

Vision of Praise

October 2014

From the editor

Now we'd like to share with you the message, "The World with No Boundary" delivered by Pastor Peter at the *Church of the Wind* on July 2014.

The World with No Boundary

Peter

*All is calm,
And all is enveloped in the Love divine.
In the celestial life,
Every one and every thing is breathing
The divine breath.
Do you not hear the Hymn of the Universe?
Warmly, tenderly, it praises the Lamb slain
Who was before the foundation of the world.
Warmly, tenderly, it magnifies the Bliss
Who is to reign over all
As the High Priest of the Universe.
Oh, sing and praise the Lamb
Who is and will be the transcendental Glory.
May His joy engulf the entire Universe
As well as my tiny being.*

When we praise ♪ *Caelum et terra sunt unum* ♪ this morning, all things in heavens and on the earth seem to be truly united and harmonized in Christ. The Latin verse means

that heaven and earth are one, and so it is because of the redeeming love of the Lord.

In last Friday's evening service, Kinuyo Kaneko, our staff worker, reported on the students in a music school in Bolivia who had an opportunity to listen to our praise CD "Christe Eleison." Kinuyo has a Japanese acquaintance in Bolivia who happens to be the principal of the school, and gave him our recent CDs. After listening to them he was quite impressed, being a music specialist. He wondered, however, how his students who were exposed to the poverty and the daily struggles of life would react to our quiet, meditative music, which seemed so far away from the reality. And he was quite astounded by his students' comments on the CD.

Here are some of them translated from Spanish to Japanese:

Sarai Cortez (14) guitar major:

I perceive the most sincere dedication to the Lord Almighty. The choir is singing pure praise full of love and mercy with the sincere desire for the genuine world and with the prayer for returning back to the nature. The music is simple, and yet profound. I also perceive their daring energy that they would do anything to carry out the Word of God. I believe this is so helpful for those who are in quest for the meaning of life, hope, happiness, dedication and reverence. It would also help those who are in pain, and lead them to meditate on the meaning of agony and sadness.

Brenda Guzman (15) flute major:

The choir reflects pure music. Every note is attentively arranged, and every utterance is carefully prepared. They sing in pure heart and intelligent mind. Many melodies are sung

simultaneously, and yet have no discrepancy rather exhibiting perfect harmony. I am surprised at their presentation which contains not a slightest self-exaltation.

Other students also say that they feel no self-propaganda in the music. I am most delighted at the comment of Joseph Herrada (13), piano major:

This music lifts me to heaven. While the harp plays in golden rays, these monastic sisters sing in joy, and they bring the offering of thanksgiving unto the Lord. And behold, a number of people are gathering around the sisters. As I inquired of them, they answered me saying, "We have come here to seek peace." Invoked by the sisters' singing voices, they must have come all the way to the eternal world leaving the sinful world behind.

Joseph may think this is his own imagination. From my experiences with many souls who have encountered something celestial for the first time, however, I know that he is in fact seeing a vision. It is definitely a divine gift, neither a vain imagination nor a fancy daydream. I believe it is the heavenly vision, indeed. And "a number of people around sisters who have come all the way to seek peace" are the deceased souls rather than human beings of the present time.

What intrigues me is that these children know nothing about cosmic worship, which we have just entered. And yet they are participating with us in the heavenly worship, which has no boundary line between the world visible and the world invisible.

Isn't it wonderful? Casting away all prejudices, anyone can have straight perception. Truly, we can clearly see the

whole scheme of God if we first take the log out of our own eye.

In the beginning of her journey with the *White Dove*, Mitsuko one day received three distinctive messages:

Death is healing.

There is healing even after death.

Healing continues even after death.

Perplexed, she left them untouched, for she did not know how to interpret them. Now at the time of the cosmic worship, we are opened to the Lord's leading, and rejoice over the reality of God's abundant life hereafter.

Death is not the end. It is rather healing. In the eschatological dispensation, you will say, "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." (Revelation 14:13) This scripture should be deepened so as to include all souls who travel into the world hereafter, for the time has come when the Redemption of Jesus Christ manifests its whole reality.

The possibility of the universal salvation for all souls traditionally offends many theologians and ecclesiastical hierarchies. They assert that those who have not accepted the Lord while on the earth have no chance for salvation hereafter. Their fate is in the gloomy world forever.

