



December 2022

Were it not for the wisdom of *shinjin*, entrusting heart, How could we attain nirvana (the pure land)? – Shinran



There are many religions in the world; I do not know how many exactly. But I think all religions talk about faith which is the most important part in religion.

There is a new religion in Japan. Those members who belong to this religion approach people and ask them with a smile, “Are you happy right now?” If they say “I am not really happy right now,” then, the members reply, “Why don’t you join us? Come to our group. You will be very happy.” After a while, the members ask them for monetary offerings. After a few more requests for offerings, if they complain, “I am still not happy”, the members say “You must have faith. Your faith is not strong enough!”

So, what is faith for the members of the new religion? I think it means a strong belief and confidence for them. Of course, this means “my belief” and “my” confidence. This is called “I” centered religion.

Shinran Shonin deeply examined the meaning of “I.” For 20 long years of practices to seek true awakening, to become a Buddha, at Mt. Hiei, a Buddhist learning center in those days, what he found after was his true self. And he found out it is full of blind passions. Soon, Shinran descended Mt. Hiei to listen to a well-known monk, Honen, who taught him Amida’s Vow expressed in *namo amida butsu* which is other working. Shinran was able to abandon the thought of “I.”

Faith in Jodo Shinshu is called *shinjin* which means hearing true heart and mind of Amida Buddhas who is working to save and liberate all sentient beings from this life of delusion to the life of true awakening. In *shinjin* there is no thought of ‘I’ or no contrivance.

Shinran wrote: “The mind that seeks to save all sentient beings/ Is directed to us through Amida’s vow of wisdom/ Those who realize this true entrusting that is directed to us/ Attain great, complete nirvana-the pure land.”

It is because of Amida’s working that we will be born in nirvana (the pure land) of peace and serenity.

This means that, so to speak, it is Amida’s responsibility to save and liberate us from this world of delusion and suffering to Buddha’s realm. What we do is just hear Amida’s great compassion working for us, each individual.

A pious and devoted person to Shinran’s teaching wrote:

I have been designing all the time,
Saying, “Is this the way, or that about *Shinjin*?”
But there was no designing after all,
All was given fully and freely by Amida.
How grateful I am now! ...*namo amida butsu*!

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister



*My faith (shinjin) is like the snow man
when the sun comes out,
it immediately vanishes.*

– Muso Kimura

年の瀬を迎え

年末となりました。この一年を無事に過ごすことができたことを、しみじみ思います。今までは、健康であることは当然と思っていました。当然と思うところには感謝の気持ちも薄れるようです。昨年、法話中に倒れてから、体の不調が続きました。お医者さんから、胃潰瘍になっていると知らされました。原因がわかると、次に治療方法が問題です。お医者さんは、胃潰瘍も初期だから薬で直る、と指示をしてくれました。約、一年間、薬を飲みました。先日、検査の結果、全治していることを告げられたのです。

私たちは、今、生きていることは当たり前と思っています。ところが、生と死は一枚の紙のごとく、生まれた時から、死は共にあります。生と死の問題を解決するのが仏教です。解決するために、厳しい修行をすることはいらない、と教えて下さるのが親鸞聖人です。生死の中に仏の呼び声、ナモアミダブツを聞くだけで、安らぎをいただくのです。六字の呼び声には、仏様のお慈悲がこめられ、私たちのために、今、届いていることを、よく聴聞させて頂きましょう。

合掌 泉康雄

November Shotsuki

DHARMA TALK



If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters who, with sincere and entrusting heart, aspire to be born in my (Pure) land and say my name even ten times, should not be born in the Realm of Enlightenment, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

This is the 18th vow that we consider the primal vow made by Bodhisattva Dharmakara before he attained Buddhahood. While this vow has many vital components, one is interdependence. The Buddha states his enlightenment depends on the birth of all sentient beings (who say the Nembutsu) into the Pure land. Let us review this vital concept. It is a fundamental idea in Buddhism.

Our Abbot (Gomonshu) recently wrote. “Everything in this world exists based on interdependency. When we are not aware of this, we tend to think to ourselves that our own perspective is the only one that is right and justified. This is what causes conflicts to arise...How then, do we attain (the) peace that we seek in the world today?... it is necessary that we first treat others with the same care and respect that we would show ourselves...The weakness of our relationships with each other is the result of us thinking about ourselves more than others.” Truly, interdependency and the profound consequences of realizing interdependency could be a key that brings about true harmony and peace.

