

Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia

シドニー本願寺報

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ジョージ・ゲッテンビー師 追悼



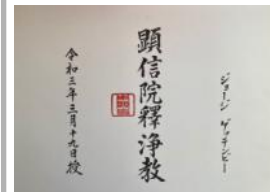
Rev George Gatenby
(1943-2021)

病氣療養中であった
アデレード在住の
ジョージ・ゲッテン
ビー師が、去る3月7日
に77歳を一期として往
生の素懷を遂げられま
した。色々とジョージ
師を心配し、励ましの
e-mail等を送って下
さった皆様には衷心よ
りお礼申し上げます。

葬儀は3月19日の午
前11時より、アデレード市内のピーターバー
グ葬儀社にて、友人代表のクーク・ロイ氏が
喪主となり、私が導師を勤め、キャンベラか



アデレードの葬儀会場(19/03/21)



ゲッテンビー師の院号法名

らのジョン師と共
に葬儀を司式し、
アデレードの念仏
道場のメンバーの
方々、ラジオ局に
勤めていた時の同
僚ら45人の参列者
を迎えて厳かに執り行われました。シド
ニーは雨続きの天候でしたが、アデレー
ドは30度を超える真夏日となりました。

ゲッテンビー師が1994年に得度されて
からの本願寺派の僧侶としての様々な活
躍が讃えられ、京都本願寺より院号「**願
信院(けんしんいん)**」が下付され、棺前読
経の後、紹介されました。棺の中には得
度を受けられた時の白い名前の紙を巻い
たまの黒輪袈裟を首からかけ、黒衣、



いっしょに葬儀を勤めた
パラスケヴォボロス師と
(19/03/21)

切袴、白足袋をつ
けた装束で安らかに眠
っているように目を閉
じているジョージ師
に院号を授与し、院
号法名が胸元に置か
れ棺の蓋が閉められ
ました。

読経の後のジョン
師からの弔辞は
ジョージ師のこれま
での人生をすべて網

(2ページへつづく)

もくじ

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★ お寺の予定表 - Calendar ★

- Apr 4 (Sun) 花まつり法要/ Hana-matsuri Service ★ 夏時間終了/Daylight Saving time ends**
8 (Thu) お釈迦様の誕生日/Buddha's Birth Day ! ★ ★ ★
 11 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝 / Sunday Service @ BCNSW
15 (Thu) 5:00 pm After Dinner @ St Mary's Cathedral House
 18 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝 / Sunday Service @ BCNSW
25 (Mon) [本願寺報発行 / New Bulletin Issue]
24&25 リズモア平和式典/ Anzac Day Peace Ceremony in Lismore
 25 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝 / Sunday Service @ BCNSW
May 2 (Sun) 11:00 am 五月祥月法要/May Shotsuki Memorial Service @ BCNSW
 9 (Sun) 11:00 am 日曜礼拝 / Sunday Service @ BCNSW
16 (Sun) 11:00 am 降誕会&年次総会/Gotan-e & HBMA AGM @ BCNSW



Shaku Jo-Kyo

葬儀の日に用意された ジョージ・ゲッテンビー 師を追悼するカード


 In loving memory of
Rev. George Alfred Gasterdy
18/06/1943 - 17/03/2021

佛

 "Namu Amida Butsu"
Looking and loved partner of
Rev. Gasterdy


ジョージ師の自宅兼道場 「浄教庵」



2007年にアデレードの道
場に仏壇を迎えた際に浄
教庵にてジョージ師と

羅しており、
8年間に渡り
アングリカン
教会の牧師を
勤めた後、
キャピラノ
(蜂蜜会社)に
て勤めた彼
が、如何に念
仏の道に入る
こととなった
のか、そして
その後の活躍
を紹介してい
る大変心に残
るものでした。
(詳しくは英語
面参照)ジョ
ン師には弔辞
に続いて京都
本願寺の石上
智康総長、寺
院活動支援部
(国際伝道担
当)石田眞住
部長、国際仏
教文化協会(I
ABC)佐々木
恵精理事長、
マーク・ヒー
ルスミス師、
グラハム・ラ
ンフト開教事
務所理事長か
ら届いていた
弔電を紹介し
て頂きました。
それに続き私
からの追悼法
話を行い、最
後にロイさん
からお礼の言
葉があり式は
無事終わまし
た。



