



*Dialogue*  
Creating the Next 60 Years

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**Project Report**

June 7th, 2011

Founders Day Chapel Hour 2011: The 60th Anniversary



60th Anniversary Project  
INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY



ICU 60th Anniversary Projects

Date: June 7, 2011

Event: Founders Day Chapel Hour 2011: The 60th Anniversary

Sermon: Dr. Shigeaki Hinohara, Chair of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's International Hospital

Title of the Sermon: Spirit of Love and Peace Forming the Foundation of ICU's Liberal Arts

## A solemn anniversary service to warm the heart

On a bright sunny afternoon in early June, the International Christian University community gathered on the campus in Tokyo for a chapel service as part of the 60th Anniversary Projects series. In keeping with tradition, the ICU family assembled at the university chapel June 7 to celebrate the founding of the university together with Dr. Shigeaki

Hinohara, Chair of the Board of Trustees of St. Luke's International Hospital and the day's preacher. The sermon delivered by Dr. Hinohara, a longtime patron of the university, reminded all those present of the founding spirit of their fathers and how liberal arts stand as the core of ICU education.



As a university organist played a solemn prelude on the university chapel pipe organ, some 600 people gathered for the service led by the Rev. Takeshi Nagata. After the congregation sang "Praise ye the Lord," the Rev. Nagata read a passage from the First Letter (First Epistle of Paul the Apostle) to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians: 13) in English and Japanese.

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*...Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...*  
(1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

This famous Bible passage on love served as a premise to Dr. Hinohara's sermon titled, "Spirit of Love and Peace Forming the Foundation of ICU's Liberal Arts."



## Dr. Hinohara's ties with ICU go back many years

After the Rev. Nagata offered a prayer of thanks to all those who helped build today's university, ICU President Norihiko Suzuki took the rostrum to welcome Dr. Hinohara and introduce the physician's long list of achievements as one of



the most renowned doctors in Japan, as well as his ties with the university, which go back nearly 60 years.

Dr. Hinohara, who will turn 100 in October, was born in Yamaguchi Prefecture in 1911. After graduating from Kyoto University's Faculty of Medicine, he received his master's degree from Kyoto University Graduate School of Medicine and later went abroad to study at Emory University in the United States. Upon returning to Japan, Dr. Hinohara served as the head of internal medicine at St. Luke's International Hospital, where he later came to serve as the director. He is now chair of St. Luke's Board of Trustees and its College of Nursing. In 1982, Dr. Hinohara received an honorary award from the Japan Medical Association and was presented with the Order of Culture in 2005. He is indeed a leading figure in Japanese medical circles and is known to the general public as a versatile physician with a love of music.

Dr. Hinohara also has close ties with ICU. Upon the strong recommendations of the university's first president, Hachiro Yuasa, and St. Luke's International Hospital's then director, Hiroto Hashimoto, Dr. Hinohara joined ICU as a professor in 1953, the year the university opened, while at the same time heading St. Luke's internal medicine

team. He taught social hygiene at the university for four years as well as watching over the students as the school physician. There was even a time when he taught physical education to the students. And from 1991 to 2001, Dr. Hinohara served as a councilor of the university.

## A message suited to the memorial service

“My talk today may not sound quite like a sermon, but I’m hoping to pass on a message that is suitable for an occasion like this memorial service.” So started Dr. Hinohara’s memorial sermon.



For Dr. Hinohara, who has been overseeing the growth of the university since its early days, selecting liberal arts, the founding spirit of ICU, as the sermon’s theme was no coincidence. As someone who played a vital role in laying the foundation of liberal arts at the university, Dr. Hinohara shared his views on the essence of liberal arts with the ICU community in an entertaining and accessible manner.

## Most important in liberal arts is sensitivity

Dr. Hinohara, fast approaching his 100th birthday, drew laughter from the congregation when he remarked, “I never thought I would live this long.” As a young boy, Dr. Hinohara was not particularly healthy and suffered two major illnesses before becoming a doctor, his frail health forcing him to be bedridden for months at a time. But it was these long days in bed that nurtured Dr. Hinohara’s beliefs about how a doctor should behave as well as his deep love of music.



