BCA set for Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial

By Ralph Honda
750th Publicity Committee

Peace and Tranquility, the theme for commemorating the life of the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, is just days away.

During the weekend of Feb. 27 and 28, Shin Buddhists from throughout the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and representatives from overseas districts will gather at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose, Calif. for the Shinshin 750th Memorial Observance.

The event is being held in conjunction with the annual BCA Ministers and National Council meetings. Activities begin Sunday afternoon with a Symposium celebrating the life of Shinran.

Dr. Rev. Kenneth Tanaka, professor of Buddhist Studies at Musashino University in Tokyo will be the keynote speaker. Rev. Tanaka’s topic will be “Street Shinsho’s Wishes for Us and the World: From Inner Peace to Outer Peace.”

Following Rev. Tanaka’s message, the symposium continues where attendees may listen to one of four presentations. The speakers include: Rev. Tanaka (Japanese), Dr. James Dobbs (Shinsho and Eshshin), Rev. Harry Bridge (Shinsho and Music) and Jacqueline Kramer (Buddhism and Family Life).

Expanding the appreciation of Shinran’s life will continue with the Shinran Expo. The expo will include a Shinran Shonin video/slide show, and book reading and signing by the symposium speakers.

An Interactive Techno display of Jodo Shinsho communities, art displays from Dharma School students and “Life of Shinran” oil painting panels will also be part of the expo.

The day’s activities conclude with dinner banquet that includes entertainment, presentations and a message from guest speaker, Pieper Toyama, Head of School of the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu.

“Take Refuge in the Pure Music” is the theme for Sunday’s music service that will conclude the commemoration festivities. In honor of this special anniversary observance, the BCA has designated the Jodo Shinsho Center Berkeley, California as the commemorative project.

The BCA is accepting monetary donations towards the BCA Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Project. Please make your commemorative donation check payable to: BCA Shinran 750th Memorial. Mail your gift to:

BCA Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Commemorative Project

500th Publicity Committee

Saturday, February 27th

8:00 am – 10:00 am BCA Bookstore Terrace Room

11:00 am – 2:00 pm Symposium Registration Market Street Foyer

1:00 pm – 1:15 pm Opening Service Imperial Ballroom

1:15 pm – 1:30 pm Keynote Speaker – Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka Imperial Ballroom

Shinran Shonin’s Wish for Us and the World: From Inner Peace to Outer Peace

1:45 pm – 2:45 pm Shinran Expo Imperial Ballroom

2:45 pm – 3:00 pm Orientation

3:00 pm – 4:00 pm Session I – Symposium Workshops

Imperial Ballroom

Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka (Japanese)

4:15 pm – 5:30 pm No Host Social

Banquet

4:30 pm – 9:00 pm Guest Speaker – Pieper Toyama

Saturday, February 27th

7:15 am – 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal Imperial Ballroom

8:30 am – 9:15 am Session II – Shinran Expo

Imperial Ballroom

8:00 am – 9:30 am Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service

Imperial Ballroom

9:30 am – 10:30 am Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service

Imperial Ballroom

The Ending and The Beginning

This Wheel of Dharma article is my last as the President of the Buddhist Churches of America. The two year term is coming to a close. My last act as BCA President will be to adjourn the BCA National Council meeting on February 27, 2010 – my ENDING. Mr. Everett Watada will be installed as the BCA President immediately following the adjournment of the National Council – his BEGINNING.

At the beginning of my term, I summarized my role as the BCA President with three (3) simple statements: (1) support Socho Ogui – his initiatives and vision, (2) continue improving operations of the national organization, and (3) retire the debt incurred by BCA to realize the Jodo Shinsho Center (JSC). These priorities guided my efforts. Socho Ogui continues to make progress with his initiatives to make Jodo Shinsho a major religious tradition in the United States; but he needs our support.

