

# ***Toyohiko Kagawa***

***(July 10, 1888 – April 23, 1960)***



# Timeline

**July 10, 1888**, born in Kobe, Japan, son of Kame Kagawa, Buddhist member of the Japanese Cabinet and Junichi Kagawa, a geisha

**1892**, parents die; brought up by father's neglected wife; in his teens, leaves Awa and lives with uncle in Tokushima, entering Boys' Middle School; meets Presby. missionaries Drs. Harry W. Myers & Charles A. Logan, begins attending English Bible classes

**1904**, becomes a Christian, baptized by Dr. Myers;

**1905**, with scholarship help, moves to Tokyo to attend Presbyterian College, Meiji Gakuen; studies Kant, Darwin, Ruskin, and Tolstoy, from whom he gains an appreciation of pacifism

**Summer, 1907**, in Toyohashi area (near Nagoya), meets Nagao Ken, who inspires him to give his service to the poor; becomes gravely (tubercular pneumonia), but has miraculous recovery

after "a peculiar mysterious experience -- an ecstatic consciousness of God;" transfers to Kobe Theo. Sem.

**Christmas Day, 1909**, lives in Shinkawa slums in Kobe

**1911**, graduates from Kobe Theo. Sem.; ordained as an evangelist in Japan Presbyterian Church; meets Haru Shiba, who is impressed by his sermons

**1912**, unionizes shipyard workers

**May 27 1913**, marries Haru, who also works in slums

**1914**, enters Princeton Theological Seminary

**1916**, attains Bachelor of Divinity degree from Princeton Theo. Sem.; returns to Japan

**1918**, ordained as minister in Japanese Presbyterian Church; organizes the Labor Federation

**1918-1921**, union organizing (factory workers & farmers)

**1919**, jailed during the "rice riots"

**1920**, publishes novel ***Crossing the Deathline***, eventually selling 1 million+ copies

# Timeline (cont.)

**1921**, jailed during shipyard strikes

**1923**, released from prison, Japanese government appoints him as Chief of Social Welfare in response to earthquakes in Tokyo and Yokohama; establishes credit unions, schools, hospitals, and churches, and writes and speaks extensively on application of Christian principles to ordering of society; works for universal male suffrage (granted in 1925) and laws more favorable to trade unions

**1928**, founds the Anti-War League

**Dec. 1935 – June 1936**, U.S. speaking tour, approx. 150 cities, 44 states, 750,000 attendees; refuses to speak at southern church when he finds congregation would be segregated

**Jan. 14, 1939**, meets Gandhi in India

**1940**, arrested after publicly apologizing to China for Japan's invasion

**1941**, visits the U.S. in an attempt to avert war between Japan and US

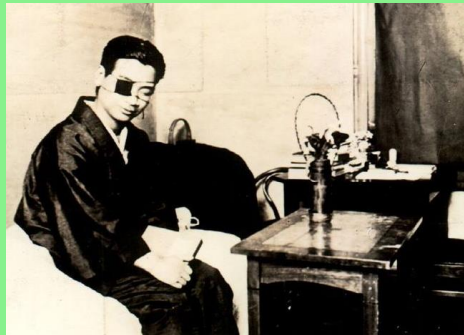
**after 1945**, leader in postwar recovery of Japan; despite failing health, devotes himself to the reconciliation of democratic ideals and procedures with traditional Japanese culture **1950**, tours U.S. giving 400 speeches in 137 locations at 31 colleges and seminaries

**1954**, tours U.S. and attends World Council of Churches gathering in Evanston, Illinois

**1959**, publishes his last book, ***The Purpose of the Universe*** (now titled ***Cosmic Purpose***)

**April 23, 1960**, dies in Tokyo; buried in Tama Reien Cemetery (Fuchu City), Tokyo; posthumously awarded Japan's highest honor, the Order of the Sacred Treasure.







