Letter to NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

Mr. Sergio de Queiroz Duarte
High Representative for Disarmament at the United Nations

On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association we are offering this statement of support for the efforts of your office to bring sanity to nations and realize disarmament as the way to genuine peace.

Natural disasters are dramatic reminders of the fragility of our lives. That we are all finite beings subject to the forces of the natural environment that we are a part of is self-evident.

Human generated disasters arising out of conflicts and wars are tragic reminders of the limited progress we’ve made in our social environment. A sad commentary on our human condition acknowledges that we have acquired the “intelligence” to produce weapons of mass destruction, but have demonstrated the stupidity to use them. We devote so much of our mental and material resources on how to make war and build the most devastating weapons. Is this a legacy of human progress?

An essential insight of the Buddha was that, “Everything is led by the mind; the mind is the leader; everything is made up of the mind. If one speaks or acts with a pure mind, happiness follows him like the shadow of the mind. If one speaks or acts with an impure mind is the leader; everything is made up of that never leaves him.” From which he admonished, “Indeed, hatred is never pacified that never leaves him.” From which he added, “The law of antiquity.”

In 2011, the followers of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist tradition will be commemorating the 750th memorial anniversary of our founder Shinran Shonin. The slogan for this historic observance, “May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World,” is taken from one of his pastoral undertakings. Following the subject of “Buddhism and the Global Community.” In addition to BCA ministers there were representatives from Hawai’i and Canada, and for the first time eight ministers and temple members from the Aki District of Hiroshima joined in this historic gathering.

The opening service was conducted in front of the New York Buddhist Church, as the hondo is currently undergoing a major renovation. A temporary altar was set up next to a 15-foot high statue of Shinran Shonin (see essay by Rev. Marvin Harada). Following the welcome by Rev. Nakagaki, Socho Koshin Ogai gave a Dharma Talk that included a tribute to Rev. Hozen Seki, the founder of the New York Buddhist Church. Socho emphasized that by bringing the seminar to New York, and recalling the kind of missionary spirit that motivated pioneer kaiyo-koshi like Seki Sensei, would hopefully inspire our present efforts to share the Dharma to the broader community.

BCA Ministers Association chairman Rev. Jokai Hiroshi Abiko convened an abbreviated general membership meeting where proposals for the BCA Ministerial Training Process and consolating the Minister’s Assistant Program, Ministerial Development and Advocacy, and Ministers Orientation Committee were presented. Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, coordinator for the Hongwanji sponsored English Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and International Ministerial Orientation Program, gave a progress report on the status of these major undertakings.

Following the General Meeting, two panel presentations were given. Addressing the subject of “Buddhism in the United States,” writer Clark Strand and former Executive Director of Tricycle Magazine, Randi Brown, shared their views and experiences on how interest in Buddhism is continuing to grow in America, while younger generations are not as involved in organized forms of religious involvement. The second session had representatives of the New York Buddhist Church, Gary Jaskula, Board Chair, Hoshin Seki, President of the American Buddhist Study Center, based at the temple, and Minister’s Assistant Josephine Seki, speak about their involvement with the temple and the challenges they are facing in maintaining the sangha.

On Thursday morning the participants were bused to Battery Park at the foot of Manhattan to conduct a memorial service in front of a sculpture that was salvaged from the Twin Towers plaza of the World Trade Center. Messages were given by: Judy Chen, Buddhist Council of New York, Ruth Wengen, NY Disaster Interfaith Services, Michael Theogene, NY Police Department. Our group then walked over to the Tribute World Trade Center 9/11 Visitor Center where we were greeted by the center’s director and take on a tour of the facility. Next we were led to a location inside the 9/11 Ground Zero construction site where we conducted another memorial service.

Continued on Page 6

Thorough the exceptional efforts of Rev. T.K. Nakagaki, the 2008 BCA Ministers Association Seminar was held in New York City on June 18-19, with the theme: “Buddhism and the Global Community.” In addition to BCA ministers there were representatives from Hawai’i and Canada, and for the first time eight ministers and temple members from the Aki District of Hiroshima joined in this historic gathering.

