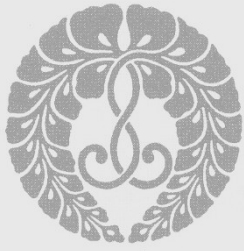


MAY 2012



Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission

Phone: 808.622.4320 ☛ Mon-Fri 8 am to 12 noon ☛ email: office@wahiawahongwanji.org
Website: www.wahiawashinbuddhists.org
President: Mr. Glenn Hamamura ☛ Minister:



**GOTAN'E
SHINRAN'S
BIRTHDAY**

A Dream of a Devout Shin Buddhist

In 1959, upon moving to Hawaii from Japan, Mr. Tasuke and Mrs. Ayame Terao, owners of Terao Nursery became members of Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission. When Mr. and Mrs. Terao visited the temple, they noticed that the temple did not have a statue of "Shinran sama". While they were living in Japan, they would always put their hands together in gassho and pray to Shinran. They missed that and had hoped to do the same here in Wahiawa.

They discussed their dream of having a statue at their adopted temple and with Mrs. Terao's blessing and encouragement the couple saved their money with the goal of purchasing and gifting a statue to the Wahiawa Hongwanji Temple. So for thirty years they saved; they fulfilled their dream and purchased the beautiful statue of Shinran sama that stands in front of the temple. In 1988, this gift was presented at the temple's 80th Anniversary celebration. Besides that, they also donated the huge bell (Bonsho) and the bell tower (Shoro) which is located next to the Social Hall. Mr. and Mrs. Terao departed to the Pure Land in 2011. Namo Amida Butsu.

To the Terao family, thank you very much.

A Life of Awakening

Shinran Shonin (1173-1262) was the founder of Shin Buddhism. Shinran was born into the Hino family. At the age of nine, however, Shinran entered the Tendai temple on Mt.Hiei, where he spent twenty years in monastic life. From the familiarity with Buddhist writings apparent in his later works, it is clear that he exerted great effort in his studies during this period. Here are some of his famous quotes.

Shinran's Quotes:

"We should know that Amida's Primal Vow does not discriminate whether one is young or old, good or evil, and that true entrusting alone is needed, for it is the Vow that seeks to deliver sentient beings burdened with foolishness and blind passions."

"The Nembutsu is non-practice and non-good for those who practice it. It is non-practice for us, because it is not the practice which we do out of our own contrivance; and it is non-good because it is not the good, which we do out of our own contrivance. It is entirely due to Other Power (Natural Power) and is free from self power."



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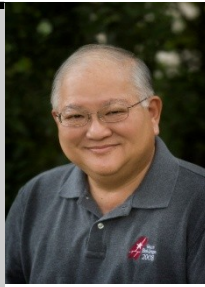
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WHM newsletter is published by friends of the Dharma. Volunteers are welcome to serve on the committee. Please send comments and change of address to WHM office or email at news@wahiawahongwanji.org. Roy Higa, Editor



President's Message

Glenn Hamamura

MAY 2012

The big news for May is that our next minister who has been assigned by Bishop Eric for the Wahiawa Hongwanji Mission is to be **Reverend Kojun Hashimoto**. **He will be joining the temple as of June 16th.** You may have remembered Reverend Hashimoto who was our guest speaker for our Spring Ohigan service, which many of us met his wife, daughter and son. We are very fortunate to have the Hashimotos join our temple family. Reverend Hashimoto's current assignment is with the West Kauai Hongwanji, which is composed of several temples. We look forward to a very positive collaboration.

In preparation for the arrival of the Hashimoto family, we are working diligently to have the residence ready for their arrival; as well as to ensure that the temple car is ready for Reverend Hashimoto's use. Many members are working hard for this effort. I am very grateful for the many hours that the volunteers are giving to complete this renovation and for the great job they have done. Thank you.

As the arrival of the Hashimotos become imminent, we will be scheduling events to have everyone meet the family as well as to have the Hashimotos meet all of you. They will be arriving just about the time that we will be having our Obon activities. It will be a great time for introductions and discussions as we work together for the 2012 Bon Dance.

Temple operations will continue, as well as other maintenance projects which are ongoing as we repair our aging infrastructure. The board is considering a fund for long-term maintenance. As this develops, I will communicate as to what our needs will be, and how we will be able support the fund. We are finishing up some work in order to get our kitchen fully certified. Also, the columbarium roof needs to be repaired immediately. The maintenance committee is doing a great job in keeping the facilities repaired, and their work is greatly appreciated.

We thank Dale Shimaura and Jack Tsujihara for helping our members with their memorial services, as well as with the funerals that have been conducted to date. With many different ministers from the Oahu district, we need to coordinate for each service, therefore, without the dedication of these two individuals, we would have a difficult time in making these services happen. There are also volunteers who continue to help in cleaning the temple and facilities. Also, others help by opening and closing the columbarium.

We'll share more information about the Hashimotos next month. Thanks for your continued support of the temple.

