



# Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

## HEADQUARTERS UPDATE

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### MESSAGE FROM BISHOP ERIC MATSUMOTO

#### Seek guidance!

In this time of uncertainty brought about by nuclear threats, racism, hate, and violence, let us go to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha for guidance.

The Buddha of All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion-Amida Buddha, in the spirit of True Equality, respects and loves all life equally and thus aspires for the enlightenment of all existence. May we take refuge and seek inspiration in this Great Wisdom and Unconditional Compassion.

The Dharma emphasizes that "Hatred is not overcome by hatred. Hatred is overcome by love. This is an ancient "Truth" and "Anger creates anger...Revenge can only be overcome by abandoning revenge...The wise seek neither victory nor defeat." May we seek the Wisdom of the Dharma/Teachings which is expansive as the great oceans.

The Sangha of our Jodo Shinshu Spiritual Leaders of the past three generations have shared important insights to harmonious living in hopes that there will be more peace in the world. They have emphasized that a person's nobility is based not on birth, caste or race, but upon a person's actions. Further, the preciousness of life. Last, but not least, the interdependent nature of existence in which we are all truly interconnected and interrelated.

In these troubled and turbulent times, as I ponder on what I can do, the first matter at hand is to self-reflect and realize how easily I am swayed by negative thoughts, emotions and impulses too. Another is to be aware of the fact that our true enemy is often not an external enemy, but the internal enemies of self-centeredness, arrogance, doubt, greed, anger and ignorance. Lastly, realize that if we want a change in the world, it is we who must change and that no lasting change will come about from anger and violence. Thus, as we aspire for a more peaceful world, instead of protests in which we clash, we should highlight the life and actions of people who have overcome discrimination, violence and selfishness in all parts of the world including areas that are currently plagued by extreme violence, terror and unhappiness. As we are illuminated by the Light of Wisdom and Compassion, may we realize that peace begins with each one of us and is dependent upon all of us.

Namo Amida Butsu/Entrusting in All-Inclusive Wisdom and All-Embracing Compassion



## MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM HONZAN

Jodo Shinshu ministers and followers,

We are pleased to inform you that the *Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition to the 25th Monshu Sennyō*, which began on October 1, 2016 successfully concluded on May 31, 2017. A series of 80 ceremonies were conducted to publicly announce that the Jodo Shinshu tradition including the title of Monshu, or Head Priest of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization has been transmitted to our new leader, Monshu Sennyō.

We are thankful to have been able to mark this joyous opportunity together with many, both inside and outside of the organization. Success of the event was, we are sure, due to the support from you and many others and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Our next major observances at Hongwanji are the *850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth* scheduled for 2033 and the *800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching* the following year. Taking advantage of the energy following our recent commemoration, we would like to continue in our efforts toward the realization of a society of mutual respect.

In the dharma message addressed on the first day of the *Commemoration of Accession*, Monshu Sennyō presented a concrete description of a way of living as a Jodo Shinshu follower. He reiterated this topic in his message at the conclusion of the series of services stating, "Although it is impossible for us to conduct completely pure good deeds like the Buddha [because of our human desires], it is still important for us to make the best of our efforts to carry out an ideal Buddhist way of living in every aspect of our life as much as possible."

To contribute toward the realization of a society in which everyone can live peacefully, let us try to actualize Monshu's guidance by not only entrusting ourselves to but also share the Buddha Dharma with others. In doing so, it is also essential for us to help one another and continue in our efforts to repay even a little of the benevolence we have received from the Buddha and innumerable invisible helping hands.

With asking for your continuous support and advice, we would like to conclude our message of gratitude. Once again thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

Governor General IWAGAMI Chiko  
Commemoration of Accession Headquarters  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Head Regent HONDA Takao  
Commemoration of Accession Headquarters  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

## 2017 YOUNG BUDDHIST INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL STUDY EXCHANGE (YBICSE)

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii participants and chaperones enjoyed a most enjoyable and educational trip to Japan from July 10-22. Youth participants included Alexander Babcock from Mililani, Hokulani Iseri from West Kauai, Janine Iseri from West Kauai, Dustin Iwasaki from Hawaii Betsuin, Blayne Nakasone Sakata from Puna and Waipahu, Aaron Nonaka from Aiea, Jared Nonaka from Aiea, Kelli Okayama from West Kauai and Chloe Oshiro from Mililani. Chaperones were Rev. Tomo Hojo and Mrs. Elaine Saiki from West Kauai.

The Oahu contingent was met by Rev. Hojo and had a wonderful sendoff from Rev. and Mrs. Umitani at the Honolulu International Airport. The Kauai contingent and Mrs. Saiki went ahead to the International Airport

and waited for the Oahu group. After arriving at Kansai (Osaka), the group took an express train to Kyoto. Participants were lodged at Monbo Kaikan while in Kyoto. In Kyoto the group participated in the Hongwanji program. Going to temple at 6:00 a. m., cleaning the temple on hands and knees and finding various shapes cut into the wooden floors were some of the things that the participants experienced. Several from BCA, Canada and Brazil participated in the Confirmation Rites performed by the Former Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani. The group also met Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani and had a group picture taken with his Eminence. Historical sites such as Mt. Hiei and Otani Mausoleum were visited. The group also experienced a cultural tea ceremony. A one-day trip by train to Hiroshima included a visit to Hiroshima Betsuin and the Peace Memorial Museum and Park. After Hiroshima, the participants went on their homestay for three days either in Shiga or Osaka Prefectures. Heian High School was visited and the group participated with the Heian students making origami, playing string games, talking story, etc. The Hongwanji program concluded with a closing ceremony and program sharing by groups. It was a sad parting for all the participants; however, the many friendships they made can be continued using today's social media, i.e., Facebook, Instagram, Face Time, etc.

