

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

1727 Pali Highway, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Phone: (808) 522-9200 Fax: (808) 522-9209

Web: www.hongwanjihawaii.com Email: hqs@honpahi.org

January 11, 2012

New Year's Greeting

"Immeasurable Light and Life."

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to send you my greetings from Hongwanji in Kyoto.

Last year was truly a difficult year. At first I had hoped that from April, we could conduct an exciting and lively memorial for Shinran Shonin, one which is observed only once every fifty years. However, the March disaster changed everything. Although I believe that the agony of the disaster-affected people goes beyond anything we can imagine, this catastrophe has brought me to ponder everyday about what we should do, what we can do, and what the future holds. The nuclear power plant accident, in particular, has caused tremendous difficulties for not only the victims in that area, but has also hindered the enthusiasm of people engaged in relief and restoration activities, as well as plunging the future of not only Japan, but also the entire planet into uncertainty and apprehension.

At the same time, we are truly grateful for the monetary and material contributions for our relief efforts and condolences that the people throughout the world have been sending to Japan.

It is easy to grasp the meaning of the sentence "Everything is impermanent," but extremely difficult to accept the truth which it expresses. Being aware of the working of Amida Tathagata's wisdom and compassion could enable you to take a step forward in accepting and realizing this stark truth.

Massive earthquakes and unsettling weather patterns that caused great famine had also taken place during Shinran Shonin's time. It is certain that the teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, including *shinjin*, the heart entrusting to Other Power and our expression of gratitude as the Nembutsu, corresponds the experiences that he actually went through. In saying Namo Amida Butsu and following the path to the Pure Land where we can attain Buddhahood, we are able to find possibility of solving the issues lying deep in our minds, which cannot be resolved merely by our own attempts and efforts.

We saw a variety of aspects in the tsunami disaster, namely, some past experiences that were well-employed, while others were totally forgotten or ignored, and we were also faced with our excessive trust in scientific technology. How we should control our endless desire that we can never rid ourselves of as long as we are foolish beings and how we can make use of our limited wisdom and capability are issues that I have accepted as our assignment for the new year. Keeping in mind that all life is embraced in the Light of Amida Tathagata, together, let us walk forward.



January 1, 2012

OHTANI Koshin
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

光寿無量

新しい年の初めにあたり、京都の本願寺よりご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年は本当に大変な年でした。五十年に一度のご勝縁である親鸞聖人の大遠忌法要を四月からにぎにぎしく、お勤めできると思っていたのですが、三月の大地震によって事態はすっかり変わりました。被災者の方々の苦悩は想像を越えるものと思いますが、京都にいる私は、何をすべきか、何ができるのか、将来はどうなるのだろうかと思いを巡らす日々でした。特に、原子力発電所の事故は、被害者の困難だけでなく、支援活動の熱意を削ぐとともに、日本の将来や地球の将来を不安におとしいれました。

世界各地の方々が心配してくださり、義援金などのお見舞いをしてくださいましたこと、まことに有り難うございます。

諸行無常という言葉は理解しやすいですが、その現実を受け容れることは容易ではなく、その先へ進むためには、阿弥陀如来の智慧と慈悲のはたらきが大きな力となってくださると思います。親鸞聖人の時代にも、大地震があり、気候不順から飢饉がたびたびあったと伝えられています。他力の信心、お念仏一つという教えは、親鸞聖人のご体験と相応しているに違いありません。できることをするだけでは満たされないところの奥底の課題は南無阿弥陀佛によって往生成仏の道を歩むところに解決の可能性があります、

津波災害では、過去の経験が活かされたところ、忘れられたところ、無視されたところ、あるいは、科学技術を過信したところなどがありました。凡夫の限りない欲望をどのように抑え、限りある智恵や能力をどのように活かすかは、新しい年の課題だと受け取りました。あらゆるいのち、阿弥陀如来の光の中にあることを思いつつ、共に歩む日々を過ごしたいと思います。

2012年1月1日



浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光真

A New Year's Greeting and Aspiration!

I extend my most sincere best wishes to you for the New Year! In the New Year, please know that truly we are never alone for Amida Buddha as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu, is always with us. The Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani in his book *"The Buddha's Wish for the World"* shares to people who say *"I am not able to say the Nembutsu naturally and spontaneously. What can I do about it?"* *"I first suggest...to say the Nembutsu casually, as if they were simply saying, "Hello," to Amida Buddha."* *"...think that the heart of Amida Buddha is the heart to save all without exception. This heart of Amida Buddha already exists in the depths of our own hearts."* *"Then learn about Buddhism gradually..."* *"Somewhere along the way, you will discover the Nembutsu is more than just a word of greeting."* *"When you become a person who is able to say the Nembutsu that means you are a person who can sense the presence of Amida Buddha."* *"When you become a person who senses the presence of Amida Buddha in your life, you will say the Nembutsu naturally and spontaneously."* *"...Amida Buddha has been calling out to us from long before. We are always Amida Buddha's deepest concern. When we realize that, we say, "Thank you," with a heart full of gratitude. That is Nembutsu."*



Our theme and slogan for 2012 is "Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu." For me, the Nembutsu is the Nembutsu of Awareness in which one is aware of the immense Compassion that is Amida Buddha equally surrounding all existence. It is the Nembutsu of Joy in realizing that I too am unconditionally embraced by the Buddha's Great Compassion. And it is the Nembutsu of Gratitude in which reciting "Namo Amida Butsu/I entrust myself to the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light" is a spontaneous expression of my gratitude for being promised Buddhahood/Enlightenment by the Most-Compassionate Amida Buddha.

