January 1, 2016

At the beginning of the new year, I would like to extend my greeting to you.

On June 6, 2014, receiving the Jodo Shinshu tradition from my teacher I was enshrined as the 25th Monshu. To commemorate the occasion together with all of you in front of Amida Buddha and the Founder Shinran Shonin, Danto Hokoku Hoyo, or the Memorial Ceremony on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition will be observed at Hongwanji, Kyoto, Japan from this coming October 22.

With this observance as an opportunity, it is my hope that the Jodo Shinshu teaching will spread to as many as possible.

Be it Shinran Shonin’s time or the present day, the Jodo Shinshu teaching remains unchanged and continues to serve as our spiritual foundations. This is my wish. I hope the Jodo Shinshu teaching will be welcomed and supported by you and all who know us.

The Jodo Shinshu teaching was set forth by Shinran Shonin in 1253. Today the three-story JSC in 1930, the building which would later become the JSC was built by industrialist Charles Howard, owner of the famous racetrack Seattle, to use as a grand garage. The building later changed hands and housed Socho and Mrs. Ogui acknowledged and appreciated the generosity of BCA members and friends.

In closing, let us continue our journey along the Nembutsu path together with all of you in front of Amida Buddha. In doing so, throughout this year, let us reflect on our true selves, come to appreciate all the encounters of our everyday lives, and in gratitude, reciprocate the Nembutsu. Today the JSC is alive with activity: lectures will be distributed to BCA members and guests. Meanwhile, the JSC is acknowledged worldwide for its people, programs and facilities. Today the JSC is alive with activity: lectures will be distributed to BCA members and facilities. Today the JSC is alive with activity: lectures will be distributed to BCA members and facilities. Today the JSC is alive with activity: lectures will be distributed to BCA members and facilities.
I often hear people say that we do not have any practice, such as Zen meditation. I think each of you can start your own religious custom, for instance, saying Namo Amida Butsu in front of your altar. It will bring the Nembutsu teaching closer to you and you will start thinking about it more personally. We learn Buddhism by approaching our daily actions from a Bud- dhist perspective. It all begins by treating the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha with respect.

When I was growing up in Japan, my father chanted Shosho in front of our family’s home temple. Conducting a daily service, called swan, was a must. Japan, my dear country, very often has a few versions of Shosho before din- ner. After reading it in Japanese, we recite the English translation. Unfortunately, instead of sincere listening, we pick one section to read from The Teaching of Buddha or Dham- ma? without realizing it. This traditional Japanese Jodo Shonin family.

I am not suggesting that you chant an entire sutra every day (although if you already do so, please keep it up). I am suggesting that you pick a short passage from the Buddhist reading materials available to you and chant or read it out at your altar. I truly believe that we can be benefit tremendously when we take an interest in Shinten Shonin’s teaching. The Nembutsu teaching allows us to see the roots of human suffering and also gives us the cure for our pain and af- flictions. It shows us the way to live our lives without relying on some sort of supernatural power. It stops us from being violent. It stops us from fighting with each other. It shows us how to live in peace in the community. The world we live is made of people like you and me. The Attitude of Listening to Buddha Dharma. I am very fortunate to have received this gem from people be- fore us. They have given us many ways to receive the teaching. The Attitude of Listening to Buddha Shonin is one of them. Let us make every effort to attend the Annual Attitude of Listening to the timeless gift of the Nembutsu teaching.

I am looking forward to work with you in 2016 and sharing the joy of the Nembutsu teaching. From everyone who cares for you.

By Rev. Kojo Kakihara
Tacoma Buddhist Temple

Listen with “Heart”

The Attitude of Listening to Buddha Dharma

—Listen as if you are listening for the first time.

—Listen as if this is the last time you will ever listen.

I would like to express my deep appreciation to all of you for your support and guidance throughout the year 2015. I would once again like to ask for your continued support in 2016, for this will be a year full of memorable events. One of them is the tenth year commemoration of the Jodo Shinshu Center, our edu- cational facility. We are planning a variety of programs throughout the year to acknowledge this achieve- ment with everyone. Another event will take a place in Kyoto starting this year. The Nishi Hongyao in Kyoto will observe the Daini Hokkaiso Hoyo, the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. A series of ceremonies

Happy New Year! Every one, I wish each of you a happy and meaningful 2016 with the light of appreciation to all of you for your family altar or similar set up at your home. If not, I would recommend that you talk to your minis- ters tell me. But as time passed, I mini- ster, I had to be able to listen with my un- knownly, I found my- self in WOD. I was listening, yet I was not

Jodo Shinshu, listening is

very important. Through listening to Dharma talks, reading books, or reciting the nembutsu, we are able to hear and realize the heart of Amida Buddha. As we continue to become familiar with the teaching, the nembutsu begins to have true and great meaning in our lives.