—In Gassho,—

Glenn Hamamura

Dharma Talks

By Rod Moriyama

Christianity and Buddhism – Taken from summer lecture series 2008 by Dr. Carl Becker

Ever wonder what to say when surrounded by Christian friends? Embarrassed that you don't know how to respond? Even though I attended Buddhist Sunday school when I was young, I also attended weekly Congregationalist Chapel service on Wednesdays as part of the curriculum for the private school which I attended. I actually enjoyed both. Then I graduated from high school. While attending the University of Michigan, I became very homesick and vulnerable.

In my freshman year, Billy Graham visited our campus. I thought it would be interesting to see him, so I went. He scared the daylights out of me. He said that if I did not accept Jesus as my Savior, I would burn in hell for all eternity. Subsequently, I started visiting churches just wanting to learn more. I went to Catholic mass, Presbyterian services, Episcopalian services and Lutheran services. I preferred the protestant services as they were familiar to me. I even joined the bible study groups. On one Sunday while sitting in a Lutheran church, it suddenly dawned on me that this is all about having faith. During this period of exploration, I did not accept Christianity; although I believe that Jesus did exist. I was comfortable with the thought that religion, especially Christianity, is about faith in God. I went back to my engineering studies not pursuing further religious studying again for a long time.

It wasn't until I heard Reverend Masao Kodani many years later talk about Christianity and "creator god religions" in that my curiosity in religion was once again revived. At that time, we had very close friends who were very strong Christians. Of course, I also had close relatives who were strong Christians. Whenever we were together, they were always trying to convert me. It wasn't until I heard Dr. Carl Becker that I really had someone articulate the gnawing conflicts I had with Christianity. They were:

1. If the Ten Commandments say, "Thou shalt not

- kill!" how are so many religious wars justified?
2. What about all the people who came and went before Jesus?
 3. What about all the people who never heard of Him?
 4. How does one justify as "God's will", the suffering of so many innocents?
 5. Sin, even if for an instant, means eternal damnation if one doesn't embrace the Savior.
 6. Over time, man has performed many acts of violence in the name of Christianity, How is that justified in the eyes of God?
 7. There is a sense of exclusivity in Christianity. If you don't believe, you are damned. There are good Christians, and there is everyone else.

Have these thoughts bothered you too? I have nothing against Christians or God or the beliefs of others. I just question some of their actions and their need to convert others...even to the point of war/violence. Christians believe that these are human acts of frailties not in accord with God's commandments.

So is Buddhism different? Buddhism has a completely different approach. It is more a way of living and coping with the "curves" in our lives. It is an evolving study of a way of living. Buddhism is misunderstood so many times, because it is viewed from a "creator god" perspective. There is no Beginning or an End in Buddhism; it is mostly about living this life as positively as possible. It is the acceptance that life is filled with suffering, and how we choose to live with this reality, is up to us. There is no "Judgment Day" or "judgment." The Law of Karma is about reaping what you sow. It is an argument for logical consequences. Buddhism's focus is living a life of gratitude and happiness.

Buddhism is a different way of thinking from Christianity. It is not in opposition. Buddhists think that there is no problem in accepting both. Buddhism is a lot more tolerant of other religions, as there is no "right or wrong" as part of a judgment. Thank you for the opportunity to present some thoughts that have been bothering me for many years.

In gassho, Rod Moriyama

Please continue on the next page.

Concept	Buddhism	Christianity
Time Orientation	Multi-dimensional parallel universes; a cyclical, process orientation.	Linear. There is a beginning and an end.
Role of God; Why things happen	Physical universe simply evolves. There is no blame attached to anyone or a God.	God is the center of the universe. He is the Beginning and the End and the rationale for all action. He is not easily understood.
Man's Basic nature	There is a "Buddha" in every person. Man is fundamentally good.	Original Sin is the term used describing the sin of disobedience to God's commandment to Adam and Eve to not eat the fruit of knowledge.
Why do we have death and suffering?	Recognition that life is all about suffering. Suffering is caused by our own failings: ego-centricity, anger, greed, ignorance, stress. Death is a transformation and part of life.	Suffering is the will of god. There is life everlasting after death if you believe and accept Jesus Christ as your savior.
Judgment	There is no right or wrong (duality) in Buddhism...only what is. There are consequences of our actions due to karma.	Rightness and Wrongness is defined clearly. It is man's struggle to manage this. Acceptance of Jesus as Savior is the answer.
Prayer	No petitionary prayer; only meditation and expressions of gratitude.	Petitionary prayer is common as God is the grantor of everything. Also prayer of gratitude to God.
Behavioral focus	Focus is on managing our happiness and also that of others through compassion and understanding in this lifetime, in the present. In Shin Buddhism, it is to believe that Nirvana, or Pure Land, is granted through the infinite light and compassion of Amida Buddha, a metaphor for understanding this concept. Nirvana is all around us and not limited to "another place" like "heaven." Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Self transformation ✿ Accept all conscious beings ✿ Practice the loving forces of compassion ✿ Understand the power of interconnectivity ✿ Change ourselves to fit reality ✿ Change others through understanding and kindness. 	Focus is on living a life favorable to God. The ultimate destination is "heaven" and the belief and acceptance of "Jesus Christ is The Way." Actions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✿ Follow the precepts dictated by God (fundamentally ethical, virtuous behavior) ✿ Accept Jesus Christ as the Savior; and ✿ Spread the word of God to convert others. <p>*The language thought to be spoken by Jesus is Aramaic. Just as Sanskrit went through many translations and interpretations to get to English. Religions have the problem of being accurate in exactly what was meant. There are many schools of thought as Aramaic is translated into Hebrew, Greek and other languages, then ultimately into English. Buddhism has the same problem; going from Sanskrit to Chinese to Japanese to English.</p>
Personal focus	There are many schools of thought in Buddhism. Many paths to Enlightenment are explored. Most are individualistic. Shin Buddhists are focused on the community because Enlightenment is believed to be assured.	The relation with God and the acceptance of Jesus Christ as the Savior is an individual decision. There are many sects of Christianity.

