おわりに

『都市における子どもを取り巻く諸問題について考える』というテーマに基づいてカナグとアメリカの視察をおこなった。この報告書に書いたもの以外にも、カナダのトロントではオフィス街のビルの一角に点在する保育スペースに目を見張り、日本から移民した家族の話に懐深いお国柄に感心し、アメリカのボストンでは子どもにかかわる親や教師の姿に多くのものを学び、ニューヨークでは人種のるつぼの中で子どもの問題に真摯に取り組む人たちとの出会いに勇気付けられた。短期間に子どもに関する様々な視点から視察をしようと非常に過密なスケジュールであったが、「百聞は一見にしかず」で現場に足を踏み入れ、調査先の職員と顔をあわせてやりとりできたこと、そして町を歩き回る中で子どもたちの生活を取り巻く環境や子どもたちへの社会の姿勢を感じ取ることができたのは、何事にも変えがたい貴重な経験となった。

大人社会の問題のしわ寄せを全面に受け、子どもを取り巻く環境は年々厳しさを増している。この報告書の表紙を飾る写真はカナダ・トロントのアドボカシー事務所の会議室に掲げてある絵であるが、"Not Tomorrow Today"とあるとおり、子どもに関する問題に待ったはきかないのだ。今回の視察によって、子どもの問題に悩み、苦しみながらも必死に向き合う仲間と出会えたことは今後の我々の歩みにとって大きな支えになると確信している。

カナダやアメリカで見聞きした衝撃・感動を共有し、少しでも市政に役立てればと考えていたが、慣れない英文資料の山を前に作業は遅々として進まず、担当者には迷惑ばかりをおかけした。訪問先の業務の紹介に終始し、川崎市の現状分析や政策提言が不十分であることは重々承知している。しかし、共に日常業務や家事・育児に追われる身としては、限られた作成期間ではこれが限界であった。期待に十分に応えられず申し訳なく思っている。

この拙い報告書を作成する上で、実に多くの方のお世話になった。本当にかけがえの無い貴重な機会を与えられたことに感謝する。また、日常業務で精一杯であるにもかかわらず快く送り出してくれた職場と、毎週末家族サービスそっちのけで作業に追われる我がままを許してくれた家族にも重ねて感謝したい。ありがとう。

2003年3月

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参考

〇 海外調査日程

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的視察
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〇 海外調査訪問先

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〇 入手資料リスト

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 - > Adoption Recruitment Agencies
 - > Dear Friend:
 - Adopt a Child
 - How to Work with Adoption Recruitment & Foster Care Agencies

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○ 理解を深めるために

小出まみ編『サラグボウルの国カナグ』ひとなる書房 1994年

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