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# Jushin 樹心

Volume 11 Issue 1 February / March

## Greetings from our new minister

By Reverend Marcos Jinen Sawada

Aloha! After waiting for six months because of this unusual time, we finally got to Kaneohe!

I'm Marcos Jinen Sawada your new minister, 56 years old, with my wife Norma and my son Nathan. Since February 1st I am the official resident minister of Kaneohe Higashi Hongwanji.

I came to Hawaii eight years ago as the minister of Hilo Higashi Hongwanji. Before living in Hawaii, I lived in Japan and in Brazil, the country I was born. I graduated at Sao Paulo University Physical Education College where my major was Physical Education. I also have studied Buddhism at Doho University in Nagoya Japan, the former Takeo Maeda Sensei's hometown. I have taught at different levels from elementary age to college students and adults. I taught Portuguese language, Japanese and subjects related to physical education. I have also been a fitness instructor, personal trainer and professional soccer coaching staff. I have worked as a Brazilian government general consulate worker also, business owner, translator and interpreter, massage therapist before finally settling as a minister.

When I was a child, I lived in several temples in Brazil, because my parents both were ministers for more than 40 years there. They had a really hard life spreading Buddhism in a country where 80% are Catholics, but they never gave up. My parents have been taking the Buddhism life as the most important thing for them. I saw their hard life on that ministry and I used to think to myself, "I'll never become a minister in my whole life!" But, in this life things happen and I cannot explain or deny what I'm doing here now.

Now a new start, I wish to grow together with you as a human being receiving your warm encouragement on this new path as your minister.

In Hilo I could realize my Hawaiian roots. When I would look up at the Mauna Kea mountain from the Hilo Higashi parking lot I would see that stunning view which used to make me feel one with the land, invoking in me a deep feeling of involvement in this Hawaii world!

The Hawaiian melodies I listen to when I drive, usually on Sundays and holidays bring me nostalgic feelings of the people of this land, the gorgeous nature and their relation with it. So hard to express, only the tears coming from my eyes can testify my pride in being part of this wonderful land and people.

## Welcome to the Sawada family

*left to right: Bishop Kenjun Kawawata,  
Nathan Sawada, Stan Sato,  
Rev. Marcos Sawada, Mrs. Norma Sawada,  
Dennis Kajiura, CharlAnn Nakamoto*



### Dharma message

Time to come to Kaneohe, a place where there is nice rain, beautiful mountain views and warm people. Kaneohe and Hilo both being in Hawaii, doesn't impact me as dramatically as if it were going to another country or culture. But we have anxious feelings of how it will be in a new place, what kind of feelings people in Hilo had about us or what the Kaneohe temple is expecting from us. Of course, these feelings are only our ego trying to make us appear to being impressive persons, hoping to make a difference to have people revere us.

This is an illusion I've created in my mind's expectation or reminding me that the concepts are being created because of my background. Actually, they are only the illusory span of time as the future and the past! Because of the memories in my mind which are associated with my emotions, they protected concepts as the past and the future. They create sensations of experiencing till the next new experience replaces the older ones. So, I am really not sure about my experiences as truth. I don't know and I want to know, both are an attempt to bring answers to my anxieties.

"I don't know and I want to know" actually means the same thing expressed in different words. They really just mean that I don't know and I'm not sure about it!

Master Shinran in his anxieties realized there are three kinds of faith (belief) to make us realize the immediate truth working: a) the true reality or ultimate reality, the dharma reality, AS IT IS (SHISHIN); b) The second I encounter from my spiritual experience "I believe (SHINGYO), the belief that this truth is without doubt and, C) the third is the belief that I can be born in the Pure Land or can be saved by Amida Buddha (YOKUSHO GAKOKU)).

For Shinran, every one of these three faiths, is converged in SHINGYO, the feeling of telling me that without doubt I will be born in the Pure Land! In actuality it is this second kind of faith, SHINGYO makes me realized the work of the Dharma of my incongruence of going to "believe and don't believe constantly" that means the true reality is absent of this self, ego or what I want to be. It is empty (空 KU) or no substance.

