medical College, and took third place at a national tournament. He was also interested in Japanese tanka poetry and participated in poetry party.

Photograph [7]



Mass screening for tuberculosis increased, but insufficient film made it necessary to conduct direct x-ray examinations. Exposed to high doses of radiation as a result, Dr. Nagai was found to be suffering from leukemia and given only three years to live.

Photograph [11]



Commendation Nagai Takashi
You risked your life in the pursuit of radiology research and as a result developed chronic myeloid leukemia, a hazard in the field of radiation work. But even then you devoted yourself with unbending determination to your endeavors, making exemplary contributions to the academic world. [Signed] Yoshida Shigeru, Prime Minister of Japan

Photograph [4]



Just before the graduation ceremony, Dr. Nagai came down with an infection of the middle ear. He had to change his major from internal medicine to the Department of Physical Therapy.

Photograph [8]



Dr. Nagai was at Nagasaki Medical College at the time of the atomic bombing. He was injured but he conducted relief activities near the ruins of the college hospital for three days, and later supervised a relief station for two months in Mitsuyama, as the chief of the medical team.

Photograph [12]



Dr. Nagai continued to write without uttering a word of complaint. After completing the manuscript *Otome Toge* ("Otome Pass"), he suffered internal bleeding in his right shoulder and stopped writing, unable to use his right hand. Before long he died as a result of "heart failure due to leukemia."

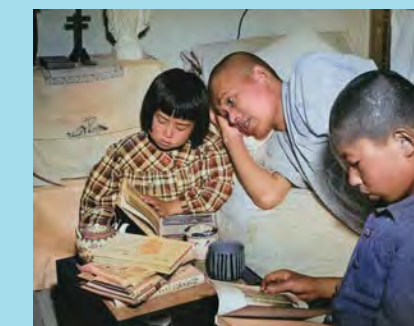
The Life of Dr. Nagai Takashi

The First Honorary Citizen of Nagasaki City



The researcher and physician who loved humanity

The man who prayed for world peace



The writer and father

Nagasaki City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum

22-6 Ueno-machi, Nagasaki-city, Nagasaki 852-8113 JAPAN

TEL / FAX : 095-844-3496

<https://nagaitakashi.nagasakipeace.jp/english/>

Mail: nagai-takashi@mxb.cncm.ne.jp



Writing in his Sickbed

Books

- Rozario no Kusari* : "The Rosary Chain," published June 1948
Horobinu Mono wo : "Something Imperishable," published September 1948
Kono Ko wo Nokoshite : "Leaving These Children Behind," published September 1948
Seimei no Kawa : "River of Life," published December 1948
Nagasaki no Kane : "The Bells of Nagasaki," published January 1949
Hanasaku Oka : "A Hill in Bloom," published June 1949
Itoshigoyo : "Beloved Children," published November 1949
Nyokodo Zuihitsu : "Essays from Nyokodo," published August 1951
Otome Toge : "Otome Pass," published September 1952
Son i : "Village Doctor," published April 1978
Heiwato : "Peace Tower," published November 1949
Nagasaki no Hana : "Flowers of Nagasaki" (3 vol.), published 1988
Genshiya Rokuon : "Recording in the Atomic Wasteland," published 1989

Translations

- Sekai to Nikutai to Smith Shinpu* : "The World, The Flesh and Father Smith,"
 By Bruce Marshall, published December 1947
Nonezumi : "Field Mouse," By Francis Clement Kelley, published July 1949

Compilations

- Genshigumo no Shita ni Ikite* : "Living Under the Mushroom Cloud,"
 published August 1949
Watashitachi wa Nagasaki ni Ita : "We of Nagasaki," published October 1952

In 1948, Dr. Nagai Takashi used an honorarium of 50,000 yen from the Kyushu Times Co. to plant 1,000 three-year-old cherry saplings in the Urakami area and in that way to turn the atomic wasteland into a "Hill in Bloom." Although most have been replaced by new trees, these trees are still called the *Nagai Senbonzakura* ("One thousand Nagai Cherry Trees") and their blossoms still decorate the Urakami neighborhood every spring.



Senbonzakura and Takashi's Children at Urakami Church

Genshigumo no Shita ni Ikite is comprised mainly of notes from pupils of Yamazato Primary School (located 700 meters from the hypocenter) who were exposed to the atomic bombing. Only about 300 of the 1,600 pupils enrolled in the school survived the bombing.



anokora no hi

Dr. Nagai wanted to use part of the proceeds from this book to erect a monument in memory of the deceased children. The pupils who had contributed notes readily agreed. Dr. Nagai used his own funds to cover the rest of the cost. This monument was named *anokora no hi* ("monument to those children"), and unveiled on November 3, 1949.

When the atomic bomb exploded...

"When I left for work on the morning of August 8, she saw me off at the door, smiling as always. After a few steps I realized that I had forgotten my lunch box. Returning to my house, I was startled to find her crouching, weeping in the vestibule.



Midori rising to heaven by Nagai Takashi

That was our last farewell. That night it was my turn for air-raid watch and so I slept in my office. The following day the atomic bomb exploded over our heads. I was injured. I thought of my wife. We were in a frenzy trying to rescue patients in the hospital. Five hours later, I collapsed in a field from loss of blood. By then I had braced myself for my wife's death, the reason being that she had not come to find me. Even if she had suffered a severe injury, she was the kind of woman who would come to confirm my survival as long as life remained in her body.



Midori's melted rosary (the red pieces are coral)

Three days later, the handling of deceased and injured students was finished for the time being and so I returned to the site of my house. It was an expanse of ashes, but I found her immediately. A black lump lay on the spot where the kitchen had been, the charred remains of a pelvis and spine left by the all-consuming fire. A rosary with a cross was lying nearby.