# Kagawa in the U.S.



4 AKRON BEACON JOURNAL Saturday, Sept. 11, 1954

## Toyohiko Kagawa, Noted Japanese, To Preach Here

Evangelist Toyohiko Kagawa, Japan's best-known Christian, will preach at 8 p. m. Sunday in First Methodist Church.

His talk here is sponsored by the Akron Council of Churches. Many churches have cancelled their evening services so their congregations can attend.

Dr. Kagawa, a power in Japanese politics as well as religious life, is now on a six-week speaking tour of the U. S. He came to this country as an official consultant to the World Council of Churches Assembly at Evanston, Ill., and addressed the assembly on several issues.

A Presbyterian clergyman, Dr. Kagawa was born in Kobe in 1888, the son of a politician and his dancing girl lover.

He was raised by the politician's legal wife, rejected, hated and abused. His family disinherited him after he was converted to Christianity by a missionary who befriended him.

HE BEGAN working in the slums of Kobe while attending theological seminary. Later he came to this country and received a bachelor of divinity degree in 1915 from Princeton Theological Seminary.

On his return to Japan, he took an active part in the labor movement and was a leader in settling disputes between farmers and the landowners.

He was jailed for his work with consumers' cooperatives and labor organizations.

He spent this time in prison writing and studying. After he was freed, he headed a series of national evangelistic movements and spent much of his time establishing churches and chapels in Japan's rural areas.

THIS IS DR. Kagawa's fifth trip to America and his third visit to Akron. When he was last at First Methodist Church in 1950, some 1,200 heard him preach.

Dr. Kagawa's visit here is sponsored by the evangelism committee of the Akron Council of Churches under leadership of Dr. Henry Orr Leitman, pastor of Cuyahoga Falls United Presbyterian Church.

Bruce Blake, president of the council, will preside. Rev. Royal A. Holliday, assistant pastor of First Methodist Church, will lead in prayer.

Mrs. Peter W. Verbulec of First Methodist Church will be organist. William Watson Jr. of High St. Church of Christ is in charge of the laymen's committee furnishing ushers.

**At YM Monday**

Dr. Kagawa will also speak Monday at the 10:15 a. m. meeting of the Akron Ministerial Association in the YMCA. The Rev. Albert Denton, executive secretary of the Akron Council of Churches, will lead devotions.

