

Issues of ICU

Volume 7

Ruth Louise Miller

Woman of Faith and Dedication



Delores J. Roeder

International Christian University

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Tokyo, Japan

December, 2003

On the Publication of "ISSUES OF ICU"

ICU will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding in 2003. To mark this momentous occasion, we would like reaffirm its founding ideals while keeping in mind its mission in the new century.

The ideals of ICU and efforts to achieve them have been an experiment, one that continues today. In order that these ideals may be effectively realized, ICU must unceasingly reflect upon its own history and current problems through repeated debate and progress. As one way of encouraging debate, a new series, "ISSUES OF ICU," will be published. The historically important works of our predecessors at ICU will be reprinted in this series. The series will also introduce the work of contemporary authors who focus on topics of concern to ICU with a view to the future. It is sincerely hoped that this publication will not only serve to aid university members in their own reflections, but will be of service to all of those who are interested in this university.

August 15, 2002

President, Masakichi Kinukawa

(Translated by Covell)

“ISSUES of ICU” planned publications

1. Hachiro Yuasa, et al., “The Ideals of ICU.”
2. Kiyoko Cho, et al., “ICU and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights.”
3. Shigeru Kawada, “The ideals of ICU - their establishment and problems of implementation.”
4. “The Christian Ideals of ICU,” Report of the Committee for the Study of ICU’s Christian Ideals, 1995.
5. Koichi Namiki, “Is Christianity still relevant to Modern Universities?”
6. Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr. “The Prewar Legacy and Postwar Epiphany of ICU,” 1996.
7. Delores J. Roeder, “Ruth Louise Miller: Woman of Faith and Dedication”

C O N T E N T S

Preface	v
Photos	vii
Ruth Louise Miller	<i>Delores J. Roeder</i>
Ruth Miller Before ICU	2
A New Beginning	5
A Successful Youth Campaign	8
Dedication and Hard Work	9
The Women's Planning Committee	13
Visits to ICU	18
Maintaining the Momentum	21
Ruth Miller Named Honorary Councillor at ICU	26
Miss Miller Retires	28

Appendix

I	Citation to Ruth Louise Miller	41
II	Memories of Working with Ruth Miller <i>Dorothy Goldman</i>	42
III	Ruth Miller Remembered <i>Yasuyuki Owada</i>	44
IV	Ruth Louise Miller <i>Thomas T. Winant</i>	47
V	Published Biographical Sketches & Professional Affiliation	51

Preface

Ruth Louise Miller was an exceptional woman. Her influence on the early development of International Christian University (ICU) is immeasurable. A quiet, seemingly shy woman, she was a master at working with people to accomplish lofty goals. I had the privilege of attending ICU for one year and so benefited from her endeavors. Later I worked for a short time in the Japan International Christian University Foundation (JICUF) office in New York where Ruth Miller was Executive Director. During the next twenty years I participated as a volunteer in Foundation activities she directed. Today the JICUF is an active not-for-profit foundation with offices at 475 Riverside Drive in New York. Its mission is to “work with International Christian University in its efforts to be an exemplary liberal arts university by further strengthening its international and Christian dimensions.” It was a privilege to be asked to collect information about Ruth Louise Miller to honor her accomplishments and to help keep her memory alive.

I wish to thank all who contributed their memories of Ruth Miller for inclusion in this article. Special appreciation goes to Marilyn Birckbichler for providing information about her aunt's life prior to joining the Japan Christian University project, to Martha Smalley and Joan Duffy for their assistance in accessing historical information in the archives at the Yale Divinity School Library and to all of those at ICU who made the publication possible.

Delores J. Roeder

September, 2003

Photo I



Ruth Miller with her Elementary School located in the Goodyear Heights section of Akron, Ohio (taken in about 1925 or 1926). Marilyn Birchbichler, Ruth Miller's niece, said, "I think her whole personality and future are expressed in it. Her face shows great joy and expectation and her striped socks show a willingness to 'think out of the box' and not to conform just to be like everyone else." (Fourth in the front line from left)

Photo II



Ruth Miller at Highschool graduation

Photo III



Ruth Miller at 1948 meeting of United Council of Church Women in Milwaukee, WI. Shown from left to right are: Miss Florence Partridge, Executive Secretary of the Women's Guild of the Evangelical and Reformed Church; Miss Miller; Miss Janet Gilbert, Executive Secretary of the Women's Society of World Service, Evangelical United Brethren Church; and Miss Marion Hull, Secretary of Interboard Women's Work of the Reformed Church of America.

Photo IV

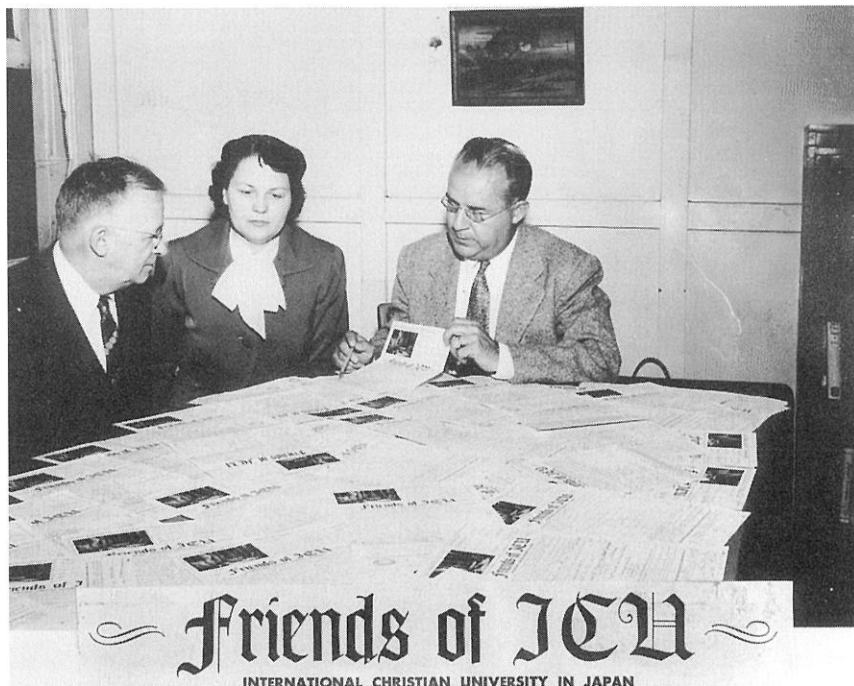


Fund Raising Campaign

Ruth Miller, her secretary, Dr. Troyer 1950

(Received from Jean Shelton on October 13, 1993, Archives of the
ICU library)

Photo V



JICUF staff members looking at profiles completed by members of Friends of ICU - circa 1953. From left; Russell Durgin, Ruth Miller, and Stanley Stuber

Photo VI



Miss Miller is shown at the December 1, 1954 tea at the Embassy of Japan in Washington D.C. Others in the photo are Mrs. Charles Malik (left), wife of the Ambassador from Lebanon, and a sponsor of the Women's Planning Committee, Mrs. Harold W. Hackett, and Mr. Harold W. Hackett, ICU Vice President for Financial Affairs.

Photo VII



Ruth Miller with Dr. Kanda (Professor of Classics), Mrs. Kanda and Princess Chichibu - 1963.

