



Buddhist Thoughts

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How to Have the Perfect Sangha J.K. Hirano

How to Have a Perfect Pastor

A recent survey has compiled all the qualities that people expect from the perfect pastor:

Results of a computerized survey indicated that the perfect pastor preaches exactly 12 minutes.

He frequently condemns sin but never upsets anyone.

He works from 8:00 a.m. until midnight and is also a janitor.

He makes \$60 a week, wears good clothes, buys good books, drives a good car, and gives about \$80 a week to the poor.

He is 28 years of age, but he's been preaching for 30 years. He is wonderfully gentle and handsome.

He gives himself completely but never gets too close to anyone to avoid criticism.

He speaks boldly on social issues, but must never become politically involved.

He has a burning desire to work with teenagers, but he spends all his time with senior citizens.

He makes 15 daily calls to parish families, visits shut-ins and the hospitalized, spends all his time evangelizing the unchurched, and is always in his office when needed.

BAD JOKE DISCLAIMER: We recognize that religious humor can be risky. It is our hope that by laughing at ourselves (and others) we can make this subject more approachable. If you find any of these objectionable, we apologize. Many were posted on Beliefnet, some were passed along via email and others spotted on other websites. As with most jokes, the original authors are unknown -- but we thank them.

I will be going to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) annual ministers and national councilman's meeting in a couple of weeks. I am getting close to the halfway point of the total of these meetings I am required to

attend. This will be the 18th time that I have attended this meeting. Since ministers cannot retire until they have served the Sangha for 40 years, I am almost to the halfway point. It's hard to believe that I have been a minister for almost 19

years. One of the funny things about this, is that at the minister's meeting, I am still considered one of the younger guys.

These meetings for the past 17 years, were some of the longest and most boring meetings I have ever had the misfortune of attending. They were like open forums for temple members to complain about their ministers and the problems they have caused for their temples. Or for ministers to complain about their temples and how unrealistic and demanding their members could be. Some of these complaints have gone on for as long as there have been temples and ministers. It just seems to be in the nature of some people to want to complain about something, to show that they are concerned about something. It's an interesting way of getting attention.

One of the patterns that I have seen change over the past number of years is the subject of language. Before I would hear that we needed to have good English-speaking ministers that can communicate with our youth. Now that the majority of ministers are quite proficient in the English language, I hear about the need to communicate with the few remaining Japanese speakers that have given so much to build our temples up. It is as though we are now neglecting the Japanese culture of our temples and need to go back to the basics. It is interesting how these patterns go back and forth. It's kind of like a bone being passed back and forth, back and forth between two dogs. One of the dogs is always going to be unhappy about something.

On preparing for my upcoming meeting I noticed this e mail from beliefnet.com that I received. I began this article with the e mail. It went on to describe the perfect pastor. After reading it and looking at some of the various Christian web sites that featured this listing, I realized that no matter whether you are Baptist, Catholic, Jewish, Buddhist, I don't know about Islam, but if you belong to some sort of organized religious group. We all have something to complain about.

I have been asked a number of times, whether I am happy here in Salt Lake City or if I am happy as a Buddhist minister. In all honesty, I couldn't be happier with my life as a minister and where I am at in my life. When I say this, some would remind me that during the time since I became a minister, my mother died of cancer at the age of 59. I have been divorced twice and I have had also had cancer and last year, I almost resigned from the temple. I can only respond that my life has been specifically devised to be perfect only for me, isn't it amazing. No one else can live my life for me. In that same manner, no one else may be able to appreciate just how amazing a life it has been. I believe this is the same for each of you reading this article.

We just completed our temple's general board meeting. There were reports from the various organizations. There were some complaints and questions about the running of the temple. It's always good to hear what people are thinking. It's amazing how much time and effort our Sangha members give to keep our temple running. I can't imagine anyone putting in that much effort to cause problems. I believe without a question, everyone that is an officer of the temple or it's affiliated organizations have the best intentions of the temple in their heart. I truly thank each and every one of you for the work you do.