As for me, I reject any teaching that suggests cheap grace, and refuse humanitarian interpretations that everybody will be saved. On the other hand, I have had a nagging doubt on the Christendom's arrogant teaching to hinder God's unlimited love toward those who have failed to receive baptism as the assurance of salvation. When the *White Dove* brought overwhelming blessings in the 1990s and the

Revelation Praise descended upon us in the 2000s, I have become absolutely convinced that God is nothing but Love. Love is the ultimate substance from which all elements are derived and toward which the whole universe is progressing.

You may think that no healing is necessary in heaven because a soul no longer possesses a physical body. It is true that man no longer wears a heavy garment of a physical body once he gets in the spiritual dimension after death. However, man's soul retains all memories, and drags mental wounds and scars suffered on the earth. Life hereafter would not provide instant cure. I do not think that even Christians would experience instant transformation attaining the perfect holiness upon their arrival in heaven. It is because very few souls have ever progressed here on the earth to receive the complete love of Christ's Redemption. Needless to say, unredeemed souls would not be placed in the stage of instant transformation in the heavenly sphere.

Hence, *healing continues even after death.*

Dying is, in the deepest sense, healing. Released from a physical body, man's soul will experience peace, which is a sort of healing. It is plain to anyone that wearing a heavy garment of a physical body has given him much pain, instead of joy. What a relief, therefore, he will experience upon departing physical life here on the earth!

This is only the beginning, however.

Dying is just embarkation upon the next stage of Life. Once you reach one juncture, you are set on to advance to the next juncture of Life. Your unfinished task continues for completion now with much speed and zest. Surely God's healing for man's soul will continue on.

Life is moving, and the whole cosmos is moving toward the redeeming love of Christ. It is the River, the Great River,

which absorbs all creation and life.

Let me read an interesting article written recently by Kumiko Henmi for the *Bible Study in the Wilderness*. I do not think it is her fantasy, and I want you to hear it by faith:

Around the time we started to sing ♪ Mortui Audient ♪ (The dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God – John 5:25) in our worship service, I experienced several encounters with the unknown.

One day I noticed a bouquet placed at the intersection on the way back from work. Suddenly I felt someone grabbing the right side of my waist. Panicked, but somehow controlling myself, I prayed to the Lord immediately. It was already for the third time that I had this sort of abnormal phenomenon.

“Oh, this must be the person who was killed in the traffic accident at the intersection,” I said to myself. I saw only the right hand of the person that was severely wounded. “Help me, please. Have mercy on me,” a distressing voice of a woman (I somehow realized it was a woman) reached me.

Figuring that I was not able to escape from the waist pain, I gently took her hand and gave it to Jesus who was there as if waiting for His turn. As soon as they joined their hands together, both were engulfed in brilliant light, and finally vanished into the light.

The next morning when I came close to the intersection, I perceived that she was there. That “right-hand person” was a pretty young woman! She was completely and beautifully healed. Toward me she waved her right hand, which was full of her praise to the Lord, “I magnify the Lord, my Savior.” She

repeatedly bowed her head down to thank me.

To be honest, I was a little scared of meeting her every morning, so I said to her, “I know how grateful you are. Wonderful you have been healed. It is time for you to return to the Lord Jesus who has healed you completely.” Yet she kept thanking me till I passed the intersection and turned away. The next day, I no longer felt her presence.

Could this be real?

Yes, it is. When you come to the dimension of cosmic worship, you may experience supernatural happenings, which are all for you to face the Lord of all creation, visible and invisible.

A few weeks ago, Kiyoe Matsuda gave us her testimony here at the *Church of the Wind*. She grew up knowing little love of her father, who happened to be an orphan. Every single night, he drank *sake* and cursed his life. No one, not even his family, showed any affection toward him. Finally he died at the age of 52. Sometime later, her sister Ikumi became Christian, and so did her mother and Kiyoe herself.

When ten years had passed since his death, Kiyoe and Ikumi held a memorial service for their father. Quite a few relatives attended the service. They used to be unfriendly with one another, but this time they enjoyed getting together and happily sang the praise which they knew nothing about.

After the service, Kiyoe took a walk to the nearby park. “Father, I’m sorry I was not a good daughter, but I feel your life was not so bad after all,” whispered Kiyoe. Then, she clearly heard her father saying, “That’s right. It wasn’t bad at all. Today I realize it for the first time, because my two daughters had a memorial service and prayed for me to be

with Jesus. Thank you.”

