

## 2016年度宣教師研究期間 研究成果概要

所属・職・氏名： 社会学部・教授・Ruth M. GRUBEL

研究課題： Reports from the Field: The role of missionaries in forming the worldviews held by their home country people.

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研究成果概要：

### Overview

This research began by assessing the evolution of the worldview on which the North American Christian missionary movement has been based. The theological and social attitudes held by Protestant missionaries sent by North American churches influenced the people they met in Asia, Africa, and South America, but the reports of work they were pursuing around the world also influenced the people in their home churches.

During the research period, I have been studying this subject from three different perspectives:

1) Surveying the general literature on Christianity and world missions, comparing works in English from the nineteenth, twentieth, and twenty-first centuries.

2) Examining the writings of Kwansei Gakuin missionaries from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to see how their perspectives reflect the literature in 1) above, and their own experiences in Asia.

3) Exploring the roles played by Kwansei Gakuin missionaries and their family members who had returned to communities in North America. By gathering information on their activities in California, I am hoping to see if they had any influence on the attitudes toward Japan and its immigrants in the state in the early twentieth century.

### Methodology

With the research grant, I purchased some significant volumes on world Christianity, mission studies, and Christianity in Japan. Beginning the process by reading these and other background works helped me frame my questions for field study.

In addition to the above books and journals, I have been accessing materials at the Kwansei Gakuin Archives. Particularly, I have been reading the letters and documents related to California, where Walter R. Lambuth lived in his final years, and where Dr. C.J.L. Bates's mother lived with other family members after having lived for several years with her son in Nishinomiya, Japan. I was also fortunate to be

able to meet with and correspond with several Lambuth descendants through the Archive connection.

From July, I purchased membership in Ancestry, an online family history database to research the Lambuth and Bates families in California. Through those records, I was able to locate details on other family members there and the communities where they lived.

After contacting various people at historical societies, funeral homes, libraries, and so on, in Santa Paula (where Dr. Bates's relatives lived), and Oakdale (where Dr. Lambuth lived with his wife and daughter), I was able to spend several days at each place in August. During this research trip, I was able to interview local authorities, find additional documents, and visit actual places related to the families.

### Research Questions

Broad, long-term question: What impact do Christian missionaries have on shaping the worldviews of their home country people?

Medium-term question: How did Kwansei Gakuin missionaries influence the worldviews of people in their home countries?

California questions: How is the development of California related to the evolution of Methodism's world missions in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries?

Why did Dr. Lambuth and his family move to California, away from their previous homes in the South?

What influence did the Kwansei Gakuin missionaries and their families have on attitudes toward Asian immigrants in California?

### Results and Discussion

The literature on world missions indicates that the North American churches, social changes, and international missionary activities all worked to reinforce their mutual developments. The push for world missions in the nineteenth century was related, not only to evangelical movements in many churches, but the rise in interest groups and benevolent societies that had the improvement of lives, both within and without their own countries as their goals. Effective publications circulated by churches and missionary societies were shared across denominations and across the Atlantic, so the efforts to send missionaries occurred nearly simultaneously in Britain, and in North America (Shenk, 2004, pgs. 3 - 6). Shenk cites the argument given by mission societies that their activities abroad served to create a "blessed reflex" invigorating the sending churches and their communities (pg. 5).

It was near the end of the nineteenth century that Kwansei Gakuin was established (1889) by dedicated missionaries with years of experience and devoted supporters in the U.S. The newsletters of the Methodist Episcopal Church South often had messages and articles from the missionaries, and even mention of the School, Kwansei Gakuin. I have not been able to assess the impact of these messages on their readership in the U.S., but support for Kwansei Gakuin continued into the 1920s, until the Great Depression significantly limited the financial resources of the churches.

In the search for Kwansei Gakuin's "California connection," I was able to find initial hints in the Archive documents and through the Ancestry website, but when I visited both Santa Paula (for Bates connections) and Oakdale (for Lambuth connections), I was able to find information about the respective communities during the times that Mrs. Bates and Dr. Lambuth lived there. Both families were involved in agriculture in smaller farming communities. Santa Paula was known for its citrus growing - especially lemons, and even today, one of the world's largest lemon producers, Limoneira, is located there. Although Oakdale has become predominantly an almond-growing area now, Dr. Lambuth wrote about growing grain and many tree fruits (such as pears, apricots, and figs), and his daughter, Mary, who was in charge of the farming, made a contract with Sunmaid Raisin Company to buy all of the grapes from some of her land. Through the Oakdale Historical Society, I was able to find copies of newspaper articles from various California towns and cities, reporting on Dr. Lambuth's activities as General Secretary of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South's Board of Missions, and as Bishop of the Pacific Coast Conference.

Although I have not been able to reach any conclusions about the impact of the Bates family and Lambuth family on California worldviews in the early twentieth century, I hope to find some additional letters or writings that may discuss the perspectives of their communities. I would also like to learn why Mrs. Bates left Japan and went to California, and also why Dr. Lambuth and his family moved from Tennessee to California around 1913. These goals will require more searching, but I plan to write about my findings so far in an article for the Kwansei Gakuin Archives in the near future.

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