



Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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GOMONSHU'S MESSAGE ON THE COMMEMORATION ON THE ACCESSION OF THE JODO SHINSHU TRADITION

伝灯奉告法要についての消息

去る平成 26 年 6 月 6 日、前門主の跡を承けて法統を継承し、本願寺住職ならびに浄土真宗本願寺派門主として務めてまいりました。ここに法統継承を仏祖の御前に奉告いたしますとともに、あわせて本願念仏のご法義の隆盛と宗門の充実発展とを期して、平成 28 年および 29 年に、伝灯奉告法要をお勤めすることになりました。

阿弥陀如来のご本願は、あらゆる存在を分け隔てなくそのまま救おうとはたらきかけていただきます。迷いと苦悩をかかえる私たちは、阿弥陀如来のお慈悲ひとすじにこの身を任せ、真実のさとの世界であるお浄土にうまれていくべき身にならせていただきます。宗祖親鸞聖人が「そらごとたわごと」とお示しくださった私たち自身を含む迷いの世界は、何一つとしてたよりになるものはありませんが、ご本願のはたらきの中に生きる私たちは、確かな依りどころを持つことができます。

科学技術の発達による便利で豊かな生活の迫及や欲望の肥大化はとどまることを知りませんが、人々は、そのような豊かさのみを追求することの虚しさに気づきはじめてたのではないのでしょうか。しかも、核家族化・人口の流動化などによって社会構造は大きく変化し、人間関係は希薄となり新たな悩みや不安を生み出しています。さらに世界に眼を移せば、武力紛争、経済格差、気候変動、核物質の拡散など、人類の生存に関わる課題が露呈しています。これらの傾向は今後一層強くなっていくことと思います。

私たちは、凡愚のまま摂め取って捨てないと働き続けてくださる阿弥陀如来のお慈悲を聞信させていただき、その有り難さ尊さを一人でも多くの方に伝えることが大切です。それとともに仏智に教え導かれて生きる念仏者として、山積する現代社会の多くの課題に積極的に取り組んでいく必要があります。まさにこのような営みの先にこそ、「自他共に心豊かに生きることのできる社会の実現に貢献する」道が拓かれていくのでありましょう。

このたびのご法要が、親鸞聖人によって明らかにされた阿弥陀如来の救いのはたらきに依りながら、時代の変化に対応する宗門の新たな第一歩として意義を持つものでありたいと思います。宗門では、親鸞聖人御誕生 850 年・立教開宗 800 年に向けて新たな長期計画が策定されます。皆様の積極的なご協力とご参画を心からお願いいたします。

平成 27 年
2015 年 1 月 16 日
龍谷門主 釈専如

Message

On June 6, 2014, I came to inherit the legacy of the Jodo Shinshu tradition through receiving the transmission from the Monshu Emeritus Ohtani Koshin, succeeding to the posts of the resident priest of Hongwanji and the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Monshu. Today, I would like to announce that the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition (*Dento Hokoku Hoyo*) shall be scheduled for the years 2016 and 2017. My succession of the Jodo Shinshu tradition will be officially proclaimed to the Buddha and Masters, and through its observance, it is anticipated that the teaching of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow shall gain prosperity and Hongwanji in its entirety shall achieve further growth.

Amida Buddha's Primal Vow is directed without discrimination to every life and saves them just as they are. Despite our being filled with delusions and suffering, we are enabled to entrust ourselves wholeheartedly to Amida Tathagata's great compassion and be born in the Pure Land, the manifestation of the Buddha's true enlightenment. Although everything in this world, including ourselves, is unreliable, which Shinran Shonin expressed as "empty and false," we are always able to realize the assuredness in the working of the Primal Vow.

Modern scientific and technological sophistication urges us to pursue convenient and luxurious lifestyles, thereby making our desires swell boundlessly. However, I feel that people have begun to realize the futility of these efforts. In addition, such factors as the nuclear family unit and demographic shift from rural to urban areas have forced the conventional social structure to change greatly. As a result, the bonds between people have become weak, causing new anxieties and feelings of uneasiness to arise. On the global scale as well, we can see that there are a number of issues that threaten humanity's existence, such as armed conflict, economic imbalance, climate change, and the proliferation of nuclear materials, and it is anticipated that the situation will likely intensify.

