

## Kathmandu Hongwanji reaches top of Mt. Everest

Pemba Rita Sherpa(33), a member of Kathmandu Hongwanji (Hongwanji regional district, Nepal) and trekking guide supporting foreign groups, successfully made the ascent to the top of Mt. Everest on May 19, 2012. During a weekly service following his descent from the mountain, Sherpa shared his experience with fellow members, "I stood at the peak as a representative of Kathmandu Hongwanji. The air was thin and it was difficult to breathe. Although I was constantly worried about Acute Mountain Sickness (commonly known as altitude sickness) and sudden blizzards due to the unpredictable weather, I am happy that placing our temple flag at the top of the mountain has become a reality."

Wanting to learn Japanese, Sherpa started attending the Japanese language program at Kathmandu Hongwanji two years ago. In meeting Rev. Sonam Buthia, he also began attending weekly services, chanting the Shoshinge, listening to the Dharma, and learning about the Shinshu teaching. "Hearing the Dharma talks by Rev. Sonam, I have been able to encounter the true teaching of Amida Buddha. In realizing that my life until then was a world of superstition, I was really happy to have been able to encounter the true teaching. The first time I heard the Shoshinge being chanted, a sense of peace has spread within my heart and reciting the nembutsu was a feeling of relief. Carrying the flag, I climbed the mountain hoping to share the Shinshu teaching with the rest of the world to aim for world peace and express my feeling of gratitude in encountering the Shinshu teaching.

With an unsuccessful attempt last year, I was determined to decorate the mountain-top with the flag this year. To the Buddha's statue on the Everest summit, I made the offering of the flag and recited the nembutsu. When I don't have to work on Saturdays, I would like to attend the weekly services and learn about Jodo Shinshu" commented Sherpa.



Hongwanji Journal. July 1, 2012. pg 1.

## Canada hosts World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting in Richmond



The Hongwanji overseas districts of BCA, Hawaii, South America, and Canada, gathered with Hongwanji representatives in Richmond, BC (Canada) on May 28-29 for the 30th

World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting. The function and future of international propagation was the main topic of discussion.

Hongwanji Journal. June 20, 2012. pg 2.



## -The Buddha's Call to Awaken-

*Gu no Chikara*, written by Monshu Koshin Ohtani, has recently been published in English by the American Buddhist Study Center (New York). Translated by Wayne Yokoyama (The Jodo Shinshu Seiten English Translation Committee member) and supervised by Rev. Ichido Tokunaga (Hongwanji Kangaku Scholar), the introduction was written by the pioneer of Jodo Shinshu studies in the English-speaking world, Rev. Dr. Alfred Bloom (Professor Emeritus, University of Hawaii). Bloom writes "Monshu Ohtani writes about the responsibilities we as humans must be conscious of, going beyond the borders of individual faith. He also calls us to return to our awareness of our deep ignorance and foolishness, to return to our true Nature in order to resolve critical global crises."

Available through Hongwanji Press and overseas district headquarters. 1780 yen (\$15.00 US).



Hongwanji Journal. June 10, 2012. pg 3.

## -The Buddha's Wish for the World-

The book to affirm on how to deal with life



I'm from Vancouver, Canada and presently living in Yonezawa city, Yamagata prefecture, Japan. Back in February of this year, I had the blessing of receiving a copy of *The Buddha's Wish for the World* by Monshu Koshin Ohtani at the bookstore of Hongwanji, Kyoto.

I took the time to read the book leisurely. At times the messages in the book helped to affirm my thoughts on how to deal with life, and there were also other points where insightful moments were presented with a sprig of humor such as the chapter discussing parent-child relationship. It starts off with a question which was misunderstood and leads into the observation that a parents "age" can be interpreted as how long one has been a parent instead of how long one has lived. Those passages highlight how Monshu Ohtani's text contains warmth and insight with a dose of relevance.

It was a clearly written and engaging read which marked a welcome time to stop, pause and reflect on life and Buddhist Teachings. Hopefully others will find it as familiar and refreshing as I did whether they be newcomers to Jodo Shinshu teachings or those who have been embraced for as long as they can remember.

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Hongwanji Journal, May 10, 2012 edition, page 9,  
Readers Correspondence Column