Life does not end in death. *Healing continues even after death.*

Let me read more of Kumiko Henmi’s report for the *Bible Study in the Wilderness*:

A few days later in the office, I learned that I had to work for three days alone with a woman whom I wanted avoid if possible. Just two of us together in a small room! I lamented over the situation. Oh, Lord, the next three days will be a hell. Have mercy on me!

The next morning as I entered the office, however, I found my heart lifted up. It was so light. Being a doubting Thomas I was, I spent the first day, anticipating that a hell would erupt at any moment. But nothing happened. Just peace was there. The next day was the same, and so was the final day. No thunder or lightning came. Instead I spent three days very refreshed and happy. Wow, this is a miracle!

What had happened? As I contemplated over it, I heard someone humming ♪ Light of the City ♪ In no time I identified it as the young woman of the right hand. She had been singing it for us for three days, sitting on the stool behind me!

“Now I got it! I wasn’t alone after all. She was supporting me with praise.” Now was my turn to give thanks to her.

And then I noticed that she was absorbed in reading something. “What’s she reading?” I wondered. Immediately I heard the voice of the Lord saying “The White Dove.”

Wow! Is that so? “The White Dove” is read not

only by us on the earth but also by the people on the other world. With this enlightenment, I also understood that we were sharing many spiritual treasures with the heavenly people. The celestial people must be enjoying the Bible Study in the Wilderness and all events of Kohitsuji no Mure as much as we do. In expectation they are eagerly waiting for spiritual treasures to be revealed. In awe they are earnestly waiting for the Body of Christ to be completed. Indeed, there is no boundary between heavens and the earth anymore.

One more thing I must add.

It the recent service when Mitsuko spoke of the importance of being aware of celestial people worshipping together, I distinctly felt the sanctuary floor suddenly quaking. Earthquake? No, it wasn't. Soon I realized it was the praise of the people under the earth. Occasionally I had felt warmness descending upon us from heaven, but this time it was more than warmness. It was jubilation from those under the earth erupting like a volcano.

I then understood that the hour had finally come for the souls confined to the world below to be rescued and saved by the love of Christ. He also had descended into the lower parts of the earth. (Ephesians 4:9 NAS) His love has filled the entire universe. Heavens and the earth and the worlds underneath are now one in Christ!

Truly, we have entered the hour of cosmic worship. People from the past are no longer in the past, for they are here with us to worship the Lord. Just be aware of their presence, and your consciousness will be altered to the heavenly dimension and you will find yourself placed at the

forefront of the advancing flow of life. Yes, the Great River of Life is now engulfing everything else in the universe and just about to reach to the glorious goal, the completion of the Body of Christ.

Eternity began in the Redemption, and it will be completed in the Redemption. We are now in the last stage of the divine drama of the Redemption. Nothing will be escaped from His redeeming love.

Although I have been convinced of Christ's all-inclusive love, I must give you a warning. You should never despise your physical life here on the earth. Some misunderstand God's unlimited love and think that they can take their own life. No, never! The more you realize God's love, the more you realize God's sadness toward those who commit suicide. I do not know what unforgivable sins in the Bible mean, but I am afraid that a sin of suicide hovers around the brink.

You are born with a mission, and you must complete it. It is to be aware of Christ's Redemption while on the earth, and carry the redeeming love to the end of the earth. That contributes to the flow of the Great River.

At the end of this message, I would like to share a few more of Bolivian children's comments on our praise songs.

Andrea Paiva (18) piano major:

The music opens a world of meditation and reflection. I see a country scene wrapped in the evening twilight. Everything is covered with amber light. A church bell rings in the distance. As I come nearer to the church, I see people worshipping in thanksgiving. It is

very internal, and I see my true self on the surface of the water. The singing voices move and sway sometimes like trees, like lotus flowers in the rippling waters, and like rustling leaves in a gentle breeze.

Leonardo Alvarado (19) piano major:

The melody is simple like Gregorian Chant. The song, consisting of a sort of Renaissance polyphony, expands quietly to the space in depth. Soloists sing differently from the choir, and yet none of them insist on their own self. They express their hearts in perfect harmony with the choir. The music has the most delicate balance excluding any decorative sound. It is so pure. It leads listeners to the meditative and spiritual world.

Now is the hour when all are invited to the most beautiful and the most joyful worship of God. This is the world that Christ has opened for us. There is no boundary in this world. Shall we worship the Lamb together with the people visible and the people invisible?

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