

Title	「デューク大学神学部主催 第1回「北東アジア和解クリスチャン・フォーラム(Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia)」の報告と検討」報告 (2014年度 第1回東日本大震災神学研究会)
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Citation	聖学院大学総合研究所 Newsletter, Vol.24-No.1, 2014.9 : 39-40
URL	http://serve.seigakuin-univ.ac.jp/reps/modules/xoonips/detail.php?item_id=5149
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2014年度 第1回東日本大震災神学研究会

「デューク大学神学部主催 第1回「北東アジア和解クリスチャン・フォーラム (Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia)」の報告と検討」報告

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2012年3月から毎年フラー神学大学院と毎年行ってきた「東日本大震災国際神学シンポジウム」と共に、この研究会を定期的に行ってきた。今後、本研究会は東日本大震災とそれに関わる諸問題も含め、より広いキリスト教社会倫理の問題を神学的に扱う所存だが、聖学院大学が現在移行期にあるため今年度は研究会の名称は現状維持となっている。

2014年6月27日聖学院新館（駒込）2F集会室において、今年度第1回目の研究会が持たれた。デューク大学神学部和解センター主催で本年4月21～25日に韓国京畿道のピルグリム・ハウスで持たれた第1回北東アジア和解クリスチャン・フォーラム（日中韓米から44人のキリスト教指導者が参加）の報告と神学的検討、今後の展開の可能性について議論がなされた。以下は研究会に参加されたブライアン・バード氏による報告である。

Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation. 2 Corinthians 5:17-18

How can the peoples of Northeast Asia find the path to true reconciliation? Problems of history and

historical understandings, social and economic inequalities, political ideologies, and religion plague this region. Disputes over boundaries appear intractable, as nations expand their military budgets in a climate of greed, fear, and anxiety.

Is there a place here for the people of God, redeemed and reconciled to him, to seek together a better world? What steps can the church take to show that as in Christ there is no slave or free, Jew or gentile, male or female, that neither is there Chinese or Korean or Japanese or American? Can we live our oneness that surpasses all human barriers?

Seeking to provide such a place, Duke University Divinity School established the Center for Reconciliation in 2005. Director Chris Rice launched The African Great Lakes Initiative, bringing together Christian leaders from war torn nations in Eastern Africa, in 2006.

As its second initiative, the Center has in the past year and a half reached out and brought together theologians, pastors, and other Christian leaders and activists from Northeast Asia: China, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, and the United States for the Christian Forum for Reconciliation in Northeast Asia, held this April in Korea.

Seigakuin University Professor Atsuyoshi Fujiwara, Katsuki Hirano, pastor of Daita Church, UCCJ, and Yuko Fukushima, associate professor of Aoyama Gakuin University shared the story of the Center for Reconciliation and their experience of this

forum in a June 27 meeting at Seigakuin. Hirano, then Fujiwara discussed the characteristics of the forum. Fukushima added her reflections.

1. Participants came from a wide variety of backgrounds; all were actively involved, in the midst of challenging and sometimes pain-filled situations, in the ministry of reconciliation. Each came as an equal to the forum.

2. The forum provided fresh, creative space to help participants to discern a “New We” community.

3. Participants shared vital time of worship and meals, and conversation for six days. Most of the over forty participants could get to know each other personally.

4. The forum schedule was strategically designed to foster such connections, and flowed as follows:

Day 1: Knowing each other

Day 2 The new creation: Reconciliation towards what?

Day 3 Lament: Where are we and what is the story of where we are?

Day 4 Hope: What does Christian hope for reconciliation and peace look like?

Day 5 Spirituality for the Long Journey: How is God’s ministry of reconciliation sustained over the long haul?

5. Finally, the forum emphasized sharing and the relativizing of problems, confession of sin and experience of forgiveness.

Hirano and Fujiwara described the vision of the Center for Reconciliation in its Northeast Asia Forum for building of a “Community of Friendship” in Northeast Asia, and overcoming of nationalism and individualistic isolationism. The center seeks to offer a new venue of collaboration and community for Christian leaders in our failing societies, and to work towards a theology that helps build the church as a witnessing community in the midst of the world. Specifically, coinciding with the seventieth anniversary of the end of World War II, it will sponsor meetings in April 2015 in Nagasaki and Tokyo.



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