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The events that altered Dr. Hinohara's life first occurred when he was 10 years old. He developed acute nephritis and was told to refrain from exercise for a full year, so his mother recommended that he learn to play the piano, which became the love of his life. It was around the same time that his mother, who was also frail and often ill, developed life-threatening uremia. Witnessing their family physician Dr. Ken-itsu Yasunaga working hard to save his beloved mother's life, the 10-year-old boy pledged to one day become a doctor to save the lives of other people.

Thus aspiring, Dr. Hinohara entered Kyoto University to study medicine, but contracted tuberculosis a year later and was forced to take a leave of absence from school. He suffered from pleural inflammation, running a high fever for almost eight months, and was literally tied to his bed, not being able to even walk to the bathroom. "I was sure I couldn't become a doctor," recalls Dr. Hinohara. And with nothing better to do, he spent the boring days listening to gramophone music his sister would play for him and wrote down the notes he heard on music sheets. Eventually, Dr. Hinohara learned to compose music on his own.

Such long, bedridden days of treatment created a doctor versed in the ways of music, like Albert Schweitzer, the Alsatian physician and medical missionary whom Dr. Hinohara respects as his role model.

"Even as a doctor, I am able to conduct a chorus or a performance of Faure's Requiem or NHK chamber music, all because I suffered from illness," says Dr. Hinohara. His experiences as a patient allowed him to understand the pain and suffering of the patients he was to see as a doctor. Believing that "a doctor who hasn't been ill cannot be a good clinical physician," Dr. Hinohara often tells his students jokingly, "You all should become sick, though not sick enough to die."

To be able to understand the pain of others, one needs to heighten one's sensitivity and that is what liberal arts education is all about, says Dr.

Hinohara. He calls someone “who doesn’t see being ill as something negative, but who grows to be a wiser person and is able to support other weaker people” as someone “with high sensitivity.”

“Having high sensitivity. That’s what’s most important in liberal arts. It’s not sympathy but empathy.”

## Why liberal arts is important

Dr. Hinohara recalls the early days of ICU as it sought to provide true liberal arts education based on globalization and Christian values through unique programs, including the chapel hour services that were shaped by the school’s founding philosophy.

“A student may be undecided over whether to major in humanities or sciences, but he or she can spend the first two years cultivating themselves through liberal arts courses and later decide on whether to become a scientist or to study economics. Offering a full liberal arts education, that’s how ICU started,” says Dr. Hinohara.

As someone who served as director of St. Luke’s College of Nursing and lectured at various educational institutions while fulfilling his duties as a physician, Dr. Hinohara feels Japanese education makes light of liberal arts compared to Western schools and emphasizes the need to reform university education in Japan.

“You’re judged by how good you are at selecting the right or wrong answers or by the ranking in your class. But you can’t judge someone by scores alone,” Dr. Hinohara says, emphasizing the importance of motivation in a student who is aspiring to become a doctor.

In the United States, for example, a student will enter medical school after four years of undergraduate studies and many opt to take a gap year to



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experience the outside world by taking a job or engaging in volunteer work before re-entering university for further studies. Furthermore, entering medical school depends not only good test scores but also on an applicant's character, a judgment determined by extensive interviews by the school, where prospective students are asked not only about medicine but about a wide range of topics, including past experiences and hobbies.

In other words, while one could be technically called a doctor in six years in Japan, it takes over 8 years for someone studying in the United States to be called a doctor. During that time, the medical student accumulates not only knowledge of medicine but gains the necessary experiences to mature as a person. “We really must hurry and change the Japanese situation where liberal arts isn’t properly provided.”

For that, Dr. Hinohara proposes establishing a “special education district” where you will not be restricted by education system rules, and set up an American-style medical program, just like Japan recently did with its graduate law school program. “All the professors at established schools are against the idea of a medical school. Even the bureaucrats at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology are against it,” says Dr. Hinohara.

