



JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA



# OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S UPDATE

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May this update find you and your family enjoying a peaceful and harmonious holiday season. Reflecting on all that has gone on in 2011, it was a year of great loss through natural disasters as well as turmoil created by mankind. On a more local note, within each of the temples across Canada there has been the loss of members who have passed on to the Pure Land. My thoughts go out to all who have experienced loss over the past year.

The following is an update of some of the activities that has been going on Nationally since August, when the last update was put out.

## Update on Governor General Shoshin Tachibana's Visit to Canada



From August 16 to August 21 Governor General Shoshin Tachibana visited Canada together with International Department Head, Rev. Sammi Kiribayashi. Over a very short visit, Governor General Tachibana visited the temples on the west coast as well as visiting the possible site for the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention in Calgary and visits to both the Calgary Buddhist Temple and the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in Lethbridge.

The purpose for their visit was threefold. First, it was to get to know the temples in Canada and to learn a little about the various challenges faced by the temples here in Canada. The second reason for the visit was to see the possible venue site for the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention. And the final reason was to come and explain about the major changes undergoing at the Hongwanji Temple in Japan.

The Hongwanji is presently in the process of reorganizing the whole structure of the organization, changes the likes which have not been witnessed in modern history. Whereas presently, the International Hongwanji Administrative Body, the Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto and the Tsukiji Hongwanji Temple in Tokyo are all being run by one administrative body, under the new changes the three entities will be run independently of one another. The thought is, by doing so, each body will be able to better suit the needs unique to them as opposed to one organization trying to oversee everything. This year has been spent in preparing all of the procedures and documents necessary in order for the changes to be implemented by April 2012. It is still uncertain how this restructuring will affect the overseas propagation.

### **Rev. Orai Fujikawa assigned as minister of Salinas Buddhist Temple**



Just recently I received the news that Rev. Orai Fujikawa received a working visa for the States and will be moving to Salinas, California in January to serve as the minister for their temple. On behalf of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada I would like to thank Fujikawa Sensei for over 45 years of service in Canada and we wish him all the best in his future endeavours at Salinas. For those who wish to contact Fujikawa Sensei, he can be reached care of the Salinas Buddhist Temple at 14 California St, Salinas CA, USA 93901.

### **Hongwanji Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE)**



From July 27 ~ August 9, 6 youths from across Canada were led on a wonderful trip to Japan to participate in the Hongwanji Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange program. Asa Kariya, Adam Taguchi, and Tadashi James Nagao of Toronto, Charlotte Ikuta and Lisa Sakamoto of Lethbridge and Dylan Ikuta of Richmond, BC all

came back with glowing reports on the rich cultural and religious experience they had over the two week trip.

A special thank you to Rev. Aoki, and Ms. Joanne Yuasa from Vancouver who together went to great length in coordinating and leading this trip ensuring that the youths would have an experience of a lifetime.

As a follow up to this trip, since there is no scheduled trip for Japan in 2012, plans are in the works to hold an international youth reunion in July of 2012 for youths who have participated, either from last year or from previous years in the YBICSE program. The plan is to hold this reunion in July of 2012 to be held at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California. For further information regarding the planned reunion in Berkeley, please contact Rev. Aoki at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple.

### **Ministerial Association Meeting & JSBTC Fall Meeting in Lethbridge**

This fall, from September 14 ~ 18, the JSBTC Ministerial Association and the JSBTC National Board of Directors held a joint fall meetings hosted by the Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta in Lethbridge. The ministers gathered on Wednesday, September 14 and held their meeting all day Thursday. The Board members arrived on Thursday and on Friday, a special team building workshop was held, led by Ms. Trudy Gallagher of the Calgary Buddhist Temple. The workshop was an awakening experience as we all learned more about ourselves as individuals and also how to accept others for their individuality. Through the workshop there was a greater sense of cooperation and togetherness between the Board members and the Ministerial Association.

