



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5401

February 2026

February Service and events:

- 02/13 – 02/15/2026 – National Council Meeting,
- 02/22/2026 – Nirvana Day
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima
- 02/28/2026 - Discussion Group with Rev. Miyaji
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Future events:

- 03/01/2026 – Spring Ohigan/March Shotsuki/Dharma School
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
- 03/29/2026 – Dharma Gathering – 10:00 a.m.
- 04/04/2026 - Decorate Hanamido – 4:30 p.m.
- 04/05/2026 - Hanamatsuri/April Shotsuki/Dharma School (no class) 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Bob Oshita
- 04/25/2026 – Fowler Fellowship Golf Tournament – Ridge Creek Golf Course – Dinuba
- 04/26/2026 – Dharma Gathering/Dharma School (Pet Memorial) 10:00 a.m. – Dr. Don Yoshimura



The Buddha's Measure

— *Hearing the Voice of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*

As we go about our daily lives, we are constantly making choices—often without even realizing it. As children, we gradually learn wisdom and grow into adulthood. The knowledge we gain in school and the judgment we acquire through life are all meant to help us live better. Yet when we look closely at the wisdom we use in daily life, we begin to notice something important: much of it is wisdom based on gain and loss. We try not to lose, and if possible, we want to gain a little more. This way of thinking is not unusual or wrong—it is simply human.

This wisdom of gain and loss always requires a measuring stick. When we face two options, we compare them, measure them, and choose the one that seems more favorable to us. For that, we need a ruler with clear markings—plus and minus, better and worse. This kind of measuring stick is certainly necessary for living in this world. If we ignored the difference between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, business would not function, and everyday life would quickly fall into confusion. Buddhism does not teach us to throw away this human measuring stick.

At the same time, Buddhism points out something else. Human desire has no end. No matter how much we gain or how much we achieve, another desire soon arises. The more we try to satisfy our desires, the more dissatisfaction grows. This is where human suffering lies. So what are we to do? Buddhism does not deny the human measuring stick. Instead, it shows us that there is another measuring stick—one more.

This is what we call the Buddha's measure. The human measuring stick has clear markings: plus and minus, good and bad, success and failure, health and illness, wealth and poverty. Everything is compared and evaluated. The Buddha's measure, however, has no markings at all. There are no scales, no numbers, no plus or minus. In fact, it is a ruler that cannot really be used to measure anything.

In English, this is expressed by the word Immeasurable. Immeasurable does not mean "very large." It does not mean infinite, and it does not mean eternal. Immeasurable means that the very framework of measurement itself no longer applies. Amida Buddha is called Immeasurable Life. This does not mean a life that continues forever in time. It is not a matter of how long life lasts. Rather, it points to a life that lies beyond our attempts to measure life and death as success or failure, gain or loss.

Let us consider illness as an example. From the perspective of the human measuring stick, health is positive and illness is negative. Naturally, we would rather be healthy and

avoid illness if possible. But once illness arises, the situation does not immediately change. At that point, we often continue to measure our condition as negative, and we begin to see ourselves as sufferers.

The Buddha's measure sees illness simply as illness—without positive or negative, without good or bad. So how can we come to encounter the Buddha's measure? There is only one way: to hear the call of the Buddha.

This month we observe Nirvana Day. It marks the moment when all human measures—success and failure, gain and loss, life and death—quietly come to rest.

Nirvana Day is a day to offer our gratitude to the Buddha. It is a day to listen—to listen to the Dharma taught by Shakyamuni Buddha, and to hear the calling voice of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

仏様のものさし

私たちは日々の暮らしの中で、知らず知らずのうちに物事を比べ、測りながら生きています。どちらが得か、どちらが無難か。少しでも損をしないように考えることは、ごく自然な人間の姿でしょう。こうした判断の背景には、いつも「ものさし」があります。プラスかマイナスか、良いか悪いか。

この人間のものさしは、この世を生きていくためには欠かせません。仏教も、それを捨てなさいとは教えていません。けれども同時に、仏教はもう一本、別のものさしがあることを示しています。それが、仏様のものさしです。

人間のものさしには、はっきりとした自盛りや単位があります。一インチ、一マイル、百ポンド、千ドル。人間のものさしがなければ私たちの生活は成り立ちません。そして成功と失敗、健康と病気、豊かさとしずしさ。私たちはさまざまなことを測りながら暮らしています。

しかし、仏様のものさしには自盛りがありません。

測ること自体が成り立たない、測れないものさしです。阿彌陀仏は「無量寿仏」と呼ばれますが、無量とは、いのちが永遠に続くという意味ではありません。生と死を、損得や成功・失敗で測ろうとする発想そのものが届かないところにある、いのちの在り方を示しています。