In 2016, it is a good time to start something new, while reflecting upon the past year. It is also a time to remember and return to our original intention or beginner’s mind. I came to the U.S. and was first associated with our temple in Betsuin in January 2008. So 2016 is the ninth year as a Kaikyoshi for me. This has led me to think about what I can do while reflect- ing upon the past years. I think I have almost forgotten our original intention, and that we return to the beginner’s mind.

When I first arrived in the U.S., I had only dreams and visions. I was aware of new, I had to be able to listen and be nourished through the teachings of senior ministers and temple mem- bers told me. But time passed, I was sometimes I was not aware of my original intention or beginner’s mind. Unknowingly, I found my- self thinking thoughts like, “I know what I had heard that day,” or, “I understand what you say, but...” I was listening, yet I was not listening in the true sense. I real- ized that we hear things differently depending on how we listen even if we hear the same thing again. We are able to listen sincerely if we keep the beginner’s mind and are aware that the religious values of Jodo Shinshu are passed on to future America, including a hyperlink to the article. Documents should be sent as an email attachment to WODeditor@bcahq.org. Please include the article’s author or contact information. Although the image file size preferably in color, must be submitted as a PDF file. No printed attachments and never embedded in a Word document for full performance. Therefore, please do not submit .PDF files for the Wheel of Dharma. This publication is a nonexclusive publication. Individuals may read, quote, or photocopy articles in the Wheel of Dharma (“WOD”), forward WOD grants third parties an identical License in the Wheel of Dharma online (“WOD”) thereby grant WOD a royalty-free non-exclusive Licenses in the Wheel of Dharma online (“WOD”) thereby grant WOD a royalty-free non-exclusive License in the Wheel of Dharma (“WOD”) thereby grant WOD a royalty-free non-exclusive License in the Wheel of Dharma (“WOD”) thereby grant WOD a royalty-free non-exclusive License in the Wheel of Dharma (“WOD”) thereby grant WOD a royalty-free non-exclusive License in the Wheel of Dharma (“WOD”)

WHEEL OF DHARMA

Shosho

“Listen as if this is the last time you will ever listen.” in your life.

Happy New Year! New Year, every one. I wish each of you a happy and meaningful 2016 with the light of Amida Buddha.

Each January we hold the Hooenso service. As you know, Hooenso is the most important service in our Jodo Shinshu tradi- tion. It is held around January 16th which is the death anniversary of our founder, Shinran Shonin. Although it is the gathering in memory of Shinran Shonin, it is not simply a gathering to think of and lament his passing. As the name Hooenso describes, it is “the gathering to repay our indebted- ness” to Shinran Shonin and Amida Buddha.

In Jodo Shinshu, listening is...
By Dr. Kent Matsuda
BCA President
Emmanjū Buddhist Temple

On behalf of the BCA Executive Committee, I would like to wish everyone a Happy New Year of the Monkey. Many exciting BCA-related activities will be taking place in 2016. I hope that you can participate in many of them and personally grow.

On December 5, 2015, representatives from the eight BCA districts, BCA-related organizations, and directors at large met at the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley for the December National Board Meeting. Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the BCA, reported that Rinban Rev. Bob Ohitsu of the Organization and BCA staff distributed to ministers and temples online.

The BCA 2016-2017 budget anticipates an income of $2.3 Million and expenses of $2.4 Million. BCA participates an income of $2.3 Million and expenses of $2.4 Million.

The BCA National Board convened at the Jodo Shinshu Center on December 5, 2015. They are joined by BCA staff in attendance. The National Board approved a motion removing the January 15 deadline from the BCA Bylaws for independent agency accreditation. There are currently five students enrolled in ministerial study with two more anticipated to enroll in 2016. The Friends of BCA fundraising effort brought in over $50 K in 2015.