Importantly, what this teaches us is the realization that we know we don't know. Then we awaken to our own ignorance right now! In my case I have learned about my "self" ...the reality is without this ego. In gassho,

Namu Amida Butsu

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## New Year's Greetings

### Bishop Hiroshi Tajima

Chief Administrator, Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)



To all of you in our overseas districts, I wish to first extend my New Year's greetings. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation for the support and understanding you continue to give to our Sangha.

The COVID-19 pandemic is still a grave situation to everyone worldwide. I have heard that many temples and sanghas in the overseas districts have managed to share their Hōonkō service and other events remotely with our members using the internet.

Although we have faced many challenges caused by the pandemic, I think that this difficult situation has given us a chance to reflect more deeply on the meaning and significance of our services and temple events. It makes us realize that we should not take these for granted. From that perspective, we need to think about the direction our sangha should take as we move toward the future.

In April this year, the “Preparatory Event for the 2023 Celebration and the 750th Anniversary of the Establishment of Shinshū Honbyō” will be held at our mother temple in Kyoto. This will be a preview for the 850th Celebration of Shinran Shōnin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū, which will be held in 2023. The main theme of the April event is the same as the 2023 anniversary, “Namu Amida Butsu: To Discover the Meaning of Being Born as Human Beings.” We will livestream this event on the internet in order to comply with public health guidance. This will also enable us to share the theme of the event with people throughout Japan and around the world.

It is my sincerest wish that even though we are still living in difficult times, I will be united with all of you in the overseas districts in continuing to listen to the Dharma and work towards restoring and preserving the Shin Buddhist way of life.

In conclusion, I wish to ask for your continued support as we begin the new year.

Thank you.

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## New Year's Greetings

### Overseas District Abbot Yul Ōtani

Shinshū Ōtani-ha (Higashi Honganji)



To our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you all a Happy New Year.

Throughout the previous year, all of us have struggled in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic and it is still uncertain as to what the future will unfold. Despite the challenges, our overseas district temples devised a way to hold Hōonkō services last fall. I wish to express my appreciation to all of you in observing this most important service. I deeply missed the opportunity to attend the services held in the districts and to see all of you in person.

The teaching of Jōdo Shinshū which Shinran Shōnin clarified has always reminded us of the truth of the equality of all people regardless of nationality, ethnicity, gender, and age.

As the newly installed Overseas District Abbot, I have renewed my commitment to share the joy of having encountered the teaching of the nenbutsu. It is the embodiment of the original vow of the Buddha, which enables us to realize the equality of all people around the world beyond the boundaries of linguistic and cultural differences. In sharing the joy of encountering this teaching with each other, we can realize a world where all people are accepted as they are and treated with mutual respect. Such a world will enable us to discover the meaning of having been born as human beings and find true joy of living. I believe this is how we can find a ray of hope for the future of humanity.

On April 5th, 2021, we will hold the “Preparatory Event for the 2023 Celebration and the 750th Anniversary of the Establishment of Shinshū Honbyō” at our mother temple in Kyoto. It is my wish that this event will serve as an opportunity for all of us around the world to celebrate the birth of our spiritual forebear, Shinran Shōnin, together. For myself, it will be the chance to reaffirm my commitment to continue to listen to and learn from the teaching.

In closing, I share my sincere wish that our world will return to normal soon so that we will be able to see each other again.

Thank you

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## Social Physical Distancing

By Marcos Jinen Sawada, Resident Minister

This COVID brought some rules to our routine daily's life. We are in the time of "Social Distancing" – but as my sensei Bunsho Obata tells us,

"Social..." should be changed to "Physical ..."!

I agree with him because we are all interconnected with everything overcoming the sense of past or future, only the right now has everything we need to stay here and now, all that are enough and what we need. To realize it we need the interaction with others, "socializing" is the key point, we learn with other beings our mirror and the cause, conditions and effect. Socializing overcomes the barriers of the physical distance! Let us interconnect, socialize more! The temple has many points as a

"DOJO (道場)" that means a place to learn together! We will find more ways to learn together socializing as the SANGHA, the Community where the content is from the Dharma and the Buddha teachers.

This DOJO, the place to learn and to inspire, to listen to the Dharma bringing the real reason on being born as human.

