

850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth  
800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching

# Joint Celebration



Photo by Hongwanji Press

## Seven hundred eighty participants from USA and other districts attend observance

Attending the May 10 observances during the fourth session of the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth & 800th Anniversary of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching, was a total of 780 members and ministers from the overseas districts including the U.S. Mainland, Hawaii, Canada, South America, and the regional district of Taiwan. Participants were delighted to have been able to attend an event that is held once every fifty years.

The largest delegation of 518 members was the Buddhist Churches of America (U.S. Mainland which does not include Hawaii State) that consisted of groups including Seattle Betsuin, Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Oregon Buddhist Church, as well as students

of the English correspondence course offered through the Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO) based in the city of San Francisco. In addition, 167 people from Hawaii, 36 from Canada, 19 from South America (Brazil, etc.), and 40 from the regional district of Taiwan attended.

Simultaneous interpretations in English and Portuguese in the morning, and English and Chinese in the afternoon were provided. Participants listened to the interpretation through ear-phones and watched the monitor, as they were deeply moved by the atmosphere of the special observance. Jackie Henderson, a member of Calgary Buddhist Church (Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) shared "I was very impressed with my first visit to Honzan. I was overwhelmed by the spec-

tacle of people from all over the world, who share in the same Jodo Shinshu values and are gathered in the historic Founder's Hall taking part in the observance." Registro Hongwanji Temple member, Aiko Yagui commented "I am very happy to have been able to come with fellow sangha friends from Brazil to Hongwanji. The staff with their smiles were welcoming, making me feel warm." In addition, two ministers from the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada assisted in officiating the service.

The Confirmation Ceremony which followed both the morning and afternoon session that day included a total of 61 participants from the overseas delegations receiving their Dharma name. Receiving the Dharma names on behalf of the morning ceremony

participants was Brianna Hornig (Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church, BCA). "Visiting Hongwanji for the first time, I am truly happy to be able to take part in the Confirmation Ceremony together with my mom. Having received a Dharma name will become a big support for me that I hope to cherish" she said.

David Atcheson (Honpa Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin, Hawaii) delightfully shared "This is not my first time to Honzan. My family and I came over ten years ago on a trip through Seattle Betsuin. I feel fortunate to have returned to Hongwanji today for this unrepeatable milestone event. Visiting Honzan reinforces for me the history of the Jodo Shinshu tradition and the profound dedication of generations of followers. During the pandemic the circumstances resulted in



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Betsuin Sunday services to be shared online, which I have since been assisting with and hope to continue supporting Betsuin."

Many of the delegates from the four districts also took part in the

17th World Buddhist Women's Convention which began the following day on the 11th. In addition, groups toured Hongwanji-related historic sites and temples in Kyoto, Kanto, Hokuriku, and Kyushu.

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