(Photo III, V, VI and VII are from Archives of the Japan International Christian University Foundation, Inc., Record Group No. 89, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library)

Photo VIII



Retirement Luncheon for Ruth Miller on November 10, 1982. (Left to Right) Betty Gray, Yoko Oka, Jeanne Shelton, Delores Roeder, Ruth Miller

Photo IX



Ruth Miller and Betty Gray
(At the January 13, 1983 Dinner honoring Ruth Miller' Thirty-five
years of service with JICUF)

Ruth Louise Miller

Woman of Faith and Dedication

Delores J. Roeder

In August of 1947, Miss Ruth Miller first learned of the project that would consume most of her time and energy for the next 35 years. At that time she was invited to assist The Joint Committee for a Christian University in Japan in the establishment of what would become International Christian University (ICU). Located just west of Tokyo, in Mitaka, Japan, ICU grew from a dream of reconciliation following World War II to a well respected, bilingual liberal arts university boasting over 13,000 graduates, many of whom serve as leaders in industry, international organizations and humanitarian causes. It has been said on more than one occasion, that without Ruth Miller, ICU might never have become the outstanding institution it is today. She was totally dedicated to the cause and extremely effective in convincing others of the need for a Christian university in Japan. She was an integral

part of the fundraising effort that was the largest ecumenical fundraising campaign by Protestant Christians in the United States up to that time.¹

In his 1963 history of ICU, Dr. Charles Iglehart wrote:

Ruth Miller was “destined to make a lasting contribution to the systematic and devoted support of the university project in North America. ... She was youthful, enthusiastic, and challenged by this new undertaking. Seeing it in all its possibilities at the highest power and committed undeviatingly to its successful accomplishment, she threw herself into organizing an efficient office and staff. Over the years, through crises, adversities, and successes, amid many changes, she has continued with zeal unabated and with unusual administrative gifts, to extend many lines of interest and of support for ICU across the continent. Perhaps no one has done so much to help create the image of the Japan Christian university in the minds and hearts of so many persons in America as has Ruth Miller.”²

Ruth Miller Before ICU

Ruth Louise Miller, along with her twin brother, Ralph, was born in Akron, Ohio, on July 11, 1915. She had one older sister, Ethel. Their parents, Elizabeth (Pfeiffer) and Arthur Miller were of German heritage and grew up in Marietta, Ohio. Arthur was employed at the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company in Akron. The family was very active in the First United Brethren Church of Akron (now United Methodist). Ruth Miller’s name is listed in the programs of religious

dramas and pageants put on in her church. She was active in the Otterbein Guild, a United Brethren organization for girls.

Miss Miller's leadership talents and skills began at an early age. At 14 she spoke on The Problems of Being an Intermediate Officer at a countywide meeting of the Christian Endeavor Union, an organization of young people from various Protestant churches. That same year she was the first place winner in a leadership contest showing a model meeting. She was a finalist in the local Prince of Peace contest, an oratory competition for young people speaking on world peace, and she participated in another oratory contest sponsored by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. She was a member of the National Honor Society at Akron East High School where she won awards for outstanding speed in shorthand.

After high school graduation in 1933, she continued to be active in the Summit County Christian Endeavor Union and directed a play for the countywide alumni banquet. She also apparently found employment as a secretary and saved money for her further education. In the fall of 1935, Ruth Miller enrolled in the College of Commerce at the University of Akron. She was the first in her family to attend college. She received a B.S. degree in 1939 and entered Hartford Seminary where she earned a Master of Arts degree in Religious Education in 1941.

From 1942 to 1946 Ruth Miller served as National Secretary for the Otterbein Guild of the United Brethren Church in Dayton, Ohio. When she left that position, an article by Janet Gilbert in the *Evangel* indicated Miss Miller needed no introduction to the Otterbein Guild when she first took the

position, as she had been a very active Guild member in her local church. She was described as always being alert for suggestions and plans which could be adapted to the work of the Guild and as keeping herself informed about youth activities in the United Brethren church, other denominations and in interdenominational organizations. Gilbert noted, "For four years she led the Otterbein Guild, and her enthusiasm, initiative, alertness and care for details brought excellent results in the organization and won for her and the cause many, many warm friends."³ Such words would be written again and again in the future as Miss Miller dedicated so much of her life to ICU.

In 1946 Miss Miller moved to New York to be the Coordinator of non-Western delegates to the second World Conference of Christian Youth to be held in Oslo, Norway, in July of 1947. She lived in housing for young women involved in various aspects of Christian education at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. She would be active in that church for the next forty-four years. In her work, Miss Miller made arrangements for delegates selected by Asian countries to go to Norway. Transportation was provided via a U.S. military transport. She attended the Oslo conference, and then traveled to Sweden for the meeting of the Youth Department of the provisional organization of the World Council of Churches (WCC). This Youth Department came together prior to the formation of the WCC and joined with the YMCA, the YWCA, and the World's Sunday School Association in coordinating the arrangements for the World Conference of Christian Youth in Oslo.⁴ In August she traveled to Selly Oak, England, to

attend the World Council of the World's Sunday School Association (WCWSSA), that came to be known as The World Council of Christian Education.

These meetings likely had a profound impact on Ruth Miller's life-long dedication to building an international Christian university in Japan. Postwar reconciliation and the ecumenical movement were dominant concerns at the conferences. The published title of the report of the WCWSSA meetings is titled "World Cooperation in Christian Education". The General Secretary of the Association, Dr. Forrest L. Knapp, spoke on "Ecumenical Service in Christian Education" and pointed out that among the necessary tasks ahead were serving wider geographical areas of the world, co-operating with the WCC in uniting the Christian youth of all lands in one great world fellowship, preparing Sunday school curriculum materials and preparing teachers for all levels of Christian education.⁵ Preparing qualified teachers for Christian schools was one of the early goals of a Christian university in Japan.

A New Beginning

Upon returning from Europe, Miss Miller was completing some correspondence in connection with her responsibilities for the World Conference of Christian Youth when she was asked to temporarily assist the Joint Committee for a Christian University in Japan with its fund raising efforts. James L. Fieser, former head of the American Red Cross in Washington, had taken over as Executive Secretary of the Committee in August. While he had extensive fund raising experience, he knew very little about working with the vari-

ous Protestant denominations. Twelve denominations were represented on the Committee at the time and it was anticipated more would join in the effort.

In her characteristic style, Miss Miller set to work. In January of 1948 she was asked to permanently join the staff as administrative secretary. She later recalled, "I wanted to, because I was so excited about it (the Japan university project)."⁶ During the summer of that year the Committee set a campaign goal of raising \$10,000,000 by June 15, 1949 and a constitution was written incorporating the Japan Christian University Foundation, Inc. under the laws of the state of New York. The Foundation's purpose was the founding and development of The Christian University of Japan. "International" was added to both names a year later. From that time on, the Foundation was often referred to as the JICUF and the University as ICU.

The goal of raising \$10,000,000 in one year turned out to be overly optimistic, but with total dedication Ruth Miller did her part to publicize the need for funds. She saw the project as more than building a university. She saw it as an opportunity for people in America to come to know Japan, a recent enemy. She was convinced that this project was one of the most significant projects in her lifetime - and she wanted to be a part of it. She frequently met with members of the Board of Directors at night and on Saturdays. They all gave of their time with the firm belief that establishing this university was the most important project to be undertaken by American Christians at the time. Miss Miller recalled when speaking to the ICU Alumni in New York in 1990:

If I sound as if the early days were hard, they were. It's hard if you don't know if you're going to have any money and you live in New York. But it was always overshadowed by these wonderful dedicated people; presidents of colleges, ministers, so many people. (ICU President) Dr. (Hachiro) Yuasa came and helped us. Mr. Hackett came from Japan - he was the first Vice President for Financial Affairs. It was just a glorious time. I don't think we will ever have such a wonderful time again as we did in those early years because we did feel that we were building a better world.⁷

She persevered despite frequent setbacks, delays and moves to temporary office locations. Retired ICU Professor J. Edward Kidder wrote, "Without that commitment, I am sure ICU would have been a different place. It paralleled and complemented what Dr. Yuasa was doing there (in Japan). They understood each other and both had the same depth of commitment. I can't think of a better combination at just the appropriate moment."⁸

In addition to working with the denominations, Miss Miller's early responsibilities included contacting youth groups and women's organizations to encourage their contributions to the project. In September of 1948 she spoke at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the United Christian Youth Movement in Kalamazoo, Michigan. The committee voted unanimously to support the effort to build an international, Christian university in Japan. Miss Miller reported

that she expected support from organizations representing over 10,000,000 Protestant young people in the United States.⁹

A Successful Youth Campaign

During 1949 an elaborate Youth Campaign was organized with Ruth Miller as National Youth Director. "ICU Youth Week" was planned in communities across the nation. During this week young people would "Vote for Peace and Good Will" by signing a roster and putting their "vote" in the form of a dollar bill in the ballot box. To plan the details of the campaign, Miss Miller established a Youth Advisory Committee made up of representatives of denominational youth fellowships, state and local youth councils and interdenominational youth groups. The Foundation prepared a manual for youth and a leaflet suggesting special programs for ICU Youth Week. Pilot programs were tested in several communities prior to the national campaign to assure success. One pilot program in the state of Virginia involved more than fifty community and area youth chairmen from thirty-eight communities. It netted over 5,000 signatures and more than \$7,000 in donations. Newspaper clippings from the time indicate similar campaigns were held in at least 31 states plus the District of Columbia. Miss Miller traveled to various cities across the country to present the Youth Campaign and to enlist interest in it. Special exhibits, lectures, dances, youth rallies, basketball games, bean suppers, spaghetti dinners, Japanese teas, bazaars, movies and radio broadcasts brought youth to the numerous polling places to sign the rosters and place their

dollar bills in the "Voting Boxes". The Youth Campaign formally ended on October 29, 1950, by which time \$55,797 had been received.

