



COUNCIL FOR PACIFIC ASIAN THEOLOGY (CPAT)

PACIFIC ASIAN VISION

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UKRAINE

Dickson Kazuo Yagi

#1 **Pacifism**. Using military language, we could examine the "chain of command" of Jesus Christ. Jesus said to forgive our enemies, love our enemies, pray for our enemies, turn the other cheek, and return good for evil. Jesus forgave his enemies while they were killing him. Then Jesus died for his enemies. The primary symbol of Christianity is Jesus tortured with a crown of thorns, a spear wound in his side, nails in his hands and feet, in death convulsions on the Cross. The theme is "**redemptive suffering**." Jesus' chain of command is some form of "pacifism"? Conforming to this pacifism of Jesus, youth who are Quakers, Mennonites, and Brethren are expected to profess **conscientious objection** to compulsory military drafts.

#2 **Sharing the Blame**. An email from a Buddhist clergy friend defined "talk that leads to war," and "talk that leads to peace." Claiming that our enemy, Putin, is 100% evil and that we, Americans, Ukrainians, and NATO, are 100% good, is "**talk that leads to war**." Claiming that Putin is 50% good and 50% evil --and that we are 50% good and 50% evil is "**talk that leads to peace**."

Then there is the much acclaimed credo of Will Rogers, "I never met a man I didn't like." What planet is Will Rogers from? We on Earth have already met Atilla the Hun, Hitler, and Stalin. Ukrainians have now met Putin.

#3 **Dietrich Bonhoeffer**. Bonhoeffer was executed by hanging as an enemy of the state on April 9, 1945, at the Flossenbürg concentration camp in Germany. Ignoring the "**pacifist**" chain of command of Christ, Bonhoeffer recognized evil when he saw it. He was one of the key conspirators in a failed plot to assassinate Hitler. A fellow Japan missionary, Rev. Dr. Leroy Seat, wrote an essay asking, "**Does Russia need more Bonhoeffers?**"

#4 **Personal Ethics--National Ethics**. I am 90% pacifist in personal ethics. I believe the command of Jesus Christ to love my enemy, but I am bound also to love my wife, children, and nation. I might kill a maniac busting down my door in a home invasion robbery. He threatens my wife and children with an AK 47 assault rifle. **Besides loving enemies**, we should protect also the weak, the victims, the refugees, the orphans, the homeless, the dying, and prisoners. **Why must we love only our enemies?** Etched in my memory banks is a Time magazine photo of theologian, Karl Barth, in

military uniform holding a rifle to defend his nation, Switzerland, against Hitler.

President Biden and NATO reject a "no fly zone" over Ukraine. They also refuse to provide jet fighters from NATO to Ukraine, fearing the outbreak of WW3. They rely on devastating **economic sanctions** that will reduce Russia to a third rate economy within a few years. Will China interfere militarily for Russia? Will Russia use chemical, biological weapons or tactical nuclear weapons? For the first time both sides have hundreds of nuclear weapons. For the first time in a long time it is predominantly Caucasians against Caucasians--white on white. It is also Christians against Christians. The Russian Orthodox Church solidly back Putin.

Already Putin is a pariah to most of the world. What would Jesus do about Ukraine? What would Bonhoeffer do about Ukraine? What should Biden do about Ukraine? What would you do about Ukraine?

LENT AND EASTER WINNING BY LOSING

Paul Nagano was tall for a Japanese. He put that height to good use. He was outstanding in basketball. They often won, but not always. His mother was waiting whenever he came home dejected. Therapists should learn from her words: "**Makeru ga kachi**," translated as "**winning by losing**."

Some Christians are tired of grieving at Lent, tired of fasting, tired of sadness, tired of gloom. It is more fun to be happy, more fun to celebrate. Genuine Lent, genuine fasting disappeared for Christians many decades or centuries ago. As a Southern Baptist we never even heard of Lenten fasting. American Baptists speak of Lent as giving up some comfort for Lent. Some walk instead of ride the bus so they could donate the bus fare to the poor. The ministerial staff of one Baptist church declared that they would give up eating red meat. Is that convincing as Lenten substitute for fasting?