BCA members continue to volunteer their time and energies to the national organization improving BCA’s monetary donations towards the BCA Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Commemorative Project. Please make your commemorative donation check payable to: BCA Shinran 750th Memorial. Mail your gift to:

BCA Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Commemorative Project

500th Publicity Committee

Sunday, February 28th

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Musical Program

“Take Refuge in the Pure Music” Imperial Ballroom

9:00 pm – 9:30 pm Informal Hospitality

Market Street Foyer

Sunday, February 28th

7:15 am – 8:30 am Choir Rehearsal Imperial Ballroom

8:00 am – 2:00 pm No Host Social

Imperial Ballroom

9:30 am – 10:30 am Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service

Imperial Ballroom

10:30 am – 12:00 pm Musical Program

“Take Refuge in the Pure Music” Imperial Ballroom

Web cast of 750th Observance

Not able to attend the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial commemoration but are interested in viewing the activities? You will be able to watch the event streamed online via the internet. Selected presentations and events will be web cast live on ustream.com As the Feb. 27 and 28 observance dates approaches, check the www.ingassho.com web site for more information.

Continued on Page 6
Buddhism without Borders: Contemporary Buddhism in the West

How has Buddhism outside Asia been shaped by diaspora and immigration? How has the increase in global tourism, communication, and capitalism affected the way Buddhism is understood, taught, and practiced?

These and other themes will be explored in a four-day conference March 18 - 21, 2010, at the West Coast Buddhist Institute, in the remote Santa Cruz Mountains of California. Major speakers will include Buddhist teachers and writers, including Buddhist Teachers Society members, and members of the public. The conference will be held at the Shoyu Shindo Center.

Many renowned scholars in the field such as Charles Pesch, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metzall will present their work along with promising new research by Prebish, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metcalf will present their work along with promising new research by Prebish, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metcalf will present their work along with promising new research by Prebish, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metcalf will present their work along with promising new research by Prebish, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metcalf will present their work along with promising new research by Prebish, Richard Hughes Seager, and Franz Metcalf will present their work along with promising new research.

More information and a complete schedule will be available at www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org or www.bcahq.org.

San Francisco, CA 94109

RegISTRATION: $2.50 ea.

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English Editor: Rev. Ron Kobata

www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org or www.bcahq.org

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Buddhism without Borders: Contemporary Buddhism in the West

An exploration of Buddhism outside Asia has been shaped by diaspora and immigration. How has the increase in global tourism, communication, and capitalism affected the way Buddhism is understood, taught, and practiced? How new practices, new groups, and new beliefs are emerging in Western countries?

March 18-21, 2010
at the West Coast Buddhist Institute
21400 Cynamon Avenue, Berkley, CA 90040

Registration is open to all who are interested and is $25.

Please consult the conference website for additional information or contact Scott Mitchell (scott@shin-ibs.edu) for more information.

EDITOR’S NOTE: Because National Council occurs at the end of February, we would like to report and share the event with you. Therefore, there will be a delay in readers receiving the March WOD.

This new item and others will be available at the upcoming 750th Memorial Observance for Shinran Shonin, to be held Feb. 27-28, 2010 in San Jose.

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Reflections: BCA Endowment Foundation Celebrates 80 years

By Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka

Because a paragraph was omitted in the January issue, we are reprinting this story in its entirety.

The BCA Endowment Foundation quietly celebrated its 80th birthday this year! This was an amazing feat, considering that the year of its inception was 1929. Yes, the Foundation was formed during the worst time in the history of the United States, due to the stock market crash of 1929 that hurtled our nation in to what is known as “The Great Depression.” The foresight of our BCA leaders of that time is to be commended, as the financial foundation they established continues to grow and provide funding for our current and ongoing projects. One might consider the tremendous conviction of our BCA leaders in 1929 regarding the need for an endowment fund despite economic hardships of the time.

In 1925, the ministers and lay leaders of BCA began discussing ways to support the work of their organization for the future generations. It was to be called the Hokubei Kasyo Zaidan (Buddhist Mission of North America Foundation), more commonly known as the “Zaidan Fund.”

After extensive study and discussion, the necessary document was filed with the Secretary of State in 1929. The goal was $500,000, with a stipulation that the principal be untouched, and only the interest used. The use of the fund was primarily for the support of programs, such as Ministerial benefits, training, scholarships, publications, Scouting, archives, and, of course, education.

Due to the nature of the dire economic situation at that time and the financial circumstances of the membership, no active solicitation program was established. Funds were derived from gifts from concerned members.