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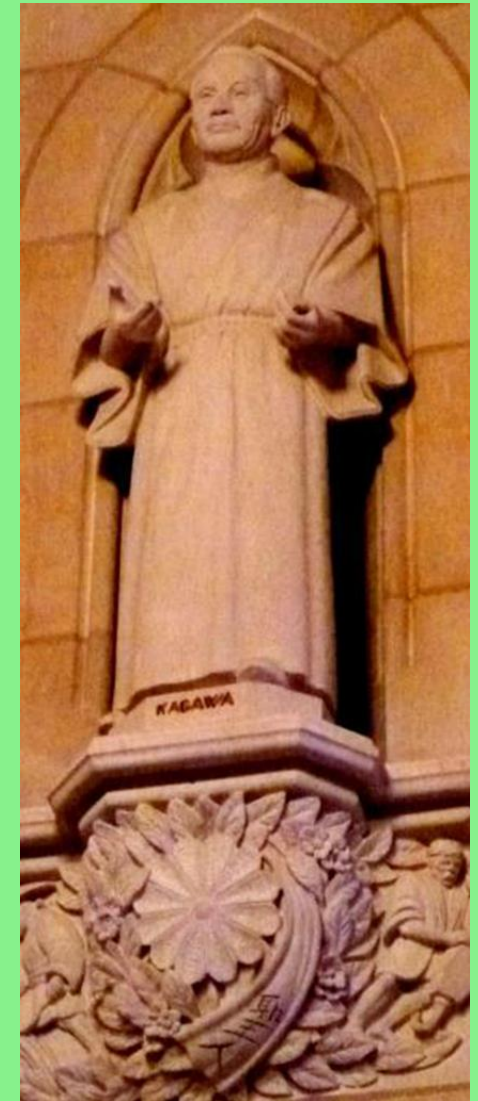
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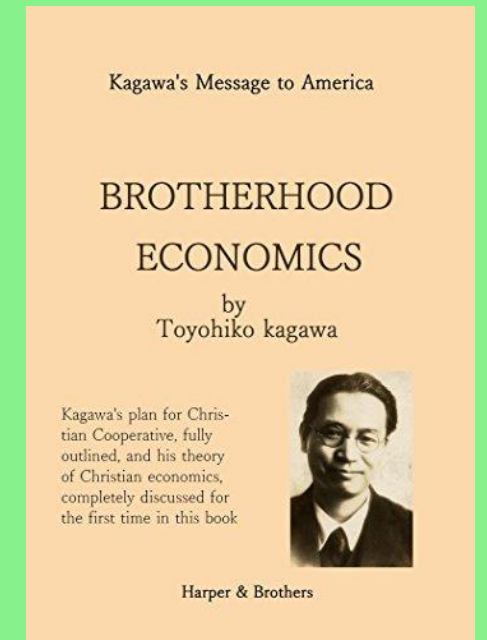
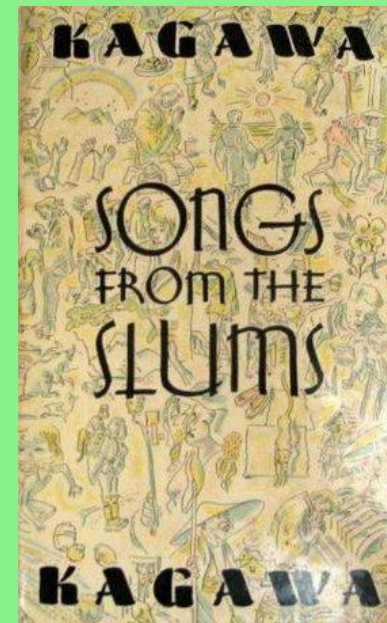
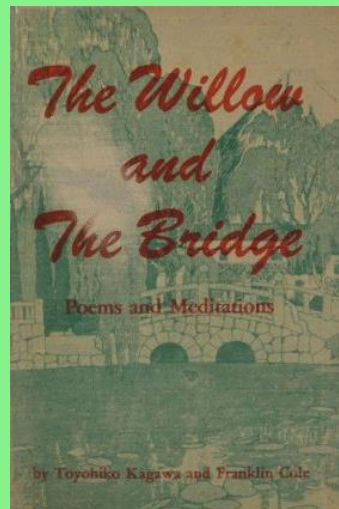
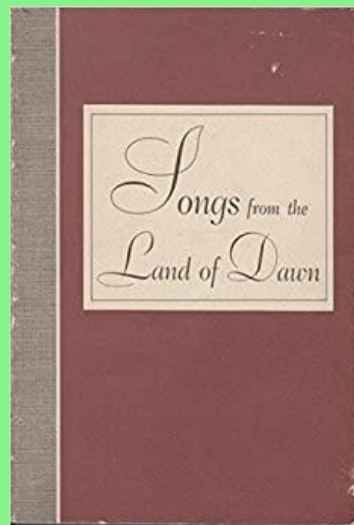
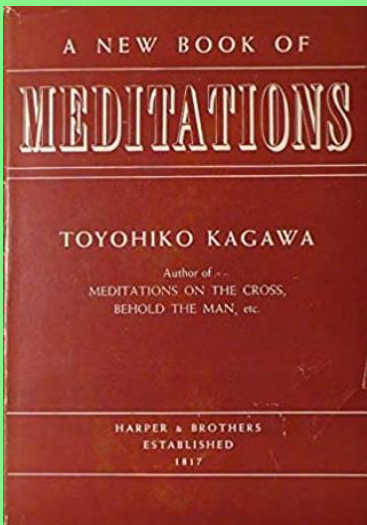
