



BODHI MIND



Vancouver Buddhist Church
220 Jackson Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6A 3B3
(604) 253-7033

vancouverbuddhistchurch.ca
October 2006
Issue 303

本願 (*HONGWAN*)

In Jodo Shin Buddhism, you may have heard the term of the Vow, or more specifically, Amida's Vow. You also might have heard over the years how in Jodo Shin Buddhism, we are "saved" by the power of the vow. This can be a source of great confusion for Jodo Shin Buddhists. What does the vow mean? How are we saved by the vow? Simply because it says so in the sutra that the Buddha has vowed to save us, how does that vow actually save us?

We can find in many English translations of Shinran-shonin's writings or Sutras, this vow is translated as the "Primal Vow." However, I prefer the translation of Dr. Nobuo Haneda, who translates the term *hongwan* (本願) as "inner most aspiration." *Hongwan* is not just the vow that is expressed in the sutra, but *hongwan* is the deepest aspiration with in our hearts and minds. It is the aspiration to awaken to our true self.

In our daily life, we have all kinds of aspirations or wishes. We might wish to win the lottery. We might wish for a new home or a new car. We might even have loftier wishes, such as to strive to become company president or to get into Harvard University. These wishes or aspirations, however, do not equate to the inner most aspiration. When we fail in our worldly aspirations, we become unhappy, depressed, disappointed, or dejected. In contrast, a person who lives with the innermost aspiration is never unhappy about unfulfilled wishes or depressed about failures in the worldly sense. This is because those aspirations do not equate to the innermost aspiration. The innermost aspiration is the most noble, the deepest, the highest of all aspirations. A person who lives with their innermost aspiration is always living a fulfilled life because they know the most important thing that they are living for.

Sinran-shonin says in one of his poems, that a person who touches the innermost aspiration never lives their life in vain. Shinran-shonin also expresses this innermost aspiration in one of his *wasans* (hymns) that goes as follows:

*The mind that aspires to attain Buddhahood
Is the mind to save all sentient beings;
The mind to save all sentient beings
Is the true and real shinjin, which is Amida's benefiting of others.*
(Collected Works of Shinran, Hymns of the Pureland Masters, p. 365, 18)

For Shinran-shonin, this innermost aspiration is the deep wish to become Buddha, to become awakened, to discover one's true self, and to live one's true life. This deep, innermost aspiration to become a Buddha is also at the same time, the deepest heart that seeks to save all sentient beings. It is the heart and mind that embraces all beings, whether good or bad, rich or poor, wise or foolish, and so on.

To live with this vow deep within one's heart, is to always live a fulfilled life. To live knowing one's

Hongwan, continued from page 1

deepest wish is to always have direction and focus in one's life. It is to never be lost in confusion or darkness because one always knows the direction of one's life.

We have to ask ourselves what is the deepest wish or aspiration of our life. Are we living chasing after worldly wishes or aspirations that we might fulfill, or we might not? If we fail to fulfill them, will we be devastated without direction or meaning in our life?

During the great depression when the stock market crashed, many people jumped out of buildings to their death. They could not face life having lost their wealth and fortune. They could not face life having lost their wealth or fortune. This is because wealth and money are only worldly and small aspirations of life. They are not the innermost aspiration. Someone who lives with the innermost aspiration even if they lose all their wealth or fortune, their life is not devastated. Their innermost aspiration is not destroyed, and their life continues to be fulfilled.

We should live with a deep wish, a deep vow, and deep aspiration for our life. Take for example, two nurses who work in a hospital. One nurse works with the aspiration of putting in thirty years and being able to retire with a nice nest egg. Daily, this nurse complains and thinking, "they give me too many patients. How do they expect me to take care of all of these patients? These doctors are such a pain to work with. We should get a raise for what we do."

The second nurse works with an innermost aspiration. This nurse's vow is to "heal all of the sick of the world." As this nurse works, the day flies by. Instead of looking at the clock anticipating quitting time, this nurse at the end of the day think, "Is it time to go already? But I didn't have time to take care of this patient or that patient. The patient in room 503 is really suffering. Maybe I could sit with that patient and try to ease their pain for a little while longer. What a gratifying day of work this has been."

Both are nurses. Both received the same pay.

However, one nurse has a worldly wish of making money, and the other nurse has a deep wish to heal the sick and to help those who are suffering.

"To be saved by the vow" means that the vow, the innermost aspiration, reverberates within our hearts and minds. We are not saved by the vow just because it says so in the sutra. We are saved by the vow because the vow has become our own wish, our own innermost aspiration to become Buddha, and to save all sentient beings. This is the highest and unsurpassed aspiration. There is no aspiration that is higher. The aspiration to become prime minister of Canada or president of United States is not higher. The aspiration to win the Nobel Peace prize is not higher. There is nothing higher than the aspiration to seek Buddhahood, to discover one's true self, and to save all sentient beings.