As the campaign neared its official end, Miss Miller must have recalled her own participation in youth oratorical contests as she spearheaded a competition to choose one man and one woman between the ages of 18 and 24 to go to Japan to present to the Emperor the giant scroll which had grown to over 75,000 names. Entrants were to be judged on the literary form and content of an original speech as well as the ability to make an effective presentation as a spokesperson of American youth to the youth of Japan. The winners, Miss Miriam Corless, 23, of Delaware and the Youth Campaign National Chairman, Mr. George Lewis, 21, of Illinois, spent five weeks in Japan visiting churches, youth groups, colleges and other organizations throughout the country. On their return, Miss Miller worked with them to schedule speaking engagements emphasizing what ICU could mean to the Japanese people. Both led campaigns to raise more funds from young people who frequently reported doing small jobs, giving up lunches one day a week, and finding other ways to obtain money for ICU. In 1957 Miss Miller reported that nearly \$100,700 had been contributed by the youth of America to ICU.

Dedication and Hard Work

Ruth Miller was also involved in other activities to publicize ICU. She traveled to various cities to give speeches, to participate in radio interviews and to attend numerous meetings. She took exhibits to the United Council of Church

Women in Milwaukee and the Council of Churches in Cincinnati in 1948. While in Cincinnati, she met with many state Council leaders, ministers and laypersons. She returned assured of their support and interest. She also arranged for literature and exhibits to be sent to national denominational conferences, missions conferences, councils of churchwomen and summer camps each year.

As time went on, Miss Miller was instrumental in the success of a campaign organized for colleges and universities during the 1950's. Recognizing the need for scholarships for ICU, (\$250 would provide a full scholarship at the time), Miss Miller instituted a plan where a Japanese cherry tree would be presented for planting on any college or university campus in North America contributing \$250 or more. In 1952-53, the first year of the program, trees were sent to 23 campuses in the United States. As the Director of Scholarship appeal, each year Miss Miller arranged for letters and campaign materials to be sent to all colleges, universities and seminaries which had previously contributed to ICU and form letters to go to every college, university and seminary in the country.

Prior to the opening of the university, Miss Miller was also intimately involved in other necessary tasks. She worked together with ICU President Hachiro Yuasa and Vice President for Curriculum and Instruction Maurice Troyer in recruiting non-Japanese faculty. She was convinced only the highest quality instructors would do, set out to help find them and then to make the necessary arrangements for their transfer to Japan. The Japanese government required that a portion of the land purchased in Mitaka be cultivated in order to

qualify for a charter so Ruth Miller lent her support to a project to send livestock and farm machinery to the campus. Another charter requirement was that the library acquire at least 10,000 books in languages other than Japanese. Appeals from the Foundation resulted in the shipment of nearly 15,000 books plus thousands of periodicals, trade and college journals, pamphlets and leaflets. Much of the success of this project can be attributed to Miss Miller's tenacity in contacting authors, publishers, universities and other sources of printed material.

The fund raising goal of \$10,000,000 was still far from sight in November of 1950. The Foundation was working with a fundraising firm to raise funds, but the elaborate nationwide campaign was costing more than the incoming funds. The contract was cancelled and the New York office took full responsibility for fundraising. "Then the idea came. Why not have concerned people in America and Canada help us enlist the aid of their friends, churches and business organizations."¹⁰ Thus, in 1952 a program was begun to enroll members as "Friends of ICU." Miss Miller oversaw the sending of over 52,000 letters to prospective Friends asking each to contribute at least \$10.00 and to interest others in ICU. Nearly 1,500 people representing 45 states were enrolled in the first two years of the program.

Also beginning in 1952, the Sunday closest to June 15, the anniversary of ICU's founding, was designated as "ICU Sunday" - a day to promote ICU in churches throughout the country. Under Miss Miller's direction, materials were sent to thousands of churches, ministerial associations, councils of churches, military chaplains and all other known friends

of ICU encouraging them to focus on developments at the University during their Sunday services. Observances of ICU Sunday continued through the 1970's, and in some local congregations, well beyond.

In 1952, Ruth Miller's title was changed from Administrative Assistant to Administrative Secretary and in 1953, the same year the University opened, she became Executive Secretary in charge of the office staff and general administration. This was an exciting time for her and, as would always remain her habit, she worked long hours including all day Saturday and Sunday afternoons after attending a worship service at her church. Always aware of keeping expenses down, she later recalled, "Our rule was never make a (long distance) phone call if an airmail letter would do and never send an airmail letter if a regular letter would do. We tried to keep our spending down very low because that was the honest thing to do."¹¹ Another thing she always felt strongly about was getting "top" people - well known or influential people - involved in all aspects of the Foundation's work. It was her firm belief that if the "right" people were involved, others would follow.

Miss Miller was constantly looking for new names to add to the lists and new ideas for promotions. Despite the total dedication and untold hours of hard work by Miss Miller and the Foundation staff, reaching financial goals was often very difficult. There was a plan to open the College of Liberal Arts and the Graduate School of Education in April of 1951, but difficulties in raising funds delayed the opening until 1953. It seemed that there was never enough money to build the

necessary buildings and support the operations of the university. An important part of Ruth Miller's responsibility throughout the years, was to maintain contacts with participating Protestant denominations and to encourage their ongoing financial support.

The Women's Planning Committee

On January 13, 1953, Ruth Miller met with a group of outstanding Christian women to organize what became the most effective fund raising organization for ICU - The Women's Planning Committee (WPC). Mrs. Harper Sibley, a Vice President of the Foundation, former president of United Church Women and 1945 American Mother of the Year, invited a group of prominent women leaders to a luncheon at the Gramercy Park Hotel in New York. The featured speaker at that meeting, Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton, former President of the General Council of Women's Clubs titled her address, "The Women of America Can Help." At that meeting, Mrs. Sibley was elected Chairman of the Committee; Miss Ruth Woodsmall, an executive with the Foreign Division of the YWCA and later General Secretary of the World YWCA, was elected Vice-chairman; and Ruth Miller was elected Secretary. On January 29, 1953 the Foundation Board of Directors voted to make the WPC a special committee of the Foundation. Only six months later, the Foundation staff, under Miss Miller's leadership had prepared and distributed to individual women and women's organizations over 23,000 copies of the leaflet "International Christian University Helps Japanese Women Enter a New World."

Miss Miller encouraged members to suggest the names of women who were well known or influential in their communities for possible membership and was very successful in recruiting these people. She was most interested in finding “women of top quality, not money - women who had the respect and affection of other people to be on our committee.”¹² Women living outside the United States were asked to be Sponsors of the WPC. The Foundation office prepared a guide for establishing local committees in cities across the country and provided a speaker’s kit so members could present ICU to local women’s groups. In January of 1954, only one year from the organizational meeting, Ruth Miller reported that over \$65,000 had been received from women’s organizations and over \$17,000 from individual women for ICU.