The event that brought this to my mind was the recent Mein or noodle-making session. It is a perfect metaphor for interdependence. It is a very complex process that many have commented is a slick, well-oiled machine. There were over 65 people who participated, all working in unison to produce the prized noodles. There are many steps in the process, and each stage is highly dependent on the others.

Over 12 different stations or steps are needed to produce one package of noodles. A problem at any of these steps results in a

significant slowing or cessation of the entire process. If there is one missed step, the whole process grinds to a halt. An example is when one of the cutting machines broke down. After only 15 minutes, there was a significant backlog of dough to the point where all the other processes had to be stopped or the dough would become too dry. So, we can see from this example how the action of one step significantly affects all the others.

In life, we must try to understand the importance of interdependence. We are reliant on others for everything we have. An example is the food we eat. We rely on the farmers, the farm workers, the truckers, the packagers, store clerks, and many others to get the food to our table.

A common saying about rice is that it takes 88 hands to touch each grain to get to us. The Kanji character for rice is eighty-eight.

This interdependence is an actual reality of our lives. It is an easy concept to understand, but we often lose this perspective. It may be that thinking about interdependence can make us feel out of control or uncomfortable. To realize we rely on others for everything means we have little control over what happens in our lives. This is similar to the noodle-making process. What happens before your stage or after can affect how you can complete your task.

Rather than being uncomfortable with the reality of interdependence, our Buddhist teaching tells us to embrace it. Our relations and interactions with those around us give meaning to our lives. It is our connection with others that provides us with joy and fulfillment.

Our interdependent relationship with others is the main factor in our happiness. We must accept and embrace our interdependence. When we do so, we can then express our appreciation for all the causes and conditions that allow us to live this life. This will help us to treat others with greater respect and bring harmony and peace to our world. In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, we are taught to rely on Amida Buddha’s compassionate vow to be assured of birth in the Pure land. We depend on this compassion, and when we accept it, the Nembutsu flows from us as an expression of deep gratitude.

In Gassho,
Dr. Roland Ikuta, Minister



UPDATE

from the Board of Directors

• Kevin Sassa, the BTSA's Investment Advisor, gave an overview of the financial market situation. The returns on the investment account are down but economic recovery will likely begin in a year from now.

• The email address btsaboard@gmail.com and temple phone number 403-327-1260 may be used to contact both Izumi Sensei and Ikuta Sensei.

• BTSA will purchase and install a safe at the temple for more secure handling of cash.

• Ministers' appreciation event is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2002 (in conjunction with Shotsuki). The BTSA will provide Kentucky Fried Chicken, rice, takuan, and cake. Attendees/volunteers are asked to bring side dishes, similar to what is done for temple picnics.

• The December Shotsuki service will be held on December 4th. Here is the link to the YouTube Live Channel: <https://youtu.be/y12buiThcgM>

Thank you to all the volunteers and especially to the organizers and leaders of the Sangha events.

Respectfully submitted,
Valerie Boras
BTSA Secretary

SHUSHO-E

修正会

New Year Day Service will start on **January 1 at 10:30 a.m.** Before Amida Buddha, the Buddha of infinite wisdom and compassion, we renew our New year resolution and express our deep gratitude reciting o-nembutsu. This service will bring us an opportunity to express our gratitude to Amida Buddha who is always and constantly working for us to be born in the Pure Land of true happiness and peace. (Y.I.)



CHAIR/AV SCHEDULE December & January 2022

Services begin at 10:30 a.m. unless otherwise indicated

Dec 04
SHOTSUKI
Andrew Ichikawa
Kynan Gordon, AV

Dec 11
BODHI DAY
TBD
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Dec 18 & 25
No Service

Jan 01
Sheila Oishi
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Jan 08
HO-ONKO & SHOTSUKI
Bob Muskovich
Andrew Ichikawa, AV

Jan 15
Jeff Haines
Robbie Scharf, AV

Jan 22
Harry Sugimoto
Brenda Ikuta, AV

Jan 29
Val Boras
Bob Muskovich, Audio



Joya-no-kane

除夜の鐘

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta will hold the annual “Year End Bell Ringing” event at Nikka Yuko Japanese Garden, this year on December 31 at 9 p.m. “Year End Bell Ringing” is called “Joya-no-Kane” to welcome a new year. “Joya” means to eliminate a passing year. For this event, the participants strike the Bell 108 times. The number of 108 represents our blind passions which will never disappear from us as long as we live. Therefore, we quietly listen to the sound of bell and reflect on the passing year with gratitude and anticipate the new year with new hope. (Y.I.)