After World War II, two programs were initiated to raise funds. The first was the Bishop’s Memorial Fund, where temple donations were to be sent to the fund and the second the $1.00 donation to the Zaidan Fund. The temple donations were to be sent to the fund and the second the $1.00 donation to the Zaidan Fund.

In 1964, the Zaidan Committee, felt the need to revitalize the investment program and changed the name to the Endowment Foundation with new by-laws. At that time they raised the goal of the Zaidan to $1,000,000. With the rise and fall of the market, funds held by the Zaidan were around

Reflections:
BCA Endowment Foundation Celebrates 80 years
Berkeley Buddhist Temple Hosts Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Celebration

Two hundred fifty people gathered on Nov. 15 at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple to celebrate Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial Service.

Participating were members from Alameda Buddhist Temple, Berkeley Buddhist Temple, Chenchu Buddhist Church of Oakland and Southern Alameda County Buddhist Churches.

Ministers participating in the service and program were Rev. David Matsutomo of Berkeley Buddhist Temple, Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi and an English panel discussion on “What

minister emeritus. Chairperson for the Service was David Ushijima with Ministers Assistants Edythe Vassall, Diana Thompson, Shigeki Sugiyama and Takashi Miyaji. Pianist was Emiko Katsumoto.

The service included Dharma messages given by participating ministers. Among the gathas sung was “Map of the Peaceful Way” commissioned by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawai‘i on the occasion of the 750th Shinran Shonin Memorial Observance.

Celebrative programs were Dharma School activities, a Japanese Dharm message by Rev. Taniguchi and an English panel discussion on “What makes the Dharma more meaningful for all of us. We may be far from home, but being part of a caring community is never far away.

In addition to the organized portion of the day, we also take some time off Saturday night to enjoy the Berkeley nightlife-which can be anything from bookstores to bars. Saturday night is all about unwinding from the day together before a Sunday morning service at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, and a wrap-up of the conference.

The name Technobuddha reflects our lives. We are a generation whose entire social and business landscape has been shaped by the information technology revolution. Our religious landscape has, too: our committee members meet by teleconference, gathering face-to-face just once a year at the Jodo Shinshu Center for the conference itself. Rev. Harry Gysko, Bishop, the resident minister at Oakland and last year’s keynote speaker, spoke to us about how the Dharma intersects so critically with the ways in which we communicate, and how we can think about it in new ways, such as his regular podcast.

The theme for 2010 is “Evolution,” reflecting the change and growth in our lives and those around us. Many of us are finishing up education, going back for something new, and growing our careers, or perhaps changing tracks entirely. Dealing with that change, something we can share and celebrate, together, and something that the Dharma can help us embrace. Coming together at the conference in April we hope to be able to bring the evolution in our lives together with Rev. David Matsutomo of Berkeley Buddhist Temple, the keynote speaker for 2010.

As a past attendee and committee member, I have enjoyed cooking and eating with new friends, the engaging discussion and workshop leaders, and the lively atmosphere that happens when you get people together who have something in common. All are welcome: our conference has had attendees whose first exposure to Buddhism was the conference, and those who grew up with Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. We’ve welcomed lawyers, engineers, schoolteachers, and students. Attendees have also come from northern, central, and southern California, and this year’s event encourages more young adults who want to reconnect with the Buddhist community from outside California.

If you are interested in attending, contact the Co-Chairs for 2010: Tommy Shepard (tkogas@gmail.com) and Stacy Nakashima (df14nak@gmail.com). More information and the registration form will be available on the Center for Buddhist Education website: www.bcseats.net.

In G Baton is originally from A B

The World, a Place Filled with Causes of Happiness

By Rev. E. D. Fuji San Luis Obispo Guadalupe Buddhist Church

Happiness is one of the oldest and newest goals in human history. There have been many examples of true followers who have experienced happiness, but for Jodo-Shinshu history, I would like to take this opportunity to share with you happiness and its way.

The Buddha addresses happiness and its way in “Sukhottar Sutta (Anada-Kay)” especially in Sankrirt. His words go as follows: The place of happiness is the world where every being never experiences physical and mental sufferings. The world is only made of immeasurable causes of happiness. That is why the world is called as the place filled with happiness.