It is such a contrast to see the enthusiasm of Muslims doing the real thing--fasting at the month of Ramadan. You can feel their pain at fasting. But you can also see the joy of their faith in their fasting. It is the joy of marathon runners feeling the extremities of their zeal in their runs. One blessing of the fast is the deepening of group morale of Muslim congregations. Of course, Muslims are human, too. Imams scold their congregations for enthusiastic feasting celebrations after fasting hours. Human nature comes through also when Lenten fast is preceded by Mardi Gra celebrations in New Orleans and the wild dancing Carnival parades in Rio de Janeiro.

Lent is losing; Jesus died. **Easter is winning;** Jesus rose again. But Easter Resurrection is not the **Victory of Victory**; it is the **Victory of Defeat**. In the Book of Revelations, the last Book of the Bible, our champion hero Jesus is forever the **Lamb Who Was Slain**. The message is **Redemptive Suffering**. The God of the Bible, the God of the Cross, is the God for Losers. Our God is weird. God chose Jewish slaves instead of their Egyptian slave masters. The God of the Bible is a **God for Losers**. The message is "Makeru ga kachi", "**Winning by Losing.**" **No Easter without Lent.**

Dickson Kazuo Yagi

SHALL WE GATHER: ASIAN AMERICAN BUDDHIST HATE



Jason Armond, LATimes

On March 16, 2021, there was a killing of six Asian women in the Atlanta area. A year later on May 4, 2021, there was a huge gathering of Asian Buddhist clergy, both monks and nuns, of multiple nationalities. It was perhaps the first effort to gather all Asian Buddhists in a united service. It was 49 days (7 weeks of 7 days) after death, the established date when spirits of the departed proceed out of Bardo on the route toward rebirth.

It was a joint memorial service for the six women, but more so a service of healing for all Asian Buddhists in the centuries of insults, prejudices, ostracisms, and exclusionary laws, including 10 desert concentration camps of WW2. They gathered in Higashi Honganji Headquarters temple, in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, recently vandalized in a hate crime.

For Caucasians of the dominant American class and blacks of long generations as **insiders** of American history, it was a rare intimate look at Asian **outsiders**--the red, orange, brown, and black robes of priests bowing with palms together in clouds of incense. They were chanting the Heart Sutra in Korean. But for older Asians like me, it was startling to see intimate Buddhist Brotherhood among Chinese, Koreans, Taiwanese, and Burmese victims of the brutal Japanese Imperial Army of WW2.

Now I saw with my own eyes that Japanese were accepted as brothers in the Buddhist Brotherhood. This must have been true for many decades, but this was a first large gathering of Asian Buddhists. So I saw this intimate brotherhood for the very first time, bringing tears to my eyes. Chinese, Koreans, and Japanese as Buddhist Brothers--this had been my prayer for 31 years in Japan.

The photo above shows a woman priest bowing before a white broken ceramic lotus. Each priest dipped a brush into gold lacquer to paint over the cracks. After multiple brush strokes of golden lacquer, the broken lotus has healed stronger and more beautiful than before. This restoration process in Japan is called **kintsugi**--rejoining with gold. It was a central ritual in this ceremony to prophesy the healing of all wounds in the social maturing of all races, cultures, and religions in the communal America of tomorrow. May it be so.

Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

*See LATimes, Deborah Netburn, March 26, 2022.

One Eye on the Bible; The Other on the Newspaper

*Philadelphia is first city to reinstate indoor mask mandate in the rise of the new variant BA.2. 4.13.22 NYT & Associated Press.

* Former President Trump attempted to extort Ukrainian President Zelensky for dirt on President Biden by **withholding military aid** from that country. In so doing, Trump made it clear to Putin that the United States didn't care about Ukraine, its people, or their democracy. Putin's invasion of Ukraine today puts a spotlight on Trump yesterday, who still applauds Putin.

