

Vision of Praise

January 2013

From the editor

This time, we'd like to share with you Pastor Peter's message "Divine Wind," given at the *Church of the Wind* on November 4, 2012

Divine Wind

Peter

♪ *Magnificat anima mea Dominum
et exsultavit Spiritus meu
in Deo salutari meo.* ♪

My soul magnifies the Lord God,
For I have beheld the great light in the dark night.
It is the healing light.
It is the magnificent light to save all the people.
O Holy One, You alone are the Lord God
who reigns Heaven and Earth.
We give glory to the Redeemer
from now on to the eternity. Amen

New waves are undulating on seashores not only in Japan but also in the entire world. Listen to the sounds of waves descending from the above, the celestial high.

The Christmas Concert 2012 held last October has opened another door in Heaven. We are perceiving the coming of the appointed time to receive refreshing from the

presence of the Lord. Though having anticipated it, I was truly excited when it was finally realized at the Concert.

Many have already made comments on the Concert. “It was so transparent,” they say. Indeed it was. The presence of the Lord overwhelmed us. O what an hour are we living and breathing to behold the glory of the Lord!

Ours is not a regular music concert, in which artists perform and audience listens. Our concert is worship. The choir is one with the audience. There is no separation. The choir and the audience are to worship the Lord in one breathing. Divine breath, the very life of God, flows out to the choir and to the audience. I once named the concert audience as the active resounding board. Without the living board, no concert can function as God’s instrument to oscillate the heavenly power to anywhere.

At our concert, you are asked to be silent just like at any other concert. It is for the recording purpose. There is also the spiritual reason for your silence. You are asked to be silent and to participate in the divine quietness. You cannot experience it unless you enter into the sphere of transcendental stillness. In the quietness, you will find divinity.

When the people of Israel were pursued by the Egyptian army in the desert, they got panicked at the gulf-shore. The Red Sea before them, the roaring enemy behind them. Hearing them screaming for help, a man of God stood up:

And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, *stand still*, and see the salvation of the Lord, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever.
(Exodus 14:13 KJV)

Most of the modern translations read, “Stand firm.” I prefer “Stand still,” as in KJV. The former sounds denoting man’s own strength, while the latter indicating man’s total dependence on God’s own work. Salvation is nothing but to behold God’s own doing. The true victory is realized when we acknowledge our helplessness and watch the Lord’s redeeming work. This is faith.

When in trouble, you get panicked, and cannot see God’s salvation which is at hand. Why don’t you stand still and see His great helping hands? When you are still, you are able to participate in God’s own act of Redemption. This is the biblical promise.

We prefer the live recording with audience to the studio recording. Jarring noises are unavoidable in the live recording. More important, however, is not the sound quality of recording, but the live presence of the Holy One, which is often produced when all are in the worshipping spirit. You can easily discern a live recording CD and a studio recording CD.

This is why we need quietness at the concert. Not only outward stillness but also inner quietness is required, for you are God’s resounding board to reflect the glory of the Redeemer.

As the choir and the audience are tuned into one breathing, you experience the ever-expanding mystery of praise. It carries you to the universe. You can then acknowledge that the concert is the confession of your faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The concert is the magnetic field to invoke the celestial beings to worship together with us.

Before the Christmas Concert 2012, there was unbearable tension in the East China Sea. Communist China escalated their military threat against Japan on the Senkaku Islands. Whenever their party leaders and the military detect

threats from angry farmers and complaining masses, they let off steam by means of the military threat against Japan. They turn people's attention to abroad rather than to domestic affairs. Thus rampageous mobs attacked Japanese companies in big cities during the recent months.

It is unfair, unreasonable and stupid. No one in the sane mind wants a war. However, history has proved how unreasonable and stupid we humans can be. A tiny diplomatic incident can trigger a great tragedy of war. It has happened, and it will happen.

I cannot forget a vision which Mitsuko saw before the Concert. She was at the point of a gun. The old muzzle was leveled against her. The enemy's finger was just about to pull the trigger. Scared to death, she then saw the Lord Jesus standing against the muzzle.

Seeing the vision, Mitsuko said to herself, "Should the Lord alone be sacrificed?"

When she related the scary vision to me, I knew immediately that it was the urgent warning from Heaven. It was not about Mitsuko's personal matter. It was on the trouble between China and Japan. Should we ignore the heavenly warning, a war may break out between the two countries. We must stop it.