This is the vow that is expressed in the sutra as "Amida's Vow." But we are saved by Amida's vow when the innermost aspiration reverberates within our hearts and mind.

Namo Amida Butsu
Tatsuya Aoki

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BCC Day Service

The BCC Day Service is held each year at all the Buddhist Churches of Canada temples during the month of October to commemorate the founding of Jodo Shinshu with the arrival of Reverend Senju Sasaki in the year 1905. Just last year we celebrated the first one hundred years with the attendance of the Gomonsu-sama and Ourakata-sama to our very successful celebrations which were held in each of the four major regions across Canada.

A BCC Day konshi envelope will be distributed to all our members. According to the BCC by-laws, the konshi received from this Service is used to support the Religious Education Fund. The fund is used for the propagation of Jodo Shinshu in Canada through its educational programs, ministers' seminars, layleaders' program and the website.

The Buddhist Churches of Canada wish to thank those who have contributed to this worthy cause in the past. Once again, we are asking for your support. The total received in 2005 was \$9,555.25. Can we reach the \$10,000 goal in 2006?

In gassho,
Itoko Akune, Director
Buddhist Churches of Canada

WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION

Thank you very much for your caring thoughts, the many cards, the lovely flowers and the generous koden. On behalf of our beloved mother's wishes the koden has been donated in memory of SHIZUE KAWASAKI to the following:

*Aids to Independent Living-Red Cross
Alzheimer's Society
Shigakenjinkai
The Lion's Den-ADC
The Vancouver Buddhist Church
The Vancouver Japanese Language School*

*Domo arigato gozaimashita,
Ryota Kawasaki and family*

Greetings from the Valley

With back to school, and back to business, after the summer holiday breaks it was nice to have our September shotsuki and ohigan service. There is something very comforting about patterns and schedules. But at the same time it is exciting to contemplate all the events ahead of us. This may be why September seems to be a new beginning, in the middle of our calendar year.

Our October memorial and monthly service will be held on October 7 at 2:00. This will also be the final date to bring your 'white elephants' to the temple for our bazaar. The Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple chow mein and teriyaki chicken bento, craft, baking and white elephant sale will be held on October 14th from 11:00 to 3:00. We hope to see many visitors to our temple for food and omiyage buying.

Finally, congratulations to the Kamloops Buddhist Church upon celebrating their 60th anniversary.

In gassho
FVBT

Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple Fall Bazaar

Sunday, October 14
11:00 am to 3:00 pm

**** Crafts, baking, bento ****
**** white elephant sale ****

28941 Haverman Rd.,
Bradner, BC
(604) 856-2078

BC Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Churches Federation Fundraiser

The Vancouver Buddhist Church Community annually assists in supporting the BC Jodo Shinshu Federation's fundraising drive, by selling the BCJSBCF Raffle Tickets. Funds are directed towards projects which benefit Jodo Shinshu members and temples around the province.

Booklets have been distributed amongst select members in our community. If you would like to participate in supporting the Federation, please contact Gina Chor at the Vancouver Buddhist Church at 604.253.7033 to pick up your booklets.

For ticket holders, please note, this is a registered/licensed event and all tickets must be accounted for. Please return your sold and unsold ticket stubs and monies to the VBC office at your earliest convenience. Cheques may be written out to: **Vancouver Buddhist Church**. The money will be forwarded to the BCJSBC Federation.

Please return your ticket stubs and monies to the VBC office by **Sunday October 15th, 2006**.

Thank You for participating in making this a successful event.

BCC Day 2006

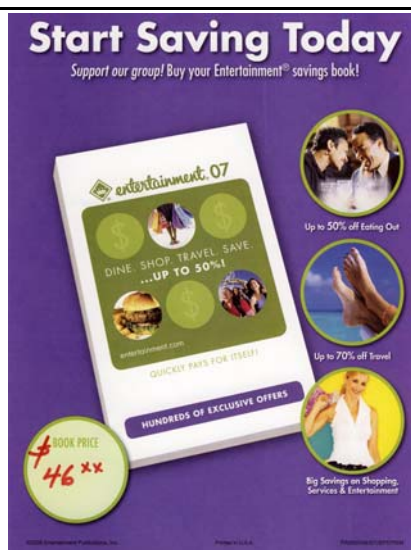
David Suzuki of Suzuki Foundation once told an interesting story of his experiment. Put a pan full of water on the stove and place a frog into it. Then as you switch the heat on, the water gradually warms up. The frog seems to enjoy the warm bath, swimming around pleasantly for a while. But then the warm water suddenly becomes very hot. Alas, it is too late for the poor frog to jump out of the pan.