*The Karnataka High Court of India established a **hijab ban** in public schools which would affect thousands of Muslim girl students, reflecting the pro-Hindu bias of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. 3/15/22, NYTimes, [Sameer Yasir](#)

TOKYO HIBIYA PARK PROTEST AGAINST RUSSIA'S WAR ON UKRAINE

4/9/22 PNG image from Rafu Shimpō



Terasaki Budokan: "Bill Watanabe, retired Executive Director of Little Tokyo Service Center, said the concept started in 1994 with a focus group of college-aged youth who said they would come to Little Tokyo **if there was a gym**. That was a big concern. It seemed like there was a whole generation of young people and young families who were not coming to Little Tokyo. If we lost a whole generation of people who didn't come, had no connection, no heart for this community, they would have no heart for its future." Rafu Shimpō 3.16.22

Immolation of Tsewang Norbu

It has been more than 3 weeks now since we first learned of the news that **Tsewang Norbu**, acclaimed Tibetan singer, passed away after a self-immolation. Over **160 Tibetans** in Tibet have self-immolated since 2009. Many of those who passed had the same message: **freedom for Tibet and the return of His Holiness the Fourteenth Dalai Lama to Tibet.** **Students for a Free Tibet.** 3/25/22

REMEMBERING
TSEWANG NORBU

Saturday
March
26th

5 PM

With
Music

And
Poetry
Reading

HIGH ASIA RESEARCH CENTER
41 - 34 75th Street (Basement)
Elmhurst, NY 11373

 **STUDENTS FOR A
FREE TIBET**

Grand Prize 2013 of FUKUOKA PRIZE

Dr. Tetsu NAKAMURA 中村哲



Medical Doctor
Executive Director of PMS (Peace Japan Medical Services)
Representative of Peshawar-kai in Pakistan and Afghanistan
Born September 15, 1946 (aged 66 in 2013)
Assassinated December 4, 2019, Jalalabad, Afghanistan

We claim Dr. Tetsu Nakamura as our very own
because he graduated from
Seinan Gakuin Junior High School
Dickson Kazuo Yagi 屋宜和夫
Professor Emeritus at **Seinan Gakuin University**
in Fukuoka, Japan,
And University Head Chaplain for a term.

Award Citation

For 30 years, Dr. Tetsu Nakamura has devoted himself to the medical treatment, land reclamation and local welfare of poor and vulnerable people in Pakistan and Afghanistan. His thoughts, speeches and written work based on his first-hand experiences in those countries aim at enhancing cross-cultural understanding and respecting different cultures. His work has been highly praised internationally as providing an intellectual basis for building genuine peace.

Dr. Nakamura was born in Fukuoka City in 1946. After graduating from Kyushu University School of Medicine in 1973, he worked as a medical doctor in hospitals in Japan. In 1984, he moved to **Peshawar Mission Hospital** in the capital city of North-West Frontier Province of **Pakistan**. Ever since, starting with leprosy and intestinal infectious diseases which are common among the poor, he has widened his working sphere even to refugee camps and villages in the mountains (Medicine Beyond Borders).

He was also involved in **digging 1,600 wells** in Afghanistan in order to tackle droughts which have happened with increasing frequency since the beginning of this century (**A Doctor Digs Wells**), and in building a **25.5 km canal** to carry water from the Kunar River (**A Doctor Builds an Irrigation Canal**).

Approximately 15,000 ha of farm land has been recovered or newly reclaimed. Irrigation construction work has produced employment opportunities which have encouraged refugees to come home, and **rehabilitation of their farm land** has enabled them to regain their peaceful farming life. The number of people benefitted is estimated at **over half a million**. . . . *By Dickson Kazuo Yagi*

[Below is the Japanese team of volunteers that accompany Dr. Nakamura as a work crew.]



ANOTHER SAMURAI CHRISTIAN: REV. KOICHI KIMURA

Do you remember the desperate month preceding the U. S. air bombing of Bagdad in 2003? Our entire nation led by President George W. Bush boiled in rage after the 9-11 attacks on the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City. Much of the nation was in revenge rage, but cooler heads were also desperately trying to prevent the horrors of another war. Bush transferred the revenge target from Afghanistan to Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

The Los Angeles City Council and numerous other city councils had voted against the Bagdad bombing and "pre-emptive invasion" of Iraq. The monstrous lie of President Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell argued that Saddam Hussein was ready to launch an attack of WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) on allies of the U.S. The UN's investigation report had concluded there was no weapons of mass destruction. Bush's strategy won when the much-trusted Sec. of State, Colin Powell made a convincing speech about the imminent use of "weapons of mass destruction" by Hussein. That tipped the scales of U. S. public opinion for the "Shock and Awe" invasion of Iraq.

Residents of Pilgrim Place retirement community led by WW2 veteran, Jim Lamb, had organized a team of peace protestors holding huge anti-war signs at the four corners of Indian Hill and Arrow, a major intersection of Claremont, CA. (They still stand there today weekly in 2022 holding their peace signs.)