The centenarian doctor’s witty remarks, often a result of critical thinking — the crown jewel of liberal arts education — drew warm laughter from the audience numerous times throughout the sermon.





## Love always entails sacrifice

A plate to one side of the entrance to the library building at St. Luke's College of Nursing, which was rebuilt 15 years ago, is engraved with a message in Japanese that reads, "the art of blood and sensitivity and love." This phrase was created by Dr. Hinohara based on the following Bible scripture:

*And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, so that you may be able to discern what is best, and be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ — to the glory and praise of God. (Philippians 1:9-11)*

Dr. Hinohara continued to explain that the spirit of love, as explained in the passage from 1 Corinthians: 13, delivered earlier during the service, is the fundamental spirit of liberal arts that serves as the founding spirit of St. Luke's College of Nursing.

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Plato taught that there are two types of love: eros and agape. While eros is “a kind of love that seeks” to fulfill what is missing in oneself, agape is a Christian-type of love that provides to others, explains Dr. Hinohara. “Agape is the kind of love that is provided by God to man through Christ and is explained as giving. I found this to be a very good lesson.”

In the older days, nurses at St. Luke’s International Hospital wore a dark blue cape and Dr. Hinohara was among the many admirers of this angelic sight. But this “cape of love” as he calls it, happened to have a red lining and Dr. Hinohara later came to feel that the cape of love was tainted with blood; in other words, love is accompanied by blood-shedding sacrifice.

“Today’s message to you all is that love is always accompanied by sacrifice.” To illustrate his point, Dr. Hinohara introduced a number of true-life episodes to the audience.

In 2001, a Japanese photographer and a Korean student studying in Japan died when they tried to save a passerby who had fallen onto the railway tracks at Shin-Okubo Station in Tokyo as a train approached the platform. “He traveled all the way to Japan to study, but when he saw a Japanese about to die, he acted on impulse to save the man and unfortunately died in the process. The Japanese were all very moved by the news of the incident. Donations for the family of the deceased young Korean man were collected but the parents wouldn’t accept it and instead a scholarship for students from overseas was established. There are Korean young men and parents like this too.”

And in 1992, a 16-year-old exchange student from Japan was mistakenly shot to death on Halloween, when he went to the wrong house while looking for a costume party in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The homeowner mistook the boy for an intruder and killed him with a .44 Magnum revolver. Later, the parents of the student, rather than condemning the man who gunned down their son, blamed a society that allows the

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possession of guns and started to collect petitions seeking a law revision in the United States. Dr. Hinohara praised the parents in both episodes for their acts of sacrificial love.

You cannot love if you cannot forgive. Bullying at schools will cease if the children learn to forgive and to be friends. Thus believing, Dr. Hinohara has spent the past few years visiting elementary schools and conducting a “life class” that teaches “the importance of life” with a focus on the importance of being able to forgive each other.

A passage from the gospel of St. Luke, the patron saint of St. Luke’s International Hospital, reads as follows:

*But love your enemies, do good to them and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great and you will be children of the Most High because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. (Luke 6:35)*

Dr. Hinohara explains that this is about doing good to your enemies. That if you lend something to others, you should consider it given. Such an attitude is important in daily life.

In another episode, Dr. Hinohara retold the story of a former Japanese TV personality Senshu Yamakawa, who was diagnosed with esophageal cancer. The wife, worried about how devastated her husband was, sought the help of a preacher. The preacher said there wasn’t much he could do to comfort Mr. Yamakawa and instead showed them a poem written by a patient at a rehabilitation center in New York City:

## A Creed for Those Who Have Suffered

I asked God for strength, that I might achieve  
I was made weak, that I might learn humbly to obey...  
I asked for health, that I might do greater things  
I was given infirmity, that I might do better things...  
I asked for riches, that I might be happy  
I was given poverty, that I might be wise...  
I asked for power, that I might have the praise of men  
I was given weakness, that I might feel the need of God...  
I asked for all things, that I might enjoy life  
I was given life, that I might enjoy all things...  
I got nothing that I asked for — but everything I had hoped for  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered.  
I am among all men, most richly blessed!