Also as part of the weekend, most of the Board Members stayed until Sunday afternoon when a town hall meeting was held between the Lethbridge congregation and the Board Members of the JSBTC. A sizeable crowd stayed after the morning service for the town hall meeting and opinions and ideas were shared regarding the future of the temples in Canada. The challenge that lies ahead for all of us collectively is how do we go about implementing some of those ideas. Thank you to the Lethbridge temple for hosting the meetings and to Ms. Gallagher for leading the workshop.

### **Kamloops Buddhist Temple Celebrates 65 Years of Service**



The Kamloops Buddhist Temple celebrated its 65<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Service on November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Both JSBTC President Dave Ohori and myself attended the Banquet on the Saturday evening at the Kamloops Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. On Sunday, service was held at the Kamloops temple to honour all those, past and present, who contributed in making sure the Buddha Dharma was alive and well for the past 65 years in Kamloops. Thank you and congratulations to the members of

the Kamloops temple for your years of dedication and commitment to the temple.

As part of the weekend to the Okanagan, I took the opportunity to visit the Kelowna Buddhist Temple on Friday evening and spent Saturday morning with the Vernon Buddhist Temple members. During the visit to the Kelowna Temple, a Sarana Affirmation Ceremony was held with two individuals, Mrs. Barbara MacCarl and Mrs. Karen Stewart received their Dharma names. Congratulations to both ladies for making the decision to try to live your lives according to the ideals set forth by the Buddha.



### **Ingo Presentation**

The Posthumous Title Shin-Gyō In (Entrusting Heart) was issued to Mr. Yukio Tanemura of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple on December 19, 2011. Mr. Tanemura entered into Nirvana on December 9, 2011 at the age of 75 years. The JSBTC recognizes Mr. Tanemura for a lifetime of dedication to the Kelowna Buddhist Temple community.

### **Sarana Affirmation**



As mentioned above, on Friday, November 4, 2 members of the Kelowna Buddhist Temple participated in the Sarana Affirmation Service in which they took an oath to try to live their lives as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists and received their Buddhist names. Congratulations to Mrs. Karen Stewart and Mrs. Barbara MacCarl for receiving your Dharma names and Thank you to Miyakawa Sensei for helping organize the service.

If your temple has individuals interested in taking the Sarana Affirmation Service, please let me know so that I can coordinate it as part of my visitation when I visit your temple.

### **Update from Christina Yanko**

There has been some major changes in the life of our ministerial candidate, Christina Yanko. Since the last update in July, Christina has gotten married and the newly wed couple is expecting their first child in May of 2012. Although her pregnancy and birth of a child will create new challenges for Christina and her husband, Dave, we are very happy for the expecting couple and extend our best wishes upon their marriage and the coming addition to their family.

Christina is presently spending the Holidays in Alberta and will be joining us in Vancouver in January for the Pre-Tokudo Orientation program from January 5<sup>th</sup> to the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Tokudo and Kyoshi Ordination for 2012**

At present, we have four individuals across Canada who are preparing to receive their Tokudo Ordination in 2012; they are, Prof. Jeff Wilson associated with the Toronto Buddhist Temple, Mr. Ken Madden associated with the Calgary Buddhist Temple, Ms. Joanne Yuasa associated with the Vancouver Buddhist Temple and Ms. Christina Yanko, the JSBTC Ministerial Candidate. All four come from very different backgrounds, but they

all share the same desire to assist in the propagation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada. Plans are underway to have Jeff Wilson and Joanne Yuasa participate in the May Tokudo Ordination and for Ken Madden and Christina Yanko to participate in the September Tokudo Ordination. Once Christina has completed her Tokudo Ordination, she will be eligible to attend the Kyoshi Ordination to be held in December, 2012.

This is the first time in the history of our Kyodan that we have so many individuals at the same time, who are planning on receiving their ordination. This is truly an encouraging sign for the future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Canada.