However, as I said, "There will always be someone that has a deep need to complain about something just to show they are concerned." I had to laugh at one of the complaints that Paul Terashima mentioned to me after I had to leave the meeting. It had to do about having services on Sunday during the Summer when the Dharma School was out. Last Summer we began having services every Sunday after the Dharma School students were on vacation. It was announced at the board meeting and regular Sunday services. It was also listed in the temple calendar. The services were held at 10:00 a.m., on Sundays during June and July. I guess the persons that made the complaint either doesn't read the newsletter or read the temple calendar or come to the regular Sunday

services when we announce the upcoming schedule. Those Sunday services were attended by basically Carmela and me. There were one or two visitors that happened to walk into the temple to see what it was. As I told Paul, "All we can do is keep trying. There is just a need for some people to want to criticize something." It is my sincere desire that we can all to work together in perfecting our Sangha. There is perfection in our imperfection. Let's be grateful that we have this temple, as a place where people can come to complain and hopefully listen to the Dharma. This is the perfect Sangha for the people we have here, how can it be otherwise? Thank you all for your efforts in making our temple perfect for our Sangha.

BWA News

Yoshiko Uno

Wishing you all a **HAPPY, PROSPEROUS and HEALTHY 2006.** I also want to take this opportunity to **Thank** all our members for their tireless time and effort in supporting the activities of our organization. We have had an active and productive year and your participation has made a difference. **ARIGATOO & OKAGESAMA**

We had our November 12th meeting with Maxine Furubayashi offering to help with the preparation of Obentos for shut-ins on December 3rd. Members prepared, boxed and delivered obentos. For our Bodhi Day, Shotsuko Hoyo luncheon held on December 11th, our members contibuted salads and desserts.

At our December 18th meeting, we had the election of our new officers and boad member for 2006. They are: President Yoshiko Uno

1st Vice -president Lynne Doi

2nd Vice-president Dot Richeda

Secretary Tammie Kuramoto

Treasurer Yuriko Dennison

Appointed officers will be Maya Chow and Kathy Terashima, auditors; Maxine Furubayashi and Kathy Terashima, public relations; Junko Mitsunaga, Setsuko Nagata, and Takeko Doi, food; Brenda Koga and Jane Sakashita, religious. Other Board members: Frances Akimoto, Elsie Doi, Ruby Doi, Terry Fujinami, Jeanne Konishi, Renee Matsuura, Karie Minaga-Miya, Yuki Okubo, Chic Terashima, Cassandra Van Buren, Silvana Watanabe, and Kazuko Yakumo. I wish to congratulate and welcome our new officers and thank everyone for their support during this past year and for the New Year.

During November and December we gathered clothing for the Shelter. With the help of Paul and Kathy Terashima, Kazuko Yakumo, and Yuriko Dennison we delivered three car-loads of clothing to the Shelter. Thank you to all who contributed.

On January 15th we had our Shotsuki Hoyo, Hoonko, New Years Party. Our members brought the main dish of ham, salmon, and other traditional foods. Junko Mitunaga, Setsuko Nagata, Takeko Doi, Cassandra Van Buren, Fran Akimoto, & Yuriko Dennison worked in the kitchen Saturday and Sunday preparing items for the ozoni Everyone enjoyed the special dished that were brought for this luncheon.

Our January meeting was held on the 22nd. We are inviting anyone who is interested to attend the Federation of World Buddhist Women's Assoc. Conference in Hawaii Sept 2-3, 2006. Rev. Hirano had a cruise schedule attached to your last Buddhist Thoughts so give us a call if you would like to join us. This conference should be educational and fun. We would love to have more people attending. The deadline for registration is the end of February.

Our kitchen re-organization was scheduled for January, but Terry Fujinami, Takeko Doi, and Setsuko Nagata took care of it for us before our meeting. Thank you for all that you do for us.

The Building Committee has made up a list of things that need attention. As you have worked at the temple and find there is a need to have

something repaired or improved, please bring it up to our committee members. They are trying to prioritize this list.

During the week of March 17-23, Mrs. Ishihara, the wife of the late Rev. Ishihara will be visiting the Salt Lake City area. Some of our members would like to set up a dinner on one of the nights of her visit at the Golden Dragon Restaurant. If you are interested in attending, please contact me.

Our next meeting will be February 12th after service at 11:30 AM. Come join us. We welcome new members with open arms.

Salt Lake Dharma School



Sunday
March
5, 2006

**Join us for a day of skiing fun!
Bring your lawn chairs, relax for lunch, and
enjoy the company of friends.**

WHERE: Brighton Ski Resort – meet in the parking area beneath the Explorer lift (beginner lift on far left).

TIME: Try to meet by 8:30 a.m. Tell the parking attendant you are with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple group.

LUNCH: Potluck barbeque starts at 11:30am.

FYI: Discount passes available at Gart Sports, Canyon Sports, etc.

Sign up for your contribution to the lunch on the bulletin board at the temple.