Of course, he was talking about the global warming that has been slowly taking place in the atmosphere on the earth, though it is too slow for us to be aware of the crisis.

In August last summer we commemorated BCC Centennial with the presence of Gomonsu-sama and Ourakata-sama from Hongwanji, Kyoto and one year has already passed by since. At the last Annual General Meeting in April in Toronto we had a town hall type of discussion on how to rekindle or revitalize our temple activities both locally and nationally. The moderators later came up with a lot of good ideas, but I wonder how many people are aware of our crisis and implement some of those ideas in the year of 101st Anniversary of BCC.

Whatever tactics and strategies you may try, however, one thing that you can never forget is to sit down quietly and ask yourself if you continue to hear the Hongwan, Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, cherish and recite the Name each and everyday as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist.

Namoamidabutsu,
Orai Fujikawa



Books may be purchased at the VBC office or by calling Frances Minato at (604) 291-1538.

BCC Update October 2006 From the Office of Bishop

*A monthly update from the national headquarters of the Buddhist Churches of Canada.
11786 Fentiman Place, Richmond, BC, V7E 6M6. Ph: 604-272-3330, office@bcc.ca
www.bcc.ca*

October is the month of commemorate BCC Day as well as the month when you are able to see the most beautiful moon. First of all, I wish to join you in giving our thoughts to all pioneers who had dream to start the Sangha of the Nembutsu in this country 101 years ago and also to the people who have carried on their dream up to the present. May I count on you the present members across Canada in your continued support to BCC.

I can not imagine what kind of life our pioneers had lived in the beginning of the last century, but I am sure they worked hard from sunrise to sunset and even in the evening. And I am also sure that they often looked up in the sky and appreciated the beautiful moonlight. Today as we live in the modern days, we don't have much time to look up in the sky. Many shops and stores are open 24 hours a day and we have enough lights even in the evening and unless we look closely, we don't see stars and moon.

The sun and moon are shining 24/7, but we seldom recognize, nor appreciate them. May I suggest that you make sure to see the moon some time in October and also appreciate the calling of Amida Buddha that is constantly reaching out to all of us.

Namoamidabutsu, Orai Fujikawa

Coming events

- Oct 8 Hamilton Buddhist Temple 60th Anniversary
- 14 14 BCC Board Meeting in Richmond, B.C.
- 20-21 BCA Jodo Shinshu Centre Dedication in Berkeley
- 28-29 Kamloops Buddhist Temple 60th Anniversary
- Nov 11-12 Alberta/ BC Buddhist Conventions
- Nov 30-Dec 2 Oversea Ministers and Temple Leaders seminar in Kyoto

Let's All Go to the Ball Game....

This summer the Dharma School travelled down to Seattle to watch a Seattle Mariners Game and visit the Seattle Betsuin.

My most favorite parts of the Mariner's game was watching the play and them winning. I was real happy when they won. I also liked the souvenirs. I didn't get any. The game was really fun! I hope to do it again.

Haley Hirata

The Mariners game yesterday was fun. I never watched a Major League baseball game before. I've seen a basketball game before with the church. It was when I was younger, when we still had the Vancouver Grizzlies. It's too bad the Grizzlies lost then. I think we only lost by a basket. I like both baseball and basketball. Thanks (Seattle) for allowing me to join your service. I hope to be back soon! *Zachary Oyama*

The game was a little too long. It was gross because the bugs died and fell onto the audience. *Manley Xu*

Going to Seattle for a couple of days was pretty fun, but the highlight of the trip was the Mariners' game – the excitement in the stadium that night. *Leah Xu*

SHOTSUKI (Memorial) List—October

October Shotsuki/monthly memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2006