Investments in the Endowment Foundation did not do well in 2016. The allocation from the Foundation did not do well in 2016.

The BCA Audit Committee reported the successful completion of the BCA’s external audit. Dr. Fumiaki Usuki, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Blum is the author of “The Origins and Development of Pure Land Buddhism” (2002), co-editor of “Rennyo and the Roots of Modern Japanese Buddhism” (2005), “Cultivating Spirituality” (2011), and his translation from Chinese of “The Nirvana Sutra: Volume 1” (2013). He is currently working on completing “Think Buddha, Say Buddha: a history of nenbutsu thought, practice and culture.”

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A practitioner of life, a practitioner of life as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist – both depict the essence of my being. This is who I have become and this is the path which I continue to travel: a path I am not traveling alone, but with the oneness of all lives – past, present and future.

Life experiences continue to lead me to a higher awareness of a deeper truth of the meaning of life, and the meaning of death. The reality of interconnectedness, of interdependence, of the importance of understanding how actions and experiences live beyond our daily lives. We continue to shape my life.

I’ve come to understand that everyone is a teacher of life, a teacher of death. I’ve come to understand that some actions that may not make any sense to me can make sense when I take into account that other people have different sets of past experiences, past viewpoints, past knowledge, as well as of present actions and conditions.

I’ve come to learn the importance of living in the moment. The moment that will not return, yet have an impact on the future, not only my future but also the future throughout the oneness of life. Those encounters around me have shaped my life. It is liberating to see situations from other people’s perspectives.

Growing up with a mother and father and grandparents nearby, with an older brother and many cousins, life couldn’t be more idyllic. Even with the long hours my parents and grandparents had to work, we were happy to be together. However, early on, it was apparent that my brother was developing serious mental health challenges which were difficult for my parents and grandparents to see and accept. My brother’s problematic behavior escalated as the years went by.

My parents were reluctant to seek professional help and when they did, their mistrust of authority in general prevailed and their solution was to keep my brother hidden from others, not telling him life skills, but putting a plan into place for his care after their death. My brother is approaching the age of seventy, now and as I have become his primary caregiver, I could dwell on what his life could have been if my parents had been open to accepting his illness and had taken a more positive path.

Instead, my parents taught me that, from their vantage point, they were doing what they thought was the best path to take. All their decisions were made from their past experiences, from their generational perceptions of what the best course ought to be. Acceptance of this path is the lesson I have learned and that acceptance has brought me peace. My parents and my brother, as he is – are great teachers to me. They have taught me to accept life as it is.

I have learned so much about life through death. My husband suddenly died at the early age of fifty-one, leaving our two daughters without a father at the ages of twenty and twenty-two. Through his life and death, he taught us the importance of savouring life at that moment.

He was an adventurer, taking us on many trips throughout the world which allowed us to experience people, cultures and traditions that heightened our understanding of how things can be so different yet so similar. In his life, he taught us the joys of family, the joys of adventure, and the joys of discovery. In his death, he taught us that he continues to be part of our lives through his adventurous spirit, through his love and kindness. We are who we are because of him. We can see how much our approach to life has been shaped by him.

Within the last couple of months, my dear cousin passed away at the age of fifty-eight, after a five-year battle with stage IV ovarian cancer. We were cousins who were more like sisters growing up together. Our joys and sorrows were similar.

I've come to understand that some actions that may not make any sense to me can make sense when I take into account that other people have different sets of past experiences, past viewpoints, past knowledge, as well as of present actions and conditions. Through this process, my cousin taught me the value of appreciation of others by understanding that their lives are shaped through a series of their experiences.

Through my two daughters and, now, through the eyes of my grandson, I take joy in seeing the world through their eyes. My sixteen-month-old grandson teaches me to experience joy at that moment and that it is okay to get to mundane household tasks later. He has taught me to see the beauty of ordinary things around us during our walks in the neighborhood. As I interact with the next generations and share in their discoveries and joys, they, too, are great teachers of life.