The Hawaii delegation stayed an extra night in Kyoto for further sightseeing before departing for Tokyo by Shinkansen. Upon arrival, the group decided to go shopping and visited the Ooedo Onsen in Odaiba. Rev. Hojo and the all of the boys experienced a true Japanese onsen. The girls and Mrs. Saiki experienced the foot bath. In Tokyo, the group visited Tsukiji Fish Market and attended Tsukiji Hongwanji's morning service. The history of the temple was explained and the pipe organ was played for the group. Did you know that a pipe organ has 2,000 pipes? After that, the Hawaii group spent time at Tokyo Disneyland; they also had dinner with the BCA and Canada delegations. Rev. Jay and Mrs. Okamoto and their three children also had dinner with the group. Rev. Okamoto formerly was the resident minister at Waipahu and he had brought a group of Dharma School students and their parents to visit West Kauai for the weekend several years ago. On the last day, the group visited Tokyo Skytree, Asakusa, took a Sumida River cruise and ended their stay in Tokyo with a visit to the Imperial Palace Park. What a spectacular sight! The group departed Haneda Airport and returned on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. YBICSE 2017 was truly a wonderful adventure in Jodo Shinshu Buddhist education, early morning services, walking, climbing stairs, Japanese cultural experiences and food, sightseeing, making new friends from BCA, Canada and Brazil and many, many more things. Thank you to everyone for making this possible for all of the Hawaii delegation.

(Chaperones: Rev. Tomo Hojo and Mrs. Elaine Saiki)



## FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE - JULY 2017

During the week of May 28, 2017 to June 4, 2017, our four Honolulu District Temples, Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Moililli Hongwanji, Jikoen Hongwanji and Kailua Hongwanji hosted four families through our joint Family Promise Project.

Each year since 2006, Family Promise of Hawaii has been assisting homeless families with children, corroborating with various temples, churches and community organizations to help provide the basic needs of the Family Promise participants by providing temporary housing and meals at various host sites.

Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Mission has been a corroborating partner with Family Promise since 2011 and we have hosted 72 families. Our connection with Family Promise demonstrates the Buddhist concepts of Sangha and Hosha. The involvement with Family Promise as a Hawaii Kyodan project began with the Social Concerns Committee and the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA). Our volunteers come from the BWA members and their families, Boys Scouts, Dharma School Parents, Girls Scouts and individual temple members.

The concept of Sangha (community, brotherhood, temple members) is an important legacy given to us by Shakyamuni Buddha. It illustrates our interconnectedness with all beings. As a temple community we are part of a larger community which consists of our city, state, nation, and Earth. In Buddhism, one of the precepts in the Eightfold Path teaches us that we must be kind and gentle to all beings. Also, important as a Buddhist precept is the act of selfless giving (Dana).

In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism our gift of service, to our temples and sangha, is known as Hosha. Hosha is an important part of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and our way of honoring the teaching of Shakyamuni Buddha, part of which is to contribute to the welfare of society by assisting with community service projects and community organizations.

In the two years since I have been the Coordinating Temple Liaison between the Honolulu District Temples and Family Promise Hawaii, I have learned to appreciate the interconnectedness that we all share as a Sangha and have enjoyed working with the various individuals and groups within the Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii and Family Promise Hawaii in order to make the hosting experience for our Family Promise families a safe and fulfilling one. Through my experience working as the Temple Liaison, I feel that the experience has benefitted me and enriched me the most by giving me many gifts of wisdom. I feel that the amount of time I have spent in involvement with the Family Promise Project is nothing compared to what I have received in return.

During this past Family Promise event when it was Moililli Hongwanji's turn to be the lead host site, I along with my crew of volunteers were able to experience a truly, arigataii (deep thanks) moment. One of our volunteers who is from Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin, Gail O, (she asked that she not be identified) brought three sisters, who had been beneficiaries of the Family Promise program during the last year, as volunteers. The girls brought two dishes to share with the families. They brought spam musubi and tuna casserole. They played with the children and interacted with the adults. These girls were so grateful for the help their family had received that they came to volunteer in order to help other families that needed help. It turned out that the girls came from the same islands and villages in Chuuk that the families were from.

To this day, Gail O, since meeting the girls' family, has been a mentor to the family, helping the children with homework and spending time with the girls and becoming like a mother figure to the children. I was touched by the feeling of gratitude that Gail and the sisters showed in volunteering for Family Promise. Their volunteering demonstrates Dana (act of selfless giving) in action.

Our next hosting will be at Jikoen Temple the week of Sept. 24 to October 1, 2017. At that time, we will be hosting at least 4 houseless families with children. Generally, the families we host have children aged infant to high school. All of the families have a mother or father who is working, not one but sometimes 3 jobs, and school aged children.

I along with the temple coordinators, Alan Goto/Sharyn Sekine (Betsuin), Doris Oshiro/Rev. Shindo Nishiyama (Jikoen), Cheryl Yasunaga (Moiliili Hongwanji) and Shirley Yanagisawa (Kailua) are looking forward to next year as we continue to volunteer for this joint corroboration with Family Promise Hawaii.

In Gassho,  
Charlene Kihara

### HAWAII KYODAN EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

September 4-12	His Eminence Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani's Official visit to Hawaii
September 8	Pacific Buddhist Academy New Building Dedication Service
September 8	HMMH Board of Directors Meeting (@Hawaii Betsuin at 2:00pm)
September 9-10	HMMH Lay Association Convention (@Aiea Hongwanji Mission)
September 17	Special Presentation by Rick Stambul (BCA President-elect, @BSC at 5:00pm)
September 22	Peace Interfaith Service (@Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin at 6:30pm)
September 23-24	Bishop Matsumoto and Kyodan President Toyama's visit to Kauai District