たとえば病気を考えてみると、人間のものさしでは、どうしてもマイナスに受け取られてしまいます。けれども仏様のものさしは、病気をどうこう「する」ものではありません。良くも悪くもせず、ただ病気を病気として見る。そこには、プラスもマイナスもありません。

生は死へと向かって流れていく自然なながれであり、病気もまた、誰もが経験する出来事です。もし生まれたときが百点で、あとは毎年点数が減っていくだけの人生だとしたら、私たちは生きていることが憂鬱になってしまうでしょう。「ああ、今年も一点減った」と。

仏様のものさしは、生と死を数字や評価から解き放ち、人間を自然な流れのなかで見つめる、まったく別の次元の見方を示しています。

今月は涅槃会を迎えます。お釈迦様を偲び、ときには人間のものさしに少しおやすみをあげ、仏様のものさしの中に身を置いてみる。そんな日があってもよいのではないのでしょうか。

測ることに少し疲れた私たちが、測られなくてよい世界があることに、静かに耳を傾ける日なのです。

南無阿彌陀仏

The Buddha's Measuring Stick

Every day, we compare many things.

Test scores, how fast we can run, how many points we get in a game. We often think, "That was good," or "That was bad," without even thinking.



That is because we use a **measuring stick**.

Our human measuring stick has marks on it.

Plus or minus. Win or lose. Right or wrong.

This measuring stick is important. We need it for

school and for daily life, so it is not something we should throw away.



But the Buddha gave us that there is **another measuring stick**.

The Buddha's measuring stick has **no marks at all**.

Because it has no marks, it cannot measure. So, we cannot say "good" or "bad."



It simply sees things as they are.

For example, think about getting sick. With our human measuring stick, we think, "This is bad," or "This is a minus." But the Buddha's measuring stick simply shows, "You are sick." Not good. Not bad. Just what is happening. Life moves in a natural flow. We are born, we grow, we get older, and someday we die. Everyone experiences sickness, growing old, and changing.



If we were born with 100 life points, and every year we lost one point, then just living would feel sad and tiring, wouldn't it?

The Buddha's measuring stick does not see life with points or scores. It sees life as a **natural flow**, just as it is.



Soon we will observe **Nirvana Day**. Nirvana Day is a day to remember the Buddha. It is a day to let our human measuring sticks take a rest, and to gently see ourselves with the Buddha's measuring stick. "Today, I don't have to measure myself." Having a day like that might be very nice.

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

As I look out my window and see our Ume tree in full bloom, I feel that Spring is just around the corner, but we need to get the Super Bowl out of the way and brace for the start of baseball spring training. Thank you to all of you who attended the Hoonko Service and Family Dharma Service last month. We had a great attendance to both, so it is very exciting to see the participation of our membership and to have invited guests in the audience. Many thanks to the Golf Club for providing the chow mein luncheon and the Fowler BWA for treating us to delicious Daifuku mochi for Hoonko. It seems to be working well to have the opportunity for two sessions of Dharma School per month. In talking with other CC temples, we should be proud of the enthusiastic participation of our Dharma School students, as we seem to be the most active Dharma school around. It certainly adds energy and vitality to our services.

Due to conflicts in scheduling and concern for a shortage of volunteers, the Food Bazaar Committee has cancelled our Food Bazaar for April 11th. Because of a

concern for a diminishing work crew to put on a full-blown Food Bazaar, should we consider putting on 2 or 3 fundraising events offering a single item? Ideas that were discussed was a chow mein plate, a tonkatsu plate, a teriyaki chicken or beef bowl, fried rice bowl, or Oyaku Donburi. In the Spring, March 28th was a date with no other conflicts except for school Spring Break. Gary Mukai will organize a **drive- thru** event for that day featuring a Chow Mein plate and rice and condiment for 400 plates at \$20 a plate. Details to follow. Orders will be taken by phone, text, or email.

Please be aware of hosting duties for CCBWA Conference coming up on March 22nd and the Dharma School Teachers Conference on April 18th. Both events can use your help. If you can lend a hand, contact Sharon Asakawa for the BWA Conference or Clinton Mukai for the Dharma School Teachers' Conference. Please consider being a tee sponsor, raffle donor or golf participant in our upcoming Fowler Fellowship Golf Tournament on April 25th.

Our next church service will be Shotsuki, Dharma School, and

observance of Nirvana Day on February 22, at 10 am. 'Hope to see you all there.

Gary Mukai

In Case You Didn't Know . . .