Practicing Jodo Shinshu teachings as a way of life can bring a clearer understanding of our interconnectedness and interdependence. And that is a joyful approach to life and to death.
The 2015 Hongwanji sponsored Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE), sponsored by the Hongwanji-ji in Kyoto, Japan, took place from July 15-23, 2015. Fifteen members of the BCA, led by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and Bishop Kodo Umezu, met up with members from the Hawaii, Canada, and South America overseas districts. To gether, the group of some 40 members gathered at our mother temple, Hongwanji, in Kyoto, and participated in joint activities with Japan YBA (Young Buddhist Association) members and a homestay with temple families. The following are excerpts from responses to the Wheel of Dharma’s questions from several of the BCA youth participants: Blythe Nishi, Noel McGraw, Ross Leong, Kalyin Atima, Darcy Nishi, Corie Yaguchi, Ahn Thu-Vo and Jenna Tokeshi. Part I of this article was featured in the December 2015 issue.

3. What new or interesting Dharma insights or affirmations did you encounter during your trip?

Noel: During class at the Hongwanji, the English translator opened my view to see Buddhism in a new light. He taught us that Amida Buddha is a personification of the teachings of our religion, to help us better understand the principles of Buddhism. From this lecture, I saw that we do not look only to a person for guidance and wisdom, but rather the teachings that he embodies.

Darcy: As participants in the program we also acted somewhat as ambassadors in the sense that we represent the global interconnectedness of Jodo Shinshu followers and there is no destroying those memories we have created with each other during YBICSE.

Corie: My homestay family had an enormous Obutsudan in their house. This is another example of how Buddhism is such a large aspect of daily living for them in Japan.

Alie: During the end of the trip, Jenna Tokeshi eloquently talked about “Namandabs” moments. “Namandabs” moments are moments where we are grateful even if it’s just a small action. Throughout the trip we would hear Bishop Umezu and other ministers would quietly recite the Namaretto. During the trip, it felt like every moment during the trip was a “Namandabs” moment.

Jenna: Before the trip, I knew you said the nembutsu when you felt an overwhelming sense of gratitude that could not be explained in words. Even with this basic explanation, I never really knew what this feeling was. In Japan, being with all the other amazing ministers, I would constantly hear them say “namandab” under their breaths and wonder what they were thinking. At first I thought it was just something that reverends did, but I found myself understanding more about these “namandabs” moments and letting a couple slip out unexpectedly. As I opened my eyes, I saw things to be grateful for everywhere.

4. How did your participation in the YBICSE program affect your life as a BCA youth?

Noel: Participating in the YBICSE program has been the most amazing and inspiring experience in my life so far. I am so grateful to have been given the opportunity to participate in such a life-changing journey.

Reo: The trip increased my knowledge of general Buddhism. It made me realize that we should continue the traditions and uphold our culture as BCA Youth.

Kalyn: By going to the Hongwanji, getting up early for 6 am services, and spending time with a temple family, I have been able to have more appreciation for the temples I have been able to go to here in the US, as well as my own home temple. By going to the place that is largely responsible for bringing Buddhism to America, I have even more gratitude for those who came before me and founded all these temples here in the US that my generation and the ones to follow can use.

Darcy: My participation in YBICSE has made me reflect on what it means to be a Buddhist youth. I am much more motivated in seeing relations between the Nishi Honganji and the Jodo Shinshu community of Jodo Shinshu get stronger.

Corie: Being a part of YBICSE just made my passion for being a Buddhist youth grow…I really want to thank the BCA, Nishi Hongwanji, and the Hongwanji staff for giving us this amazing opportunity. I also want to thank Bishop Umezu and Rev. Nakano for putting up with us in Japan and really treating us like their children. They made us feel like a family while we were there.

Blythe: YBICSE has made a deep impression on my experiences and understandings as a Jodo-Shinshu Buddhist through the numerous activities and events that took place with Bishop Umezu, Reverend Nakata, the staff from Nishi Hongwanji and all of the participants from across the globe. I now understand how important it is to reflect on the lessons from the Dharma and how important it is to fully understand the connection between Japanese culture and Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism.

Videos on Jodo Shinshu & Buddhism

Now Available on YouTube.com

Winter Training: MAP & Tokudo - December 10-12

Fifteen certified ministers including six new Tokudo aspirants gathered for training on two tracks as well as combined sessions at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

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FDSTL Poetry Contest for Dharma Schools

Theme: GRATITUDE

The Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL) is sponsoring a poetry contest on the theme of “Gratitude.” It is open to Dharma School students in grades 6 to 12. Students may submit an entry on 8.5 x 11 inch paper to their Dharma School or learn more at the FDSTL website. Entries must be postmarked by April 25, 2016.