How can we with little power control the raging Dragon?

By means of praise and prayer. It is the only and the most effective way to quench the fire. We must participate in the Lord's redeeming operation in this eschatological age. What Mitsuko said, "Should the Lord alone be sacrificed?" indicates our spiritual duty and work. God's redemption was completed on Calvary once for all, and now we participate in His redeeming work for it to be perfected here on the visible earth.

Besides this you know what hour it is, how it is full time now for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we first believed.

(Romans 13:11 RSV)

The redeeming history is progressing and aiming to reach to the grand finale. We are the witnesses of the final countdown. Heaven is about to be united with Earth to complete Christ's Redemption. The more Heaven comes down, however, the more we are to face the earthly affairs in the heavenly perspectives. The present troubles and conflicts in the visible world should not be dismissed and ignored. They should be treated in the light of the redeeming history.

When we participate in the redeeming history, there we will see God's hope and God's love.

The Lord God must have averted the war between China and Japan through the Concert. The old muzzle has been turned away, at least for now.

Some may ridicule our belief, saying it is a mere fantasy. How could a small singing group have an influence over international affairs?

I am not Don Quixote. I am a realist. I am a biblical realist. I believe in prayer.

Listen to what the Lord says on prayer:

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven.

(Matthew 18:18-19 RSV)

The keyword is "agree."

A Greek word is συμφωνέω, from which the English word, symphony, is derived. It denotes musical harmony. An orchestra consists of various instruments with different sounds, but they are all tuned into one harmony.

To agree is not intellectual so much; it is spiritual. Christian churches have developed doctrinal creeds in their long history. When some agreed on certain creeds, they formed a new sect and in time a new denomination. That is no problem with me. However, I would question why they denounced and even persecuted others who had doctrinal differences.

When I was young, I often had trouble with my wife on mere trivia. I would squeeze toothpaste from the bottom. She would squeeze it in the middle. She could not see why I was upset. We could not agree on a tiny issue such as how to squeeze toothpaste. So much for a silly trouble.

Biblical agreement is in a different dimension. To agree is neither intellectual nor emotional. It is spiritual. When you are tuned into the Spirit's breathing, you will instantly realize what spiritual symphony means.

Although my wife and I had quarrels over trivial matters, we came together in prayer whenever we were short of money. We were in perfect agreement on the faith: God would supply all our needs. And to our surprise, God answered our every single prayer. He did not delay answering our prayer for money regardless of our emotional ups and downs.

Gradually it has become clear to me that "two of you agree on earth" depends not on man's righteousness but on God's mercy. In the Body of Christ, you may have differences with others on many issues, but you can be one with others when you worship the Lord in the Spirit. The spiritual unity is realized only in the flow and breath of the Holy Spirit.

That is precisely what was accomplished at the Christmas Concert 2012. It is the sign of the *parusia* (coming of the Lord): the Body of Christ is becoming visible here on Earth.

Troubles will be ongoing. We may face more harassment around the East China Sea and in the land of China. However, the Lord will guard us and have mercy on this land as long as we realize the spiritual unity in worshipping the Lamb of God. Oh, my fellow people, it is high time that we stand still and behold the great salvation of the Lord. He has done and will do again a mighty miracle to deliver us from the peril of national disaster.

Thus says the Lord God.

Last night I watched a television program which featured the relics of Chinese warships recently discovered in Imari Bay, Kyushu. Around the 13th century, the mounted nomads headed by Genghis Khan of Mongolia conquered the central Asia, the northern China and a part of Europe. The empire then was too fierce and strong for no other nation to combat with. Emperor Kublai Khan (1215-94), the fifth from Genghis Khan, finally conquered Sung, the southern China, and gained the total control over China. The only country which was not subdued was a tiny nation of the East, Japan, which was governed by Kamakura Shogunate.

Kublai Khan made a decision to conquer Japan. In 1274 and 1281, he sent 4,000 of the most advanced war vessels carrying more than 140,000 soldiers. The battle was no contest, though Japanese samurais fought fiercely. In short time, the Chinese army was able to have control over Fukuoka and its vicinity. The fate of the country was in peril.

Suddenly, indeed suddenly, a miracle took place. Not only once but twice did it happen. In both occasions, the

strong gust of wind blew over the night, and the next morning no war vessel was seen in the bay. All vessels were drowned into the bottom of the ocean.

