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## Kwansei Gakuin and World Citizenship

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### Kwansei Gakuin's Mission

Our theme for this month is "KG Spirit," and I would like to focus today on the ideal of World Citizenship. In this booklet, "Kagayaku Jiyu," published by Kwansei Gakuin, we can find the essential ideas and philosophy which are at the core of our Spirit. Here is the Mission Statement, summarizing our school's ideals.

Kwansei Gakuin, as a learning community based on the principles of Christianity, inspires its members to seek their life missions, and cultivates them to be creative and capable world citizens who embody its motto, "Mastery for Service," by transforming society with compassion and integrity.

### Walter Lambuth, KG's Inspiration for World Citizenship

KG's mission is to nurture World Citizens. What does this mean? Is KG's World Citizenship a recent effort to respond to the government's calls for training "Global Jinzai" ("Global Human Resources")? NO!

Our founder, Walter R. Lambuth was called a "world citizen" because of his efforts to improve people's lives in many parts of the world. He was a Christian missionary (Protestant/Methodist) who was born to missionary parents in Shanghai, China in 1854. He was trained as a medical doctor, as well as a teacher and minister. He grew up in China, studied in the U.S., and returned to work as a medical missionary in China.

Unlike many missionaries of his time, he believed in training local leaders to improve the lives of their country people. This may have been one reason why he and his parents were moved from China to Japan in 1886. Rather than cultivating dependence on foreign missionaries and professional people, he wanted to nurture

people with skills and values to serve others effectively at home.

Of course, as a Westerner in those days, he had some of the superior attitudes towards non-scientific traditions in developing countries, but he was motivated by the desire to free people from practices and beliefs that removed hope from their lives and prevented them from being healthy. As a physician, he was eager to bring the most up-to-date medical care to the poorest and least powerful people in the world, and he wrote a handbook for medical missionaries to encourage others to join this worldwide effort in healthcare.

### Threats to World Citizenship

During Walter Lambuth's lifetime, national and international politics were unstable. Anti-colonial movements and nationalism were creating changes in many countries. Xenophobic groups were able to exploit the fear that people had about the major changes in their societies and economies. When people are afraid, they want to find an enemy to blame for their troubles. Usually, these "enemies" are groups or people who are different somehow — racially, religiously, by nationality, etc. Governments then respond with laws to restrict their freedom.

In the same way, we are seeing nationalistic movements around the world today, seeing "others" as dangerous. It is especially in times like this that we need to remember the ideals of World Citizenship. We are all members of the same human race. We cannot have a life of well-being without mutual support with others. In other words, we are all connected in many ways. Even care of the earth depends on efforts by everyone, regardless of nationality or any other characteristic. We need to find ways to reach out to those who are frightened and want to cut off relations with others.

### Encouragement from the Bible and KG Efforts

In our Bible passage for today, we find support for an attitude of World Citizenship.

Ephesians 2: 17-22

So he came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foun-

dation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone. In him the whole structure is joined together and grows into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are built together spiritually into a dwelling place for God.

We are all members of God's family, equally loved by God. No one is an outsider who needs to be shut out.

So, at KG, we try in many ways, through language programs, international exchange programs, courses in peace, about human rights, and through Christian education programming, to create an environment of mutual understanding and respect. These reflect the essence of World Citizenship and are a crucial element of K. G. Spirit.

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