

THE TEEN HOUSE OF THE AUGUST MOON

Yoichi Takeda



A note from a child care worker in Japan indicates that some problems are universal. This letter which came to Max Liddell at the Melbourne Family Care Organization is reprinted for the interest of Readers and with the permission of the writer.

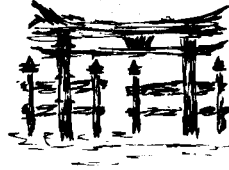
June 19, '76

Dear Mr. Liddell,

Our Youth House (Teen House) has completed its re-construction, and 2 girls, housemother and I have begun life here, (Mishuku). Other teenagers who left here before often come and they bring their problems.

Current tendency at our 2 Youth Houses is that the teenagers don't stay here 3-4 years, but they change their job easily and want to live alone at flats. They cause problems outside, and bring them into the House.

20



Otherwise we have to get them out to learn social life by body not by feeling nor conception. Anyway they don't endure and escape from the situation. This tendency is very remarkable these few years and especially in these 5 months. 8 got out from the House and only 4 remained. These 4 members were separated into 2 houses. (Kyodo and new Mishuku.) The former 8 puzzle our head and we are feeling helpless. They have the effect of their Children's Home life more or less. They had contact with many changing staffs, but had no one see them through.

If possible I wish to go to Australia and study Family Group Home system next year. I sent some letters to Mr. Anderson, Social Welfare Department these five months, but all of them returned to me with stumps 'LEFT ADDRESS'. Would you let me know his address or the Department's new address?

Family Group Home system is our idea but we hesitate to translate it into action. Children's Homes in Japan have a trend that the workers there take the system of living-out and in shift of 8 hours a day. Their worker's consciousness take priority of Children's Welfare. So the children act and feel weaving their way through adults and the workers cannot grasp their feeling. We keenly feel the bad effect of this, during doing after-care.

They will not believe or obey our advice and act their selfish way, and afterwards bring problems to us. We are kept at settlement cares. Practically I think After-care is almost putting problems in order. We must make human-relationship with them standing foursquare, but our system has few effects to them, far from it, it has bad effects to them.

Living together with children means the workers also settle down

to live. Our system causes conscious gap between children and workers. The former's place of life is the latter's place of work. This is the point that we worry about and is really the advantage of Family Group Home system which watch the children by consistent viewpoint. How to gather and choose the Houseparent applicants is our concern.

I will report our Youth House practice in detail next time and compare with your Teen House. My study tour to Australia is to compare Family Group Home system with ours. I wish to stay at several Family Group Homes so would you advise how to act out along your convenience?

For those who worked at some institution for 3 years and age above 25, the Welfare Fund offers 1,200,000 yen (\$3220) for overseas study.

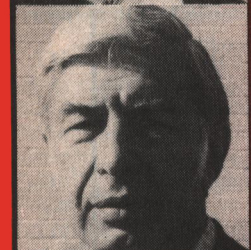


Boys from the Teen House

I will be 25 next April, and will have worked 3 years here, so I'd like to get use of this chance. I will make my private funds plus \$3000 or so until next April. I wish to stay in Australia for half a year or so and learn practically. Will you treat me as an apprentice?

I should be very much obliged to you, if you could render me some advice and assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Yoichi Takeda



**Mrs. Joan Child —
Conference Chairman**

**The Proceedings
of the Victorian Child
Care Conference.**

**Held at Erskine House,
Lorne from the
23rd-25th July, 1976.**

'76

ORNE