Temple News

Gotan'e & Baccalaureate Service

On May 13 we will be celebrating Gotan'e, the 839th birthday of Shinran Shonin, founder of Shin Buddhism, with Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani, executive assistant to Bishop Eric Matsumoto. It was Shinran who realized the uselessness of certain religious practices unless they sprang from a spontaneous and natural outgrowth of the pure heart free from self-generated intensions. The following are teachings about Shinran from the Dharma School student's handbook.

Shinran Shonin, I admire your firm faith,
Ever present in your writing;
It is the expression of your kind, sincere heart.

Shinran Shonin, I accept your messages,
Telling me to examine the values of being born;
I trust your words.

Shinran Shonin, I will try to follow the way of life,
That you have shown me;
And I will always recite the Nembutsu,
With courage, gratitude, and reflection.

At the same service, we will be honoring students graduating from high school into a new phase of their life, and announcing the recipients of the Dharma School scholarships. We'd like to invite any graduate to this service. After the service, we will be going out to lunch at the Helemano Plantation from 12:00 noon. Please call the temple office at 622-4320 if you are aware of a graduate to honor. If you would like to join us for lunch, you may sign up on the clipboard after Sunday service or call the temple office. The cost of the lunch is \$10.50. Come and celebrate!

Dharma School

We will have Dharma school on May 6 and May 13.

Food for Thought

"The state of aloha can be created in an instant. It is a decision to behave with kindness, with generosity, wanting to give joy to another."

Auntie Irmgard Farden Aluli, *Chicken Soup from the Soul of Hawaii*

By Carolyn Uchiyama

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Stephen's Food Pantry

We will collect food on the first Sunday of the month – May 6. Thank you for the April food collection. We collected quite a lot of food for the Pantry. Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

Gratitude

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your rack, a roof over your head and a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 8% of the world's wealth.

If you are feeling thankful, repay the thankfulness bestowed unto you and do something for others.

Namo Amida Butsu





Yummie!!!

Pull Apart Ham

This ham was served at the February movie night. Everybody wanted the recipe, so here it is after receiving permission from Jon and Lori Eto's Auntie Jan.

1. Layer sheets of foil (heavy duty foil) in a crisscross pattern (about 6 or 7 sheets) in a baking pan.
2. Lay ham on foil. (Farmer John ham is best)
3. Seal foil tightly – ham should be able to bake in it's own juices without leaking.
4. Bake at 500 degrees for 1 hour.
5. Lower temperature to 250 degrees. Bake for 6 – 8 hours for full shank, 4 – 5 hours for half shank.

When done, unseal the foil and shred the ham (it should pull apart easily), place the shredded ham on a platter and drizzle the juices all over it!

From Carolyn Uchiyama

You may switch to a full color version newsletter just by e-mailing your request and e-mail address to news@wahiawahongwanji.org.

Mahalo

Excerpt from the book Hidden Buddha

Buddha is neither a god nor a creator, but a symbolic pointer to the ultimate nature of things—which are themselves impermanent and without essence.

Remember, too, these words of the Buddha:

- *If there is joy in the world*
- *It comes from desiring others to be happy.*
- *If there is suffering in the world*
- *It comes from desiring myself to be happy.*

WHM CALENDAR MAY 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 7pm- Dharma Mtg	3 7:30am Hosha	4 7pm-Advance Meditation	5
6 9am-Sunday Service Spk-Jack Tsujihara 10am-BWA Mtg	7	8	9	10 7pm-Club Asoka Mtg	11	12 8:30am- Altar Awareness
13 8:30am-Japanese 10am-English –Gotane/ Baccalaureate Service Rev Umitani 1pm OBon Practice	14	15	16	17 7:30am Hosha 11am-Hospital Visit (PD)	18 7pm-Advance Meditation	19
20 9am-Sunday Service Rev Okano	21	22	23	24	25 6pm-Movie Night	26
27 9am-Sunday Service Spk. Lily Horio 10am-Board Mtg	28	29	30	31 7:30am Hosha		