CHOW MEIN DINNER

November 19 - Preparations

Members and friends turned out in great numbers Nov. 18, 19 and 20 to set up and prepare ingredients for, and to make up packages of chow mein suppers for the 2,100 tickets sold for the event. As one worker quipped to another who wondered whether there might be an easier way to raise funds, "It's a social thing!" and it certainly was. A big thanks to all who helped all three days and the many persons who made various donations, a list of whom is provided in the donations lists in this Hikari.



Empty to full cooler



Sweet/Sour ribs



Busy, Buzzing Kitchen



Cutting Celery



Peeling Onions



Egg Garnish



Photos: John Dubbelboer and Brenda Ikuta

November 20 - Supper Day



Washing rice



Making chow mein



Ready for packaging



Assembly lines



Finished supper



Stacked suppers



Take-out runners



Taking supper tickets

2022 Membership Form

- Full Membership (\$100 for each member) Student Membership*

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Last Name: _____ First Names(s): _____

Home Address: _____

City, Province, Postal Code: _____

Telephone No.: _____ Cell: _____

Email: _____

- Check to receive The Hikari newsletter by email only

Please send this form and your remittance to:
Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta Treasurer
470 40th Street South
Lethbridge, AB, T1J 3Z5

*Note

Student membership is limited to persons 18 years or older who are currently registered in a recognized educational institution. It is free of charge with a valid student ID card. Student Members are not entitled to vote at general meetings or to hold office in the BTSA and this category does not include membership in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, the national organization.

LET'S EXPAND THE CIRCLE OF THE DHARMA!

Membership
at Nov 23: **151**

Obon + Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

November 2022

John and Donna Dubbelboer
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Nadine Hamabata
Neil Hinatsu
David and Valerie Kunimoto
Yuse and Chiyomi Matsuno
Gary E. and Beverly S. McIlroy
May Nishikawa
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Ken Ohno and Nancy Eng
Tak and Jan Okamura
Chiyeko (Chec) Robinson
Roy and Pat Sassa
Joe and Mary Shigehiro
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Emily Stitt
Harry Sugimoto
Robert and Judy Takaguchi
Fugi Takeda
Alan and Margaret Tanaka
Bill and June Terakita
George Tokuda
Jim, Marion and Shannon
Tomiyama

Total - \$1,390

Other Donations

November 2022

CanadaHelps.Org
Scott and Lana Crowe
Mutsuko Fukushima
Hironaka Employee Benefits
Inc.
Rumiko Ibuki
Akira Ichikawa
Rev. Yasuo and Sachi Izumi
Ken and Carolyn MacDonald
Michael Grover Masuda
Yoko Nishimura
S&A Holdings Ltd.
Sachi Scharf
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Alan and Margaret Tanaka
Glen and Pamela Tanaka
Joe and Sumiko Tomiyama

Total - \$3,164.90

Funeral Donations

October 2022

Anonymous Cash Donation
Eiko Aoki
Richard and Valerie Boras
John and Donna Dubbelboer
Gloria Gilmore
Dorene (Keiko) Gordon
Shinako (Sheila) Higa

Rumiko Ibuki
Akira Ichikawa
Hiroshi Kitagawa
Joe and Marion Mori
Ken and Vickie Nakagawa
Shig and Katie Nakagawa
Hideo and Jennifer Nishida
Kei and Margo Nishida
Sway and Toshiko Nishimura
Gordon and Joy Saruwatari
Roy and Pat Sassa
Tom and Mitsuko Shigehiro
Fugi Takeda
Wendy Takeda
Eichi and Betty Tanaka
Marjory Tomomitsu
Yukio Tsuji
Joan Waite-Nakagawa

Total - \$1,825

Total Donations - \$6,379.90

Please inform us if your name has been omitted or misspelled. Anyone wishing not to be acknowledged in print, let us know so it will not be published. Thank you.