The opening service was conducted in front of the New York Buddhist Church, which the hondo is currently undergoing a major renovation. A temporary altar was set up next to a 15-foot high statue of Shinran Shonin (see essay by Rev. Marvin Harada). Following the welcome by Rev. Nakagaki, Socho Koshin Ogai gave a Dharma Talk that included a tribute to Rev. Hozen Seki, the founder of the New York Buddhist Church. Socho emphasized that by bringing the seminar to New York, and recalling the kind of missionary spirit that motivated pioneer kaiyo-koshi like Seki Sensei, would hopefully inspire our present efforts to share the Dharma to the broader community.

BCA Ministers Association chairman Rev. Jokai Hiroshi Abiko convened an abbreviated general membership meeting where proposals for the BCA Ministerial Training Process and consolidating the Minister’s Assistant Program, Ministerial Development and Advocacy, and Ministers Orientation Committee were presented. Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, coordinator for the Hongwanji sponsored English Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and International Ministerial Orientation Program, gave a progress report on the status of these major undertakings.

Following the General Meeting, two panel presentations were given. Addressing the subject of “Buddhism in the United States,” writer Clark Strand and former Executive Director of Tricycle Magazine, Randi Brown, shared their views and experiences on how interest in Buddhism is continuing to grow in America, while younger generations are not as involved in organized forms of religious involvement. The second session had representatives of the New York Buddhist Church, Gary Jaskula, Board Chair, Hoshin Seki, President of the American Buddhist Study Center, based at the temple, and Minister’s Assistant Josephine Seki, speak about their involvement with the temple and the challenges they are facing in maintaining the sangha.

On Thursday morning the participants were bused to Battery Park at the foot of Manhattan to conduct a memorial service in front of a sculpture that was salvaged from the Twin Towers plaza of the World Trade Center. Messages were given by: Judy Chen, Buddhist Council of New York, Ruth Wengen, NY Disaster Interfaith Services, Michael Theogene, NY Police Department. Our group then walked over to the Tribute World Trade Center 9/11 Visitor Center where we were greeted by the center’s director and take on a tour of the facility. Next we were led to a location inside the 9/11 Ground Zero construction site where we conducted another memorial service.

Continued on Page 6

While listening to the Dharma talk by Reverend Marvin Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Church at the opening meeting of the BCA National Board Meeting on June 7, 2008 at the Jodo Shinshu Center, I was impressed by not only the content of his message but also in his delivery. His talk was on listening, how we do not listen. But what was remarkable was that he appeared not to be using notes, but speaking extemporaneously. His delivery was relaxed, he was smiling and he was making contact with the audience. AND he was sharing the Dharma with us.

The primary responsibility of our ministers is to share the Dharma. They are often addressed as “sensei”, teacher, because they help us understand Buddhism, the teachings and practice. They share the Dharma with us by explaining Buddhist doctrine, but more often by stories related to their own life experiences. One particularly moving message was given by the late Reverend Ben Mayeda at the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. His Dharma message was about a mother with two young children; the mother had a terminal illness and was asking “Why, why me?” Rev. Mayeda’s message that day touched me deeply.

Continued on Page 6
The Shinran Statue That Survived the Atomic Bomb and 9-11

This month I had the great privilege to travel to New York to attend our BCA Minis- ter's seminar (Fuken). It was historic in that it was the first time it was ever held in New York. It was the idea of Ogui Socho to have the Fukan in New York, to broaden our vision as ministers. It proved to be a most valuable and memorable experience for all who attended.

It was my first visit to New York City and to the New York Buddhist Church. The New York Buddhist Church is located in Manhattan, in a very nice area overlooking the Hudson River. The temple has a very impressive story of its history and journey to New York.

The temple’s first home was in the city of Hiroshima. With the dropping of the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, most everything was totally destroyed. Amazingly, the statue of Shinran Shonin survived, largely due to many trees that were in front of it, and a small hill. After the devastation of the atomic bomb, this statue of Shinran was a source of inspiration and hope for the survivors of the blast. As it was one of the few things still standing, it gave spiritual comfort for the many surviving victims of the atomic blast.

