

Do Not Neglect to Make Determination

Ardent with the grand vow that might have appeared incommensurate with my station, I established on January 15, 1984, the Zenkoji Scholarship Society for Priestly Study Abroad. It sent its first scholars, priests Tanaka and Umeda, to Watt Pa-knam, Thailand, in the following year. Since then to date, truly, I have never been free of the feeling as if treading on a thin spread of ice. I cannot be too grateful to the supporters of this Temple Who backed my vow by saving one mouthful of their daily meals.

On August 23 this year, the Scholarship Society had its Third General Meeting, where the above-mentioned priest Umeda said, "At the First General Meeting, we two were the only attendants, so I felt rather forlorn, but now, at this Third General Meeting, much more of us are here and I feel encouraged". As he exactly commented, we could fortunately report then that throughout the period covering the three Meetings, we have sent a total of 17 priestly students to 8 countries abroad. The newspaper Chugai Nippo, in its columns under the title of

“Highly appreciated even by believers in other religions”. appreciatively commented the significance of the Third General Meeting of the Scholarship Society.

Three days after the closure of the General Meeting. I and Rev. Sato left Japan for the United States. In Los Angeles, I visited the Zen Center and met Mr. Iwanami who had been devoting himself in high spirits to seek after truth together with more than 60 ascetic trainees from 14 countries. After then, in New York, I handed a written appointment to Mr. Koshiishi who had been practicing under Rev. Robert Grassman Tetsugen who is one of the distinguished disciples of Rev. Maezumi. I could not meet Mr. Shimazaki because he had been to Poland accompanying Rev. Donnis Mertz Genpo who is a disciple to Rev. Tetsugen. Throughout this tour, I was much more impressed by the necessity of developing human resources, and I am deeply determined to further devote myself to this task.

May every living being go through a life, a death, and a rebirth to hear true teachings. May everyone, when hearing true teachings, do not doubt but believe in them. When we meet true teachings,

we will prefer to accept the teachings of Buddha, disregarding other evil religions in the world. We then will go through to the end of the Buddhist's path.

When you are so determined, you will have a clue to the true Buddhism. Do not neglect to make the determination.

('Voices of Ravines and Colors of Mountains' in "Shobo Genzo")