Interestingly, the Buddha mentioned “immeasurable causes of happiness,” no “immeasurable condition of happiness.” In other words, he is saying that happiness begins with “cause” not “condition.” So naturally one begins to ask about the difference between cause and condition? Buddhism is a simple yet straightforward example of cause and effect. I have a tomato seed. The seed is called cause. But it is not enough if I want the tomato seed to grow into a tomato. I will need conditions such as soil, water, temperate, care, and other conditions in order for the seed to grow. If everything goes as planned, the seed will grow into a tomato. But you already know this.

However, even if I could arrange the perfect conditions for the tomato seed to grow, how can I get a tomato without the seed? Many people in history have sought for happiness, but most of them have failed. It’s mostly because people have been looking for, or chasing after, wrong causes and conditions for happiness. People have made efforts to obtain health, wealth, and longevity. But they cannot cause the well-being of happiness.

For example, when thinking of health, and longevity, automatically enemies are created. Sickness is an enemy for health and longevity; pain; premature aging, and death, are the enemies for longevity. People have made efforts to cause enemies for happiness. People have made efforts to cause enemies for happiness. People have made efforts to cause enemies for happiness.

These are the ones just for limited pleasures for limited time. They eventually disappear. Again, then what are cause and condition for real and true happiness? How can we experience and realize happiness?

In the “Sho-Shin-Gi” by Shinran-Shonin, it states “He (Shan-tao, 613-681) revealed that the Light and Name is the cause and condition for happiness; the Name, the Work of Right Assurance, is the cause, and condition for happiness. Fortunately for us, the true cause and condition for happiness come from Dharma. I do not have to create them, nor do I have to look for them. They are just given to me in form of Jodo-Shin-Shu.

In conclusion, we have identified how many people can easily feel happiness by simply chasing after the wrong cause and condition. The world of happiness is brought to us by the right cause and condition that it is the Dharma. This means that the cause and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody and condition for happiness are equally given to anybody.
The poetics of nembutsu

By Jerry Bolick

Buddhist Church of San Francisco

In his book of essays, Earth House Hold, Gary Snyder wrote that Buddhism is a 2,500 year conversation, a gentle human dialogue...on the nature of human nature and the eternal Dharma, the eternal truths of the universe which are a part of it. It is a “conversation” not just internal as much as with our selves as with others. It is “gentle” because its flow is naturally inquisitive—it is not about positions or beliefs. Yet it is vigorous, never lacking vitality, because at every turn it challenges the presuppositions of the human mind with myriad “practical methods of realization.”

Snyder is a poet, interested in language; and the notion of a human conversation is, to my way of thinking, poetic. Though too quick of a read here might suggest that he separates the “methods” he speaks of, from “the conversation.” After all, with the YAC retreat for anyone that is an unforgettable. I highly recommend it. Last summer, during the first retreat we had together as YAC year 5, I made a really strong connection with one of the other attendees, Matthew Nitta from Sacramento. We became really close, and he became someone that I really care about. I have never put up this invisible barrier that I had about overcoming fears and just being myself. Self-confidence is something that I’ve always struggled with throughout my whole life. Whether it was not fitting in or not being good enough, these are the types of things that have affected my ability to accept myself. A lot of times I put up this invisible barrier that I used to describe as a protection. Since fear is so powerful, I decided to do my Dharma Talk on it. My talk was about how fears are obstacles in life that must be overcome; otherwise we end up living with regrets and end up living in a shell. Everyday we become a different person, and by attending this retreat, I emerged a little more confident and not as afraid to be myself. But as Soyuz Ori said, “The significance of life is becoming,” and indeed it is a process that takes a lifetime. I’m extremely lucky and grateful for the opportunity that I have had to be a part of the YAC program. It really is indescribable. I hope that there are more retreats with the YAC program because I spent with everyone was memorable and unforgettable. I highly recommend the YAC retreat for anyone that is looking for an experience that will last a lifetime. Lastly, I would personally like to thank everyone for their memories that will last a lifetime.

Continued on Page 6

The BCA Center for Bud
dhist Education presented the 3rd Annual Baby Boomers’ Seminar - Our Path to Wholeness on Nov. 14, at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Nearly 40 baby boomers, from throughout BCA gathered from early morning and into the evening, listened, sharing and exploring pathways to leading an enriched, meaningful and joyful life.