Therefore, I believe it is important for us to listen to the Dharma. Listening to the Dharma clarifies for us the compassionate working of Amida Tathagata that always embraces us as just as we are and never abandons us. Hence, we should share our appreciation and gratitude for it with as many people as possible. As Nembutsu followers who are guided by the Buddha's wisdom, it is important for us to take the initiative and actively carry out programs to cope with the numerous problems and issues in contemporary society. I feel that such efforts will contribute to the actualization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

It is my hope that this upcoming Commemoration of Accession shall become a significant event as the first major step of our organization. May this occasion serve as the impetus for the Hongwanji to effectively cope with the changing times while upholding the traditional religious values based on Amida Tathagata's unconditional compassion. The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha administration is currently formulating new long-term plans in anticipation of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching. We kindly request your active cooperation and participation.

January 16, 2015

Shaku Sennyō
OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Please see the website for the information of the Accession Ceremony and HHMH Spiritual Enrichment and Fellowship Tour.

<http://has963.wix.com/hhmhdhhtour>

HONGWANJI SOKYOKU ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

The Hongwanji Sokyoku has announced the following changes to the Governing Board of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha effective on March 8, 2016.

Socho (Governor General)	Bishop Chiko Iwagami
Somu (Governors)	Rev. Koyu Nakato
	Rev. Rigaku Mitsuoka <i>**In charge of the International Department affairs</i>
	Rev. Kosho Tsuruno
Fuku-Somu (Vice Governors)	Rev. Wagyo Narukawa
	Rev. Kyoyu Maruta

SOCIAL CONCERN DONATION TO HAWAII PROMISE

Bishop Eric Matsumoto and Dean Sakamoto, Committee on Social Concerns Chair, presented a monetary donation to Ms. Mary Saunders, Executive Director of Family Promise of Hawaii, on March 11, 2016. Family Promise of Hawaii's mission is to mobilize existing community resources to aid families with children experiencing homelessness and help them transition to sustainable independence. The Honolulu Hongwanji Council have hosted families associated with the Family Promise of Hawaii's program. Family Promise of Hawaii is also very appreciative of the support received from various other Hongwanji related Affiliated Organizations like the Girl Scouts and Buddhist Women's Associations too.



REV. DR. ALFRED BLOOM HONORED BY THE INSTITUTE FOR BUDDHIST STUDIES

On March 10, 2016, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) honored our Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom with the 2016 President's Award. The President's Award recognizes an individual's support for the Institute since its founding in 1949. Previous recipients have been Prof. Taitetsu Unno (2014) and Prof. Lewis Lancaster (2015). The IBS, which serves as a Jodo Shinshu seminary, is affiliated with of the Buddhist Churches of America and the Graduate Theological Union in California. The IBS has been providing graduate-level Buddhist, ministerial, chaplaincy, and other educational programs in Berkeley, California for more than fifty years. The current IBS President, Rev. Kodo Umezu is also the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, IBS Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Director of the Center for Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies presented this honor to Dr. Bloom at the Kailua Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, where Dr. Bloom still teaches through a "KO" discussion group several times a month.



In 1986, Dr. Bloom, a noted Shin Buddhist scholar, teacher and author, was appointed Dean and Head Professor of IBS after serving twenty-six years on the faculties of the University of Hawaii and the University of Oregon. During his tenure at University of Hawaii, Dr. Bloom was instrumental in establishing the Hawaii Buddhist Study Center (BSC) on University Avenue. In early 1972, Al informed then Bishop Kanmo Imamura about the sale of the two original properties where today's BSC exists. Dr. Bloom retired in 1994. Rev. Bloom received Shin Buddhist Ordination in 1990 and Full Certification in 1994. Al has been a member of the Hawaii Betsuin since the 1970's.