



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI

As we mark the beginning of a new year, I extend to you my greetings.

Last year, since having succeeded the Jodo Shinshu tradition in June, I have taken on the posts as the resident *jushoku* minister of Hongwanji and the Monshu of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Living among today's society in which the conditions are quickly changing, I shall help share the Jodo Shinshu teaching with as many people as possible, so that it will become a principle religious foundation for daily living. To do so, I humbly ask for your support.

The Jodo Shinshu teaching was expounded by Shinran Shonin. Since then, the teaching has been transmitted for well over 790 years, reaching us here today in this present day and age. This is because regardless of time and location, the Nembutsu teaching has always been able to serve any persons as a spiritual guidance to their life. Buddhism detaches from self-absorption and encourages living a life based on the Dharma. However, due to our own limitations being unable to put this into practice, we are faced with sadness and suffering.

Shinran Shonin has taught us that it has been predetermined that we will be led to the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood through the working of Amida Buddha. With the working of Amida Buddha's infinite wisdom and compassion, we are enabled to realize one's true self through the Truth.

In closing, let us live a life reciting the Nembutsu as we receive the Dharma.

January 1, 2015



OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

年頭の辞

新しい年の初めにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年、6月に法統を継承し、本願寺住職・浄土真宗本願寺派門主となりました。社会状況の変化が激しい現代社会において、浄土真宗のみ教えがより多くの方にとって生きる依りどころとなるよう、伝えてまいります。どうぞよろしく願いいたします。

浄土真宗の教えは、親鸞聖人によって説かれました。以来、790年以上にわたり受け継がれ、今日の私たちに届いています。それは、み教えが、時代や場所に関係なく、すべての人にとって生きる依りどころとなってきたからです。仏教は、自己中心的なとらわれを離れ、真理に基づいて生きる生き方を明らかにしています。しかし、そのようにできない私たちは、様々な悲しみや苦しみを抱えることとなります。

親鸞聖人は、このような私たちを必ず仏にならせようと阿弥陀様がはたらいて下さると教えてくれました。この阿弥陀様のはたらきによって、私たちは、真理に気づき、わが身の姿を省みることが出来ます。

本年も、み教えを聞き、お念仏申す生活を送らせていただきますよう。

2015年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光淳

NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO

Namo Amida Butsu & Happy New Year!

As we begin the New Year, let me express my warmest Aloha and Best Wishes to you for a peaceful and insightful New Year. Perhaps there is no other time of the year that we are more conscious of change than the New Year Holiday as we say goodbye to the Old Year and greet a New Year.

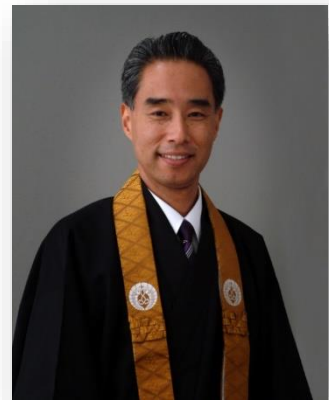
As our Buddhist Teachings share change is present at every moment of our life and world. Our 25th Spiritual Leader His Eminence Kojun Ohtani in his June message stated "In reflecting on the present circumstances of our organization, it is significantly important to consider how we can approach and reach out to persons who have never had any contact with a Buddhist temple, as well as those who are already involved with one. The nembutsu teachings that is based on Amida Buddha's Primal Vow remains unchanged, regardless of the changing times and society. However, the methods for transmitting and sharing it needs to evolve and adapt according to social changes. Now is the time for our Hongwanji institution to utilize our collective wisdom and knowledge for considering approaches to convey the Buddha Dharma to our contemporaries today." As I have previously mentioned there comes a time when organizations such as ours brings forth crucial changes in itself which will then set the stage for the next several decades or even more. We, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii including all our temples and affiliate organizations, is at just such a juncture or crossroads after 125th years in Hawaii Nei.

For this reason, Hawaii Kyodan has adopted a new 5 Year Theme and Slogans for the years 2015-2019 to express this reality and an aspiration. Let us look both inward (self-reflection) and outward (reflection) as we seek to improve ourselves and change to be become better suited to function and meet the needs of the Membership and Larger Community and also grow. Also, may we be united with a common purpose. This is the guidance provided to us by the Dharma and the spirit of a Buddhist Sangha. As Jodo Shin Buddhists, let us gratefully respond in gratitude to Amida Buddha's Unconditional Compassion by both reciting "Namo Amida Butsu" and also endeavor to foster a more peaceful and harmonious world beginning with my own self.

Please be a part of this journey, a journey which will be of significance not only for Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, but also our beloved Aloha State. I humbly ask for your support and cooperation.

In gassho,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop
Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii



NEW YEAR'S GREETING FROM KYODAN PRESIDENT PIEPER TOYAMA

Change, Awareness, and Opportunities in 2015

We are guided by the 2015 theme: *EMBRACE CHANGE: AWARENESS*. This year we seek *AWARENESS* of our current situation and seek *opportunities* based on our understanding of ourselves, our community, and our needs.

To this end we first must be willing to look reflectively at ourselves and seek answers to the questions: What am I doing to live a fulfilled life? What do I do to encourage others to live fulfilled lives? How do I nurture harmony in my relationships with others? What are the forces and tendencies in my life that I allow to close doors and what are the forces that I allow to open doors to opportunities? Only with a hard look at who we really are and how we live with others can we begin to develop a sincere awareness of our current situation. And only with an honest assessment of our situation can we see real opportunities. If we rush to embrace opportunities and change with an understanding of ourselves skewed by our ego, prejudices, and ignorance, then we will embrace empty opportunities that have no effect on the future. But if we are honest and see ourselves just as we are, then the opportunities we see will be capable of altering our future. As the year unfolds, let us be open to exploring who we really are and begin from there.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,
Pieper J. Toyama



INTRODUCTION OF NEW FIVE YEAR THEME AND SLOGAN FOR HHMH

Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, Director, Office of Buddhist Education

Embracing change can be considered one of the basic values of our Buddhist community. That being said, a question that arises is: how would one embrace change in a positive and proactive manner? This is what our new five year theme and annual slogan will try to address in the context of making our Shin Buddhist Community one that promotes meaningful lives for its members and is a contributing member our larger state ohana:

- 2015-Embrace Change: Awareness (Seek Opportunities)
- 2016-Embrace Change: New Vision (Create Engagement)
- 2017-Embrace Change: Action (Open Communication)
- 2018-Embrace Change: Harmony (Accept Differences)
- 2019-Embrace Change: Transformation (Walk in Peace)

Please take a moment, early in this New Year, to reflect on our new Five Year Theme and Slogan. The story is: We seek *AWARENESS* of our current situation and as a result of our understanding of ourselves, our community, and our needs, we seek *opportunities* from which we create a *NEW VISION* which will plan for the future, and create engagement with our members and the community. We take *ACTION* to implement our plans for our temples, ensuring open communications to engage all those connected with our temples. While we are changing, we seek *HARMONY* and accept differences as we move toward our vision. Although the work will never be fully completed, we reflect on our *TRANSFORMATION* which helps us walk in peace. For 2015, we begin with *EMBRACE CHANGE: AWARENESS*. Thank you.

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