

The Path to a Future of Peace

Message from Rev. Keishi Miyamoto



Rev. Keishi Miyamoto, Chairman of the Board of Myochikai, Representative of the Arigatou Foundation

World peace may sometimes seem like a distant goal, but we find no reason to let this discourage us. For Myochikai, and for those who have found themselves in accord with Myochikai's initiatives through the Arigatou Foundation and the Global Network of Religions for Children, faith provides an indomitable spirit of hope and perseverance.

There is a story in one of the Sutras preached by the Buddha, *Zappozokyou*, which goes like this:

“Once upon a time, there was a forest at the foot of a mountain in the Himalayas. One day a forest fire broke out. The lions and tigers living in the forest made every effort to extinguish it, but all was in vain. Finally, sensing the danger, they hid themselves behind a large rock. At just that moment, a little bird tried to extinguish the blazing fire with the little water it could carry on its wings. Seeing this, the lions and tigers cried, “Stop it, stop it! It is no use for you to bring those few drops of water. Even the big animals like us cannot put out the fire.” The little bird replied, “I know very well that I am not able to do it. But I cannot just stand by and watch the fire burn down our forest. I cannot help but carry some water and try. I do not think about whether I can succeed or not.”

This story reveals to us the spirit of Buddhism through the figure of the little bird, which, without thinking about whether it will succeed or not, cannot help but take action. I believe that a truly wise human being is one who tries to continue to do what he or she should do without stopping to consider whether he or she will succeed or not.

The story of Myochikai, the Arigatou Foundation, and the GNRC continues to unfold, transcending national, ethnic, and religious boundaries in an ever-expanding circle of common concern for the well being of the entire human family. Rev. Mitsu Miyamoto, Myochikai founder and *Kaishu* (great spiritual master), taught about the path to realizing this goal: “Every person has his or her own mission. What is important is for each person to accomplish his or her mission.”

Everything in existence carries a mission or meaning. None is more important than another. If we are aware of this mission, believe in it, and carry it out, our lives will be abundant and fruitful. The mission and dignity of each being should never be taken lightly.

Myochikai has taught the effort to cultivate the individual heart to help people develop themselves as human beings through “prayer and practice” of the four primary teachings. This leads us to become ourselves in the truest sense. When we become ourselves, we find our happiness and pleasure in serving the people around us, our families, communities, the world, our environment, our ancestors, and the Divine Presence. Myochikai will continue to advocate the importance of cultivating the human heart, and seek to increase the number of people who share this heart. I believe this is the shortest way to the realization of the precious blessing of peace for the world.

We will keep striving to build world peace by putting the four primary teachings of Myochikai into practice in our personal lives and cooperating with all people of good will around the world. For Myochikai, there is no more direct route to peace.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keishi Miyamoto". The signature is written in a cursive style.