Three years later, a devout businessman in Hiroshima, a Mr. Seichi Hirose, sought to have the statue of Shinran Shonin donated to the United Nations in New York, as a symbol of the work for nuclear disarmament and world peace. At that time, the United States refused the offer. Rev. Hozon Seeki, the founding minister of the New York Buddhist Church, offered the temple as a proper place to have the statue placed, in repre- senting Shinran’s teachings con- ceiving to the west, and with the hope and symbolism of world peace and disarmament as well. And so the statue was moved and dedi- cated in New York, on all days, September 11, 1995. This date, 9-11, would prove to be a date of infinity for the world many years after this dedication.

Rev. Nagakagi, the present minister of the New York Bud- dhist Church, has pointed out the even deeper meaning of the statue of Shinran Shonin, post 9-11. This statue of Shinran Shonin, survived the atomic blast of Hiroshima. It has red markings on the lower half of the statue, where the intense heat changed the color of the metal. This same statue, travelled to New York, and then also survived the attacks of 9-11. Now it is a symbol, not only for representing the Nem- butsu teachings that have now come to the west, but it is a sym- bol for the deepest heart of Shin- ran, who sought for peace and harmony in the world. Horrific events might occur in the world, as the dropping of the atomic bomb, and the devastation of 9-11, but Shinran’s teachings and the Buddhist Dharma continue to guide and nurture the people of the world, to live in oneness and harmony.

As part of the seminar, Rev. 

Continued on Page 6
Southern District Holds Golf Tournament for Campaign BCA-The 21st Century

On April 5, the BCA Center for Buddhist Education sponsored a young adult seminar for members of the "Generation Y" age group (ages 21-35) at the Jodo Shinshu Center. The one-day seminar entitled “Networking and Reconnecting” included several workshop sessions, which were designed to encourage the participants to come together at the end of the day and to keep in touch and start working on a Sangha organization or continuing program for themselves and other Gen Yers alike. The participants volunteered to take on certain responsibilities and to get the word out to others throughout the BCA system. Deeply impressed with the Jodo Shinshu Center and the facilities and resources available for their use, the participants decided to hold and coordinate the 2009 seminar on Saturday, April 4 at the Jodo Shinshu Center with CBE’s assistance. The CBE would like to acknowledge help of the following volunteers who helped to make this seminar possible: Judy Kono, Brian Nagata, Calvin Du, Rev. Kiyoh and Hitomi Komaki, Dr. Jinkou Nakagawa, Yuki Otake, Janet Umezui and Alan Hirahara. Additional acknowledgments go to the Western Adult Buddhist League which provided a donation of $500 to help subsidize this seminar and to the BCA Central California District Council which subsidized the registration fees for those Gen Y seminar attendees from Central California temples. For those Gen Y members who might not have been able to attend this seminar but are interested in getting in touch with other Gen Y members, please contact the Center for Buddhist Education for more information.

GRAND RAFFLE
First Prize
$12,000

Second Prize
$4,000

Third Prize
$1,500

Fourth Prize
$1,000

Fifth Prize
$500

Drawing Saturday, February 28, 2009 at the BCA National Council Meeting in Irvine, California

Buddhist Churches of America
JODO SHINSHU CENTER
The 21st Century

GRAND RAFFLE

My Gift to Campaign BCA—The 21st Century

Campaign BCA Donations

Gifts and Bequests Received

Thru 12/31/2007

Oregon Buddhist Temple:

Alice A. Murao

Anonymous

Jirou and Aki Murakami

Kiyoko N. Endecott

Ray and Lori Fukunaga

Rev. Gregory G. Griffiths

Dona and Myriam Greenwood

Grace W.