### **Pre-Tokudo Orientation Program**

As part of the preparation for the Tokudo Ordination, we have organized a Pre-tokudo Orientation Program to be held at the Vancouver Buddhist Temple from January 5<sup>th</sup> ~ 8<sup>th</sup>. For this program, the above four individuals planning on receiving their Tokudo Ordination in 2012 will be attending. In addition, Mr. Dennis Madokoro from Toronto Buddhist Temple and Ms. Jessica Main with the Vancouver Buddhist Temple will be joining this program. Both Dennis and Jessica are on different parts of their spiritual journey and are not yet prepared to take the Tokudo ordination in the coming year. However, they were asked to join the orientation program to assist in their development.

### **Update on the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention**

Our National JSBTC Women's Federation (WF) Board of Directors have put together a proposal to host the 2015 World Buddhist Women's Convention at the Convention Centre in Calgary, Alberta. A preliminary budget has been created and presented for approval from the Hongwanji in Kyoto. The organizing committee is looking to host the convention with maximum participation being set at 2,000 people. The JSBTC and JSBTCWF would like to ask all of our members to support the National WF Board in their endeavour to move forward with the hosting of this important event.

### **Update on the Status of the Living Dharma Centre**

Many of you may be wondering what has been going on with the Living Dharma Centre since the passing of the director, Dr. Leslie Kawamura. Although a great void has been felt with the absence of Dr. Kawamura, there has been a small group of individuals who have worked to keep activities going. Through the efforts of this committee, a pilot project was undertaken to try using electronic media so that smaller centers could hold services, even without the presence of a minister.

In my acceptance speech as Socho, I mentioned one of the goals that we should be striving for is to ensure that all the temples across Canada are being able to hold services on a regular basis regardless of whether or not a minister is present. The LDC has endeavoured to bring this to fruition but we need the participation from more individuals. **I will be contacting each temple in the New Year to see if we can get a LDC liaison from as**

**many temples as possible to assist us in knowing how the LDC can better serve each local chapter.**

### **Canada to Host the World Coordinating Council Meeting**

The Jodo Shinshu World Coordinating Council Meeting is an annual meeting of Bishops from the various Overseas Districts along with representatives from the Hongwanji. The meetings are held to coordinate the global propagational strategy of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism for the coming year. It is an opportunity for the different district representatives to gather and share ideas on how to propagate the teachings. Every year the host for these meetings change on a rotational basis and next year will be Canada's turn to host. The 2012 meeting will be the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary since the meetings were first held, and it will be held from May 27 ~ 30 in Vancouver.

### **International Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange (IHOPE) Program**

The Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley, California will be hosting the first International Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange program from April 10 ~ 13 for all Overseas Ministers of the Hongwanji. The IHOPE program was created to allow ministers from Canada, Hawaii, BCA, South America, and even Japan to gather to exchange thoughts on the challenges faced by ministers in the Overseas Districts and to jointly share in ideas in how we may meet those challenges together.

Since this IHOPE program is still very new, the first gathering will be a pilot project for the future. As such, the Center for Buddhist Education has agreed to sponsor the event by providing accommodation and meals for ministers who may be participating, however, it would be the responsibility of the individual to arrange for transportation from their temple to Berkeley, CA.

Even though there was no budget set up within the National Organization for this project, may I ask each of the temples to consider sponsoring your minister if they wish to attend this conference as I'm sure it will benefit the individual by allowing them to network with ministers from around the world.

As you can see, there has been quite a lot going on since my last update and there are a number of events coming up in the New Year. May I ask all of you for your continued support and guidance and may I wish all of you a Peaceful and Harmonious New Year.

In Gassho,  
Grant Ikuta, Bishop  
Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

#### **UPCOMING DATES**

January 5~8	(Thurs-Sun)	Pre-Tokudo Orientation Program in Vancouver, BC
April 10~13	(Tue-Fri)	International Hongwanji Overseas Propagation Exchange in Berkeley.
April 25~29	(Wed-Sun)	JSBTC Annual General Meeting Weekend in Winnipeg, Manitoba
May 27~29	(Sun-Tue)	Hongwanji World Coordinating Council Meeting in Vancouver.