

# FOREWORD

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However the fiftieth anniversary after the end of the World War II came around this year, it has started with such painful news as the great earthquake in Hanshin-Awazi area and AUM Shinri kyo's scandals reported in rapid succession by newspapers and TVs.

We are asked what the religion is, for example about the relationship between religion and politics, the freedom of belief, and the social relationship. Now it has become the center of public attention not only in Japan but also all over the world to solve these big problems.

Prof. Alfred Aché, French scholar in Buddhism says the only way to avoid the crisis of the extinction of mankind is to accumulate good deeds, not given to evil ways, and to purify own souls. This is what Shakyamuni taught us, the law of human life, the natural morality and none other than the great mercy.

I visited Komazawa Women's College the other day, its educational philosophy is to reach the new world by international exchange based on Buddhist education. I wish its taking a strong step toward the 21 century supported by the human truth.

Next, Rev Hakuyu Maezumi, the supervisor of Zen Center in Los Angeles died suddenly on 15 May when

he was back in Japan. He had endeavored for our Scholarship Society since the establishment as an adviser. After the private funera in Tokyo, the formal funeral was held in Los Angeles on the 100th day after his death, 26 August.

It had been forty years since 1965, he had devoted himself to the propagation of Soto Zen Buddhism in the United States, especially to the practice and the progress of “Eihei Shingi” and “Keizan Shingi”, which is the bases of life at temple. I greatly appreciate his achievement and think him as the one of the messenger in Buddhism from east to west.

It is said in Shobo Genzo Bendowa, there is the best and the idlest way to propagate the wondrous law of Buddha and to testify Anoku Bodai. The way is just to entrust oneself to Buddha, excluded the wicked thought, that is say, blessing samadhi, none other than to sit erect on one’s knees and to practice Zen meditation.

Rev. Glassman Chogen succeeded Rev. Zenkaku. I hope his endeavor as much as Rev. Zenkaku’s.

Now we must hope as a Buddhist back to Shakyomuri through our founders, to be humbly in harmony with society, to protect all living things and to contribute to the peace and the prosperity of the international world.