Somers Hiira

K. David Iwamura

Henry and Janet Iwamura

Ken and Karen Kaneko

Robert and Susan Karrington

Susan Keresztes

Jean A. Makamuoto

Hiroshi and June Manahoshi

S. Miyata

Kimberly Nelson

Dr. Alfred and Jicen Ono

Yoichi and Tomoko Ono

Oregon Buddhist Temple

Herb and Brusia Osaka

Shinobu Ouchida

William and Carol Nagas

Penny and Seishichi Nishida

Stanley and Miyo Wong

Sue and Andrew Spence

Kazuo Saito

John and Elizabeth Sawada

Suzuki and Steve Sato

Kenji和Yoko Sato

Sahara Tashiro

Jencki和Kenshi Sato

Scott Winner and Aron Steinert

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Viets

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Viets

Ken and Wendy Wogin

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Yoshida

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Yoshida

Oxnard Buddhist Temple:

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Chinbom

Mr. and Mrs. A. Linda Keeler

Mr. and Mrs. Lyn Deppen

Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Iizuka

Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Imai

Mr. and Mrs. Yuko Inoue

Mr. and Mrs. Shingo Ishida

Mr. and Mrs. Kiyoh Hasegawa

Mr. and Mrs. Yonejiro Ito

Mr. and Mrs. Yo Iwai

Mr. and Mrs. Yonejiro Ito

Mr. and Mrs. Minobu Nishimori

Mrs. Mutsumi Nakashima

Grace M. Muraoka

Noriyoshi Miyakawa

Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Nakamoto

Mr. and Mrs. Senami Nakamoto

Takakura Family

Dietmar Sakai

Henry and Mary Takada

Takayoshi and Hitomi Tanaka

Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Tanaka

Mitsuyo Miyasaki

Yuzo and Gene Yaeko Matsutsuyu

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tanaka

Mr. and Mrs. Yonejiro Ito

Mr. and Mrs. Yoshida

Mr. and Mrs. Yuko Inoue

Mr. and Mrs. Watanabe

Mr. and Mrs. Kiyoh Hasegawa

Mr. and Mrs. Dressler

Mr. and Mrs. Takashi Imai

Mr. and Mrs. Minobu Nishimori

Mr. and Mrs. Minoru Nakamoto

Takakura Family

Don and Arnie Watanabe

Yoshio K. Yamamura

Mr. and Mrs. Hiroshi Yotsuoka

Mr. and Mrs. Brian Tamura

Rev. Karuma Ueda

Campaign donor list will continue in the next issue of the Wheel of Dharma.
**ARE YOU FEELING LUCKY?**

By Rev. Yuji Mukuima

Buddhist Temple of San Diego

T
two years ago, my parents vis-

ited San Diego to see us. They

were a little tired from the long

trip from Japan, but as soon as
they saw the beautiful scenery and

stores and houses around San Diego
they quickly overcame their fatigue.

During their stay, we showed them all

round the city and took them to vari-

ous places including Las Vegas.

On the first night of our three-

day stay, there I encouraged my

parents to play at the casino hotel

where we were staying. Although they

were unwilling at first, I persuaded them

by saying, “Here is your much

awaited visit to Las Vegas, and it will

make a good story about your travels

to America!” I taught them how to

make a good story about your travels

and are listed on the at-

Committee is proud to

season. The BCA Scouting

3,500,000,000 years. There is

ly evolved to into human life

and good. But let us be ever grateful

lottery win. And if we win the

lottery? The odds against it are so

high, if we were to win, how grateful

we would be.

But even more astounding is the

time of year, everyone has a great

gambling are illegal. Therefore, this

pachinko

and play a Japanese pinball called

pitchikuno and Majong, other types of

gambling are illegal. Then, this
time of year, everyone has a great

interest in the Summer Jumbo

Lottery in Japan. Everyone has

dreams of winning the first prize of

$2 million.

To talk of the country where the

lottery is the most popular

world is also to talk about the U.S.
The amount that Americans spend

on the lottery throughout the year is

about $87 billion! The Lottery is

especially popular, but the probabil-

ity of winning is one in 80,000,000.

It runs into astronomical numbers.
The biggest prize that a single person

has won to date is about $400 million!

It is quite the American Dream. I am also
dying to live this American Dream.

Will any of us ever win the

lottery? The odds against it are so

high, if we were to win, how grateful

we would be.

However, we who have arrogance

and the wrong view can’t easily

delight in the truth of Buddha’s
guidance. Nonetheless, Amida

Buddha’s compassion never aban-

dons such arrogant beings, and

always holds us warmly. When we

realize this, we will really see that we

are foolish. Seen in the compassion-

ate eyes of the Buddha, what can

such beings do, but to rely upon,

embraced as we are, even with our

faults, the Great Vow

So it is not a bad thing that we

have dreams for a casino and or

lottery win. And if we win the

lottery, we may be very elated, well

and good. But let us be ever grateful

for our existence and delight that we

are able to hear the Buddha Dharma.