親鸞聖人750回大遠忌に出席した際
の日本旅行で浅草の天麩羅店での一
コマ。(18/10/11)



火葬場にてロイ氏、ジ
ョン師、ピーター氏ら
と共に最期を見送りま
した。(19/03/21)

葬儀の後、ジョー
ジさんの遺体は同日午
後、アデレード市内南
にあるセンチニアル
公園の火葬場にて荼
毘に付されました。

私自身、シドニーに
赴任して以降、ジョー
ジ師には、特別法要で
のご法話を始め、寺報

の校正、開教事務所の今後についての相談
等々ですとお世話になっていました。今後も、
まだまだ活躍をして頂きたかった方を失っ
てしまったことは、今後のオーストラリア
開教を考える上でも、彼の協力を必要とし
ていらっしやった西本願寺関係者の皆様に
取りましても本当に残念な事でした。しかし、
彼がこれまで続けてきた活動を通じて念仏
の教えに導かれた人々も多く、その人たちに
よりこれからも教えがアデレードはもとより
オーストラリア国内で綿々と伝えられ今後の
発展につながっていくものと信じてやみませ
ん。

ジョージさんのこれまでの活動に深く敬意を
表すものです。 合掌



オーストラリア
開教事務所長

渡部重信



当日、葬儀会場に届けら
れた徳永道雄本願寺派勤
学寮頭/京都女子大名嘗教
授、国際センターの杉本
昌子さんからお花。
(19/03/21)

〈ゲッテンビー師 追悼文〉



ジョージ・ゲッテンビー氏の ご友人方へ

ジョージ・ゲッテンビー氏のご
逝去にあたり、浄土真宗本
願寺派教団の国際伝道担当と
至心教堂を代表して追悼の辞
を送ります。氏の所属寺である
至心教堂は本願寺国際センタ
ー内にあり、私たちの事務所
も同じ建物の中にあります。至
心教堂所属の僧侶らが皆、参
加できるような行事があれば
というゲッテンビー氏の提案
にヒントを得て、昨年12月、
私たちは至心教堂報恩講をオ
ンラインで厳修いたしました。
法要後、氏から好意的ではげ
ますような内容のコメントを
いくつもいただき、一同、心
より感謝しております。この
出来事一つをとっても、ゲッ
テンビー氏がいかに思いやり
にあふれた人であったかがわ
かります。

また月2回の勉強会を通して、
浄土真宗のみ教えを伝える堅
実な活動を長く続けておられ
たそうで、敬服いたします。そ
のような実直な努力にこそ、評
価と敬意を捧げるべきだと思
います。この場を借りて氏の
貢献に心より感謝の意を表し
ます。 合掌

浄土真宗本願寺派 寺院活動支援部
(国際伝道担当) 部長
至心教堂主管 石田眞住



JCS Rainbow Project

東日本大震災 10周年 復興支援式典にて追悼

2011年に発生した東日本大震災、
今年10周年を迎えるのを機に、
今回最後となるJCSレインボー
プロジェクト(平野由紀子代表)
復興支援追悼式典が、3月11日
(木)にシティのNSW州教職員連
合会館を会場に、午後4時から開
催されました。3月に入りコロ
ナ規制が緩和され、200人以上
の方々が集い10年前の地震や津
波で亡くなられた方々を追悼致
しました。



紀谷総領事より参加者
に対し歓迎の言葉が伝えら
れました。(11/03/21)

式典が始まると、司会のピーター・ギブソン
& 新野令賀(しんのはるか)さん
から開会の言葉が述べられた後、
紀谷総領事より参加者の皆
さんに歓迎の言葉が述べられ
ました。

(3ページにつづく)

続いて、私の紹介を頂き壇上に上がりました。犠牲者を追悼する表百文と読経をあげ、そして地震発生時刻の午後4時46分(日本時間午後2時46分)に鑿(きん)を鳴らし、電池式ろうそくを持った全ての参加者ととも一分間の黙禱を捧げ、物故者に想いを馳せたことでした。



参加者全員で黙禱(11/03/21)



映画を製作したロビ-さんと(11/03/21)