Membership in the Women’s Planning Committee grew rapidly. Under Miss Miller’s leadership, press releases were sent to local newspapers when women joined giving information about ICU and listing prominent members’ names. Local chapters were formed in cities across the country. Members were asked to publicize ICU in their churches and communities. Women encouraged their churches to observe ICU Sunday each June and were sent suggested programs and inserts for church bulletins. Ruth Miller’s reports to the WPC Executive Committee and to the Foundation Board of Directors frequently described 20 to 30 recent events in cities across the country sponsored by individual WPC members to benefit ICU. In his 1963 history of ICU, Dr. Charles Iglehart wrote:

As Secretary of this Women's Committee, Ruth Miller began the systematic development of this significant movement until, from that small luncheon circle of 1953, by 1963 it has grown to a working membership of over 1,500 persons throughout the world. Operating mainly in community-level groups and coordinated by the New York headquarters, this amazing, dedicated organization of world-minded Christian women has served with extraordinary effectiveness to publicize ICU and to raise important support funds for the university's various needs.¹³

Membership peaked in 1968 with nearly 1,900 members and 100 sponsors from every state and over thirty foreign countries.

The largest single event sponsored by the Committee each year was the Fall Luncheon in New York. Mrs. Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke at the first luncheon in 1953 about her recent visit to ICU for the opening of the University. Miss Miller worked with members of the committee to perfect every detail of the luncheons. Tables were meticulously arranged with a hostess assigned to each who was given information about each of her guests in advance. Executive Committee members greeted guests at the door and introduced them to their table hostess. Each guest was given very special treatment. Featured speakers were carefully chosen. There always was an additional distinguished speaker from ICU or a speaker who had visited ICU very recently. In addition, some Japanese cultural event such as a musical performance or demonstration of flower arranging was presented. Former students sat at a dais and were proudly introduced.

Attendance at the luncheons grew. In 1967 over 1,000 people arrived at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to hear John D. Rockefeller IV, a former ICU student, speak. The largest event was in 1969 when UN Representative Dr. Barbara Ward, also known as Lady Jackson, spoke on "Survival in the Seventies." Over 1,200 people attended. It was later said, the success of these luncheons is a strong tribute to Ruth Miller's ability to inspire large numbers of Americans to feel a part of ICU.¹⁴

The largest and most active committee outside of New York was located in Washington, D.C. Beginning in 1953, the same year the New York Committee was organized, the Washington, D.C. group began holding benefit teas at the Japanese Embassy. Former Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, who was serving as the National Fundraising Chairman, was instrumental in starting the teas. According to Ruth Miller, "He was a much loved man; very dignified, very elegant, and very wonderful. He invited a lot of people and opened the doors to that quality of people - people interested in Japan, people interested in higher education, and people interested in the Christian commitment. And so we started the teas there (Washington, D.C.) and the luncheons here (New York)."¹⁵ In keeping with Miss Miller's desire to always have well-known people associated with the JICUF, the honorary sponsors of the Washington Teas were usually the wife of the current U.S. president and the wife of the Ambassador from Japan. The group also hosted a large luncheon each spring. Funds raised at these benefits went towards the national WPC projects as well as for scholarships for American students to attend ICU. Miss Miller often attended these very successful affairs.

Beginning in 1956, the WPC designated a single project for ICU each year. With annual goals, usually of \$100,000, the projects ranged from helping to support the construction of new buildings to establishing graduate schools to supporting special programs and funding international faculty. By the time of Ruth Miller's retirement, this committee had informed countless people about ICU and contributed over \$2,000,000 toward the development of the University.

Anniversaries are times to celebrate - and because the Women's Planning Committee was organized the same year the University opened, Ruth Miller put great effort into planning events to commemorate these anniversaries. For the 10th Anniversary in 1963, twenty-three large-scale events were held in various state governors' mansions or in other suitable locations such as colleges, universities or seminaries celebrating the theme "Dreams Coming True." Mr. and Mrs. Laurence Rockefeller and President and Mrs. Nathan Pusey of Harvard University opened their homes for 10th Anniversary events.¹⁶ Speakers at the events included well-known people such as Elizabeth Gray Vining, the former tutor to Emperor Akihito, Mrs. Harper Sibley, Mrs. Hiram Cole Houghton, past and present ICU faculty members and alumni. Four thousand invitations were sent for the October 15, 1963 dinner at the New York Hilton Hotel.

1974 brought 25th Anniversary celebrations of the founding of the University. Once again, Ruth Miller worked closely with WPC members from across the country to organize forty-seven events in twenty-one states and Washington D.C. in addition to the luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New

York where John D. Rockefeller IV spoke on "Warm Memories and Strong Feeling about ICU".

Visits to ICU

During her 35 years with the Foundation, Miss Miller visited the ICU campus seven times. Her first trip was in the spring of 1955. In route to Japan she made stops in Los Angeles and in Honolulu where she continued to make friends for ICU. She gave speeches, participated in radio interviews, and met with church and WPC leaders. Following a tea in Honolulu she immediately prepared a letter for each attendee encouraging support of ICU. In a series of letters written to "Members and Friends of the WPC Executive Committee," she described her wonderful experiences on campus while frequently interspersing statements of how privileged she felt to be there and how great was the need for support. She mentioned wanting to work on acquiring funds to furnish the new residence for faculty women, the need for an organ for the church and funds for Sunday school materials. "And what can I say of the campus, the faculty residences, the dormitories - all are so fine, but so few. I am glad to be here - but I am eager to get back to get more money for so many needs that are so apparent."¹⁷

It was on this trip that Ruth Miller first met HIH Princess Chichibu, wife of the Emperor's brother. The Imperial Family had supported the idea of a Christian university from the beginning and had contributed money towards the purchase of the Mitaka property. Princess Chichibu served on

the organizing committee, and was named an honorary member on the ICU Board of Trustees and Honorary Councillor. She and Miss Miller had corresponded frequently. Ruth Miller was invited to Princess Chichibu's home for tea and was most impressed with the Princess herself whom she found to be "a warm, charming woman, and just to know her is wonderful."¹⁸ To the WPC members back home, Miss Miller wrote "There is so much for which I am grateful to you, and this visit to Princess Chichibu's home is another of the rich opportunities you give to me."¹⁹ Miss Miller always treasured her relationship with the Princess and was invited to her home each time she visited Japan.

While in Japan, Miss Miller visited other Christian schools in Tokyo, Nagoya, Kyoto, Nishinomiya, Kobe and Hiroshima. As she neared the end of her trip she wrote, "I am more convinced than ever that ICU will bring us undiminished returns and that we must stand behind the excellent faculty we have here so that they can do the work for which ICU was founded. You and I are co-workers in helping to develop one of the greatest institutions God has for bringing His Kingdom to earth today. What privileged people we are!"²⁰ The following January she wrote, "Since my trip to Japan last spring, the whole work of the University has dominated my thinking. My enthusiasm for ICU is boundless, and my awareness of its great need is more clearly and deeply heart-felt. With the background of my first visit there, all of my work here has been made more meaningful and rewarding."²¹

Miss Miller also contributed significantly to the success of several JICUF Air Tours to Japan. The first was planned in

1957, timed so the group could attend ICU's first commencement ceremony. Mrs. Harper Sibley led the tour and gave the commencement address. Miss Miller accompanied the group comprised of 27 WPC members and friends. Due to the success of the tour in raising both enthusiasm and funds for ICU, Miss Miller worked to plan a second tour in 1959. She went to Los Angeles to participate in the tour orientation sessions there but did not accompany the group to Japan. While in Japan, the group enjoyed campus tours, lectures on the University, the political, economic and social situations in Japan and on American relationships with Japan. Members had ample opportunities to meet faculty members and students on campus and attended a dinner honoring HIH Princess Chichibu at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo.