“There are so lucky to have the creative energy and talents of many baby boom volunteer and resource people who help us to plan this third very special dharma gathering. Each year there seems to be a stronger interest in the dharma, and CBE looks forward to continuing to support that movement in whatever way possible,” commented Rev. Umezu, CBE director.

The main guest speakers for the seminar were Rev. Matthew Harada (OCBC) and Dr. Nobuo Haneda (Maida Center) who presented Buddhism 101 and Jodo Shinshu 101, respectively. Rev. Harada also provided an interactive session on applying Bud

hism in relationships generated lively discussions. Small group discussion sessions provided a rare opportunity for participants to exchange strategies for balancing the pressures of caregiving, retirement, health issues and more, in a safe and supportive space.

A highlight of another day of the panel was a panel discussion on “Other Pathways” featuring Rev. Don Drummond (Ryukoku University Berkeley Campus) speaking on Christian perspectives; and Som Pourfarzaneh, (Center for Islamic

3rd Annual Baby Boomers’ Seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

Explores Pathways to Wholeness at Annual Baby Boomers Seminar

The BCA YAC Reunion in Seattle, March 2008. With my busy schedule and junior year home work, I just didn’t know if I could handle it. Also the thought of more services, chanting and retreats in general weren’t exactly the types of things going through my head when I thought of a relaxing, four-day weekend. But then I thought of my life as a whole and wondered that I didn’t go I would even regret this decision. So last minute I became indecisive and thought why not. Although relaxing isn’t the word I would use to describe this reunion retreat, a phrase I would use is refreshing and adventurous. I have never been to Washington before, never taken a public bus, and never seen fish thrown at a market, but I must say, there’s a first time for everything. And in retrospect, it was all so novel.

We were only in Seattle for three full days, but in that amount of time we did so much. We bonded, ate, practiced the Shoshinge Wazans, walked around and toured the city, ate some more, lead services, took part in their Hoonko/Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial service, had a workshop with some former YAC participants, ate more, talked and just got to know one another a little better than before. My favorite part of retreats is always connecting with people and making new friends. Throughout the whole weekend, we were socializing with everyone, even during the workshops. A rather memorable moment which was when we had to write our own gatha as a group. Joy Sanwo is quite musical—taught, and she just started making up the song. We ended up singing it to the tune of Party in the USA by Milecy Cyrus. For those of you who know the song, some of the notes are pretty high. I remember Matt Nitta saying how when we were singing our gatha for the revengers, I was sitting next to Russell Kato, and when we got to the high notes, only a few people were still attempting to sing. I was actually really funny, and I couldn’t stop laughing. As I think back on that incident, I still get a laugh out of it. I guess it’s one of those “you had to be there moments”, so those of you who weren’t there probably won’t think it’s very funny.

But as I think back, my mind wanders back to last year’s retreat. Last summer, during the first retreat we had together as YAC year 5, I made a really strong connection with one of the other attendees, Matthew Nitta from Sacramento. We became really close, and he became someone that I really care about. I have never opened up the way that I opened up with Matt. After the second day of the retreat last year, he knew so much about me that I never share with people whom I just met. I have many sides and personalities, but usually I’m quiet and shy in a new environment. It takes time for me to warm up to new people, so this was a huge change and in a way an accomplishment for me. Matt and I still talk, and during my stay in Washington it was nice to see that even after six months, we still have that great chemistry. This retreat wasn’t just any normal retreat. For me it was also about overcoming fears and just being myself. Self-confidence is something that I’ve always struggled with throughout my whole life. Whether it was not fitting in or not being good enough, these are the types of things that have affected my ability to accept myself. A lot of times I put up this invisible barrier that I used to describe as a protection. Since fear is so powerful, I decided to do my Dharma Talk on it. My talk was about how fears are obstacles in life that must be overcome; otherwise we end up living with regrets and end up living in a shell. Everyday we become a different person, and by attending this retreat, I emerged a little more confident and not as afraid to be myself. But as Soyuz Ori said, “The significance of life is becoming,” and indeed it is a process that takes a lifetime. I’m extremely lucky and grateful for the opportunity that I have had to be a part of the YAC program. It really is indescribable. I hope that there are more retreats with the YAC program because I spent with everyone was memorable and unforgettable. I highly recommend the YAC retreat for anyone that is looking for an experience that will last a lifetime. Lastly, I would personally like to thank everyone for their memories that will last a lifetime.