今回のイベントでは、被災地である東北地方の各県毎に取材されたドキュメンタリー映画「10 Colours 10 Years」が、参加された方々によって視聴されました。10年がたち、被災地の人々はどのようにその変化を受け入れ、今後の生活を考えているのかについて、日本の自然、文化、人間性等を交えつつ10年間の取り組みの集大成としてのレポートがまとめられていました。

日本の食材を9割以上使って作られた東北弁当をみんなが満喫した後は、書や合掌、琴の演奏、剣舞、太鼓等が披露されるコンサートがあり、この日のイベントはつつがなく終了いたしました。

今回のイベントの主催者を始め全てのご協力下さった皆さんとこの日集まって下さった全ての皆様に感謝の意を表したいと思います。合 掌



主催者、来賓、出演者らとの集合写真！(07/03/21)



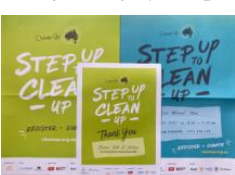
オーストラリア最大のボランティア活動 クリーンアップ・オーストラリア・ディに参加！@レンコーブ国立公園

毎年恒例の、オーストラリア最大のコミュニティボランティア活動である、クリーンアップ・オーストラリアディの3月7日(日)、お寺のメンバーや、シドニー日本クラブ、シドニー日本人会会員がレンコーブ国立公園に集い、清掃活動を行いました。今年はコロナの影響で多くの人が一堂に会するのはできないということで、個々の集まりでの参加となり全体で総計で45人の参加者が清掃活動に勤しみました。

受付を各自済ませた後、早速ごみ袋を片手に、私たちのグループは主に道



(上)ごみ袋を持って出発！
(下)持ち帰ったゴミをバックに撮影。参加したみんながこの日のボランティア証明を持って。
(07/03/21)



この日の参加者、参加団体に贈られる参加認定書。(07/03/21)

路沿いのゴミを集めました。約2時間の清掃活動後、収穫(!)した沢山のゴミを持って11時前に出発地点に戻り写真を撮った後は活動をねぎらい、チャッツウッドのお店で一緒にお昼を頂き解散となりました。秋晴れの天気にも恵まれた、楽しいボランティア活動の一日となりました。合 掌



今月のことば

“When we don't understand

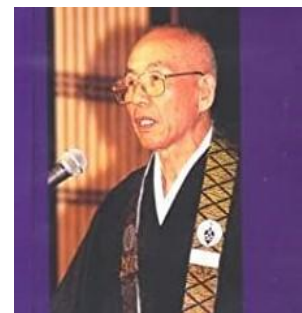
ねんぶつしゃ
念仏者の人生は

まさ

ざんぎ
慚愧と
かんぎ
歡喜の
こうさく
交錯

《梯實圓
かけはしじつえん
》

“The life of a Nembutsu
practicer is an interplay of
sincere remorse and joy.”



Kakehashi, Jitsuen
(1927 - 2014)



真宗教団連合刊
「2021(令和3年)法語カレンダー/Dharma Words」
より



仏教スク립チャークラス再開



キララ小学校正面入り口

昨年末まで3年間に渡りゴードン西小学校の仏教スク립チャークラスを受け持っていましたが、今年度からは、キララ小学校の仏教の授業を受け持つこととなり、受け入れ態勢が整った2月後半より授業がはじまりました。



建学の精神である三つのR (Respect, Responsibility, Resilience)の資質を兼ね備えた、つまり、自他ともに敬うことができ、責任感を持って行動し、弾力性を持った行動のできる生徒の発育を目指すキララ小学校

これまでの、リンドフィールドや、ゴードンの小学校と違い、小規模なこじんまりした学校です。この学校の仏教のスク립チャークラスには、キンディクラスから六年生まで15人の生徒が在籍し、一緒にこれから一年間仏教について学んでいくこととなりました。一年間よろしく願いいたします！ 合掌



結跏趺坐にトライしている生徒たち。



仏様のぬり絵をしました。

キャメレイ小学校で習字を教えました！

ハーモニーウィークの初日、3月15日に土曜学校で使用させて頂いている、キャメレイ小学校で行われた、「ハーモニーデー」の全校行事の際、日本の文化紹介をするためにボランティアで参加してまいりました。この日は、5、6年生たちに習字を紹介し、「和」や「平和」、「ハーモニー」などの文字を書いてもらい、最後に一人一人の名前をカタカナで書いてあげ喜んでもらえました！



