

A “World Citizen’s” Final Journey

Ruth M. Grubel

As you may know, Kwansei Gakuin’s founder, Dr. Walter R. Lambuth, was born in Shanghai, several months after his young parents first arrived in China in 1854. But, did you know that he was also buried in Shanghai? I was reminded of this recently when we received a photo of Dr. Lambuth’s new grave covered with flowers in 1921. This means that it has now been 90 years since our founder and model “world citizen” took his last journey.

Dr. Lambuth was in Japan for a total of only 4 years. In 1891, he had to go to the United States, and although he had hoped to return to Japan soon, he was quickly recruited to serve in national leadership positions for the church, promoting the cause of missions around the world. During the next thirty years, he traveled to many different countries and began new programs in the fields of education, health, evangelism, disaster relief, and poverty reduction. As one friend said of him, “He had a passion for the world.”

His last trip is a good example of how tirelessly he worked to serve his brothers and sisters around the globe. Although he was suffering from a serious health problem, his doctors in America gave him permission to set off for Asia in the summer of 1921. From Shanghai, he went to Korea, and then to Northeast China and Siberia, visiting places like Harbin and Vladivostok where various humanitarian projects had been begun. Then, after returning to Korea for a few days, he went on to Japan, where the annual meeting of the church mission was being held at Karuizawa. He was able to lead the meeting for the first three days, but the pain from his illness became so intense that he was moved to Yokohama, and he had surgery at a hospital there. During the two weeks after

his surgery, he wrote more than 100 letters to contacts around the world, with the help of his good friend, W.E. Towson, who was by his side. Despite hopes of recovery, his condition suddenly worsened, and Dr. Lambuth passed away on September 26th.

Dr. Lambuth's parents also worked in Japan after moving there from China with their son. His father, James, is buried in Kobe, but his mother, Mary, who moved back to China shortly before she died, is buried in Shanghai. Dr. Lambuth's wish was to be buried next to his mother, and this is why his grave is in Shanghai. Although he has been gone now for 90 years, his love for others, and the work he began still lives on.

(院長)

キリスト教主義に基づいて……

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4月にスタートした新しい大学生活も早いもので、もう一か月半が過ぎました。新入生一人ひとりの心には、きっといろいろの思いが生じ始めていることでしょうし、またこれからの大学生活や勉学について様々な願望や計画も不安と期待のうちに抱き始めていることでしょう。そうした思いや願望と絡んで、この関西学院という学校はキリスト教主義であることも授業やチャペルアワーを通して、改めてあるいは新たに認識し始めているのではないのでしょうか。「宗教運動」の機会に、こうしたキリスト教主義や建学の精神に心を向け集注してみることは、特に新入生にとって大事な、大切なことだと思っています。

関西学院の理念や教育や活動など種々の営みについて語られる時、よく見かけるのは「キリスト教主義に基づいて・・・」といった文言です。一体、どういう意味でしょうか。

この意味について思いをめぐらす時、私は個人的ですがいつも想い出すことがあります。関西学院中学部で過ごした3年間、毎日体験した礼拝です。そこ