Individual districts will determine their own deadlines to allow time to choose the three entries and transport them to the contest. A number of lectures are now available from CBE programs.

BCA Youth Voices: Young people share their experiences in Buddhist Churches of America’s (BCA) youth leadership and Buddhist education activities.

2015 Hongwanji YBICSE - Part II

“Every Moment was a ‘Namandabs’ Moment”

Noel: During class at the Hongwanji, the English translator opened my view to see Buddhism in a new light. He taught us that Amida Buddha is a personification of the teachings of our religion, to help us better understand the principles of Buddhism. From this lecture, I saw that we do not look only to a person for guidance and wisdom, but rather the teachings that he embodies.

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Darcy: My participation in YBICSE has made me reflect on what it means to be a “BCA” youth and how different or similar that is from being a “Jodo Shinshu” Youth. I am much more motivated in seeing relations between the Nishi Honganji and BCA strengthen in the future, as it is of vital importance, as well as seeing the global community of Jodo Shinshu get stronger.

Corie: Being a part of YBICSE just made my passion for being a Buddhist youth grow…I really want to thank the BCA, Nishi Hongwanji, and the Hongwanji staff for giving us this amazing opportunity. I also want to thank Bishop Umezu and Rev. Nakano for putting up with us in Japan and really treating us like their children. They made us feel like a family while we were there.

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Japanese scientist and devout Buddhist, Tsuneo Iwasaki’s (1917-2002) genius was to deftly interlace his fluency with Buddhism, science, and imagery to encode paintings with metaphysical content by shaping microscopic and cosmic forms with the Chinese characters of the Heart Sutra, a treasured Buddhist text known for its profound wisdom and healing powers. Iwasaki’s scientific and Buddhist insights are integrated in a compassionate ethos of interdependence that aims to relieve suffering and offer healing wisdom.

Please join us for the exclusive West Coast exhibit of Tsuneo Iwasaki’s work curated by Dr. Paula Arai.

Dr. Paula Arai is a renowned author, speaker and professor of Buddhist Studies, who worked closely with Iwasaki while researching his paintings which illustrates the liberative power of the Heart Sutra.

Please note this change doesn’t affect donations to the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

For more information, visit http://www.shin-ibs.edu/events.

For example, if you want to donate to the 1000X1000X4 debt relief fund, please make your check payable to the “BCA Endowment Foundation” with “1000X1000X4” in the memo section. Also, please let us know what name you would like to be addressed by, and any special designations for your donation, e.g. In honor of someone.

Thank you for your attention and care.
冥土の旅の一里塚
ストックトン仏教会
開教使 本好 由紀子

一月は、父の亡くなった月で、今年でちょうどこ14年になります。父は、ハワイで65歳まで開教使を勤めました。父は、正月になるといつも、「門松は冥途の旅の一里塚、めでたくもあり、めでたくもなし」と言う、一休禅師の狂歌を口にしており、ハワイで開教使になってからは、修正会の法話には必ず使っておりました。その言葉は、まだ子供のころで、杖の先にシャレコウベをつけて立っている、旅姿の髭ぼうぼうの僧侶を連想しました。子供心に、訳の分からない恐れを抱いたのをおぼえています。その僧侶の姿は、大人になっても、消えることはないほど、強く私の心に焼き付いています。

誕生日を祝う慣習のなかった昔の日本では、正月が来ると、一つ歳を加えますので、正月は、おめでたい日と祝うのです。門松は、新しい年に歳神を迎え、宿ってもらうものとして、家々の門の前に立てたもので、おめでたいものとされたものです。一里塚とは、昔、街道などで、旅する人たちのために距離を知らすために立てられた塚です。

私の人生を旅に喩えたとされる一里塚は、正月に立てる門松は、一里塚のようなもので、一つ歳を取ることは、もう一歩、死に近づいたと言っているのです。つまり、正月とは、めでたい日でもありますが、裏を返せば、めでたくない日でもあると言っているのです。

毎年、一休禅師の狂歌を口にしていた父が、最後に救急室に連れて行かれたとき、「わしは、もう家に帰れないかもしれないな」と、ポツリと言いました。私たちは、口を揃えて、「そんなことはないよ。直ぐ、帰れるよ」と、励ましました。しかし、父は、自分の予測した通り、一週間後、1月31日に、お浄土に還っていきました。