Ruth Miller once again went to Japan with the 3rd Bienial Air Tour in 1961. She participated in a two-day orientation in Seattle, which included a luncheon for over 200 people and a tea at the residence of the Japanese Consul General. Miss Miller never missed an opportunity to let others know about ICU. The tour group spent one day in Anchorage, Alaska, where members met representatives of church women's organizations and other women's groups. Before returning to New York, Miss Miller visited Chung Chi College in Hong Kong, Tunghai University in Taichung, Taiwan, and Seoul Women's College and Ewha College in Seoul, Korea. In her December, 1961 Report to the Board of Directors, she wrote, "These visits were interesting, inspiring and informative. I am most grateful for the experience." But of her visit to ICU she wrote, "My recent visit to Japan confirmed defi-

nitely my belief that the International Christian University has surpassed the expectations of its founders. It is worth every dollar given to it and every effort expended in its behalf."²²

Miss Miller returned to the campus for the 10th Anniversary in 1963 and again in 1973 to attend the matriculation ceremony and the dedication of the Ralph Sockman Library Extension. During that campus visit she was awarded a citation for her service to the University. (See Appendix I.) Her only other visits to the university she loved so much were with the JICUF Air Tour in 1976, at the invitation of the ICU Board of Trustees in 1980 after being named Honorary Councillor and following her retirement in 1983.

Maintaining the Momentum

As the years passed, Ruth Miller continued to administer programs already begun and to initiate new ones. As she had done in the past for colleges and universities, she arranged for Japanese cherry trees to be sent to churches and military chapels giving \$250 or more along with suggested worship services to use when planting them. Churches contributing \$100-\$250 were designated "Honor Churches" and were sent Honor Certificates. Local churches were encouraged to support individual faculty members by helping to fund salaries. Miss Miller also instigated a plan whereby trees would be designated on the ICU campus in the names of people honored by a special gift of at least \$50.00. When she retired, 485 trees had been designated and the names of those so honored

were kept at ICU. A significant number of those trees were designated with gifts from Ruth Miller herself to honor family, friends and members of the JICUF staff.

Ruth Miller maintained detailed card files on all contributors and kept extensive lists of prospective donors. It also was Ruth Miller who took the responsibility for sending invitations for all of the various committee meetings (usually including lunch and often more than one in a week), preparing agendas and other meeting materials, writing minutes and doing follow-up after meetings. When visitors came from ICU she managed plans for special occasions in their honor. Over 600 people attended a tea honoring Dr. Yuasa in New York in 1961.

Ruth Miller was named co-Executive Director of the Foundation along with Dr. Henry Bovenkirk in 1961 and Executive Director in 1963. That fall she attended a three-day "Second Decade Conference" where representatives from ICU reviewed the first ten years and explored areas of concentration for the future. Following the conference she wrote:

As I sat through the conference, many times I thought especially of the members of the Executive Committee of the Foundation and of the Women's Planning Committee, as well as the larger group of friends and supporters of ICU in America - remembering all of their dedicated efforts, generous gifts, and great concern for ICU. I wished so much that each of them could have been there to sense, as I did the tremendous privilege that has been ours to have a part in the development of this institution, which is making such a tremendous impact on Asia and the world.²³

Under her leadership, the Foundation continued to provide many direct services to the University. University catalogs and other information were sent to prospective students and faculty members from the New York office. During the early 1960's, requests from prospective students averaged 40-50 per month. Later, all applications for the ICU Summer Language Program were processed in New York. The Foundation often helped make travel arrangements for students and faculty members going to ICU. Because most non-Japanese faculty members were employees of the Foundation, until the mid-1980's basic salaries, pension contributions, social security payments, insurance premiums and faculty children's tuition support payments were paid on a regular basis from the New York office. Miss Miller also continued to work with the participating Protestant denominations, the Men's and Women's Committees, local churches and other donors to raise funds for dormitories, faculty residences, operating funds for the library and graduate schools, student scholarships and other projects.

Ruth Miller was constantly looking for new ways to promote ICU. In 1990 she recalled, "That's the fun of this kind of work. That you think of everything that happens - 'How can we use that?' ... I mean, every newspaper headline, we'd think 'How can we use that for ICU? How can we turn it around to convince people of the need for ICU?'"²⁴ She managed the office well and gained the respect of those who worked with her. (See Appendix II, written by Dorothy Goldman who was a JICUF staff member from 1959-1966.) Miss Miller's staff re-

ports to the Board of Directors always gave credit to others and voiced appreciation to her staff and volunteers.

Fundraising for a university in Japan proved difficult during the 1970's. Contributions decreased as Americans began to view Japan as a wealthy nation and more and more philanthropic emphasis was placed on needs in local communities, especially for anti-poverty and racial integration programs. Many denominational boards faced severe budget cuts necessitating reductions in pledges for ICU. Ruth Miller worked through the difficulties as the University accepted more and more financial responsibility. She constantly looked for ways to save money and worked to remove from the mailing lists the names of those not showing interest. Between 1971 and 1982 membership in both the Men's and Women's Committees declined by nearly fifty percent and all types of contributions decreased.

While she certainly had financial concerns during those difficult years, Ruth Miller also continued to work on improving the relationships between the people of the United States and Japan. In a 1973 speech to the WPC she said:

As we face the future - at a time fraught with many tensions - I believe we must concentrate, in addition to our fund-raising projects, on this person-to-person contribution we can make to Japanese-American friendship. We are one group of concerned Christian women who have the opportunity - indeed, the challenge - to know the Japanese people and their culture and to interpret to Americans something of the Japanese thinking. I know

each of us will want to help meet this challenge, which will enrich our own lives and that of others as we continue our support of International Christian University.²⁵

In an attempt to assure future funding for the Foundation, a deferred giving program known as the Fund for the Future was initiated in 1972. Participants agreed to include the Foundation or ICU in a will, a trust, as the beneficiary of an insurance policy or to make a gift of at least \$500 in cash or stock. The names of the 123 people enrolled in the Fund were engraved on a plaque and displayed in the Seabury Chapel at ICU.

Ruth Miller always took great pride in the graduates of her beloved University and realized they were by far the best ambassadors for ICU. She had great hopes they would become strong financial supporters in the future. As alumni came to the United States to study or work, Miss Miller and her staff made every effort to welcome them and to keep in close touch with them. Letters were sent to nearby churches giving a brief background of ICU and encouraging them to invite the students to their churches. WPC members were encouraged to include ICU alumni in holiday activities and to invite their participation in events publicizing ICU. In the May 5, 1983 Staff Report Summary, Ruth Miller wrote:

Certainly no part of our work for ICU is more rewarding than our association with those who have been on the ICU campus as students or faculty members. ... How wonderful it would be if each person who has as-

sisted ICU - financially or in other ways - could become acquainted with these outstanding men and women. What a sense of pride and satisfaction the contributors would have in seeing the results of their investment. ICU graduates are extraordinary and are having a real impact on society today.²⁶

(See Appendix III for ICU Graduate Yasuyuki Owada's remembrance of Miss Miller.)

Ruth Miller Named Honorary Councillor at ICU

On May 26, 1980, ICU gave to Ruth Miller "permanent expression to the University's grateful respect for your dedicated service" by an appointment as Honorary Councillor of the University.²⁷ Only two others had borne the title before, Miss Miller's good friend HIH Princess Chichibu and Dr. Hisato Ichimada, Governor of the Bank of Japan and Chairman of the original fundraising campaign in Japan. In her reply to ICU Board Chairman Hachiro Yuasa, Miss Miller wrote, "Words cannot express my deep gratitude to you and the other Board members for this distinction. Although I do not feel worthy of having the same title as Princess Chichibu and Dr. Ichimada, I certainly accept the appointment with great joy."²⁸ In her letter to ICU President Nakagawa, she wrote "I have always felt extremely fortunate in having the opportunity to work for a cause in which I believe as firmly as I do in ICU. The University has developed far beyond any of our fondest dreams and hopes. Now to be named an Honorary Councillor is a source of deepest satisfaction."²⁹ In honor

of this appointment, Miss Miller was invited by the Board of Trustees to visit ICU - a trip she made that October. In her characteristic style, her Staff Report to the Foundation Board of Directors the following May mentioned nothing of the honor bestowed upon her and instead spoke of the results of the many contributions made to ICU. She wrote:

Last fall, as many of you know, it was my privilege to visit the ICU campus at the invitation of the University's Board of Trustees. It was my first stay of any length on the campus since 1973, and it enabled me to become reacquainted with the University. I cannot tell you how deeply impressed I was by all aspects of ICU - from its dedicated faculty and administration to the lively members of its student body to the beauty of its buildings and grounds. Everywhere I went there was evidence of the vital role which ICU is playing in Japan as a center for international and Christian education.