Continued on Page 6
President's Message
Continued from Front Page
operations, however, procedural and other changes necessary to improve operations and efficiency. And although the monthly debt service has been reduced from $77,345 to $73,532 and the debt reduced from $11,800,876 to $7,236,838, the goal remains to eliminate the debt entirely as soon as possible. Please give generously to Campaign BCA – The 21st Century.
During my term as BCA President I had the honor of representing the Buddhist Churches of America at various events, solemn occasions such as funerals and celebratory occasions such as anniversaries. I attended and participated in many meetings and conferences, traveled to Kyoto, Hawaii and across the country, and corresponded with countless individuals via USPS mail and email.
I had many insightful discussions with Socho Ougi about his support and guidance. The BCA ministers are the heart of BCA; they dedicate their time and energy to helping us meet our needs to provide our ministers with adequate compensation and benefits.
The most gratifying experiences were working alongside BCA volunteers and staff who give their time willingly and generously. ARIGATO GOZAIMASU. As we close and share the Nembutsu together, Jodo Shinshu will become a major religious tradition in America.
Respectfully in Gassho

Wedding
Continued from Page 2
Tea was offered to Buddha, the couple, the bride’s par- ents and best man.
Japanese recording artist Shinoi Harada, who also performed his song “Heaven’s Door,” as the bride entered. A Japanese tea ceremony was performed by Pierre Serr- net, an Omotesenke tea master Pierre Sernet and his wife Karen Fowler gave a second of categories. At the end of the Baby Boomers Conference a dinner luau gave nourishment for hours of dancing provided by Rick Iden. The V & P committee hopes that these activities brought new members, brought back old members and allowed all to have fun with the Dharma. Once again, if you are reading this, you missed something intriguing, the V & P Committee invites you to join us in our activities.
As we hold services and provide activities we must also spread the Dharma. The V & P committee has supported many outside committee activities such as the movies Fowler showed, The Case Of Death At Okawua which was put on at the Jodo Shinshu Center, the Nembutsu Seminar, Rev. Rye’s Buddhism classes, pizza and beer night at Gary Mukai’s house, Curtis Koga’s talk at Pacific Fresno’s Bearin’s Spring and Fall Ohigan Lecture Series and the V & P committee provided funding for CCDC members to attend the Techno Buddha seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center. The V & P committee participated in the Fresno City College Asian Fest providing literature, wristbands and a chance to ring the bamboo to all those interested in our religion and culture. The V & P is proud of helping out the formation of the new CCBCA which was formerly the Ondoygo in which we are providing something to those who are between college age and mid-thirties. The Committee is proud to be able to help spread the Dharma across the valley by being active whenever and wherever our committee can.
The future of our committee includes the traditional V & P combined services in which we have already planned the December service with Rev. Marvin Harada in Fresno. The committee has confirmed that for the July 4th services will be hosted by San Jose to participate in the 750th service. And who knows what is going to be new for the V & P Committee, if you have any ideas let us know.
For the V & P Committee, 2009 has been very busy but at the same time it has been very productive toward our mission to support musical work for the Dharma
and new Buddhism,
今年の法話
勤続25年を迎えて思うこと
中垣顕実

今からちょうど25年前の1985年2月9日にサンパブリケス国際会館を創設し、また、国際仏教の教科書としての第一歩でした。ついにこの前から出ているとのふうな気がしますが、今年で来年、26年目の法教願寺として勤続25年になります。また、現在駐在させていただいているニューリー本願寺は16年になりました。時の流れの早さには驚かれます。思えば、様々なことがあった25年でした。家族をはじめ、友人、諸々の関係者、多くの会員の皆さんの支えによってこれからも支えられていただけると思います。この25年は、今また受けたご憶を再三感謝しています。

