



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF MARYSVILLE

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Hiking the Path, with Team Castle

Message from home, Number 1.

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In the last Hiking article, I wrote about one of our special and personal symbols of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, our own personal Ojuzu.

I finished that portion of the article by stating: ...to me, the beads (of our Ojuzu) are a great reminder...a reminder that I am not alone...that it is only due to the efforts of others, that I can live my life. Every day, I am surrounded by incredible caring, support, and understanding.

As I sit down to write this hiking article, it is very clear that our path today is much different than just a few weeks and even days ago. Who would have thought that our lives would be so impacted by something that we cannot see or hear or feel...a microscopic little bug named COVID-19.

But, although small in size, this little bug has become a truth that we must, one and all, open our Dharma eyes to and take seriously.

As I look back and think about the reminder of what my Ojuzu means to me, I think how even more appropriate today those feelings are than when I wrote them: ... I am not alone...that it is only due to the efforts of others, that I can live my life. Every day, I am surrounded by incredible caring, support, and understanding.

While many of us are under strict guidelines to stay home and practice social distancing, NOTHING has changed from what I wrote. Every day, it is only due to the efforts of others that I can live my life. Every day, I am surrounded by incredible caring, support, and understanding. While maybe we are unable to physically be together at the Marysville Buddhist Church, I know that each of you still surround me and help me each and every day.

As the sun rises each day, I hope that we can realize that besides little microscopic bugs, there are even more powerful elements to our lives that we cannot see, and these greatly impact each of our lives daily.

The Meditation Sutra reminds us that Amida Buddha is not far from here...and us! If we keep in mind that all of us too are threads in this universal karmic blanket that Amida wraps us all up in, then we too are not far from each other. So while we have to practice social distancing, we should not let that get us down as we have our teachings, our practice, and most importantly, each other!!

In Gratitude,
By placing our hands together In Gassho, we too come together by reciting our own Namu Amida Butsu.

Again, the words of Lady Kujo:

Passing through fields and over mountains,
The pitiful travelers wander aimlessly.
How can they reach the Other Shore
With eyes clouded and steps unsure?

By the guiding light and benevolence of the Eternal Vow,
We awaken and go forward on the unobstructed Path.
The shadow of life's misery disappears,
and we offer gassho from a joyful heart.

Namu Amida Butsu

Keep on Hiking!!

Team Castle

