A Timeless Message from Long Ago

Phillip Underwood
WCBT Member

Like anyone else I sometimes run across a quotation or proverb or some “words of wisdom” that intrigue me for whatever reason, and if it’s written down I confess that I’ll copy it or print it out and save it for later. My office bulletin board is crammed with examples of these morsels, meaning I have a lot of them. One of them goes ‘I didn’t fail, I just tried something that didn’t work’. Now, invariably, the meanings of them change for me over time as I grow and evolve and life’s experiences force me or let me see things through a different prism. For instance, one that I grew up with was ‘do unto others as you would have others do unto you’. It’s in the Bible. To me it always meant ‘treat other the way I would want to be treated’. And it was good because it made me aware of the way that I acted or accorded myself with people I encountered, whether I knew them or not. Today, however, it doesn’t mean exactly the same thing to me. Today it means ‘leave me alone; I’m not going to get into your business and that’s really how I want you to deal with me’. It’s the same quotation but I’m not the same person. I guess it’s true that, over time, ‘you live and you learn’.

Now, in relation to today’s heated and contentious political atmosphere, one of the most meaningful and thought provoking quotes that I have is attributed to the Indian activist Mahatma Gandhi. Born in Porbander, India in 1869, this peaceful activist was assassinated by gunfire in New Delhi in 1948.

Trained in law in London, he first employed nonviolent activism for civil rights in South Africa in the Indian community’s struggle for civil rights. There, in the 1920’s and 30’s, he organized peasants, farmers, and urban labourers to protest excessive land-taxes, fees, and discrimination.

His most famous challenge was organizing against the British imposed Salt Tax. He organized a 250-mile (400 km) Dandi Salt March in 1930, eventually calling for Britain to quit India. For this and other
Happy October everyone! School is in full session and the temperature is slowly getting cooler (thank goodness).

Our Ohigan Dharma School lesson went well. The concept of Ohigan was explained to the youngsters. They created a booklet that represented the equinox and the 6 Paramitas. The students enjoyed working on their project.

Rev. Miyoshi and the Dharma School staff are trying a new way to educate our children about Buddhist concepts and traditions. We are going to have lessons and special activities during our late afternoon services. The lessons will reflect each service’s meaning and importance. The late afternoon services include the fall Ohigan, Hoonko, the spring Ohigan, Hanamatsuri, and Obon. The yearend activity will still be a Dharma School presentation to the Sangha. There will be an email blast reminder for parents and grandparents before each special service. Needless to say, Dharma School lessons will continue to be available during each Sunday service.

Hope to see all of you at our annual Halloween party after service on October 28. Be sure to wear your costumes and prepare to have fun!

Gassho,
Claire Hansen

MESSAGE, con’t from pg. 1
“crimes” he was imprisoned many times, both in South Africa and in India.

A few of his noted sayings include:

-Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony.

-Strength does not come from physical capacity. It comes from an indomitable will.

-The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

-Earth provides enough to satisfy every man’s needs, but not every man’s greed.

I confess that prior to preparing for this Dharma Message, I didn’t have any of these quotations as part of my quotation’s junkyard. And I’m sure that, based on personal preference, one quotation may or may not be more important than another. But the quotation of Gandhi’s that I have kept is one that has many parts and concerns itself with violence, and in today’s political atmosphere, when I read it recently, it made me shake my head. It’s one that always meant a lot to me but right now I think it shows just how close we are to more chaos, division, and an uncertainty in the future that we face today.

As I list these, I’ll give the quote and then in parentheses I’ll note what the saying means to me. And please feel free to decide what they mean to you.

So according to Gandhi these are:
The Seven Root Causes of Violence

1. Wealth without work (stealing)
2. Pleasure without conscience (no compassion)
3. Knowledge without character (ignorance)
4. Commerce without morality (dishonest)
5. Science without humanity (superior race?)
6. Worship without sacrifice (no commitment)
7. Politics without principle (Trumpism)

When I first came across this saying I never would’ve believed that it would someday be so meaningful to me. I kept it even though only the first 3 items meant anything to me. Now the last 4 are like a foghorn when I think about them in today’s environment. Today I’m not positive what the message is but the lesson is loud and clear: None of us exists in a vacuum, or maybe nobody rides for free. And that’s just another way of saying we need community. Thank you.

Quote of the Month
Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever.
-Mahatma Gandhi
Akimatsuri
The ESGVJCC Akimatsuri will be on Saturday, October 6, from 12:00-8:00 PM and WCBT will be in charge of the Teriyaki Barbecue. We will need help in the teriyaki booth as well as with the Center set-up, break-down, etc. Sign-up sheet will be out for your signatures at upcoming services so please find a time when you can help.

We’d like to see everyone come out and support the Temple and the Center.

The Study Class
The Study Class will meet on October 9 and 23 at 10:00 AM. Discussions will be based on selected topics that vary from week to week. The class meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. For more information, please contact Rev. Miyoshi at (213) 219-6140.

Halloween
Our annual Halloween party will follow the Sunday Service on October 28. There will be lots of fun and games and prizes so come dressed in your favorite costumes and get in the Halloween spirit! There will be refreshments for everyone so join us in the fun!

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
WCBT will hold our 10th Annual Kiku Crafts & Food Fair on Sunday, November 4, from 10 AM–3 PM. We will offer Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, original artwork to be purchased just in time for the holidays. And of course, lots of delicious food to be consumed. Each vendor will be handling their own sales and not all take credit cards so come prepared. WCBT members are welcome to shop early from 9:30 AM. Come for some holiday shopping. Stay for the fun and food!