6年生のクラスの生徒たちと。(15/03/21)



四月の祥月法要

April Shotsuki Memorial Service

Nakamura, Ise
Natsume, Tokuji

中村 いせ 様
夏目 徳二 様

上記の方が4月にご往生されていらっしゃると思います。ご家族、或はご縁のございます方は、来月4月11日午前11時より厳修されます祥月法要にどうぞお参り下さいませ。

ご 懇 念 録

Expression of Dana/Gratitude



今年の2月3日以降、下記の方々より総計 7,902.00ドルのご懇志をご進納いただきました。

また、計 18ドルが本願寺設立基金へ進納されました。有り難うございました。合掌

In the past month, donations to the amount of \$ 7,902.00 were offered to the Amida Buddha through the Hongwanji Buddhist Mission of Australia. HBMA have also deposited \$ 18.00 to the Hongwanji Temple of Sydney Building Fund.

The HBMA acknowledges the donors and would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following for their generous donations:

- * Mr Roy Cooke — Rev Gatenby funeral, Onenju repair
- * Ms Kyoko Brogdon Harigaya — Special donation
- * Ms Yoko Torii— Funeral for husband
- * Maha Bodhi Buddhist Info Inc — Special donation
- * Ms Akiko Minami — Autumn Ohigan Donation
- * Ms Ayako Mitsui—Browne — Donations
- * M/M Ochiai, Mr Peter Hall, M/M Jan & Peter Davis, Rhonda Phillips, — Commemoration of Rev Gatenby
- * M/M Yasuhiro & Hitomi Miyamura — Membership contribution
- * Ms Eriko Ishida — Commemoration of Ms Shimizu
- * Mr Andrew Fisher — Donation for Myogo and calendar
- * Japan Club of Sydney — Printing Honourarium
- * JCS Rainbow Project — Memorial service
- * Chaplain fund

Thank you very much in Gassho





BULLETIN



JCS Rainbow Project

East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami 10th Commemoration TSU-NA-GU 2021 on 11 March 2021

Ten years have passed since the huge earthquake and tsunami that struck north-east of Japan on 11 March 2011.

This tragedy left more than 22,000 people dead or missing.

I can never forget the images we saw on television that day of the black, wall-like tsunami rushing over the Sendai Plain at tremendous speed and covering houses, farmlands and even cars which were still trying to escape. The images of many fishermen bravely heading out to sea in order to safeguard their vessels are also etched deeply into our minds.

The nuclear power plant accident, which followed the earthquake and tsunami, forced many people to leave their homes because of radioactive contamination. Efforts are being made to improve the situation, but our hearts ache to think of the people who are even now unable to go back to where they lived, their cities having become ghost towns.

The Japan Club of Sydney, where Rev Watanabe has given his support as one of the board members for more than a decade, once again organised a special commemorative ceremony as part of the "Rainbow Project". It was held on 11 March at the NSW Teachers Federation building in Sydney where over two hundred people gathered.

After the opening remarks by the master of ceremonies, Mr Peter Gibson & Ms Haruka Shinno,

a welcome message was given by Mr Masahiko Kiya, Consul General of Japan. Rev Watanabe then delivered a message and chanted a sutra before leading a minute's silence, called "Mokuto".

During the ceremony, we all extended our deepest sympathy to the victims of the earthquake and tsunami, and sent our thoughts to Japan.



Ten Colours Ten Years

and was supported by many Sydneysiders and Japanese companies.

Then, we watched a documentary film, "Ten Colours, Ten Years", which was followed by beautiful Tohoku Bento dinner and concerts.

This final commemorative event was a great success In Gassho,



Welcome message given by Mr Masahiko Kiya, Consul General of Japan.



(Top) Rev Watanabe chanting before the silent meditation. (Bottom: R-L) Mr Ren, Ms Shinno, Mr Gibson and Rev Watanabe



2021 Clean Up Australia Day

Successful Clean Up Australia Day!

at Lane Cove National Park on 7 March 2021

Again this year, on 7 March, HBMA members participated in the 31st Annual "Clean Up Australia Day", at Lane Cove National Park, together with Japanese community groups, such as the Japan Club of Sydney (JCS) - where Rev Watanabe volunteers as a board member and the Japanese Society of Sydney (JSS).