(Author unknown)

*(Hung on a wall in a waiting room at the Institute of Rehabilitation  
Medicine, 400 East 34th Street, NYC)*

Having read the poem, Mr. Yamakawa came to think that his illness had been passed on to him so that he could live again. “These words saved a man in devastation,” Dr. Hinohara says and quoted a passage from St. James:

*Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him. (James 1:12)*



## Shuichi Kato — an author who truly understands liberal arts

Dr. Hinohara went on to introduce yet another episode that involved the wife of a sommelier who died when he was working on the top floor of the World Trade Center in New York on that fateful day Sept. 11, 2001. One month after the tragic incident, a journalist interviewed the surviving wife, remarking that she must hate the terrorists who killed her husband. But the wife's response was an unexpected one: "My husband would no doubt refuse to talk about revenge or retaliation. He would have wanted to talk with the perpetrators. We shouldn't try and change what has happened by shedding someone else's blood."

The response came as a total surprise to the journalist and he pressed her for clarification. The wife continued: "My husband believed in communication rather than confrontation. We must work to prevent a recurrence of this kind of crime. For that, we should make an effort to reach mutual understanding with the people who hate us."

This episode about the wife of a sommelier was first introduced in a column "*Seikyou Mougo*" published in the daily *Asahi Shimbun* newspaper Oct. 5, 2001, by essayist Shuichi Kato, who also holds a medical degree. Commenting on how well written the article was, Dr. Hinohara said, "These words could only come from someone who has in himself the true essence of liberal arts."

"Truly understanding human nature, regardless of the occupation...such intelligence is what true liberal arts is about. And Mr. Kato is someone who really has liberal arts in him. We must all learn from him."

Dr. Hinohara went on to quote the article, which said, "A big nation like the United States should shoulder the responsibility to restrain itself. A superpower has a greater moral responsibility than smaller countries to



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restrain the use particularly of military force. Terrorism could occur...when this restraint is not practiced in full.”

But contrary to the victims who refused revenge, U.S. President George W. Bush attacked Iraq and Afghanistan in the name of counterterrorism, and thousands of civilians died in the process. “War is something where mankind uses force to destroy life that has been provided by God. Humans have no right to do such a thing,” says Dr. Hinohara.

Having experienced war himself, Dr. Hinohara believes “peace is the ultimate form of love” and has written numerous pieces about his strong feelings for peace in various publications. “What is important is for big nations to prove that human life is precious.”

Dr. Hinohara pointed out how key political agenda has been put on hold since the devastating earthquake that hit Japan in March, including the sensitive Futenma Air Base issue, which forced the previous Japanese prime minister to resign over his inability to find a solution. Two weeks before the service, Dr. Hinohara visited Okinawa to attend a forum for Okinawa residents sponsored by a group of people who had recently become what would be called elderly. There, Dr. Hinohara asked people to raise their hands if they could say that they would be happy if America promised complete removal of military bases in 10 years and the Japanese and American governments worked together to fulfill that promise. Everyone raised their hands. He said, “It is regrettable that there isn’t a single politician in the Democratic Party who will in this way present a 10-year plan and negotiate with the American military.” If this could be done, then bases will no longer be provided to the U.S. military and after that Japan’s “desperation” to become an independent nation with no military at all will lead to true peace.



## A plea to ICU graduates

In his closing remarks, Dr. Hinohara mentioned the “Peace Bell,” built in 2002 in memory of Bank of Japan Gov. Hisato Ichimada who led the drive to collect some 150 million yen in just 6 months to fund the building of the university. He urged the ICU graduates and the younger generation to commit themselves to bettering society, and achieve peace and freedom in the true sense of the words: “My wish to all of you is to see ICU graduates stand up for the realization of freedom.”

After the singing of the school anthem and closing benediction by the Rev. Nagata, the audience gave Dr. Hinohara a standing ovation — proof of how deeply the centenarian doctor’s thoughtful and eloquent speech had left a heartwarming impression on all those at the service.

