

750TH MEMORIAL FOR SHINRAN SHONIN AND 14TH WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION

The 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin for overseas missions was held on Sunday, May 15, 2011 at Honzan in Kyoto with over 3,500 in attendance including approximately 70 members from Hawaii. The musical service, in many ways similar to Hawaii's 750th observance in 2009, was very moving especially since it was also dedicated to the victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. Bishops and representatives from each district—Japan, Hawaii, Buddhist Churches of America, Canada, and South America—participated in the processional. The thirty representatives from Hawaii, wearing aloha attire and orange lei, walked to the steady beat of the taiko drum as the procession entered the Goeido (Founder's Hall) prior to the service. With translating equipment available for each overseas participant, we were able to participate in the proceedings and listen to the messages in English.

On May 16 and 17, the 14th World Buddhist Women's Convention was held at Pulse Plaza with about 4,000 members attending. The first day consisted of an afternoon of enjoyable workshops and a wonderful fellowship dinner. Each of the 5 districts presented a short performance, and Hawaii's 12 beautiful dancers in colorful muumuus were a big hit as they extended their warm aloha through their dance Spread a Little Aloha! The second day included an opening ceremony, an interesting interview, a panel of speakers with Lily Horio of Jikoen representing Hawaii, the General Assembly, and the closing ceremony and passing of the flag to Canada, the district in charge of the next Convention to be held in Toronto in 2015.

Moiliili's tour included Kyoto, Fukui, Kanazawa, Takayama and Nagoya. Besides the 750th Memorial Service and the World Convention, we experienced an early morning service (6:00 AM) at Honzan, tour of the Honzan, visits to Jodo Shin sites such as Rokkakudo, Ohtani Honbyo, Ryukoku Museum, Yoshizaki Gobo, and the Shirakawa "gassho" houses. We also went to Heian Jingu, Sanjusangendo, Eiheiji, Myoryuji (Ninjadera), and many beautiful visitor attractions. Moiliili's 20 members were joined on the tour by 6 members from the Big Island and 2 from Mililani (whose groups were not able to go as planned because of the March 11 disaster).

We thank Rev. Tatsuo Muneto for serving as our minister guide, preparing us to participate in the Memorial Service and sharing much information as we visited different places. Thank you also to the members of the planning group (Lois, Joy, Donna, Osamu, Anne, and Jeanne), Bishop Matsumoto and Rev. Takata of Headquarters, and staff members at JTB, for helping to make this such a memorable trip!



Moiliili group at the 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin on May 15, 2011

Contributed by Jeanne Watari