At the ICU faculty meeting I had an opportunity to express to members of the faculty and administration my great appreciation for the years I have enjoyed as Executive Director of the Foundation. I should like to express that same appreciation to you, the members of our Board of Directors. One of the richest blessings which life can bring is the opportunity to work for a cause which is greater than oneself and which will live on after life is over. I am grateful to have been on your staff at the time of the founding - and during the development - of International Christian University, which surely will continue, in the years ahead, to send out great young men and

women to bless the world.

Thomas Carlyle once wrote: 'Blessed is he who has found his work; let him ask no other blessedness.' We who have been privileged to work for ICU and to participate in its development are indeed blessed.³⁰

Miss Miller Retires

Ruth Miller retired from the JICUF on December 31, 1982, her "temporary" position having lasted nearly 35 years. The Women's Committee hosted a luncheon for her on November 10, 1982 and the Foundation held a dinner in her honor at Riverside Church on January 13, 1983 to celebrate her many achievements. At the luncheon WPC member, Mrs. Samuel McCrea Cavert, concluded her remarks by saying,

I used to think that when she went to bed at night, her subconscious worked and she awoke with ideas - cherry trees to churches and individuals in appreciation of gifts; organizing men's and women's committees (whose number of members is now in the thousands) for support; enlisting college students; stimulating festivals and celebrations as benefits to raise money and increase knowledge of Japan's unique life and culture (from Embassy parties in Washington to small celebrations in Retirement Centers).

In all of this (and you are all thinking of other examples) Ruth worked behind the scenes, showing the greatest leadership quality of all, viz., stimulating, free-

ing, implementing and sharing the gifts of innumerable people (including her staff) who became involved in the University. I recall how she studied lists of corporation, church and university boards, and consulted 'Who's Who in America' to discover the names and interests of those who might be enlisted for work in behalf of the University. She was most ingenious in discovering their church and other relationships. Always she was looking to strengthen the international and Christian aspects of the University,

In the early days before the University had established world connections, she had much responsibility in discovering potential faculty members. The highest quality was sought for administrative, teaching and research work in the University. And then the alumni began to come here as graduate students, as workers in prestigious business corporations, at the United Nations, et cetera. They found a center of friendship and guidance both in the JICUF office and in Ruth's hospitable home.

Every one of us in this room, and thousands of others, rise up and bless the day our paths crossed that of Ruth Miller. Her integrity, her devotion, her loyalty, her creative imagination, her downright hard work - richly bestowed on her family, her church, her friends and on ICU - indeed call for celebrations. And that's what we are doing today, Ruth. We are celebrating you and wishing you every good thing in the years ahead, assured in our minds that you will continue to be a blessing to whatever interests and concerns you direct your beautiful and manifold talents.³¹

Miss Miller made her final visit to Japan in April of 1983 accompanied by her good friend Grace Pelon. Once again she was invited to the home of HIH Princess Chichibu along with ICU President Hideyasu Nakagawa and ICU Board of Trustees Chair, Ryuichiro Enomoto. After the visit, Mr. Enomoto wrote an article for the alumni newsletter describing the warm friendship shown to Miss Miller by the Princess. On that same trip ICU Physics Professor Donald Worth and Mrs. Worth accompanied Miss Miller and Miss Pelon on a two-day trip to the ICU Nasu Campus and the Nikko area. Dr. Worth later recalled:

During that final trip with her, we were shocked to learn just how difficult her life had been in previous years, as she had to take enormous doses of aspirin to combat her growing rheumatoid arthritis so that she could continue her dedicated service to JICUF in New York City. In all of our contacts with her, Ruth continued tenaciously to demonstrate her unflinching interest in ICU and in its goals and ministry of caring Christian witness and service.³²

Following her trip, Miss Miller donated \$1,000 for a piece of artwork for the large wall alcove in the entrance hall of the Administration Building. To Holloway Brown, Director of Public Information at ICU, she wrote, "The gift - which I wish could be much larger - comes with my deepest appreciation and greatest admiration for ICU. To me, ICU is simply in-

credible and certainly worth all the time, effort and money that have been invested in it. I am so pleased to be associated with it.”³³ Miss Miller’s gift, together with a donation from the Alumni Association, resulted in the installation of a large oil painting titled *The Road to Emmaus* by Tadao Tanaka, an outstanding painter of Christian themes and the father of ICU Professor Fumio Tanaka.

On July 26, 1990, ICU graduates Reiko Kitadai, Yoko Oka and Masako Yamamoto interviewed Miss Miller about her experiences with the Foundation. In recalling her years with the JICUF she said:

They went fast, but it was wonderful. You know I used to think every morning when I went to the office, ‘There isn’t a job where you get to meet the best people of America, the best people of all denominations, and the best of Japan!’ Then you get to know the alumni, students who want to go to Japan, and you get all these creative ideas. ...

Of course people change, but unchanging through my entire 35 years with the Foundation has been the assurance that ICU was an idea whose time has come, a university which God wanted, and for that reason it would succeed. That confidence sustained me through the happy times and the unhappy times, through the ups and downs when the Foundation had to borrow money to meet our payroll, when it looked as though failure was inevitable. Somehow, when everything was at a low ebb, something always happened to provide new life.

As I look back on 35 years worth of Foundation I feel a deep sense of gratitude that is difficult to express. Gratitude to the Foundation officers, executive committee members and Board of Directors for their service, counsel, cooperation and friendship; gratitude to the Women's and Men's Committee members for their enthusiasm, faithfulness, and cooperation on behalf of an endeavor with which most had not had personal contact; gratitude towards administrators, to the faculty and staff at ICU for their warm friendship, for their patience and understanding, for their precious hospitality when I visited the campus, and for the opportunity to become familiar with and enjoy the culture of Japan; gratitude to the ICU alumni for the joy of seeing the splendid fruits of our work in the university; gratitude to colleagues at the Foundation for their devotion to ICU and their willingness to work energetically and wholeheartedly for it. All provided me with the challenge of serving an institution which I believe is one of God's gifts to our day - an institution which is making and will continue to make a great difference in the world.³⁴

In 1991 Ruth Miller, along with her long-time good friend, Grace Pelon, moved to Thurber Towers Retirement Community in Columbus, Ohio. She passed away on September 13, 1992 of cancer. A memorial service was held in the Seabury Chapel on the ICU Campus, a building she worked to fund, on October 4, 1992. Two of the speakers that day were Dr. and Mrs. J. Edward Kidder, Jr. Dr. Kidder joined the faculty in 1956 and their children grew up on the ICU campus. Dr. Kidder recalled:

Few people realize that almost all the early fundraising in the United States finally fell on the shoulders of this one person. ...

Looking back over her life, which was totally ICU, she performed a very remarkable task. She was the Foundation and all it represented. In fact, she was a one-woman show, developing its policies, implementing them and responsible for their successes or failures. The people of ICU are her monument, not the many buildings for which she brought in the money. Her investment was in people. Her commitment was to the kingdom of God as she saw it through ICU. The loyalty she instilled in others, the feeling for working together in a great cooperative venture, the spirit of self-sacrifice and devotion were all catching. Despite the day-to-day money problems that had been our personal business with her, her good spirit dominated. I thought toward the end that she no longer realized how big a contribution she had made to ICU. ICU is inconceivable without her early efforts, and we loved and respected her for her interest and concern. If I were writing a book on the great post-World War II figures, she would be one of them.

Cordelia Kidder spoke the importance of

her concern for the families of the faculty members, our comfort and the progress and welfare of the children. To her the families were an integral part of the university, and along with the faculty, staff and students, she saw

the wives and families as all one Christian fellowship, working, worshipping and playing together. For this reason she took a very deep and serious interest in housing the families and educating the children. ... She made us all feel that we were playing a real part in the success of ICU and we felt the same vision she had. This was the secret of her ability to organize the Women's Committees, and raise money for ICU. Everyone felt they were doing something important and each person was made to feel that his or her contribution would be noticed. This total commitment to ICU was all-consuming; it was contagious and others got swept up in the spirit.

