

## June Newsletter

### <Katsu's Reminiscence of Zimbabwe no.2>

“Peace & Tranquility (YONONAKA ANNON NARE)” was the title for my Newsletter article until February. This was the Theme for the Shinran Shonin’s 750<sup>th</sup> memorial service, which had been held from April 2011 to January 2012. “Peace & Tranquility (YONONAKA ANNON NARE)” is the quotation from the letter, which Shinran Shonin wrote. I also hope that this world becomes one of peace and tranquility as well as being in my life. However, it is not easy for things to become peaceful and tranquil. When I live a busy and rushed life, I am eager for a peaceful and tranquil life. On the other hand, when I live in peace and tranquility, I am eager something exciting and unusual in my life.

I really enjoyed my campus life at the Miyazaki University, which was located in the countryside of Japan. Time was calmly passing. When my friends were seriously thinking about their future courses and preparing for job hunting, I could not determine anything for my future at all. At that time, one idea popped into my mind. The idea was to join the Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (JOCV) as a baseball coach. Volunteering for this organization is similar to serve in the Peace Corps in the USA. The Japanese government was looking for some volunteers. I just took the entrance exam, even though my language skill was not good enough, my baseball ability was just ordinary, and I didn’t know much about JOCV, I just took the entrance exam. I took the exam without any expectations. I unexpectedly passed it. When the acceptance letter came, it said that my place of work was “Zimbabwe”. “Where is Zimbabwe?” This was my first thought. Zimbabwe is located in the southern part of Africa. If I signed this acceptance, I was going to be sent to Zimbabwe, which was an unfamiliar country to me. It was true that I was seeking something exciting. However, this was a little bit stronger excitement than I expected. When I encountered this fact that I was going to be sent to Zimbabwe, I was scared. (I was Chicken Katsu!). I hesitated to step forward to my new life. At that time, I read a poem, which gave me courage to step into this unknown territory. The poem is titled “MICHU (WAY)”.

**“Don’t be afraid what will happen if you decide to go this way.**

**There is no way to go if you are afraid.**

**If you step forward, the step is going to be the way, the second step is to follow to the first step.**

**Don’t hesitate. Just step forward. You will see what is going on.”**

Antonio Inoki who was a famous Japanese pro wrestler recited this poem when he retired. I looked over this poem more. Rev. Tetsuo Kiyosawa who was a Higashi Hongwanji’s minister wrote this poem. Rev Tetsuo Kiyosawa was the grandson of Rev. Manshi Kiyosawa and the grand son in law of Rev. Haya Akegarasu. They were very famous Higashi Hongwanji ministers. You may know these ministers’ names.

I eventually choose the way to Zimbabwe. If I chose a different way at that time, I may not be here today. When I was a university student, I was eager to part from my family temple. I who was the kind of person who sought adventure was encouraged and pushed

forward to go to Zimbabwe by that poem written by the Higashi Hongwanji minister. My experience in Zimbabwe is one of the causes of me becoming a minister in the USA. Life is really full of marvelous occurrences. I am leading a full life now. I just live my life day by day while I look forward what will happen in my future.

(To be continued)

**<BCL Buddhist Continuing Education, 2012 Spring Session>**

Date: May 25<sup>th</sup>, and June 1<sup>st</sup>

Time: 7pm-8pm

Place: BCL Annex

Instructor: Sensei Roy Mayhugh (English), Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki (Japanese)

The textbook “Ocean”(EN/JP, Author: Reverend Dr. Kenneth K. Tanaka) is available at the BCL office. The English textbook is \$14.95, Japanese one is \$24.95.

**<Rev.Katsu in Vacation>**

I am going to take my vacation from June 5<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>. Our minister’s assistant, Sensei Tom Okamoto and Sensei Roy Mayhugh will be conducting the services in my absence.

**<Nihongo(Japanese) 1-2-3>**

1,HAJIME MASHITE (Nice to meet you!)

2,YOUKOSO Lodi E (Welcome to Lodi)

3,WATASHI NO NAMAЕ WA KATSU DESU (My name is Katsu.)

**The evaluation of 2012’s resolution**

**(E-excellent, G-good, S-so so, B-bad)**

1	Keep my face up when I give my talk	G
2	Call member’s name (without “SAN”)	S
3	Raise vegetables (Planted, Carrot, Broccoli, Ao Shiso, Green Soybean, Chinese Edible Podded Snow pea, Tomato)	G
4	Hit a home run	-

In Gassho Katsuya Kusunoki

**2012 Memorial Service Schedule**

2012 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2011	1 year	1996	17 year
2010	3 year	1988	25 year
2006	7 year	1980	33 year
2000	13 year	1963	50 year