1958

TSUMURA, Chonosuke

1959

KISHIUCHI, Shigeichi

1961

HAMAGUCHI, Minoru

1963

NISHIMURA, Masao

1964

CHIBA, Zenashichi

1966

HAMAGISHI, Fujie

TAKATA, Minoru

1967

HAMAGUCHI, Takeshi

1968

FUKUHARA, Takakazu

MORI, Yasomatsu

NAGANO, Hideo

HOMMA, Joe

1969

WAKITA, Uno

ARAKI, Toku

NISHI, Tetsuo

1970

YAMASHITA, Shintaro

1971

MIZUNO, Shinichiro

1972

TANAKA, Shirosuke

HAYASHI, Yu

MOTOKADO, Kichijiro

1973

YOSHIDA, Toyozo

TAMAI, Hideo

1974—33rd Year

KOHARA, Yokio

1975

HAYASHI, Rinnosuke

HANAZAWA, Takezo

1976

TAKAOKA, Shoji

1977

SUGIE, Yoshi

TAKAI, Nobukichi

1978

TOKITO, Takeo

1979

NODA, Fukuya

ASANO, Kyosuke

ITAYA, Wakaichi

KOBAYASHI, Ryoichi

1980

TSUJI, Tokichi

TANAKA, Eiichi

1981

USUI, Kohei

SAKIYAMA, Sakiyama, Fujino

SHISHIDO, Ginichi

1982—25th Year

NISHIMURA, Gengo

HIKIDA, Shio

NISHI, Tora

OMOTO, Kunijiro

1983

HORIO, Kunio

1985

HIRANO, Wataru

ISHIKAWA, Tomoe Pearl

AMANO, Teiichi

1986

EDAMURA, Shige

URABE, Kiku

1987

KARIATSUMARI, Teru

IMADA, Ito

1988

HAMAGAMI, Natsu

UYENO, Sato

TAZAWA, Kazuo

1989

RAE, Fred

KAMO, Yasuhiko

1990—17th Year

SHIOZAKI, Kiyomi

UCHINAMI, Fujimi

1991

EBATA, Tayo

1992

MORITA, Yukio

TANAKA, Tokutaro

HAGANE, Sumiko

1993

KOYANAGI, Haruko

SASAKI, Toshi

HOMMA, Shingo

1994—13th Year

YAMAMOTO, Kenkichi

TAHARA, Hiroyoshi

INOUE, Juichiro

1996

KAWABATA, Kazuyo

1997

MIYASAKI, Mitsuye

TERASHITA, Satoru

TAKASAKI, Yoshino

MORISHITA, Shika

1998

MIYASHITA, M Joe

NOMURA, Akio

OYE, Shigeyuki

NAGAMATSU, Sakuo

1999

NISHI, Toshiko

TAMAKI, Yoshio

IKARI, Masao

KAGAWA, Masayeki

2000—7th Year

HIGEMATSU, Kiyoko

2001

ISAMU, Isamu

TAMAI, Isamu

2002

IMAMURA, Kojiro

HAMAGUCHI, Tamae

ITO, Sokichi

NAKANO, Miyuki

IHARA, Masako

STEVENS, Howard

2003

NOMURA, Daniel

SHIMOZAWA, Walter

2004—3rd Year

HONKAWA, Fumiye

2005—1st Year

NARITA, Noriaki

TSUJI, Mitsue

YOSHIMURA, Kazuhira

VANCOUVER BUDDHIST CHURCH—BODHI MIND

Vancouver Buddhist Church October 2006						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<u>1</u> 10:30 AM - 12 PM Family Service	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u> 12 PM - 12:30 PM Japanese Service 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Seniors Club	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u> 2 PM FVBT BCC Day & Shotsuki Service
<u>8</u> 10:30 AM - 12 PM BCC Day / October Memorial Service	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u> 12 PM - 12:30 PM Japanese Service 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Seniors Club 7:30 PM VBC Board Meeting	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u> 11 AM - 3 PM FVBT Bazaar
<u>15</u> 10:30 AM - 12 PM Family Service	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u> 11 AM Service at Nikkei Place	<u>19</u> 12 PM - 12:30 PM Japanese Service 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Seniors Club	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u> Dharma School Halloween Night
<u>22</u> 10:30 AM - 12 PM Family Service	<u>23</u>	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u> 12 PM - 12:30 PM Japanese Service 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Seniors Club	<u>27</u>	<u>28</u>
<u>29</u> 12 PM - 3 PM Fall Food Bazaar	<u>30</u>	<u>31</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u> 12 PM - 12:30 PM Japanese Service 12:30 PM - 3:30 PM Seniors Club	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u> 10 PM Toban Meeting
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat

Sunday Family Services are held every Sunday morning starting at 10:30 am. Following the service, children and students are invited to participate in Dharma School activities while the adults can participate in the Adult Dharma Discussions. During the special and monthly memorial services, the regular Dharma School activities will be held during the Japanese Dharma message. For more information, please contact the VBC office.

Details on special events may be found in this issue of the newsletter, on the calendar on the Vancouver Buddhist Church website, or by contacting the VBC office.

Please note...

Rev. Aoki will be taking his annual holiday from Oct 13 to November 2nd. Those who require the immediate assistance of a minister during this period should contact the VBC office..