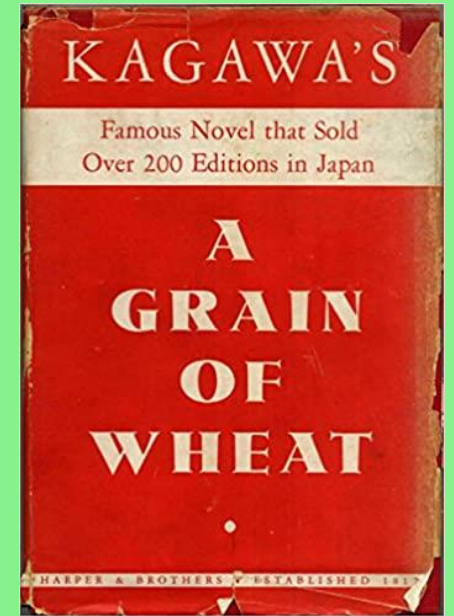
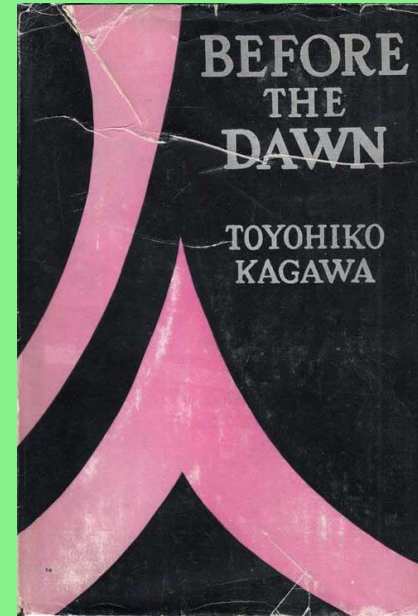
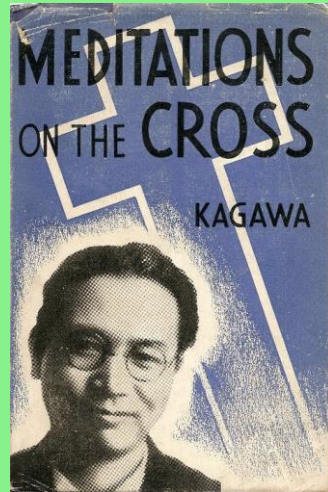
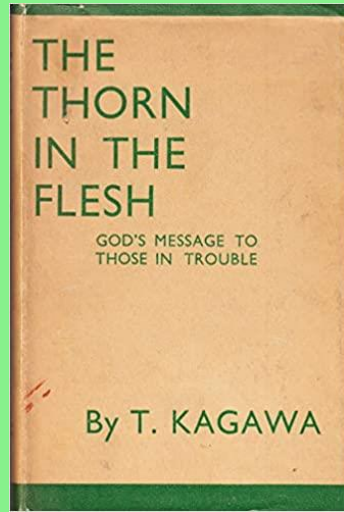
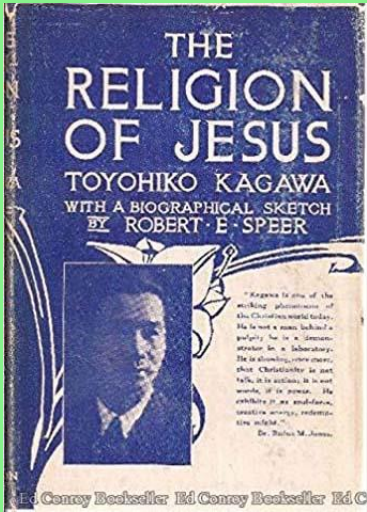
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EVANGELIST TOYOHICO KAGAWA  
...at First Methodist Church