We went to the Lane Cove National Park at 9:30 am as usual. However, because of the COVID restrictions, we had limited participants this year and could not, unfortunately, have a group photo and BBQ lunch with everyone. In total, about 30 people took part in this event.

We grabbed garbage bags and collected rubbish mainly from busy road-sides for a couple of hours. After collecting much rubbish, we returned to the point where we started, then went for lunch with everyone.



JCS group photos. (07/03/21)



Harmony Day at Cammeray Public School.

15 March 2021



Rev Watanabe introduced Japanese calligraphy at Cammeray Public School as part of their "Harmony Day" event on 15 March. He showed the students how to form Japanese characters with a brush,

writing 'Peace' and 'Harmony' for everyone to copy. He also wrote all the students' names in *kata-kana* which everyone loved.



and we feel no longing for the Pure Land of peace, where we have yet to be born. Truly, how powerful our blind passions are! But though we feel reluctant to part from this world, at the moment our karmic bonds to it run out and helplessly we die, we shall go to that land. Amida Buddha pities especially the person who has no thought of wanting to go there quickly. Reflecting on this, we feel the Vow of great compassion to be all the more trustworthy and realise that our attainment is settled.

George was my closest friend as well as a spiritual father figure to me. He was an immense help when I struggled with my spiritual path as a young man and his compassionate guidance always kept me on the right track. He had a deep understanding of people and their troubles, and was always generous with his time. His humour was infectious as was his deep love of the Dharma, which enriched his life so much and gave him great joy. If nothing else, George taught me the supreme value of having a sacred orientation in our all-too-ephemeral lives on this planet.

George was an outstanding pioneer of Shin Buddhism in not only this country but the West generally. He was way ahead of his time, in so many ways, but often trod a lonely path in light of the misunderstandings that often beset this largely unexplored tradition.

Finally, I would also like to make a special mention of Roy, George's life-long partner. This unassuming, humble, reticent and deeply considerate man has been a real rock throughout the difficult process of supporting George during his illness. I have had nothing but profound admiration for his quiet strength and amazing resilience during this very tough time.

Roy, the coming weeks and months will be difficult for you but please never feel that you are alone. There are those who are thinking about your well-being and are always there for you. So, please reach out when you need to. Thank you for all you have done for George. I'm sure his gratitude towards you was beyond words.

I would also like to express my sincere appreciation to Reverend Watanabe for travelling here from Sydney to conduct this moving and beautiful service.

Thank you to all of you for being here today to farewell our beloved George and for being his friends. May we take away with us some of the warmth, compassion, wisdom and benevolence that this splendid and remarkable man brought into our lives.

In Gassho,

Rev John Paraskevopoulos



Eulogies from Kyoto Hongwanji

Dear friends of Rev. George Gatenby,

On behalf of the Hongwanji, I would like to extend to you our deepest condolences on the passing of Rev. George Gatenby. We share in the sadness of your recent loss. May the Nembutsu teaching offer you solace and strength in this time of need.

In Gassho,

Rev. Iwagami, Chiko

Governor General

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Dear friends of Rev. George Gatenby,

On behalf of the International Department and Shishinkyodo of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist organization, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences to you on the recent passing of Rev. George Gatenby.

His affiliation temple, Shishinkyodo is now located in the Hongwanji International Centre that also houses our office. Inspired by Rev. Gatenby's proposal to hold an event that every Shishinkyodo-affiliated priest can attend, we were able to hold an online Shishinkyodo Hoonko, Shinran Shonin's annual memorial service, last December. After the service, we received several kind and encouraging notes from him, which we all truly appreciate. Only through this sole event, we can tell how considerate and thoughtful he was.

We also appreciate his solid and prolonged activities to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching with others through his bimonthly study sessions. Such earnest efforts should be highly regarded and respected. On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for his contributions.

In Gassho,

Rev. Ishida, Masumi

Supervisor, International Department

Chief minister, Shishinkyodo

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

Message from Rev Dr Mark Healsmith (Canberra)



Rev Mark Healsmith

I will always remember George as a warm presence in my life. Friend and teacher to me, he exemplified the concept of 'fellow-practicer' - open and accepting of everyone as we all walk together the path of the Dharma. As you all know, George was not only a pioneer and leader of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in Australia, but also a leader in the broader Australian Buddhist community, but I was fortunate to know him as well in a more personal way.