Tom Ambrogio was our brilliant social justice theologian and unflinching resident activist. A Roman Catholic scholar, he wrote the Pope, pleading that the Pope move temporarily to live in Bagdad as a volunteer hostage for peace. That is, U.S. pilots and crew may refuse to bomb Bagdad if the Pope had moved to live there. There was no response from the Pope.

But guess what! Rev. Koichi Kimura, a graduate of Seinan Gakuin University Theology Department, and pastor of an international church in Fukuoka, moved to Bagdad in 2003 as a volunteer hostage. It would discourage U.S. bomber crews dropping bombs on Bagdad if they knew international volunteer hostages were there.

His wife in Japan sent out email weekly news reports from Rev. Kimura. One report said that Bagdad shop keepers would not let him pay when they found out he was a volunteer hostage risking his life for them. A genuine Samurai warrior for Jesus. Some 20 years later in 2022, guess what! Rev. Koichi Kimura dropped whatever he was doing and moved to Poland to help war refugees from Ukraine in desperate survival conditions. I knew Rev. Kimura while teaching at Seinan Gakuin University. He attended several meetings of our Buddhist Christian Dialogue.

Dr. Tetsu Nakamura and Rev. Koichi Kimura:

Modern Day Japanese Samurai Warriors for Jesus.

By Rev. Dickson Kazuo Yagi

Some Core Values of CPAT

Black Lives Matter

Reform Police Brutality. (No choke holds, forbid no knock entries, no quasi police immunity, nat'l data base so convicted police cannot be hired in the next city, no shootings without body cameras, no rubber bullets, no political donations by police unions, no private prisons, social worker specialists to replace police dealing with homeless and mentally ill, no bicycle stops escalating to pointless killings.

Protecting Mother Earth, our only Space Ship

Keep the oil in the ground.
Stop Minnesota portion of Enbridge Line 3, Biden fail to stop.
Protect the Arctic Sanctuary from oil and gas drilling.
Protect National Parks and Monuments (Biden reverses Trump opening Bear Ears and Grand Staircase-Excalante to oil drilling, fracking, and mining,

Gender Equality

Equality for LGBTQ. (Supreme Court ruled LGBTQ cannot be fired from work for being gay. Biden renews LGBTQ in military)
Equal pay for equal work.

Citizenship for DACA. (Biden stopped DACA deportation).

America's Original Sins:

Stealing land from Native Americans by betraying treaties and by genocide.
National economy built on 400 years of Black slave labor and Jim Crow.
Trans-continental railway built on blood, sweat, and tears of Chinese laborers.

Big Pharma: drug prices negotiated down.

Ghost Guns Destroyed

No Separation of Children from Refugee Parents on Southern Border.

Racial Equality: No White Supremacy

No racial profiling by police stop-and-search (vs. Afro-Americans).
No infiltration of mosques by FBI, CIA, Homeland Security.
No mass incarceration of Afro-Americans through unfair drug laws. (Rehabilitation instead of mass incarceration, fix drug laws.)

Freedom of Religion

Freedom for Uyghur Muslims in Xinjian Province.
Freedom for Tibetans in religion and politics.
Freedom for Rohingyas in Rakhine Province in Myanmar.
Freedom for Myanmar citizens from military dictatorship.

Religions Waging Peace, instead of war.

Preemptive strikes as crimes against humanity. (Iraq invasion)
Nuclear Weapons, Biological Weapons, Chemical Weapons, Neutron Bombs as Crimes Against Humanity.
Disarmament of Nuclear Weapons (No More Hiroshima-Nagasaki)
Religions networking for social justice in major cities (Jews, Muslims, Christians. Buddhists, and Hindus Together).

Priority of the Poor. (Safety nets for the poor and vulnerable, Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, food banks, health insurance for all, \$15 minimum wage, subsidized child care)

Vaccines: Israel must provide Coronavirus vaccines to Palestinians in Gaza Strip. Rich Western nations must share supply of vaccines with African nations, Pacific Islanders, and Palestinians in Gaza.

GITMO: Close Guantanamo Detention Center.

Free Assange as Whistle Blower

Subscriptions to this booklet, *Pacific Asian Vision*, is free.

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