Please contact Christy or Bruce Fong if you have any questions at 801-451-4516 or christykf@hotmail.com

Day of Remembrance 2006

The annual Day of Remembrance, sponsored by the three Utah chapters of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), will be held on Saturday, February 18, 2006. The theme for this year's event is "Day of Remembrance: Through a Woman's Eyes." Often separated from their husbands and sons, the women were left to raise their young families alone under sparse living conditions. The program will focus on World War II relocation experiences from the female perspective.

The program will begin with a 30-minute documentary film, "Words, Weavings, and Songs" that profiles three Japanese American women - playwright Wakako Yamauchi, singer Mary Nomura, and weaver Momo Nagano. Yamauchi has written plays about her experiences in the Poston, Arizona relocation camp. Momo Nagano was assigned to make camouflage nets in Manzanar - a job that catalyzed her interest in weaving as an art form. Mary Nomura sang popular tunes of the 1940s; her performances led her to become known as "the songbird of Manzanar." Following the film, a panel discussion on life in and out of the relocation camps will be moderated by Jeanette Misaka, University of Utah associate professor. Panel participants will include local area women. Stories and photos on female artists, teachers and writers will be displayed along with original artwork from the Topaz Museum, a photo gallery from the time period, and handicrafts made in the relocation camps. During the program,

a workshop will be held to entertain children, ages 4 to 10, making some of the handicrafts. The event will be held at two venues. Beginning at noon, Japanese box lunches may be purchased at the Japanese Church of Christ, 268 West 100 South, for \$10 each (limited quantity, call (801) 355-8040 to reserve a lunch). At 1:00 p.m., the program will begin across the street at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, 211 West 100 South. For more information, contact Diane Akiyama at (801) 277-6115.

Utako Tokunaga 2/27/02 Al Tokunaga
Jimmy Yoshio Kido 2/26/03 Yoshiko Kido

February Toban

*Rick Spehar *Mark Minaga
*Henry Hirano *Gary Okamoto

Stan Endo Elaine Endo
Scott Furubayashi Ryoko Okamoto
Susan Spehar Gail Minaga
Joy Furubayashi Dru Sueoka
Samuel Dean Akemi Dean
Susan Furbayashi Joni Sueoka
Tak Iwamoto Sadie Kato
Greg Matsuura Sandra Iwaski
Damon Papac Lisa Papac
Sharon Matsuura

February Shotsuki Hoyo

February 12, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of kin
Doi Masayo	2/23/87	Ichiro Doi
Ishimatsu Yoshiko	2/17/26	Chizuko Ishimatsu
Iyezuka Tazo	2/26/70	
Kawaguchi Hirokichi	2/2/	Bill Kawaguchi
Kikushima Shizue	2/20/86	Bernice Kida
Kobayashi Yasuji	2/5/50	Ken Kobayashi
Kojima Hideo	2/3/85	Tama Kojima
Maeda Shime	2/4/36	Sachiko Koga
Nakai Kanesaburo	2/19/60	Lily Havey
Nishida Hide	2/23/68	Aiko Okada
Nodzu Shige	2/7/80	Ken Nodzu
Ogawa Gentaro	2/9/09	Bob Sugino
Oike Kazuyoshi	2/3/59	May Koike
Okawa Paul	2/11/87	Kiyoko Okawa
Sauki Izyo	2/28/94	Marge Kruze
Seko Kikuno	2/4/89	Duzo Seko
Shiotani Sataro	2/13/85	Kai Shiotani
Suehiro Otozo	2/2/36	Ken Matsuura
Suehiro Tomiko	2/4/31	Ken Matsuura
Sueoka Tokusaku	2/4/70	Rhu Sueoka
Tsugino Masuko	2/8/80	Matsue Kasubuchi
Tsutsui Mojiro	2/23/73	Geraldine Chappell
Ushio Tatsu	2/14/03	Ruby Ushio
Watanabe Ichiro Roy	2/19/85	Mae Watanabe
Yagi Emiko	2/6/83	Rose Mayeda
Koga Sueyoshi	2/22/99	Sachiko Koga
Sauki Tamaye	2/22/98	Marge Kruze
Lessie Yamamoto	2/4/99	Eleanor Nakamura
Tadao Ushio	2/22/01	Ruby Ushio
Michiko Koga	2/5/02	Gary Koga
Jerry Tsuyuki	2/7/02	Mark Tsuyuki
Harry Tsutsui	2/27/02	Geraldine Chappell