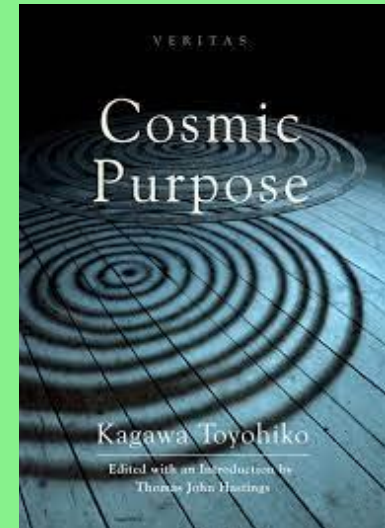
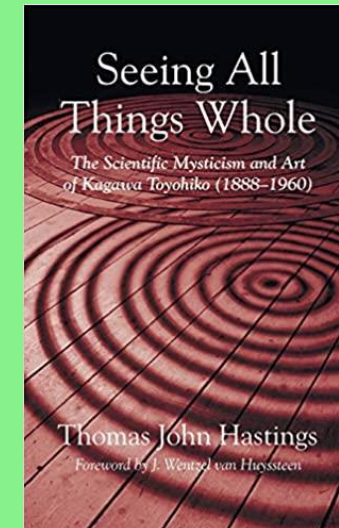
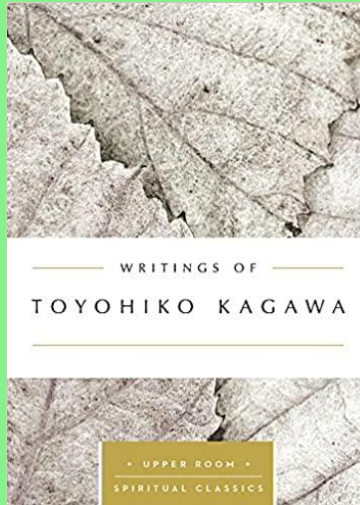
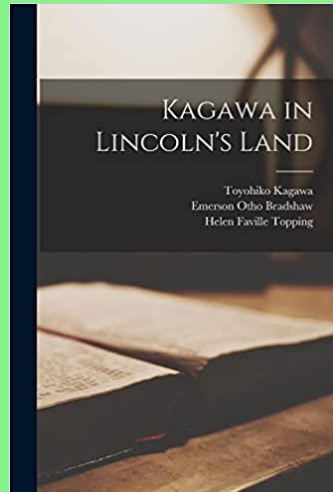
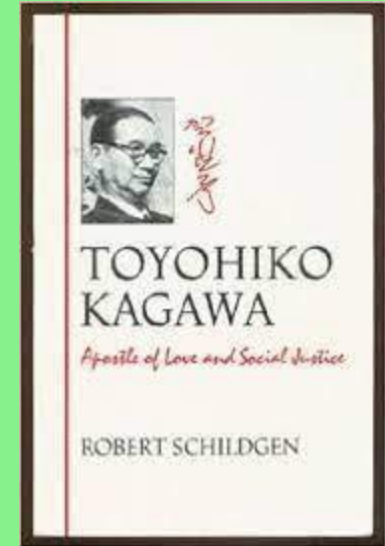
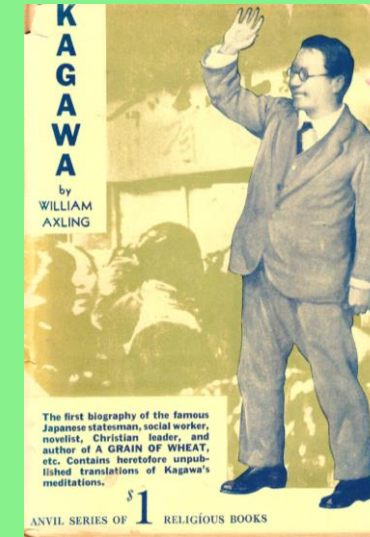
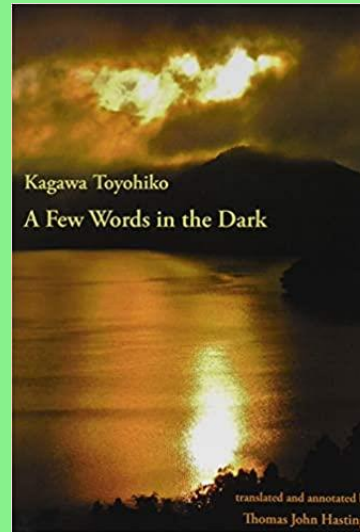
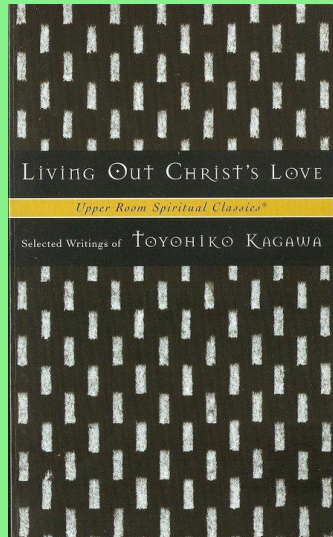
# Where to start?