REGULAR EVENTS

Minyo Dance Mondays @ 6:30pm will resume Jan. 16
Contact Pat Sassa 403.329.3105 sas7@telus.net

NCS Adult Taiko Tuesdays @ 7pm to Dec. 6
Will resume after winter break Jan. 10 (tentative)
Contact tanaka.david@gmail.com 403.330.1548,

Study Class Saturdays @ 10:30am
Contact bobmuskovich@gmail.com or Rev. Izumi

Meditation continues until Dec. 15, Thursdays @ 7pm
To register contact Vickie Macarther spirityoga@shaw.ca

Ministers Appreciation Reminder

A timely reminder that BTSA has scheduled a potluck lunch Dec. 4 following the monthly memorial service to participate in a Ministers' Appreciation Month inaugurated in September jointly by the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada (JSBTC) and the JSBTC Women's Federation.

Each temple nationally was asked to mark the event for its own ministers and assistant ministers at its convenience to show appreciation for their commitment to their respective sanghas and the communities they serve.

BTSA scheduled its for the first Sunday in December. It will provide the main dish, rice and cake and requests attendees to complement with appetizers, salads and side dishes.



Brenda Ikuta submitted the above image of the morning sun on Amida in the dharma room.

Chow Mein Supper Donors

Wayne Kwan - \$300
Gouw's Farm - 9, 50lb sacks of onions
P & H Milling - 8, 40lb sacks of flour for mein
Norris Hironaka - \$200 \$250
Glen Tanaka - \$250 \$402 for bean sprouts
Lantic Rogers - 8, 10lb bags of sugar
Nakagama's - 1, 40lb sack of rice
Wanda Tomiyama - 4 doz jars of pickles
Wesbridge Construction Ltd - pylons
Harry Sugimoto - Ram Board/aluminum foil

Kyoshi Kyoshu

Dr. Roland Ikuta sensei was among those completing the kyoshi kyoshu (minister certification training) in August at the first-ever training program outside Japan. The photograph of the 11 who completed the training in Berkeley, CA, is from the newsletter of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) newsletter of November, 2022.

For the accompanying article describing the training and some of those involved, please refer to the *Wheel of Dharma* newsletter of BCA on its internet website: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org



The new Kyoshi ministers are shown in this group photo at the Jodo Shinshu Ccentre. In first row, from left, are: Rev. Charlene Kihara, Rev. Maribeth Smith, Rev. Melissa Opel, Rev. Landon Yamaoka, Rev. Cyndi Yasaki, and Rev. Amy Umezu. In second row, from left, are: Rev. Roland Ikuta, Rev. Todd Tsuchiya, Rev. CJ Sokugan Dunford, Rev. Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace, and Rev. Vonn Magnin. (Courtesy of Rev. Michael Endo)

Judge Sylvia Oishi

Judge Sylvia Oishi was pictured with the first participant and graduate of the Lethbridge drug treatment--Armande Good Rider--in the Nov. 4 issue of the Lethbridge Herald.

The Herald article noted: "Oishi, along with family members and friends who attended the ceremony, also acknowledged Good Rider's successful completion of the program, and said while many young men's lives have been destroyed or ended because of drugs, Good Rider chose a different direction in his life.

"You choose to do the opposite, to save your own life, and to contribute to the lives of others,' Oishi said."



Submitted photo: Judge Sylvia Oishi stands with Armande Good Rider during his graduation from Drug Treatment Court. Reprinted with the permission of the Drug Treatment Court Program, Tuson Penrod, case manager.

**When you catch a cold, you cough.
I've caught the cold of Buddha-dharma
And I can't stop coughing the Nembutsu.**

— Saichi



DECEMBER: TOBAN 2

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
OFFICIAL BTSA ACTIVITY				7pm Meditation		10:30am Study Class
				1	2	3
10:30am Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream) Ministers' Appreciation Lunch		7pm Taiko		7pm Meditation		10:30am Study Class*
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
10:30am Bodhi Day Service*				7pm Meditation		10:30am Study Class*
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
No Service						
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
No Service						9pm Joya-no-kane, Year end bell ringing @ Nikka Yukko Japanese Garden - free admission
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JANUARY: TOBAN 3

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10:30am New Year Service*						10:30am Study Class*
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
10:30am Ho-onko and Shotsuki Memorial Service* (live stream)		7pm Taiko				10:30am Study Class*
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice	7pm Taiko				10:30am Study Class*
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice	7pm Taiko				10:30am Study Class*
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
10:30am Regular Service*	6:30pm Minyo Dance Practice	7pm Taiko				
29	30	31				