Donations

The Vancouver Buddhist Church gratefully acknowledges the following donations received. We apologize for any errors or omissions. Thank you.

September Memorial

- \$ 10.00 , John Nakata, Kanji Suga, Kiyoe Yada, Narhari Joshi
- \$ 20.00 , Brad Bishop, Chieko Nishi, Frances Minato, George Yoneda, Harry Mizuta (Tadayuki Ohori), Henry Low, James Leung, Joyce Okahori, K. Kawashima, Kaoru Minato, Kazuko Takahara, Kazuma Sakata, Kazuo Mori, Mary Hamakawa, Mary Hamakawa (Hattori), Miwako Kasuya, Roy Tatsumi (Tadayuki Ohori), Sumiye Oye, T. Hasegawa, T. Inouye, Tim Hirata, Tomiko Jowett, Toyoko Terada, Tsunaye Julie-Ann Yamashita, Yoshi Nakata (Hattori), Yoshi Nakata (Kojima), Yoshie Kurita, Yoshie Matsutani, Yukie Tateyama
- \$ 25.00 , Bill & Toshi Kajiwara (Tadayuki Ohori), Emmie Hirata, Yukiko Akao
- \$ 30.00 , Edward Oyama, Frances Xu, Gentaro Shimizu, J.M. Iwabuchi, Keiichi Tanaka, Ryoji Tanizawa, Tsuyako Nakano, Violet Komori
- \$ 35.00 , Nobuko Kitagawa
- \$ 40.00 , Sadao Minato, Sumiko Sato
- \$ 50.00 , Len Komori, Stephen Adams, Yasuko Komori
- \$ 60.00 , Gina & Greg Chor (Tadayuki Ohori)
- \$ 100.00 , Harry Minato, Hozumi Tomita, Misuko Kadota, Mitsuru Tanaka, Tamiko Corbett
- \$ 300.00 , Mrs May Mukaida
- \$ 500.00 , Eleanor Kondo

Total September Memorial Donations = \$2,650.00

Ohigan

- \$ 10.00 , J.M. Iwabuchi, Kiyoe Yada, L. Morishita
- \$ 20.00 , Asako Nomura, Chieko Nishi, Dick Nakata, Etsuko Takata, Hatsue Kobuke, Helen Tajiri, Joe Tateyama, John Harada, Kanji Suga, Kay Komori, Kazuma Sakata, Kiyoshi Uyeyama, Michika Mizuno, Min Koyanagi, Minoru Oyama, Misuko Kadota, Miwako Kasuya, Motoharu Hattori, Roy Tatsumi, Sachiko Renovich, Shizue Hamaguchi, Shizuo Tanaka, Tatsutoki Mizushima, Tokiko Hayashi, Tomiko Jowett, Tsuneko Soyama, Tsutomu Omoto, Yasuko Komori, Yoshie Matsutani
- \$ 25.00 , Frank Hamanishi, Robert North
- \$ 30.00 , Terry Koyanagi
- \$ 50.00 , Robert Akune
- \$ 100.00 , Cy Saimoto, Dave Ohori

Total Ohigan Donations = \$940.00

Bodhi Mind

- \$ 25.00 , Nancy S. Leong
- \$ 50.00 , Mrs May Mukaida

Total Bodhi Mind Donations = \$75.00

Nokotsudo / Eitaikyo

- \$ 50.00 , Nobuko Kitagawa

Total Nokotsuko/Eitaikyo donations = \$50.00

VBC Special Services

- \$ 100.00 , Betty Omaye
- \$ 300.00 , Motoharu Hattori
- \$1,000.00 , Sharon Chan, Yasuko Komori

Total Special Services Donations = \$2,600.00

Donations, continued

Konshi

\$ 10.00 , Etsuko Tsuda
\$ 100.00 , Shizuko Okahashi
\$ 900.00 , Shouyu Liang Wushu

Total Konshi = \$1010

Appreciation

\$ 150.00 , Ken Kitano

Total Appreciation = \$150.00

Our apologies for the following names missed in last months issue.

\$ 20.00 , Margaret Yoshida (Hattori)
\$ 20.00 , Kazuye Yoshida (Hattori)
\$ 20.00 , Chieko Nishi (Hattori)
\$ 20.00 , Shinichi Omatsu (Hattori)
\$ 50.00 , Kazu & Akemi Komori (Kojima)
\$ 25.00 , Marika Komori (Hatsubon)

**Vancouver Buddhist Church
ANNUAL FALL BAZAAR
Sunday, October 29, 2006
Doors open at 12:00 noon**

Hot Udon Lunch
Sushi, manju, teriyaki,
okazu, baking,
Produce, books,
General merchandise