Keep up to date on what's happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by reading the White Path (monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org

Board of Governors – February District 4

Riji

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban

Sharon Asakawa
Tayoko Honda

Shotsuki Names for the month of February:

Hatsuyo Kanenaga
Masao Kanenage
Masao Nakamura
Matsutaro Yamane
Reiko Nakagawa

John Nakagawa
Hiroshi Ii
Toyosuke Ii
George Shimizu
Kazuo Nishina
Teru Kimura
Riyo Miyasaki
Shizuko Otani
Yoshisaburo Okamura
Satoru Okumura
Kojiro Kawamoto
Ritsuyo Namba
Saichi Tsuboi
Hide Kawano
Hikoji Yoshimura
Makiko Honda
George Toyoda
Shizumi Yoshimura
Ritsu Tanaka
Kara Nakagawa
Masao Mukai
Evelyn Hirai
Genjiru Nakata
Max Sumida
Mitsui Wada
Sunayo Yokomi
James Wada
Kazuo Morita
Tomie Morishige
Tsuyoshi Tiyo Yamaguchi
Akimi Sakazaki
Kiyoshi Taniguchi
Fujio Shimada
George Koso Yamamoto

Rose Yoshiko Nakagawa
 Shizuko Yoshimoto
 Akira Tokubo
 Betty Nakayama
 Kiyoko Sumida



January 2026 Donations

New Years Eve Service

\$ 50.00 Earl Honda

New Years Day Service

\$ 10.00 Lawrence & Aileen
 Parmeter

New Years Service/Shotsuki

\$ 50.00 Derek, Yim, Verona &
 Violet Honda

Hoonko/Shotsuki Service

\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai

Hoonko Service

\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
 Hiyama
 \$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara
 \$ 30.00 Arthur & Alice
 Fujikawa
 \$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
 \$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto
 \$ 30.00 Shig & Aiko Kamine
 \$ 25.00 Hitomi Sera
 \$ 20.00 Nakamura Family
 \$ 20.00 Miss Yoshiye Ii
 \$ 20.00 Ms. Sharon A
 Asakawa
 \$ 5.00 Unknown

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Robert & Rose Mayebo
 \$ 75.00 Greg & Patti Miyake
 \$ 75.00 Ken & Kim Miyake
 \$ 50.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
 \$ 50.00 Janie Yuen
 \$ 50.00 The Nakagawa Family
 \$ 50.00 Esther & Allan
 Nakagawa
 \$ 30.00 Arthur & Alice
 Fujikawa
 \$ 30.00 M/M Norman Takeuchi
 \$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
 Hiyama
 \$ 25.00 Hitomi Sera

\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 20.00	Gerald & Cherie Nakayama
\$ 20.00	Linda Matsumoto
\$ 20.00	Miss Yoshiye Ii

Year End

\$1000.00	Esther & Allan Nakagawa
\$ 500.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 500.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 200.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 100.00	Frank & Linda Fujikawa
\$ 100.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine

Dharma Talk

\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 20.00	Chris & Jill Tange
\$ 20.00	Ms. Sharon A Asakawa
\$ 20.00	Jan Yoshimoto

Ikebana Class

\$ 500.00	Roberta Araki
	Maggie Courtis
	Patricia Cruz
	Arlene Keithley
	Harumi Komaki
	Yuko Matoba
	Marlene Miyasaki
	Gay Mukai

Karen Mukai
Janice Yoshimoto
Maxine Yoshimoto
Satomi Hiyama

In Memory of Dean Shimizu

\$ 25.00	Ms. Ellen Okada
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In Memory of Shizue May Mukai, 3rd Year Memorial

\$ 400.00	Gary & Karen Mukai and Family
	Stan Mukai
	Greg & Gay Mukai and Family
	Terry & Barbara Mukai and Family
\$ 50.00	Mrs. Mary Masako Mukai
\$ 30.00	Ed & Patti Bungo
\$ 30.00	Doug & Linda Matsumoto
\$ 30.00	M/M Geno & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00	Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$ 30.00	Gary, Laraine, Austin & Alexa Goto
\$ 30.00	M/M John & Connie Saldin & Family
\$ 25.00	Mrs. Margie Mukai
\$ 20.00	Chris & Melanie Mukai And Family
\$ 20.00	Ms. Stephanie Nakai

**In Memory of George Teraoka,
3rd Year Memorial**

\$ 300.00 The George Teraoka
 Family

Special Donations

\$1,000.00 Bev & Mike Maruyama
\$ 100.00 Mr. Dean Shiroyama



Central California Nikkei Foundation

Shredding Community Service and Fundraiser



Saturday, April 4, 2026

9am to 12 noon

Securely dispose of personal documents, tax papers,
Books-hardback & paperback.

Limit: 20 Banker Sized Boxes per car

Cost: \$15 per Banker Sized Box

Cash or Check only

Please make check payable to CCNF

Event will be Drive-Thru

Boxes will be emptied from your trunk/tailgate and returned

Held at Vintage Gardens

540 S. Peach Ave., Fresno

Questions contact: Susan Hayashi – 325-1457 or text 906-8540

Seniors who cannot drive to the event, call Susan by **March 23**
and arrange for pick-up.