It is with great anticipation that I greet the New Year in that we will be embarking on the implementation of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Strategic Plan which addresses many of the challenges and issues we face like providing more support to temples and organizations, PR and Marketing, additional financial resources, ministerial training and including how can we more effectively, clearly and meaningful share and express the Nembutsu Dharma. I ask that you encourage family and invite friends to our temples to listen to the Dharma and may we be active in our community so all lives may be enriched by Wisdom and Compassion.

Finally, together with expressing my appreciation to both ministers and lay, I ask, evermore, for your support, cooperation, participation and commitment as we continue to perpetuate the Buddhist Teachings and move towards becoming an even more open and harmonious Sangha that continues to make a difference in our local and world community. Thank you, Happy New Year and Namo Amida Butsu!

In gassho,
Eric Matsumoto, Bishop

PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

Aloha and best wishes for a happy and peaceful New Year! 2011 was a challenging year for Hawaii Kyodan. While transitioning between our spiritual leaders, we participated in Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service in Kyoto amidst the devastating earthquake and subsequent nuclear disaster. These incidents demonstrated how interdependent we are even as far away as Japan. It also made us realize how fortunate we are, even in this tough economic times. Let us be grateful for all that our ancestors did for us and rededicate ourselves to continue their legacy.



The Bishop's and my visitation of the districts got off to a slow start as did the search for volunteers to serve on the various committees to develop action items for the implementation of the strategic plan. Like a big ship, an organization with deep rooted traditions takes awhile to change directions. But the ship is turning! Over fifty volunteers offered to work on the strategic planning committees. About half of them are individuals who have not been actively involved at a state level. These committees will help us prioritize the challenges we face in the areas of a) ministry, b) communications, c) organizational structure, d) leadership, e) rituals & practices and f) finances.

This is the start of a long process to attain our vision of our members regaining their pride in being a Buddhist and being dedicated and loyal to our temple and organization as did our ancestors generations ago. Central to this process is the need to train our ministers and lay members to take a more active role and share their personal talents with our organization. Don't wait to be asked to help. Stand up and offer your expertise to your temple and Hawaii Kyodan.

Let us be grateful for the teachings of Shinran Shonin which binds the Sangha together and at the same time recognize that we must meet the needs of our changing society. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude for your patience, understanding, cooperation and support. Your participation is crucial in our leadership role for the international propagation of Jodo Shinshu.

In Gassho,
Alton H Miyamoto, President
Hawaii Kyodan

2012 Hongwanji Slogan

"Path of Entrusting: Recite the Nembutsu"

PERSONNEL

Rev. Itaru Nozaki, Resident Minister of Lihue Hongwanji Mission, will resign from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii as of February 29, 2012 and return to Japan. Reverend Kazunori Takahashi, Chair of the Kauai Minister's Association, will coordinate the necessary arrangements for Lihue Hongwanji Mission during the absence of a Resident Minister effective March 1, 2012.

JAPAN DISASTER RELIEF FUND

We had collected \$243,501.84. Headquarters office is no longer collecting funds for this relief effort. If you had collected donations for this fund, please turn it in by the end of January. Thank you very much for your concern and cooperation.

CONDOLENCE

Mrs. Jane Imamura, the wife of the late Bishop Kanmo Imamura, passed away on December 26, 2011 in her home at Berkeley, CA. Her Funeral service was held on January 7, 2012 at Berkeley Buddhist Temple. HHMH Office of the Bishop sent a Koden with a letter of condolence from Bishop Eric Matsumoto and flowers for the Funeral Service. Rev. Willaim Masuda (Former Hawaii Kyodan Minister) attended her Funeral Service and offered the incense on behalf of HHMH.

GISEIKAI SCHEDULE

Thursday, February 2, 2012

- 9:00am Board of Directors Meeting at Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall
(KYODAN OFFICERS, NEW KANJI, NEW DIRECTORS, & NEW ADVISORS)
- 1:30pm State Ministers Association Meeting
- 6:00pm Rap Session at Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall (Lay and Minister)

Friday, February 3, 2012

- 7:45am Registration at Hawaii Betsuin Social Hall
- 8:30am Opening Service
- 10:00am Plenary Session
- 5: 15pm Showing of Documentary film on Buddhism in Hawaii
- 6:30pm Recess for day

Saturday, February 4, 2012

- 8:00am Morning Service at Hawaii Betsuin Main Hondo
Installation of Officers, Directors, and Advisors
- 9:00am Reconvene Meeting
- 10:30am Adjournment
- 12:00pm Living Treasures Luncheon at Sheraton Waikiki Hotel
- 2:00pm End of the Program

LAY ASSOCIATIONS CONVENTION

The 49th Hawaii State Federation of Honpa Hongwanji Lay Associations Convention will be held on September 8-9, 2012 at Lihue Hongwanji Mission hosted by the Kauai District. For more information, please see the "Bulletin #1" that is attached with this HQ update.

YESS CAMP 29 "SHINSHU HAPPENS"

Who: Those interested in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism ages from 8th grade to 23 years old

What: A camp for Young Buddhists interested and excited to learn about Buddhism as well as a little about themselves.

Where: Camp Kokokahi, Oahu

When: March 24-26, 2012

Visit www.tiny.cc/yesscamp or e-mail youth@honpahi.org for registration and more information.

[Hongwanji Sangha participates in 25th Anniversary World Harmony Run Festival](#)

In support of world peace, on January 2, 2012, the Members and Friends of Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin Dharma School including Bishop Eric Matsumoto participated in the 25th Anniversary World Harmony Run Festival which promotes harmony and peace by having a group of runners carry a torch of peace through 50 countries throughout the world. According to the international group of runners that came from abroad, previous supporters who have held the torch include Nelson Mandela, former President of South Africa and Mother Teresa. In attendance at this year's Run which began at Kapiolani Park was Honolulu Mayor Peter Carlisle and sponsored by UNESCO and United Nations Association of Hawaii among others.