Before the Dawn:  
Before Listening to the Walls  
(Japanese edition)

# Where to start? (cont.)



# Internet Resources



## Beyond the Sichuan: Toyohiko Kagawa Story

(2003) (1:32:07)

?????

### ✓ Toyohiko Kagawa: Japan's Apostle of Love' with Philip Powell

(From the Jubilee Centre, UK)

(Oct. 23, 2018) (0:38:53) (FREE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N7Rth7UYtpl>

### ✓ David Thompson on Toyohiko Kagawa

Coop – Hanover, NH

(Aug. 10, 2015) (1:30:06) (FREE)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7dAZtBhpCoU&t=209s>

### ✓ Log College Press – Free PDF Library

“Log College Press wants you to read dead Presbyterians for life . . . .”

(Access to seven of Kagawa’s books in English translation.)

<https://www.logcollegepress-annex.com/toyohiko-kagawa-18881960/>

## Toyohiko Kagawa Papers – 1929-1968

@ Columbia University

[https://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd\\_4492626.pdf](https://library.columbia.edu/content/dam/libraryweb/locations/burke/fa/mrl/ldpd_4492626.pdf)

## Kagawa Resource Center

<https://www.t-kagawa.or.jp/en>

<https://www.t-kagawa.or.jp/english-collection-digital-archives>



# Kagawa's Stature in World History

Repeatedly nominated for the Nobel Prize

- Literature (1947 and 1948)
- Peace (1954, 1955, 1956, and 1960)

Renowned as a social reformer, poet, preacher, and unwavering pacifist but regarded himself as an evangelist.

Compared to Gandhi and Schweitzer because of his unflagging care and compassion for the poor. Sometimes called "*The Gandhi of Japan*" and "*The St. Francis of Japan.*"

# Kagawa's Premier Principles

## **#1 – Live the principles which Jesus exemplified in his life and ministry.**

*“To walk in prayer, continually asking and receiving power of God, and again to transform this power into new actions of love, this was the religion of Jesus.”*





## Kagawa's Premier Principles . . . cont.

### **#2 – Live out the practicable precepts from the parable of the Good Samaritan.**

*“There are theologians, preachers and religious leaders . . . who think that the essential thing about Christianity is to clothe Christ with forms and formulas. . . . They conceive pulpit religion to be much more refined than movements for the actual realizations of brotherly love among men. . . . The religion Jesus taught was diametrically the opposite of this.”*

# Kagawa's Premier Principles . . . cont.

**#3 – Live the Christian faith  
in all aspects of life,  
including economics.**

Kagawa's Message to America

## BROTHERHOOD ECONOMICS

by  
Toyohiko kagawa

Kagawa's plan for Christian Cooperative, fully outlined, and his theory of Christian economics, completely discussed for the first time in this book



Harper & Brothers



# Kagawa's Premier Principles . . . cont.

## **#4 – Consistently live a life of humility.**

*"Do your best,  
but after that  
leave the matter  
entirely up to to God."*



## Kagawa's words: Challenge

“I read in a book that a man called Christ went about doing good. It is very disconcerting to me that I am easily satisfied with just going about.”



