



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

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Message from Bishop Eric Matsumoto Request for Compassionate Aid for Nepal

April 25, 2015, a Saturday in the mountainous Himalayan nation of Nepal, started like any other day, but it will be remembered with trauma and great sadness because of so many lost and injured lives, and the destruction of so much property including homes and centuries-old shrines and temples. At last count, the number of people killed by the massive earthquake that struck Nepal has surpassed 5,000 and according to some reports, over a million children are in need of aid. Many people are living outdoors for fear of entering weakened buildings and homes which may collapse due to aftershocks, but supplies are limited and people are struggling day to day. Those who are uninjured and able to help are helping those less fortunate.

In a Facebook message from Kathmandu Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Jodo Shin Buddhist Minister Rev. Sonam Bhutia reports, *"We are fortunate that we lost no lives at the Kathmandu Hongwanji, however, as part of the Nepalese community we are sadden by the death and destruction that has come to our wonderful city."* He shares the destruction, despair and death left by the quake and reports that they are doing their best, as are others, to help those in need. He makes a sincere request for aid (funds), *"...with reverence and respect to all who would like to help, we hope for the world to respond to Nepal's dire needs with heartfelt aid to save our community. Please help Nepal and the Kathmandu community in our time of suffering. The funds raised will be used to help all without regards to religion or ethnicity, since we are all part of the world community and feel strongly that we must help each other in times of need."*

The Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Committee on Social Concerns has decided to make an emergency contribution for immediate aid and also embark on a special Nepal disaster relief drive called "Aloha for Nepal." All funds raised will go to Kathmandu Hongwanji and to the disaster relief organization, Mercy Corps.

On behalf of our State President Mr. Pieper Toyama, Committee on Social Concerns Chair Rev. Blayne Higa, and the Social Concerns Committee and myself, I would like to humbly ask our Members, Supporters and Friends for your compassionate help to lend aid to the people of Nepal. As Buddhists, we have a special connection with Nepal as it is the country of Sakyamuni Buddha's birth, but more importantly, let us help all our neighbors in Nepal in their time of need and immense suffering.

Namo Amida Butsu, Entrusting in the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and Infinite Light.

In Gassho, 
Rev. Eric Matsumoto, Bishop
May 1, 2015



May 1, 2015

Dear Members and Friends of Hawaii Kyodan,

We have watched in disbelief the tremendous devastation in Nepal caused by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake which occurred on April 25, 2015. This disaster has left over 5,000 dead with thousands more injured and a death toll which continues to rise. We send thoughts of loving kindness to all those who are suffering as a result of this tragedy.

Our Dharma Friends from Kathmandu Hongwanji have requested our help:

"Please help Nepal and the Kathmandu community in our time of suffering. The funds raised will be used to help all without regards to religion or ethnicity, since we are all part of the world community and feel strongly that we must help each other in times of need. Please be assured that all the funds for the restoration of the affected areas in Nepal, will be used only for these purposes."

-Rev. Sonam Wangdi Bhutia

Our Sangha has donated \$10,000 to Kathmandu Hongwanji and \$5,000 to the disaster relief organization, Mercy Corps, in order to lend our immediate support.

We have also established the "Aloha for Nepal Fund" to help all those affected by this earthquake. Your gift will directly aid relief efforts by Kathmandu Hongwanji and Mercy Corps. Visit our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com for updates on Kathmandu Hongwanji. Updates on Mercy Corps can be found on their website at www.mercycorps.org.

Donations can be made in the following ways:

- Through your local temple. Make checks payable to **Your Temple** and designate **ALOHA FOR NEPAL** in the memo section. All donations will be forwarded to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters.
- Online through the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii website. Visit www.hongwanjihawaii.com and make a secure credit or debit card donation via Paypal.

Please send in your donations by Monday, June 1, 2015.

Mahalo for your generous support!

In Gassho,

Rev. Eric Matsumoto
Bishop

Pieper Toyama
President

Rev. Blayne Higa
Committee on Social Concerns

About Kathmandu Hongwanji

In 1992, Kathmandu Hongwanji, originally known as Green Life Institution Nepal, was founded by the late Mr. Hiromichi Mukaibo. Mukaibo, who was a devout Jodo Shinshu follower had launched the non-governmental organization and began various social welfare activities among which included the establishment of a Jodo Shinshu organization. Following the construction of a temple, permission from Hongwanji was granted to the organization to use the Hongwanji name and beginning July 2006, the organization has since become Kathmandu Hongwanji. (*Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Hongwanji International Center Website*)

The minister of the temple is Rev. Sonam Bhutia, who is an ordained minister of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha. Rev. Bhutia is a former Tibetan monk of rank, who took refuge in Jodo Shinshu, becoming a minister and will be Hawaii's 2015 Buddhist Study Center Summer Session speaker and will travel to all districts for this special speaking engagement.

About Mercy Corps

Founded in 1979, Mercy Corps is an international development organization that helps people around the world survive and thrive after conflict, crisis and natural disaster. When a natural disaster strikes, an economy collapses, or conflict erupts, Mercy Corps is there. Mercy Corps has one of the largest teams on the ground in Nepal reaching survivors with emergency supplies and evaluating conditions in some of the hardest-hit and remote areas. Our team is addressing urgent, immediate needs for food, water and shelter, and is also planning for longer-term recovery efforts.

Mercy Corps' mission is to "Alleviate suffering, poverty and oppression by helping people build secure, productive and just communities."

For more information go to www.mercycorps.org.