Well, I will just out to buy some

Lotto tickets now….

In Gaseso

**Bon Odori Pack Program**

Summer is approaching

and, with it, Bon Odori season.
The BCA Scouting

Committee is proud to

again sponsor the Bon

Odori pack program for all Scouts

and Camp Fire youth who participate in Bon Odori.

The requirements for

earning the patch are sim-

ple and are listed on the at-

tached sheet. They include

learning about the meaning of

Osho, learning about

the music and equipment

used in the dances, attend-

ing practice and dancing in

a Bon Odori. Dancers earn

a large patch and “rocker”

the first year they partici-

pate in the program.

Each year after that, they earn

a “rocker” patch with the

year of participation.

Of course, continuing dancers

can order large patches for

their new uniforms as they

move up in Scouting or

Camp Fire level.

We hope you will en-

courage your youth to par-

ticipate in the Bon Odori

pack program. It is a fun

way for youth to learn

about Osho and the joys

of participating in the Bon

Odori.

For more information

or an order form, contact

Tara Mochizuki at taram-

och@pcabell.net or calling

(415) 731-8873.

“Three Treasures” says: “Rare is it
to receive life in human form; yet,

now I have received it. Rare is it to hear

the Buddha Dharma; yet, now I have

heard it.” It is quite remarkable that

we have received life as humans are

given the opportunity to hear

the Buddha Dharma. How grateful we

are.

However, we who have arrogance

and the wrong view can’t easily

delight in the truth of Buddha’s
guidance. Nonetheless, Amida

Buddha’s compassion never aban-

dons such arrogant beings, and

always holds us warmly. When we

realize this, we will really see that we

are foolish. Seen in the compassion-

ate eyes of the Buddha, what can

such beings do, but to rely upon,

embraced as we are, even with our

faults, the Great Vow

So it is not a bad thing that we

have dreams for a casino and or

lottery win. And if we win the

lottery, we may be very elated, well

and good. But let us be ever grateful

for our existence and delight that we

are able to hear the Buddha Dharma.

Well, I will just out to buy some

Lotto tickets now….

In Gaseso

**Osho Thoughts**

By Rev. Don Castro

Seattle Betsuin

The following message is excerpted from my sermon that was delivered to the BCA National Council the morning of Saturday, March 2nd, 2008. It is a response to your question and the Wheel of Dharma English Editor, Rev. Ken Keno Shohata, asked me to publish a written version of it. This is the first of two articles.

A few weeks ago, I took a tour of our BCA National Council classrooms. I like to see what is displayed on the walls. On the wall of our first floor second grade classroom, there is a poster with the title “Our Hopes for the World in 50 Years.” Each of the fifteen children expressed a wish almost all of which concerned the environment. And yet, from my perspective, one of the most profound things we can do for our children…for the sake of all living beings, we need to save the earth.

Our temples should be models of what we preach; the truth of interdepen-

dence. And yet, from my experience, many of our temples seem not to take the ecocrisis seriously. We can log in our own backyards: We see the garbage washed up in our waters, we see plastic refuse in our rivers and waters it is as if we are dumping or washing down the drain.

There are two enormous areas in the Pacific Ocean referred to as “The Garbage Patch” which has so many pieces of plastic per square mile that it is described as a “plastic soup.” Look it up on the internet. What a legacy to leave future generations!

We must hold our temples to be models of environmental responsibility, each temple needs to adopt a “Green Policy”, and if you have to change your organizational bylaws you do it… I have drawn up a sample paragraph from the Board of Direc-

tors so that everyone knows what the policy is and what the temple stands for. It will be up to all the affiliated organiza-

tions to abide by the policy and there will be no hurrying feelings or confronta-

tions. Each individual can make individual decisions that have printed and posted their green policy, the temple should post it’s policy and display signs in all the inner rooms of the temple so that the BCA National Council rooms.