# Kagawa's words: Practical Theology

“The God of Jesus is a God of Action.”





# Kagawa's words: Mystical Poetry

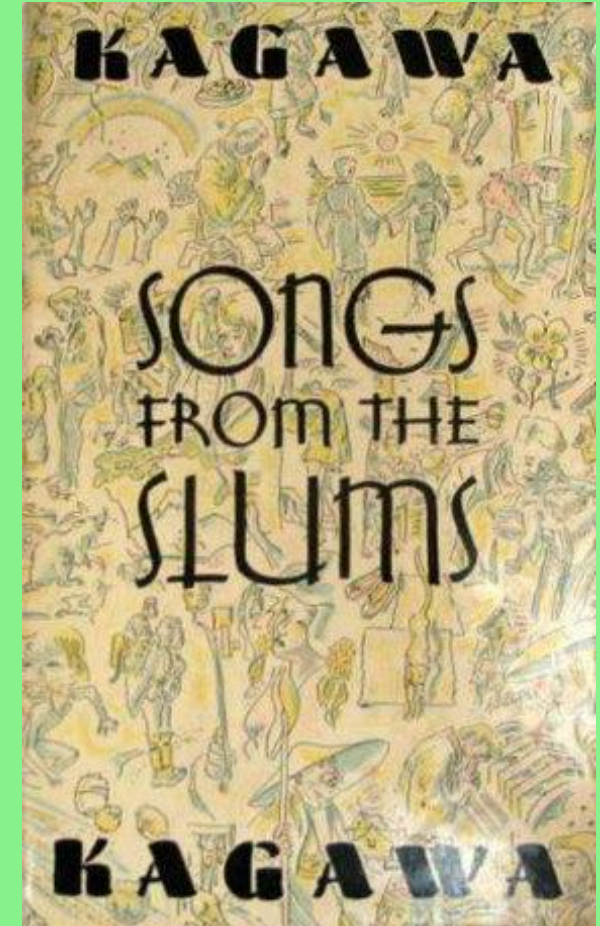
I want to be ever a child.

I want to feel an eternal friendship  
for the raindrops, the flowers,  
the insects, the snowflakes.

I want to be keenly interested in everything,  
with mind and muscle ever alert,  
forgetting my troubles in the next moment.

The stars and the sea, the ponds and the trees,  
the birds and the animals, are my comrades.

Though my muscles may stiffen, though my skin may  
wrinkle, may I never find myself yawning  
at life.



"A Prayer" by Toyohiko Kagawa, from *Songs of the Slums*. Translated from the Japanese by Lois Erickson.

# Kagawa's words: Humble Bequest

“Please do your best for world peace and the church in Japan.”

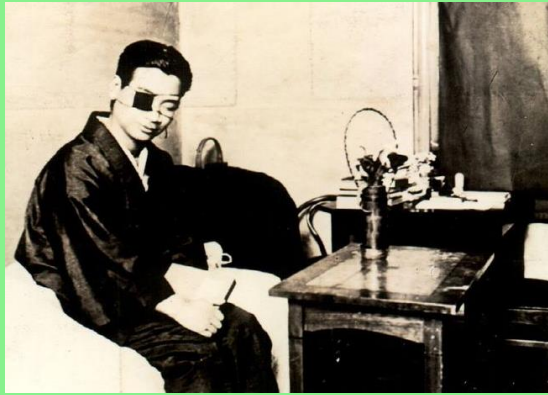
– Kagawa's last words.





# Naruto City Kagawa Memorial Museum





# TIME's YOURS Q & A Discussion Musings