In the early days of ICU, travel was not so fast, the economic situation was not so good, and when people left home it seemed to be a bigger decision and it was for a longer period of time. Our parents could see us raising children in a foreign land and they wondered what would become of them. ... Ruth wrote to my parents, and she also wrote to Ted's parents, as greetings, as encouragement, as thanks for our interest and involvement with ICU, and she kept up years of contact with Ted's mother, as she did with endless numbers of people. Every system to her was just its people. And the alumni in New York had a mother figure in her. She knew the value of the support of the alumni, how one might feel being away from home in a foreign country, and the strength of solidarity and mutual dependence. ...

In every respect she was the perfect lady; gracious, self-effacing, giving credit to others, her only purpose to get other people to share her enthusiasm and full commitment.

It is impossible to think that ICU could have done what it did in the early days without her. The early success of ICU is a direct tribute to her devotion and energy and yet, as we remember this, we remember her contact with each of us and the love and respect we felt for her on a more personal level as she included us in a sense of belonging to such a worthy enterprise.³⁵

(A tribute by former ICU student and Dean of International Affairs, Thomas T. Winant, is included as Appendix IV.)

A second Memorial Service was held at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church on October 10, 1992 where Ruth Miller was ordained an Elder in 1974 and served on the Worship Committee, the Business and Professional Women's Organization, and the Thrift Shop. A garden on the ICU campus was dedicated to her memory in September 1993. The inscription on a plaque on a large rock in the garden reads:

RUTH LOUISE MILLER

1915-1992

Executive Director

Japan International Christian University Foundation

Woman of Faith, Believer in Peace

Worker for Good, Lover of Learning

Faithful Friend

In Her Memory This Garden is Dedicated that
Others May Know of Her Distinguished Service to the
International Christian University

NOTES

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- 5) Peak, Herbert Forrester; "World Cooperation in Christian Education" *The New South Wales Presbyterian*. <http://presbyterian.webjournals.org/articles/29/10/1948/3574.htm>
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- 7) Miller, Ruth L. Speech to the ICU-AAA, 1990.
- 8) Kidder, Dr. J. Edward in an e-mail message to Delores Roeder, October 7, 2002.
- 9) Press Release sent to Far East Press by William Sears of the United Press Association, September 24, 1948.
- 10) Miller, Ruth L. Speech to the ICU-AAA, 1990.
- 11) Miller, Ruth L. Transcript - Interview, July 26, 1990 and Speech to ICU-AAA, 1990.
- 12) Miller, Ruth L. Interview, July 26, 1990.
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- 16) Sockman, Mrs. Ralph. *An Anniversary to Remember*. Press release, September 13, 1963.
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- 24) Miller, Ruth L. Speech to the ICU-AAA New York, 1990.
- 25) Miller, Ruth L. Speech to the Women's Planning Committee, May 2, 1973.
- 26) Miller, Ruth L. "Staff Report", May 25, 1983.
- 27) Yuasa, Hachiro. Letter to Ruth Miller, May 28, 1980.
- 28) Miller, Ruth L. Letter to Dr. Hachiro Yuasa, June 6, 1980.
- 29) Miller, Ruth L. Letter to Dr. Hideyasu Nakagawa, June 6, 1980.
- 30) Miller, Ruth L. "Staff Report to the Board of Directors". May 20, 1981.
- 31) Cavert, Mrs. Samuel McCrea, "Message at Woman's Committee Luncheon for Ruth Miller," November 10, 1982.
- 32) Worth, Donald C. in an e-mail message to Delores Roeder, October 25, 2002.
- 33) Miller, Ruth L. Letter to Holloway Brown, May 6, 1983.
- 34) Miller, Ruth L. Interview, July 26, 1990.
- 35) Dr. and Mrs. Kidder's speeches as printed in *News-Letter Epangelia*, the newsletter of the ICU Church, November 25, 1992.

Author's profile

Delores (Kinney) Roeder grew up in Edina, Minnesota, and graduated from Macalester College, St. Paul, Minnesota, with a B.A. in Sociology and a minor in Religious Education. She spent her junior year at International Christian University as a participant in the Junior Year Abroad program sponsored by the Presbyterian Church (USA). Following graduation, she worked with Ruth Miller in the Japan ICU Foundation office in New York before returning to the University of Minnesota to complete her degree in Elementary Education. She was a member of the JICUF Women's Planning Committee, serving on its Executive Committee and as a national Vice Chair. In 1988 she was elected to the Foundation's Board of Trustees and is currently serving as its Chair. Delores and her husband, Jon, have two grown children and three grandsons. They are retired and living on Clearwater Lake in central Minnesota.



INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

CITATION
TO
RUTH LOUISE MILLER

While commemorating the first quarter century of International Christian University, we would offer grateful tribute to you who have, in January of this year, already passed the quarter century mark in your service with the Japan International Christian University Foundation. Yours has been the longest continuous service of any individual among the thousands in Japan, America, and elsewhere throughout the world who have contributed to this institution, to the movement that has fostered it, and to the larger purposes to which it is dedicated. In service to God and mankind, that has been your life. You have in the depth and devotion of your commitment to ICU set an inspiring example of Christian endeavor. In witnessing the phenomenon of the Foundation, which under your direction has enriched the life of the ecumenical church and the lives of its members, while supporting the university, we see the hand of Our Lord touching his loyal and loving servant. The immeasurable gift of your selfless service to ICU is engraved in our hearts and in the institution itself to last forever.

HACHIRO YUASA
Chairman, Board of Trustees
YOSITO SHINOTO
President
Mitaka, Tokyo
April 7, 1973

Memories of Working with Ruth Miller

Dorothy Goldman

Japan ICU Foundation staff 1959 to 1966

From my perspective, Ruth Miller (always called Miss Miller, though the trend in those days was to use first names more and more between supervisors and subordinates, etc.) was totally focused on ICU. And to that focus she had tremendous tenacity. Very few mornings would go by without each staff member finding a note on his/her desk which Miss Miller had written sometime during the previous night. Yes, I think she ate and slept ICU!

The staff members that stayed for a substantial amount of time also were dedicated to ICU, and I think that they "caught" that dedication from her. When a (favored) staff member resigned, no matter the reason, I think Miss Miller tended to take it very hard and probably a bit personal - yet she stayed in touch with those of us who had "left her."

Working in the office was a very serious affair. There was really no allowance for levity - no small talk, or passing the time of day. (I remember when Sue and I would pass each other notes in shorthand!)

I think the committee members - both the Women's and Men's - also caught the sense of dedication that Miss Miller had. The meetings, as I recall, were well attended. Most of

the women who attended did not work, but most of the men did so it meant they were willing to interrupt their workdays and travel to 475. (The Interchurch Center at 475 Riverside Drive, New York.)

Of course meetings usually meant lunch. And, Miss Miller was as particular about how the table was set as she was about the appearance of a typed letter or report. Jeanne Shelton was not one for much domesticity, and she really didn't see the need of spending too much time making sure all the silverware was laid out at the right "level," etc. I remember Miss Miller being dismayed about that; but Jeanne was such a wonderful person and her contributions to JICUF and ICU were so monumental, that someone else was assigned to set the table!

When I think back to how we all took turns taking minutes at board meetings, etc. I can hardly believe it. Miss Miller wanted to have the opening devotions led by Dr. Latourette taken down verbatim. Why did we not use a tape recorder? Of course, we never questioned Miss Miller. ...

Above all, I think of Ruth Miller as a perfectionist. And to this day, I employ administrative techniques which I trace back to her. I also feel that she expected everybody to be a perfectionist, which could be overly demanding for some of the support staff. ...

I remember the dedication and generosity she was able to stimulate in others; the tremendous results of her undying efforts to raise funds for ICU; her coming into the office every Sunday afternoon (after church and brunch with a few friends). To me, she seemed so focused on her job, that I don't think I ever felt I knew the "person" she was.

