

The Purpose of Establishing Doshisha University

(Children's Version*)

In late 1874 I returned to Japan with a dream I had for more than ten years. On November 29, 1875, I started Doshisha Academy, the beginning of today's Doshisha.

Doshisha's original purpose was for students to not only experience advanced Western studies, but also for them to become valuable and honest, as well as have the strong will to never give up. It was not just about encouraging students' skills and talents.

We have tried hard to help students, "put their conscience into action," in other words, it is our conscience that guides everything we do. Such an education can never happen by teaching only knowledge.

In order to do this, we decided to train the mind based on Christian principles believing that it is necessary to follow the teachings of Christianity: to believe in God, seek the truth, and be considerate of others.

There is no doubt that universities made by the government are valuable, but I believe private universities started by people themselves play a very important role in changing citizens. Private schools have great strength because they allow students to be themselves and become independent thinkers.

It is not the power of a few heroes that makes a nation. It is the power of many people with education, knowledge, and decency that builds and maintains a nation.

We, at Doshisha, do aim to produce individuals with such characteristics. It is Doshisha's main goal to raise people who will be called the "conscience of the nation".

Founder of Doshisha University,
Joseph Hardy Neesima
November, 1888