Historians to this day had doubt on the recorded number of vessels and soldiers, but now they have to acknowledge its accuracy, because the relics discovered in Imari Bay proved the superior Chinese technology to build war vessels each of which could carry 100 soldiers and heavy weapons.

No wonder Japanese then called the sudden gust of wind which brought an unexpected victory overnight *Kamikaze*, the divine wind.

I know there is no “if” in history, but I wonder what would have happened to this country if the divine wind had not blown. We might not be here now.

It was an interesting program to watch. As I was pondering, a thought came to me:

Where do you think the wind blew from?

What do You mean?

It blew from the Church of the Wind.

What!

I almost said, “Are You out of Your mind?”

But I didn’t, because I was filled with joy. Oh, was it so! Lord, You are God who transcends and reigns over history. Is that what is mentioned in Phillip’s translation as “all human history will be consummated in Christ”? (Ephesians 1:10)

Now I believe that the Lord God who reigns over the present world is the same Lord who intervened in the past to deliver us from the total annihilation.

The same divine wind has blown again over the East China Sea this time. The Concert 2012 has proved it. *Kamikaze* this time is the wind of *heavenly praise*.

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Zechariah 4:6 KJV) What we should rely on is not the worldly weapon, but the Lord Himself.

Last month, Yuko Sakuma, a staff worker, was the messenger of worship at the *Church of the Wind*. She shared her testimony on how she was called by the Lord. To become a worker for the Lord had been the remotest idea for her. Yet she had to answer the Lord after experiencing a vision. She was alone at home one afternoon. Suddenly the roof of her house was blown out as the thunder roared. She was not sure if it was a real happening or a vision. She was scared to death when she saw in the white cloud above Someone in white robe standing and a bird’s leg-like things hanging beneath the white cloud. She later understood them as cherubim’s. She was astounded at the most brilliant blue light in the shape of a ball behind the Man on the cloud. She perceived that the light had enough energy to create the universe.

Trembling she bowed down, and worshiped the Lord. Gradually the vision faded away, but she could no longer afford not to answer the Lord’s calling.

I believe her vision was from God. By the way, Mitsuko told me that she too had seen the same blue light in her vision right after her *White Dove* experience.

What strikes me is that Yuko knew the brilliant blue light had enough energy to create the universe. We have to realize that our Lord is the Sovereign God who controls Heaven and Earth. If necessary, we should invoke the heavenly might and power for this generation. He is at hand.

With all my hope and prayer, I warn you: Do not misuse God's power.

Even though God sent the divine wind to rescue Japan in the old time, the Japanese military abused *Kamikaze* for their own ambition and gratification during World War II. They indoctrinated the country and claimed that Japan would never be defeated because *Kamikaze* would blow in the end. The same stupidity may happen if we are out of the redeeming love of Christ.

Can we abuse God's power? You may wonder. Yes, we can.

God has empowered us with the *Heavenly praises* and power in order to glorify the Lord, not to gratify our own sense of righteousness.

When Jesus set out for Jerusalem with His disciples, He met the opposing voices from the people of Samaria. The disciples were angry.

And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did? But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

(Luke 9:54-55 KJV)

Most modern translations omit the last sentence in italic, for the older codex does not have the text. Some scholars claim that it must be a later addition. I believe that the Holy Spirit granted the addition as a part of the Scripture.

When we are filled with indignant righteousness, we must stop and see if we are out of grace. Doesn't the Lord say, "What manner of spirit are you of?"

I warn you, and myself. Do not be carried away with the

sense of revenge when you meet opposing voices. It is simply because we are placed in the special place, namely the *Church of the Wind*.

The *Church of the Wind* is a spiritual amplifier. What you do at the *Church of the Wind* will be dispatched to the outer world in an amplified wave. When you sound and echo the *heavenly praise*, it will send the heavenly message and healing to many parts of the world. When you are angry, a destructive spirit will be delivered to many people and places and cause a huge commotion in the visible world.

A few weeks ago, Mitsuko received a message in *interpretation*:

Prepare for the time.

The Holy Spirit is indeed the consuming fire.

The hour of the Holy Spirit is upon us. Our flesh, no matter how righteous it may be, should be burnt out. Do not be afraid of refining fire of the Spirit, for the Lord is preparing us as the Bride of Christ.

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