

Grave of Gerlingen's China Missionary Wilhelm Maisch found

Translated into English from the German text of epd

Gerlingen, Germany (epd). In China the grave of a significant pioneer missionary from Gerlingen was found. On Saturday (21st of July) a delegation of 25 people from Hongkong will hand over pictures and documents from Wilhelm Maisch (1878 - 1924) to the Johannes Rebmann Museum, which documents the work of missionaries from Gerlingen. The city council informs, that the hand over will be after a church service in Gerlingen's Petruskirche (church). Afterwards Thomas Tsang, the Secretary-General of Tsung-Tsin-Mission, will hand over pictures from Maisch's grave and report about traces of Maisch's work.

The Archives of Gerlingen found out that in 19th century in Gerlingen more evangelical missionaries emerged than in every other comparable community in Württemberg. The most famous are the farmer's son Johannes Rebmann (1820 - 1876), who operated in East Africa and discovered in 1848 the Kilimanjaro, and Johannes Zimmermann (1825 - 1876), who was for 26 years at the Gold Coast in nowadays Ghana - as linguist, translator of songs and bible texts.

Since 2002 the work of at present 23 missionaries from Gerlingen of 18th and 19th century is documented in Johannes Rebmann's birthplace. In fact Johannes Rebmann as discoverer of Kilimanjaro was always unforgotten in his hometown, but the engagement for the most of the others was initialized on requests from their earlier areas of operation. For example Johannes Zimmermann and his work came to the fore because of questions from Ghana, also the new, more intensive research about missionary Wilhelm Maisch was inspired from China.