Start your day with us. The Center for Buddhist Ed-

ucation would like to invite you and your family to come to the Jodo Shinshu Center and experience traditional early morning meditation sessions (such as those held at the Hongwani in Kyoto).

**Daily Schedule**

6:30-7:00 AM Service and an Interactive Dharma Talk 

7:00- 7:30AM Tai Chi 

7:30- 8:00AM Chagayu Breakfast (Traditional Monk’s vegetarian meal)

**Day**

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday

**Speaker**

Rev. Z. Taniguchi Rev. K. Umezui Rev. T. Kujo Rev. K. Umezui Special guest speaker

**Topic**

Adoration and Gashho Namkubu (Buddhist Name’s) Buddhist Table Etiquette “Eating (explanation)” Surprise

**Contact**

Rev. Umezu at (510) 809-4169 or Email: director@cbe-bca.org

**Donation per day:** $10.00

Note: This is an open session and participants can choose which days they wish to come.

If you plan to attend and for more information please contact Rev. Umezu at (510) 809-4169 or Email: director@cbe-bca.org

**Continued on Page 6**
Socho Ogui Installed for Second Term

A special evening ceremony on June 6, Socho Ko-
shin Ogui was installed for a second four-year term as
the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

The installation was conducted at the new Jodo Sh

Socho Ogui was born in 1947 in Tokyo, Japan, and
went on to become a Buddhist monk and a leader in
the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. He has served as the
resident minister of the Seattle Betsuin since 1982.

Socho Ogui is a well-respected figure in the Buddhist
community, and his installation was met with great
enthusiasm and excitement.

The event included a Buddhist procession, music,
and a speech by Socho Ogui himself. The audience
applauded as Socho Ogui stepped up to the podium
to deliver his acceptance speech.

In his speech, Socho Ogui thanked all the people who
had supported him throughout his career and
expressed his determination to continue serving the
Buddhist community.

For more information about the Buddhist Churches of
America, you can visit their website at:
THANKS FOR THE 50-PLUS YEARS...

By Eiko Masuyama

Toshiko Akiyoshi and I have played in supporting roles as the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum. She has been focused on her work as a musical career when her father was killed in Hiroshima since 1945. Tsunoda Koshin Ogui was named jazz musicians and was welcomed by a sit down luncheon in May. After a guided tour of the Peace Park Memorial Museum, we were able to see the sight of the massive building that was destroyed by a nuclear explosion. The huge hole in the ground that was once the tower was also destroyed by a nuclear explosion. It is one thing to see Ground Zero on tv, but it is another to stand there and see the destruction that occurred. Already construction is going full speed on the new towers that will be there in the future.

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness; it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness; it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair; we had everything before us, we had nothing before us; we were all going along the way. – Charles Dickens

President’s Message

We expect a lot from our ministers. We forget that their primary responsibility is to share the Dharma. We forget that as part of this responsibility, they must continuously grow and learn. Yet we give them many more responsibilities such as conducting services, serving on public and/or community relations, clerical work, and much more. Most of them do not have the time to do those things and praise them. But we are often too quick to criticize them.

Many of our BCA ministers are approaching retirement. We are concerned about their financial security in retirement. We are concerned with a possible ministerial shortage. There are many issues facing us in retirement. We are concerned for 50 years of service as a Federation Dharma school teacher belongs, not to me, but to them. I was born into Sunday as long as I can remember. It was like I was born into Sunday like I was born into Sunday.

Women in American Buddhism: blending tradition, community and family

Speakers from Theravadin, Mahayana and Vajrayana traditions are invited to you to discuss with them how Buddhism works in daily American life. Please register online at www.shin-blsc.edu/denver.php. For more information, email at gansho@carolodowd.com

Obon Thoughts

Continued from Page 4

Almost anywhere you go in the world, you will find Obon celebrations. Some areas such as the kitchen and dining room are generally quiet with no noise. People are praying with no noise. It is a peaceful environment.

continuing our project. We have been working on this project for more than 50 years...
今月の法話
目連尊者とお盆の話