Ruth Miller Remembered

Yasuyuki Owada

ICU Class of 1957

The image of Ruth Miller I had as a student at ICU was one of a distant benefactor who, among many others in Japan and the US, had an important role to play in the development of the University. That image changed very quickly soon after I arrived on the Columbia University campus in New York City in the fall of 1958 to begin my graduate studies at Teachers College. Soon after my arrival, the Japan ICU Foundation moved its offices to a newly created Inter-Church Center, only two blocks away from my residence hall, and immediately adjacent to Riverside Church where I observed Sunday services. Dr. and Mrs. Haruo Tsuru, my resident advisors in the initial years at ICU, had preceded my residency at TC. Dr. Tsuru was very familiar with Miss Miller and the work of the Foundation. Thanks to his account, I felt little hesitancy in visiting her at her new office. She and her staff welcomed me warmly and enthusiastically as part of their ICU family, and the warmth of that welcoming only increased as did my understanding of the challenges she had faced in her work.

Profound commitment to her life's cause, that is, ICU, respect for courtesy in relationships, graciousness, attention

to details, and thoughtfulness were the main ingredients of the new image of Ruth Miller in my mind, replacing the old one as our acquaintanceship deepened. I learned about her work through various functions of the Foundation in which she kindly invited me to participate. Her invitation for me to work with Dr. Ralph Sockman, then chairman of the Foundation's Men's Committee, gave me further insight into the profession of development as she defined it and worked for it day in and day out. When my family and I returned to New York for one year in the mid-60's, our relationship took on a more personal dimension. Both Judy and I still remember with appreciation her attention to and care for the individual needs of our small children when she invited us to her residence near the Lincoln Center to spend a very pleasant evening. Miss Miller was fond of political novels, and our conversation often led to discussing our mutual admiration for the writing of C. P. Snow.

My learning from her work in the world of fund-raising has had some important consequences in my professional life. She taught me that if one were approaching an agency for funds, one should go directly to the highest officer of that agency. Most importantly, I learned from her that asking someone or an agency for money is really an act of giving that person or agency an opportunity to participate in a cause in which you have your own personal commitment. Such substantive meaning of fundraising I learned from her has given me a chance to reflect on the implication of ICU's mission and its support base. Indeed, I am now convinced that ICU's claim for its unique internationalism is realizable to the

extent that ICU can challenge larger constituents around the globe to participate in resource contributions to the mission of ICU. That is a part of the legacy of Miss Ruth Miller.

Ruth Louise Miller

Thomas T. Winant

October 4, 1992

Memorial Service at Seabury Chapel
International Christian University

We are here today to celebrate the life of the very first ICU person. Ruth Miller officially joined the International Christian University in January, 1948, before there was a Japan ICU Foundation, and before there was an ICU. From the moment of her affiliation with ICU Ruth Miller was it's most loyal member, it's hardest worker, and the one person who could be said to have loved it the longest during her lifetime.

To say that this University would have been a very different place without her is to wildly underestimate her contributions to it. Look around you. This building and virtually every structure on the campus felt the hand of Ruth Miller. As a fundraiser this gently but persistent woman had no peer. She could persuade young people, students, housewives, churches, the rich and the famous that the University located on the Musashino Plain was the glory of the present and the best hope for the future.

Ruth Miller was a committed churchwoman. She joined ICU at a time when Japan was still suffering from the after-

math of a war that had challenged humanity as no conflict had ever done before. Millions had died, many were homeless, many were suffering, and this included much of the population of Japan. War had sharpened feelings of outrage among peoples around the globe, and resentments that remain visible in other societies were often directed at the defeated nation. Ruth Miller, a young woman from Akron, Ohio, joined in the task of founding this University to have us change all that. Not to forget, but to build anew the war ravaged peoples and nations, to encourage understanding, mutual respect, learning, and, above all, peace. In this cause she gave her every waking minute for thirty-five years.

Ruth Miller was the first ICU person I ever met. As a very uncertain college junior I found myself quite unexpectedly heading for Japan at the end of the summer of 1962. I knew nothing about Japan, and even less about this place called International Christian University. At the suggestion of the international counselor at my university, I headed across Manhattan to the Interchurch Center located on Riverside Drive adjacent to Columbia University. There I was received by the Executive Director, Ruth Miller, and was introduced to the Foundation staff, Jeanne Shelton, Bill Kochiyama and several others.

For more than two hours I was held fascinated by what I learned about both Japan and ICU. Emphasizing that she had very little direct experience in Japan, Ruth Miller still managed to prepare me as no one else could have for the experience I was about to have. She told me 'things' to be sure, but in the way she spoke, the commitment that was so evident in

her manner, the concern that I be open, enthusiastic, aware and discerning, was most impressive and inspiring. She cared about what I was going to do, how I would react, and what I might take back from my experience. To the many people who have passed through ICU over the past forty years, and who had the good fortune to encounter Ruth Miller, I do not need to tell you of her love for this University, but her love for people, and especially those from her cherished ICU, was ever evident in everything she did and said.

When I came back from my first year in Japan, Ruth asked me to speak about ICU to a group of people in the chapel of the United Nations Church Center. She did this without asking first whether I had enjoyed my time at ICU, or whether I had any reservations about what I had experienced. She had such absolute faith in this University and its mission that she would entrust the task of talking about it to a college senior who would never have been trusted by his own pastor to get up in front of the congregation. Of course, she must have felt her faith justified, and I hope that my enthusiasm was close to fulfilling her expectations. When my enthusiastic but overlong and windy presentation put nearly everyone else in the chapel to sleep, I looked out and saw the smiling and welcome face of Ruth Miller, listening and nodding at every point. There was nothing about ICU that was boring or uninteresting to her.

Through the decades, Ruth Miller was the guiding light for the intimate relations between ICU and the churches and peoples of North America. She brought her love and compassion to the aid of ICU students, graduates, faculty and af-

filiated persons who visited her in New York. We the people of ICU owe her at least as much as the University does, and her living tribute to us here on the campus, the trees that she inspired to be planted on the ruined site of a wartime facility, continue to remind us of this remarkable woman. The trees that we now take for granted, that we enjoy when they flower, that we assume to be so much a part of what we think of as ICU, came here because she had the idea, and got the task accomplished. As long as these gifts of nature are present, as long as they shower us with their beauty every day, as long as they remind us of the glory of God by their seasonal manifestations, Ruth Miller will be remembered at ICU.

The story of Ruth Miller and ICU is one of love and commitment. As long as we endure as a University there will be a place here for this woman of joyful personality and marvelous presence. The words of the Old Testament, Ruth I, 16-17 say it best:

But Ruth said, "Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die - there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!"

Published Biographical Sketches

Biographical sketches of Ruth Miller were published in:

Who's Who in Religion, 1975-76.

Who's Who of American Women, Eleventh Edition, 1979-80.

Who's Who in the East, Eighteenth Edition, 1980; all published by Marquis Who's Who, Inc in Chicago.

Community Leaders and Noteworthy Americans, Bicentennial Edition, published by the American Biographical Institute, Raleigh, NC Spring, 1977.

World Who's Who of Women, Fifth and Sixth Editions, published by the International Biographical Centre, Cambridge England.

Dictionary of International Biography: A Biographical Record of Contemporary Achievement, Twentieth Anniversary Edition, Volume XVIII, in October, 1983.

Professional Affiliation

Ruth Miller was a member of the Religious Public Relations Council - now known as the Religion Communicators Council. Created in 1929, this association was the first trade association established for religion public relations professionals.

This publication is authorized by the Senate
on April 11, 2002.

ISSUES OF ICU
Volume 7

Ruth Louise Miller
Woman of Faith and Dedication

Date of Publication: December 25, 2003
発行日: 2003年12月25日

Published by
International Christian University
3-10-2 Osawa, Mitaka-shi, Tokyo
181-8585, Japan

発行所: 国際基督教大学
東京都三鷹市大沢 3-10-2
Phone: 0422(33)3005

Printed by: Sanko Printing, Co.Ltd.
3-1-10 Sakai, Musashino-shi, Tokyo
180-0022, Japan

印刷所: (株)三幸印刷
東京都武蔵野市境 3-1-10
Phone: 0422(52)1133