## Jushin Acknowledgments

(donations and volunteer work, December 2020 through January 26, 2021)

**Nokotsudo:** Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama, Ernest & Misao Oda

**Gojikai:** Paul & Liane Briggs, Dayle Chock, Douglas & Jean Crosier, George Fujimoto, Jean Fukumitsu, Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama, Elsie Hataye, Karen Hayashida, Linda Hayashida, Karen Higashi, Ethel Ikeda, Dennis Kajiura, Jean Kanda, Yoshiko Kawakami, Sandra Kawate, Roy Kodani, Roy & Mary Matsuda, Thomas & Evelyn Nagano, Alan & CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian & Susan Ng, Clyde Nojima, Ernest & Misao Oda, Leighton Sakamoto, Stanley Sato, Eleanor Tokunaga, June & Barry Weled, Tokie Yoneshige

**Calendar:** anonymous, Liane Briggs, Dayle Chock, George Fujimoto, Yoshiko Hamaguchi, Violet Harada, Karen Hayashida, Linda Hayashida, Karen Higashi, Elaine Hirayasu, Ethel Ikeda, Dennis Kajiura, Jeanette Kam, Jean Kanda, Joyce Kawakami, Rhoda Kawamata, Sandra Kawate, Alma Kidoguchi, Roy & Mary Matsuda, Edith Miyasato, Linda Morita, Janet Mukai, Pauline Murakami, Thomas & Evelyn Nagano, Alan & CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian & Susan Ng, Betty Nishikawa, Sakiko Nishimura, Clyde Nojima, Ernest & Misao Oda, Eric Okazaki, Harold Sakaguchi, Leighton Sakamoto, Miyoko Shimoda, Linda Shinsato, David Suehiro, June Takeno, Eleanor Tokunaga, Gainor Tomokiyo, Betty Tsukamoto, Ethel Yoshimura

**Kyodan:** Amy Abe, Ann & Harry Akagi, anonymous, Kevin Azama, Liane Briggs, Dayle Chock, Douglas & Jean Crosier, Tam Nguyen Franco, George Fujimoto, Thomas & Suk Cha Fujimoto, anonymous imo Mrs. Edna Fukuda, Robert Grossman, Jan Hamaguchi, Linda Honda (imo Neil Honda), Alvin Iida, Diane Iwaoka, Mary Kagawa, Dennis Kajiura, Clifford Kanda, Joyce Kawakami, Rhoda Kawamata, Alan Koide, Florence Kunimura, Nelson Nakagawa, Gertrude Nakamura, Helen Nakaoka, Betty Nishikawa, Ernest & Misao Oda, anonymous imo Mrs. Tazu Oda, Stephanie Pauling (Onishi family), Leighton Sakamoto, Michael Takashita, Stanley Takemura, June Takeno, Eleanor Tokunaga, June & Barry Weled, Gail Yamamoto, Jean Yoshizaki

**Bodhi Day:** Reiko & Glen Hatakeyama

**Joya-e:** Roy & Mary Matsuda, CharlAnn Nakamoto, Julian & Susan Ng

**Shusho-e:** Roy & Mary Matsuda

**Preparation of minister's residence:** Stan Sato, Dennis Kajiura, CharlAnn Nakamoto

**Flowers:** Gladys Sakata, Harriet Yamada, Stan Sato

**Grounds Upkeep:** Stan Sato, Gladys Sakata

*We gratefully acknowledge the above for their generous contributions and assistance.*

*If we have inadvertently missed any names, please accept our apologies and let us know so we may correct our records.*

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# Jushin 樹心

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“ I don't know and  
I want to know ”

Rev. Marcos Sawada



**Joya-e**  
Year-end service  
December 31, 2020

## Coming Soon!

Services will soon be available for viewing via Zoom. Please check our website for updates.

<https://www.kaneohe.hhbt-hi.org>

## Temple Calendar

<b>February</b>	7	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
	14	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
	21	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
	28	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
<b>March</b>	7	Sunday Ohigan service 9:00 to 10:30 am
	14	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
	14	Rennyō Shōnin's Memorial Date Service at Betsuin via Zoom
	21	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
	28	Sunday service 9:00 to 10:00 am
<b>April</b>	4	Hawaii Buddhist Council Hanamatsuri (TBA)
	11	Kaneohe Hanamatsuri service (TBA)

Please note that all temple services listed above are held at the temple but subject to the latest Board of Health/State of Hawaii health directives. Please call temple at 247-2661 if uncertain.