お盆がくるたび、開教先の先生は同じ話をくりかえします。
目連尊者とお盆

「はい、先生。ありがたい親孝行のほんですね。でも、たまには別の話をして下さい。」

「え？これで何を聞いていらしたのですか。モクレンさんのお話は、有り難い“悟り”の話しですよ。」

「へ？　え？」

母としての盲目的な愛情ゆえに死んでのちに穢れの世界に生まれ変わった母親を、お鉢修業のモクレンさんとはいながらも、純粋な布施行の功徳で救うモクレンさん。物語は、世界中の仏教国で親しまれています。お書きを聞いて感動したけれども、それから母の愛情、仏の慈悲、布施行の功徳といった数々の仏教の教えを学ぶことが出来ます。

だがしかしながら、話の手を追うだけでは考えきれない。真宗門徒は、同じ話を育てるまで何度も何度も聞き、同じ文章を繰り返すまでで会って、法語、法文の本の意味を学ぶのです。

われわれは、「彼方の五種相を顕れよくを見ずばびとに親鸞一人がたたき」と告白された方を宗祖と仰がっていることを忘れてしまわぬよう。つまり、聴聞することの“悟り”は、「法の話は、常に初めとして、且つ自分の事として聞く、ということになると思います。

それゆえ、モクレンさんの話はどのように受けとったらよいのでしょうか？

まず最初に仏教の基本に戻って考えると、この話はモクレンさんの内面に起こっている精神生活の反映であることに気づきます。お鉢修業の指導によって、すでに信じている世界にいていたモクレンさんが、まだ“完全に”というわけではなかった様子です。お母様の死に会い、心が混乱したようですね。穢れ道に落ちたお母様の姿は、実はまだ心の一番深くで自分に残っているモクレンさん本人の姿の投影だったのです。しかしそのモクレンさんはそのことに気づいてはいません。

そこでお鉢修業はモクレンさんの悟りを本当に完成させるために、最後の仕上げはどこでされました。

お鉢修業はモクレンさんに二月間の安居中の修行僧に対するお経の監督を命じられたのです。この仕事は、僧の極みをまがる事のないよう細心の注意が必要で、その監督は釈尊、允本尊者に次ぐ、三つの第三の重職です。モクレンさんは二月のあいだ遊行を忘れて何人もの修行僧のお世話をしました。それはそれまでもお鉢修業が与えた、徹底して他人を第一と自分を第二とすることのできるモクレンさんの為の修行でした。

二月後、モクレンさんは自分の心が以前の何百倍も自由になっていくことを発見しました。モクレンさんの最後の投げ石、お鉢修業の慈悲深い身教法によって打ち破られました。

そのことによってお母様は穢れの世界から救われたのです。そして、教えのあり難さを教えて聴聞の時、その口では「ああ、本当です。お鉢修業。　（南無阿弥陀仏）　」と叫ばれていたに違いない。

それゆえ、教えの美は何とようか自分の事として考えましょう。

モクレンさんの親孝行に共感するあって、ならず、つぎの親鸞聖人の言葉を耳によくうかなわしてください。

「私は、父母の親孝行のためをし、一生向きもまた念をいたしました、いま会は。（中略）ただ自力ですくて、いかに渾然中のしりをかき、これば、六道四生のあいだ、いれの業果をしめすもっとも、神通方便をもって、つまる有縁を度するべきなり。」（衆興抄第五）

お鉢修業に会うことが滅病わなかったわれわれは、自力のこころをふりすつて、法の根源から常にいる真言の光、慈悲の光に心から感謝したと思います。「ああ、本当です。法の光がすばらしくあります！（南無阿弥陀仏・ナームアムーダルン）」の“号叫”とともに、

モクレンさんのように敬意のあまり踊りだしたいのですが、心おどりでよいましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏。　なあみだふ、Nāmu-amida-bhū

ワシントン州白河仏教会（本願寺）

中村嘉慧
2008年度教化標語
世の中安穏なれ
2008年 7月号

国連で念仏の声 高らかに

夏の布教研究会ニューヨークで 平和をうったえる

私たち頑張ってます

現地仏教仏教の関係で京都で勉強する

ヒプノスペルマーラー、数学者、レコード

キャンペーンラップフル
今年もまた近辺（ニホニホ）の

キャラクターの声を

毎月、にぎやかに

お楽しみに！