George taught us all with his well prepared Dharma talks and his extensive commentaries on Shinran Shonin's writings, but he taught us as much or more with his friendship and his conversation that manifest that he lived his life embraced by Amida Tathagatha's vow. Master Tanluan's words teach us - 'There is no other path other than living in one and the same Nembutsu.' George's life taught me the same thing.

In deepest Gassho and with much love,
farewell Rev. George Gatenby.

colourful experiences, George finally entered the mercantile realm and established himself as a sales representative with Capilano Honey where he worked successfully for many years.

Following our first meeting back in 1991, my friendship with George flourished and we both ended up forming a strong relationship with the renowned scholar **Dr Hisao Inagaki**, with whom we collaborated on many projects including the translation of many Buddhist texts into English. A few years later, Inagaki Sensei brought to our attention that our mother temple in Kyoto was running an ordination program for foreigners and encouraged us to apply. This was only the second time such a rare opportunity was being offered (the previous one was ten years earlier). So, with the support of many friends in Japan and **Rev. Toshio Murakami** (the inaugural minister in Sydney and former Bishop of Canada), George and I received *tokudo* ordination in October 1994. It was an unforgettable experience for both of us and it was a great blessing that we were able to travel to Kyoto in 2019 to mark the 25th anniversary of that very special occasion. Furthermore, George became the first Australian to receive the higher ordination rank of *kyoshi* in 2007.



Rev George at his Dojo (2007)

Upon his return from Japan, he started to ramp up his teaching activities. George established a little *dojo* from his home here in Adelaide which, while certainly modest in its numbers, punched way above its weight when it came to the quality and depth of this group's discussions. Around the same time, he embarked on what was to become his *magnum opus*; a monumental commentary on Shinran's hymns (which amount to over 350). It took George almost ten years to write and refine these exquisite pearls of wisdom; a feat that has never before been attempted in English (or possibly even in Japanese).

One of the things that I would like to do, as a tribute to George, is to oversee the publication of this work in book form rather than simply having it squirreled away on the internet. It deserves no less than to appear in a nice hard-bound edition in three volumes housed in a proper box case. A major endeavor to be sure but one in which I hope friends in Japan and the United States might be able to assist.

George was also an avid broadcaster, having presented a regular program of classical music on 5MBS-FM for many years, which had quite the following. He ended up being the station manager for a while, a position he undertook conscientiously and with great enthusiasm.

It feels like a very long time ago since George first mentioned his cancer diagnosis to me. He often made light of his condition (while remaining fully conscious of the long-term implications) and took it in his stride in a very stoic manner but not without a little dark humour. He always maintained that he was in good



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medical hands and had only the highest words of praise for his oncologist who appeared to look after him very well.

George seemed to be travelling quite well for most of his period of illness, although he was – more recently – reporting increasing difficulties when walking and, eventuality, with mobility in general. Following a fall at home he was admitted to hospital for immediate care and general observation but, when things looked more serious than initially thought, he was transferred to Mary Potter Hospice in North Adelaide which is where I spent a couple of precious afternoons with him in the middle of February.

During that brief time, we had some wonderful discussions tinged, as they were, with George's poignant reflections on mortality. When people approach the end, they start to think about their lives and wonder about the legacy they've left behind. He told me how hard he had tried to share the Buddhist teachings with others as best he could. It was very moving to see how much he cared for the spiritual well-being of people and to see them nourished by life's deeper truths. Despite the self-deprecating assessment of his own achievements, it has become very apparent – in speaking to various people since his passing – that he had a far-reaching impact on many, to a far greater extent than he himself could have imagined.

And yet, all our hidden fears and vulnerabilities come to the surface when we approach the end. This is the reality of our human condition and it is inescapable. We are not just lofty disembodied spirits but messy flesh and blood beings with hearts that cry out for love, sympathy and understanding. Even though I saw a more emotional and fragile side to George when I visited him at the hospice, there was never any doubt about his spiritual strength throughout this ordeal. It's as though he constantly felt the embrace of Amida Buddha, which lever lets us go, even while he struggled, physically and emotionally, with this debilitating and very cruel disease.

