



Hikari—The Light

March 2004

Volume 2, Issue 16

Buddhist Federation
of Alberta

3611 Forestry Av S
Lethbridge, AB, T1K 3L5
Cell 403-382-7024
Home 403-345-4143

Inside this issue:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Standing Before | 1 |
| Hanamatsuri | 1 |
| Bon Odori | 2 |
| Rev. Izumi's Schedule | 2 |

Special points of
interest:

- If you are unable to attend temple services please feel free to call Rev. Izumi at 382-7024 and he will be happy to visit you privately
- Honpa Chow Mein Supper—March 13, 2004 at 4:00pm Everyone is Welcome
- Hanamatsuri 2pm April 4
Guest Speaker: Rev Fujii, Rinban of Seattle Buddhist Temple

Standing Before Amida Buddha

Can we see our inner self? No matter how good our eyes are, it is impossible to see our inner self which is mind-thought. Buddhism talks about the human mind and encourages us to see and examine it. Because our mind-thought is the source of our delusion in which we keep repeating suffering, pain, frustration, worries and so on. The path of spiritual liberation starts from the examination of our inner self. Although we are unable to see and examine our mind-thought, if there is a mirror we can see it. Amida Buddha acts like a mirror, a clear and straight mirror. The mirror of Amida Buddha reflects and shows our inner self as it is. We who are in the mirror are powerless and helpless toward attaining "enlightenment". We find that our self-centeredness has no fathom. We who are in the mirror are full of greed, anger, hatred, jealousy and so on. At the same time as the mirror accepts and reflects whatever and whoever stands before it, Amida Buddha embraces us all just

as we are equally, without requesting any change in our nature. He knows our karmic bondage. Therefore, out of his great Wisdom and Compassion, Amida Buddha works to liberate us to the world of Nirvana-Enlightenment. His Wisdom is not static but always working in the form of Compassion. Furthermore, His Compassion is not merely the heart of "sympathy" or "pity" but the "self-same" Compassion in which the Buddha says, "Your suffering is my suffering. Your karmic bondage of suffering is mine."

Standing before Amida Buddha, we do not need to pretend to be honest. We do not need to pretend to be wise. We do not need to pretend to be humble. A well known Buddhist monk once wrote a poem: "A maple leaf falls showing both sides, its back and front." In Amida Buddha's heart of Wisdom and Compassion, no pretense is needed. Amida Buddha calls out to us, "Relax and come as you are now!"

(Continued on page 2)

Infant Presentation Ceremony

This is an invitation from Buddhist Federation of Alberta to those who have a baby or infant who was born in the last four years. If you have a baby or infant, or if you know of someone else who does, please contact the Temple President or Rev. Izumi (382 - 7024).

The ceremony is an opportunity for parents and children to come to the temple together. A gift from the BFA to each infant will be presented.



OBITUARY

We express our heartfelt sympathy to those who have lost loved ones

Mrs. Kanako Oikawa
February 16, 2004
92 years old

Buddhist Federation of Alberta

3611 Forestry Av. S
Lethbridge, AB, T1K 3L5

Rev. Izumi 403-382-7024
Res: 403-345-4143



BFA Bon Odori Dance

- Would you like to learn Bon Odori Dance and /or Bon Odori Taiko drumming?
- Please contact Aya Hironaka at 752-4065 or Rev. Izumi at 382-7024

(Continued from page 1)

Take refuge in my Life immediately". The change of our nature will come later naturally, so we do not need to worry. We do not need to ask, how we will be changed as the result of standing before the mirror of Amida Buddha.

Amida Buddha made the Vow in which He vows " Those who are touched by my Light, become gentle in body and mind..."

We must stand before Amida Buddha now, face to face, hear Buddha's infinite Compassion so that we will find ourselves in IT, without changing our nature. Shinran Shonin said:

"When Shinjin (entrusting heart) in Amida Buddha's Vow is awakened, In that very instant do we spontaneously enter the stage

Where we are assured to be born into Nirvana/Enlightenment."

How grateful we are! Namo Amida Butsu!

In Gassho,
Yasuo Izumi, Minister

Buddhist Federation of Alberta



Vision TV is coming to film our celebration of Buddha's Birthday and Infant Presentation ceremony on April 4th.

BFA Hanamatsuri

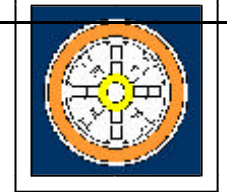
Let's all get together from all of the temples in Southern Alberta to celebrate Buddha's Birthday and to witness the Infant Presentation service.

- Featuring
- Rev. Doei Fujii
 - Hatsumairi
 - Dharma School Program
 - Dinner

Buddhist Federation of Alberta

2pm, April 4, 2004

Lethbridge Buddhist Temple
1303 13th St. North



Tel: 403-382-7024

Translation: Shinshu Shuka: Song of Jodo Shinshu

Encountering the profound Dharma,
To what can we describe such happiness?
Fervently listening to the Way opened to us,
Let us humbly receive its true essence.

Being liberated from eternal darkness,
To what can we compare such happiness?
Reciting the six-character Name,
Let us live diligently in our everyday work.

Without discriminating between either shore of the ocean
The sacredness of the virtue of parent-Buddha
Let us transmit to our fellow beings and journey
together to the Pure Land

We acknowledge the following friends who have donated to the BFA.
Ms. P. Knude (Toronto, Ont.)
Mr. I. Hamade (Richmond, B.C.)



Rev. Y. Izumi's Service Schedule March and April 2004

| Month | Day | Morning | Afternoon |
|-------|--------------|------------------------|------------|
| March | 07-Mar-04 | Coaldale | Lethbridge |
| | 14-Mar-04 | Honpa Shotsuki | Taber |
| | 21-Mar-04 | Lethbridge Shotsuki | Raymond |
| | 28-Mar-04 | Rosemary Hanamatsuri | |
| April | 04-Apr-04 | BFA Hanamatsuri | |
| | 11-Apr-04 | Honpa Shotsuki | Taber |
| | 18-Apr-04 | Lethbridge Shotsuki | Raymond |
| | 21-25-Apr-04 | BCC AGM Winnipeg | |