I scooped my wife into a scorched bucket. Her remains were still warm. Embracing this to my breast, I went to the cemetery. Everyone in the vicinity was dead; I could see similar lumps of blackened flesh on the ashes in the evening light. The schedule had been for my wife to carry my cremated ashes in the near future! How little we know about our own destiny! Her remains made the rustling sound of calcium phosphate in the bucket at my chest. To me it sounded like she was saying, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry."

(From *Rozario no Kusari* ["The Rosary Chain"])

Heiwa wo (May peace...)

"No more atomic bombs after Nagasaki!
 Nagasaki, period! Peace begins from Nagasaki!
 These cries are on everyone's lips. Abandon war, stop war, before anything else avoid war!
 To maintain peace it is necessary to present the bare truth to the people of the world. This is my motivation in taking up a pencil and beginning to write, describing the scenes of that last day of Nagasaki without any embellishments or subtractions. I do not have a single memory that is so weak that I have to make efforts to recall it. But as I portray each successive scene the faces of the dead appear, and choking on a flood of tears I find myself putting down the pencil and picking up a rosary to pray ..."



Dr.Nagai wrote "May peace." on more than 1,000 cards and sent them throughout Japan.

From *Heiwato* ("Peace Tower")

Love others as you love yourself

"The words I want to leave with my children begin with this:

'Love others as you love yourself.'
 I will probably also want to end with this maxim, and finally everything will be expressed by it."

From *Itoshigoyo* ("Beloved Children")

Takashi's calligraphy "Love others as you love yourself."



Nyokodo

"Nyokodo, named after the maxim 'Love others as you love yourself,' this house was built by friends who loved me as themselves, this wasted man who has lost his house, his wife, his career, his possessions, his health and who now has only a brain to think, eyes to see, and a hand to write. And since then these friends have continued to pour their selfless love into this house, keeping the flame of life glowing in this wasted body."

From *Heiwato* ("Peace Tower")



Nyokodo, built in 1948



with his children inside Nyokodo

Unnan City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum

In 1970, the Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum was opened in Mitoya-cho, Unnan-city, the town in Shimane Prefecture where Dr. Nagai spent his childhood. On October 20 of the same year, a sister museum affiliation was formed between this institution and the Nagasaki City Nagai Memorial Museum.

In May 2008, in commemoration of the 100th year of the birth of Dr. Nagai Takashi, a replica of the Nyokodo was built in front of the museum. The museum is renovated and reopened in April 20, 2021.



Unnan City Nagai Takashi Memorial Museum

199 Mitoya-cho Mitoya, Unnan City, Shimane Prefecture
 〒690-2404 TEL / FAX : 0854-45-2239



A replica of Nyokodo

Chronology of the Life and Work of Nagai Takashi

Photo

1908	February 3	Born in O-machi, Matsue-city, Shimane Prefecture.	
1909		Moves with his family to Iishi-mura (now Mitoya-cho), Iishi-county.	[1]
1920		Enters Matsue Middle School.	[2]
1925		Enters Matsue High School.	
1928		Enters Nagasaki Medical College.	
1931		Nagasaki Medical College basketball team places third in a national tournament.	[3]
1932	March	Graduates at the top of his class.	
	June	Becomes assistant in the Physical Therapy Department (specializing in radiology).	[4]
1933	February 1	Appointed temporary army physician and proceeds to China after the Manchurian Incident.	
1934	June	Baptized as a Catholic and takes the baptismal name Paul.	
	August	Marries Midori Moriyama.	[5]
1935	April 4	Eldest Son Makoto is born. (~ April 4, 2001)	
1937	July	Returns to the military and serves as a medical lieutenant for 30 months in the war with China.	[6]
1940	February	Returns safely to Japan.	
	April	Becomes assistant professor at Nagasaki Medical College and chief of the Physical Therapy Department.	[7]
1941	August 18	Second Daughter Kayano is born. (~ February 2, 2008)	
1944	March 3	Receives a doctorate in medicine.	
1945	June	Found to be suffering from chronic myeloid leukemia and given three years to live.	
	August 9	Exposed to the atomic bombing. Suffers a severed artery on the right side of his head, but engages in relief activities for three days.	
	August 11	Retrieves his wife's remains from the ruins of their home.	
	August 12	Forms a relief team at Mitsuyama-machi and cares for the injured for about two months.	[8]
	August 15	The war ends.	
	October 15	Returns to Urakami and resumes life there.	
	November 23	Speaks as a parishioner representative at the Urakami Cathedral Joint Service for the Dead.	
1946	January 28	Appointed professor at Nagasaki Medical College.	
	November 17	Presents the results of a research titled "Summary of Atomic Disease" at Nagasaki Medical Society. This would be his last public lecture.	
1948	March	Moves to Nyokodo.	
	August	Retires on rest leave from Nagasaki Medical College.	
	October 18	Receives a visit from Helen Keller at Nyokodo. Plants 1,000 cherry tree saplings in Urakami.	[9]
	December		
1949	May 27	Still bedridden, meets Emperor Showa at Nagasaki Medical College Hospital.	[10]
	August 1	Receives commendation from the mayor of Nagasaki.	
	September 30	Retires from Nagasaki Medical College.	
	December 26	Decorated as an honorary citizen of Nagasaki.	
1950	May 14	Receives a gift of a rosary from the Pope.	
	June 1	Receives commendation from the prime minister and a silver cup from the emperor.	[11]
1951	May 1	Dies at Nagasaki Medical College at 9:50 p.m. (43 years old).	
	May 3	Church Funeral at Urakami Church.	
	May 14	Public funeral at Urakami Church by Nagasaki City and buried next to the entrance at the Sakamoto International Cemetery with his wife, Midori.	[12]