This reminds me of the powerful message in *Tannisho*, the most influential spiritual text in Japanese history. In its famous ninth chapter, we are confronted with the pastoral problem of how to face our final moments, given our understandable anxiety at the terrifying prospect of our demise. In response to a concern by a disciple that he didn't feel great joy in attaining the Pure Land of Nirvana at death as promised in the sutras, Shinran reassured him that this was perfectly normal and that he too often felt that way, saying:

It is hard for us to abandon this old home of pain, where we have been transmigrating for innumerable aeons down to the present,



Flowers from Rev Michio Tokunaga and Masako Sugimoto, Kyoto Japan.

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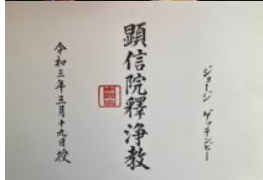
Reverend George Gatenby

(1943-2021)

We were very sad to learn that Reverend George Gatenby passed away from this world and was re-born in Amida Buddha's Pure Land on 7 March. On behalf of HBMA, I wish to extend our deepest condolences to the Adelaide Jodo Shinshu Sangha group, especially to Mr Roy Cooke. George-san was a person of true shinjin who had a deep understanding of Shinran's teachings.

The funeral was conducted in Adelaide on 19 March and was officiated by myself with the assistance of Rev. John Paraskevopoulos. Because of his devotion, George-san received a posthumous Buddhist name (*ingo*) from the Hongwanji - 顕信院 (Ken Shin In : means "*exemplify the heart of entrusting oneself to Amida Buddha*").

He will be remembered by many people who received much precious support and guidance from him on the nembutsu way.



In Gassho,

Rev Shigenobu Watanabe

Following is the eulogy message given by Rev John Paraskevopoulos



On checking an old diary entry recently, I discovered that it was actually 30 years ago this month that I first met George. While we had corresponded for a short while prior to that (via good old-fashioned letters sent in the post), our initial encounter occurred in Melbourne – he was on a business trip and I

was visiting family so the opportunity presented itself for us to finally get together.

It was a marvellous occasion. I was immediately struck by George's jovial nature and his distinctive, irrepressible laugh – a far cry from the somber attitude often displayed by many Buddhists I had known. But what was particularly impressive was his passion for exploring the deeper meaning of life. It was refreshing to see such enthusiasm for the Buddha's teachings, brought alive so vividly in this extraordinary man. These qualities never left him; if anything, they became stronger with the passing of the years.

George led a fascinating and unconventional life, not-

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withstanding its many difficulties (which were very often considerable). While he was a successful businessman, he often struggled with the compromises and ruthless behaviours with which he had to contend. Being the gentle soul that he was, the cut-throat world of commerce was hardly his passion in life but this did not detract from his consummate professionalism. To his credit, he was a tough but fair negotiator with the big-chain supermarkets, always being firm and decisive when he had to be.

He found a true vocation, however, in his spiritual journey. Before entering the world of business, George was an Anglican minister for about eight years. He quickly became a popular pastor who was renowned for his compelling sermons. During his time in the ministry, he joined the Oratory of the Good Shepherd, a religious order of priests and lay brothers, which satisfied the longing he had for a close-knit community and which gave him a contemplative break from the often-distracting preoccupations of a busy parish life. George described to me the sense of belonging and fulfilment he felt among the kindred spirits in that group.

And, yet, he was never entirely at home in the Christian tradition. While having come to value many of its theological and liturgical treasures, George found himself gradually drifting towards the East for greater spiritual sustenance. This was brought on by his providential encounter with Max Mueller's 19th-century translation of *the Sutra on the Buddha of Eternal Life*. While his transition to Buddhism didn't happen overnight, he was already finding himself thinking in Buddhist ways even while serving as an Anglican clergyman. After a while, this tension became too much and he felt the need to take decisive action.

Despite his doubts, leaving the comfort and security of a welcoming parish where he was held in such high regard would have been a difficult decision. For someone with limited work experience beforehand, job opportunities for ex-priests were severely limited. Nevertheless, he finally made the break from the Church of England and cast himself into a world of perilous uncertainty. After a series of odd jobs and

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