For more information or if you can help, please contact Hisako Koga 951-818-8740 or hskoga@gmail.com.

November Shotsuki Service & Board Meeting
November Board Meeting will be held on November 11 at 8:30 AM followed by the Shotsuki Service at 10 AM.

Ho-on-ko Service
Our Ho-on-ko Service (a memorial service for Shinran Shonin) will be held on Sunday, November 18 at 4:30 PM. Our special guest speaker will be Rimban William Briones from Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin. Please join us as we welcome Rimban Briones and stay for the complimentary Otoki dinner that will follow the service.

7-5-3 Service
7-5-3 or Shichi-go-san Service will be held on Sunday, November 25 at 10 AM. This special service is to recognize anyone who has reached the age of three, five or seven this year. Please inform Rev. Miyoshi if you have a family member or know of someone who will be the perfect age for this service.
The Temple has registered with the AmazonSmile donation program. For those of you who shop online with Amazon, the AmazonSmile foundation will donate 0.5% of your purchase price to the Temple, at no cost to you. You just need to login to “smile.amazon.com” which will connect you to the same Amazon website you know. It will display the same products, same prices, and same service. On your first visit select ‘West Covina Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple’ as the organization that you wish to support. It’s that easy.

Happy shopping!
味を感じずにはいられません。この言葉から学ぶことはとても明瞭です。他と無関係に生きる人はいません。誰もがこの社会に責任をもたなければなりません。そして共に立ち上がる仲間を必要としているのです。

（「教え」7頁からの続き）

Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
Sponsored by West Covina Buddhist Temple
Sunday, November 4, 2018
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM
at ESGVJCC

Asian inspired crafts, clothing, jewelry, giftware, ceramics, original arts and delicious food!

Come for some holiday shopping, Stay for the fun and food!

There will be no central cashiering. Each vendor will handle their own sales and not all vendors take credit cards.

For info contact Hisako Koga: 951-818-8740 hskoga@gmail.com
Rev. Miyoshi’s niece Mio and her friend Yumi from Yamanashi, Japan visited WCBT in August. They enjoyed a delicious Mexican lunch provided by the Sangha. During their visit they took time to explore Universal Studios which they really enjoyed, especially Hogsworth and the entire Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Rev. Paul Imahara spoke about the meaning of Ohigan to the Sangha.

The West Covina Buddhist Temple Sangha with guest speaker Rev. Paul Imahara and Rev. Nobuko Miyoshi at our Fall Ohigan Service.
時代を超える教え
アンダーウッド、フィリップ

皆さんもそうだと思いますが、心を引きつけるのような言葉に偶然出会うことがあります。そんな時は書き留めたり、印刷して貼ったりしています。仕事部屋の壁掛けボードにはそんな言葉が数多く貼られています。例えばこんな言葉です。「失敗したのではない。挑戦したことがその方法ではうまくいかなかっただけだ。」それらの言葉を眺めていると、当時とは捉え方が違うと気づくことがあります。人生の経験や成長の過程において様々な見方ができるようになったということかもしれません。

聖書の「何事でも人々からしてほしいと望むことは、人々にもそのとおりにせよ。」という言葉があります。私はそれを文字通りに受け止め、それを他人にどのように影響を与えるかを意識させてくれました。けれども今は「親切顔をして他人の領域に土足で上るようなことはしないように」というメッセージをこの言葉から受け取っています。それが私が持っていることだからです。この変化はとてもおもしろいです。「生きるということは、学ぶということだ」という言葉は実に的を得ているとと思います。

彼の言葉の多くは、暴力に対する異議の声です。最近彼の言葉を読んだ時に、今こそ彼のメッセージが必要であると強く感じました。混沌と分断が深まり、未来への不安を感じる今だからこそ、彼の言葉が大きな意味をもつと思うのです。

彼は暴力を引き起こす七つの要因を挙げています。
October

4  7:30 pm  Howakai Japanese Service
6  12:00 pm  ESGVJCC Akimatsuri
7  8:30 am  Board Meeting
7  10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
9  10:00 am  Study Class
14 10:00 am  Sunday Service
21 10:00 am  Sunday Service
23 10:00 am  Study Class
28 10:00 am  Sunday Service/Halloween Party

November

1  7:30 pm  Howakai Ho-on-ko Service
1  3:00 pm  Center Health Fair
3  4:00 pm  Kiku Crafts & Food Fair
4  10:00 am  Sunday Service
11 8:30 am  Board Meeting
11 10:00 am  Shotsuki Service
13 10:00 am  Study Class
18 4:30 pm  Ho-on-ko Service

2018年10月行事予定
4日  午後7時半  法話会
6日  正午  センター秋祭り
7日  午前8時半  理事会
7日  午前10時  祥月法要
14日  午前10時  日曜礼拝
21日  午前10時  日曜礼拝
28日  午前10時  日曜礼拝／ハロウィーン

11月行事予定
1日  午後7時半  法話会報恩講
3日  午前10時  センターヘルスフェア
4日  午前10時  菊クラフトフェア
4日  午前10時  日曜礼拝
11日  午前8時半  理事会

死ぬ覚悟ができていれば
人は自由に生きられる
マハトマ・ガンディー