父が亡くなる半日前、父に、「死んだらお浄土に行くという確信があるかを訊ねました。もう言葉を発することのできなかった父は、強く、はっきりとうなずきました。その夜、父は、家族に囲まれて、静かにお浄土に還っていきました。

今年も、正月を迎えるにあたり、一休禅師の狂歌と、父の强いうなずきを想います。無常の世界に住んでおりますので、老い、病気、死から逃れないことは分かっております。だからと言って、それら無常を、大手を広げて歓迎するわけではありません。できることならば、このまま、病気もせずに、もう少し、生き見えてみます。そして、その父の側に、阿弥陀如来が寄り添っているように思えるのです。一人で接する無常は、辛くて苦しいものです。でも、無常の世界を示し、共にその世界を歩んでくれる父と阿弥陀如来に寄り添ってもらう無常は、耐える事ができるのです。

今年、又、一つ歳を取ります。シャレコウベの杖もって一里塚の前に立っている僧の目が優しく思える正月です。
年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

私は、2014年6月6日に、前門主の跡を承けて法統を継承し、本願寺住職ならびに浄土真宗本願寺派第二十五代門主に就任いたしました。この法統継承を仏祖の御前に奉告する「伝灯奉告法要」を本年10月1日より、京都の本願寺にてお勤めいたします。この法要を機縁として、多くの人々に浄土真宗のみ教えが伝わることを期待しています。

浄土真宗のみ教えは、今から約800年前に親鸞聖人によって説かれました。そして、今日の私たちにまで受け継がれてきています。親鸞聖人の時代においても現代においても浄土真宗のみ教えは、変わることなく、私たちの生きる依りどころとなります。なぜなら、私たちは、いつ終わるか誰にも分からない命を生きているからです。明日、私が事件や事故にあわなければならぬ保証は誰も出来ません。

本年もお寺へお参りし、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞かせていただきましょう。そして、そのことによって、自分自身の姿を省みて、日々のご縁を大切にしながら、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏申す一年を過ごさせていただきましょう。

2016年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳

総長メッセージ

あけましておめでとうございます。

新年を迎え一年の計をたてる方も多いのではないでしょうか。今年こそはこれをしようとか、悪い習慣をやめようとして計画するのですが、続けることが難しいのが現実です。それで、できるだけ続けていけるようなことを計画し始めることが大切ではないでしょうか。

それで一つのアイデアです。私たち浄土真宗の門徒であれば家にお仏壇があると思います。もし無ければ今年こそ家の中にお仏壇もしくはそれに準じたものをお迎えしていただきたいと思います。そして、毎日お仏壇の前で少なくとも一日一度でもご挨拶することを勧めたいと思います。続けるためにはどんな形でもいいかと思います。とにかく、仏さまの教えに親しむための第一歩です。

私がアメリカに来た当時はまだ一世の方々が高齢ですがおられました。家にはお仏壇があり、お手入れも行き届いていました。また、病院にお見舞いに行きますと、枕元にはちいさな阿弥陀さまのご絵像があり、生活の中に仏さまのいのちがとけこんでいたのを忘れません。

ところで今はどうでしょうか。生活の中でそういう習慣が忘れられてきているのではないでしょうか。もしそうであれば、とにかくお仏壇の前で手を合わせ、お念仏をしてください。そして、その習慣を始めることを今年の計にしてはいかがでしょうか。もちろん、家族全員が一緒に参るということをすすめます。

よく私たちの宗教には座禅のような行がないという人がいます。しかし、お仏壇を家庭の中心にし、毎日手を合わせることを続けることは道とはいえないでしょうが、大切なたしなみの一つです。そういうところから、だんだんと仏さまと親しくなり、仏さまのお心を聞かせていただくことができるでしょう。

親鸞聖人の説かれた仏さまの教えは、私たち一人ひとりに、人間に生まれてきて本当によかったという深い喜びを与えてくれます。本当の幸せを感じさせてくれます。本当の満足を得ることができる、何かに祈る必要もない、争う必要もない道が開かれてくるのです。

一月には各地で親鸞聖人のお徳を讃える報恩講がお勤めされます。是非お参りいたしましょう。ことしもよろしくお願いいたします。

米国仏教団總長 梅津廣道