私はこの国で仏教僧侶として多くの豊かな経験に恵まれてきたと思っております。楽しんだこと、戦ったこと、成功もあれば失敗もありました。ニューリーでの同時多発事件からの経験は忘れられないものとなりました。また、日本からアメリカという言葉、習慣、文化、価値観などの違う国に生活する中で出てくる様々な困難問題にふれました。しかし、その困難こそが私の人生の肥料となり、後に花の花となる貴重な教訓を与えてくれたと思っています。両手、両脚、すべての経験に対する感謝の気持ちが、今度は私が皆さんにお返ししたい気持ちにさわるのでしょう。ただ単に年をとっただけで何もせまがありません。

何かさえ、国際仏教僧侶として次の章に入る年なのだから自分で勝手を考えてはいないのです。「初心を忘れず」と言えますが、「もしくはどこにたどり着けようか」言う習慣、習慣、違うこの国でお念仏念半のために少しでも希望がなければ本望と思って、25年間にアメリカにやってきたのです。もちろんそれだけの自信があったわけではありません。今から考えても「おまかせで来たんだ」と思います。怖いもの、知らないのか、無謀かという、恐らくできたことなのでしょう。

難しい是別にして、たまたま谷本大学で海外開教啓進課程を取ったところは私の人生が変わってしまったのです。高校生化は祖父お寺の住職をしているというくらいはお寺の生活はほとんど関係なかった私。大学に入る仏教を学びました。そして開教啓進課程を学んだためのアメリカ研修も参加し、大学卒業後は大阪の高校生に行けた仏教学校が好きで出会い、真宗を学び、25年後にアメリカにやってきたのです。その後はシナートル院、シナートル仏教会を経て、現在のニューリー本願寺に至っています。思う存分、大学までお経験されないような人生でなってしまったのです。人生がどこかで違うかな、ということを実感しています。

上の写真は、浄土真宗センターでの親御さん750回お念仏受け御講話（11月14日）で、飛騨に携わったことがある顧客の皆さんと、前からから原もマリー、トロイの（アメリカ）、クライヴ田川（パーソン）、萩原ゆう子（18S）、ジョーズ宮本（オアシス）、スティ・ブリンク（オーランド）、後ろから、マッフィー・スティムソン（サンフランシスコ）、ビクトーリーヴォン（ケンタック）、それまでに、この日16日は第68回半より九条、梅津前開教師、10月からはサンノゼの坂倉ジェラルド開教師の法話があった（敬意を賜ら）。
2010年度教化標語
世の中安穏なる
2010年 2月号

清浄楽を帰命せよ

宗祖を憶ふ

生の法師あり
家族と名づく
世に生まれて敬民の心あり
功績なり高尚の性を大わす

何にして愛染の断ち徹を知り
防に播へる道心を養ず
一生為して
大龍の締めらは

人間をかしきみになじむ僕は
利害のを知り離れ得ざるを知る
流れの生涯に常楽の願望を願い

闇の時分に天啓の浄化を願う

その人遍て数世紀
長に見せるかかし
その人去りて七百年
いままは生きるが如し

その人を憶いてわれらは生き
その人を忘れてわれらは迷う
崎克多生の様
まよびつけることなし

（注）この歌は有名な金山大院師が親鸞聖人
七百囲頭を迎えた折に詠まれたものです。今、
七百五十回頭を迎え、もう一度染めていただき
たいと思います。

一緒に歩もう

アゲダ・オレガノ仏教会（藤本デニス開帳）に
は『Pure Land Joggers and Swimmers』という一組変わっ
た参拝のグループがあります。何をするかというと、
近くの池のグランドまで一歩、二歩ずつしながら
走ったり歩いたりするのです。家族全員でしか
かりないで、お寺に出かけても、身体と心の健康のた
めに運動をし、お互い仏教会のことで、教理やそれ
ぞれが遠い人生について語り合うグループです。

もう一つこのグループが行っていることがありま
す。それは皆さんで集めた会費を自分たちのために使う
のではなく、毎年必要と思われる団体に出資するの
です。今年はその寄付金が仏教真宗センターにある

仏教 真宗センターに贈られました。

この会は昨年までに今年を二年目になります。写真はそのグループの皆さんです。いつももお元気で頑張ってください。なお、会の名前は
「一緒に歩むへの旅を続ける仲間たち」とも解釈できるのではないでしょうか。