

The Aldersgate Press

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• A Reconciling Congregation, open to all

SERVING YOUR CHURCH

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ALDERSGATE

SHARING



BUILDING

COMMUNITY

Words with Rev. Roger



BACK to the Future...

Recently, a friend and colleague sent me a paper I had written in one of the last classes I had in seminary. (He was going through his old files and came across this paper.) It was written in May of 1985 and entitled, “Toward A New Spiritual Center”. The visiting professor was the Dr. Rev. Paul Nagano (Shelley Nagata’s granduncle).

While 1985 was a different time, many of the issues prevalent are not too far off from today. In this paper I set forth what I believed and hoped would be a spiritual shift in the years ahead.

Reflecting on this paper, some of the issues have changed, some hadve shifted or have come to the forefront. Clearly much of what I had hoped for has not been achieved.

As I reflect on my mindset of 1985 and the current radical shift in race issues, I have a better understanding why I have been sparked by the social upheaval that is occurring as our nation, in a raw but real way, as we deal with our history of racism.

For an exercise in reflection and meditation, I share with you some of the opening of my 1985 paper. You will be able to access the full paper online from Letter #39 (Sunday, July 19, 2020).

“Toward A New Spiritual Center”

There are events in the human mass, just as there are in the world of organic matter, or in the crusts of the earth,” said Pierre Teilhard de Chardin. “Or in the stellar universe; and so there are also certain privileged beings who are present at and share in such events.”

See ROGER, continued next page

Church News

ROGER 1985 - *continued*

Now is the time of such an event, and we are those “privileged beings.” This perspective may seem overly optimistic in light of the fragmentation and disintegration that our American culture now faces.

The fallout from the social and political unrest in the sixties and early seventies are still with us in the eighties only without the hope for and vision of the solutions that once inspired these movements. Our belief in a scientific (both social science and physical science) solution has decayed into the greatest threat of all, nuclear annihilation. Yet, despite the pessimism that invades our present time, this writer believes we are entering an era of new hope.

The new hope lies in the transition from systems and norms that we have outgrown to emerging paradigms and models. The collective consciousness of the people is rising and American “liberalism” no longer provides an adequate structure for this arising consciousness.

The dominant White patriarchal society that heavily emphasizes values such as hierarchy, conformity, and competition is not equipped for a consciousness based upon equality, cooperation and freedom.

Groups that have traditionally been voiceless are seeking true participation. Women and minorities are demanding not only a larger piece of the pie, but

they are calling for a whole change of menu. They are proclaiming a new attitude, a change of heart.

Third World nations are challenging Western norms that have been thrust upon them in the past. They cry out for a new way to relate to the rest of the world. The world (whole earth) will not survive as it currently exists with a few nations consuming more than its share at the expense of the rest of the world. There needs to be a change.

However, the call for change, a shift in paradigms does not come without conflict and confusion. The old ways die hard. The old patterns resist new ways of perceiving and new ways of becoming. The birth pains of a new era always manifest in social unrest and confusion. These are the signs of transformation and change. It is a change of the paradigms by which we live...

end of 1985 story

In a matter of weeks, I have seen shifts that I no longer believed I would see in my ministerial career. While it is filled with unrest and anxiety, perhaps we are witnessing and living through a major shift of paradigms.

Perhaps, at least a part of our selves can step away from our fear and anxiety so we could be grateful that we are those “privileged beings who are present and share in such events.”

Roger



The Last Page

Special Gifts!

From June 7 to June 28

In memory of Kimi Tsukushi

Reiko Yagi
M/M Steve Shiozaki
Mary Tsukushi
Brad Shirakawa

In memory of Mayumi Takeda

Sachiyo Yamasaki
Mary Tsukushi
D/M Mare Shibuya
M/M Paul Sakuma
R/M Roger Morimoto
Rosemary Shieh
Sachiyo Yamasaki

In memory of Sam Nieda

M/M Mare Shibuya
Mary Schallock, Pat
Ishizaki, Fred Ishizaki
M/M David Yoshida

In memory of Helen Shirakawa

M/M Mare Shibuya
Kellyanne Ebisui
Marice Tatsuno

In memory of Tom Hamamoto

M/M Glenn Hamamoto

In memory of Edith Yanagisawa

M/M Craig Yanagisawa

Appreciation Chris Morimoto & Mimi Funabiki

M/M Tak Nishiura

Special

M/M David Oku

No Bazaar

Frances Tamura

Easter

Melody King

Koyukai, Family Giving Tree

Mary Tsukushi

Paypal Donations

Chris Takimoto
Herb Gong
Judy Wong
Roger Morimoto
Ed Nieda
Patricia Obayashi
Brynn Saito
Joan Haratani
Lloyd Wake
Daniel Yasukawa

General donations and pledges from June 7 to June 28

Allen Emily
Jue Bill & Katsura,
Leslie
Nakamura David
Nishimura Midori
& Hitoshi Takahashi
Nishiura Takao & Kit
Shizuru Jeanne
& Nelson David
Wong Russell
Yamasaki Sachiyo
Yu Alice & Harold

Change in Acknowledgments

Through this pandemic and shelter-in-place, Aldersgate continues to be financially sound due to the continued generosity of our members and friends. Your support is truly appreciated!

In this edition and future editions, the

newsletter will now acknowledge all donations through the time period:

1. All special donations acknowledgments and 2. General pledges and donations (if a person(s) gives multiple times in a period for pledges and general donations, their name(s) will appear only once.)

This change will reflect Aldersgate's full appreciation of the generous support we receive.

Aldersgate Still Closed

Aldersgate continues to remain closed but we have our online activities: choir, meetings, Koyukai, Fellowship Night, "Other Worlds Module" and "OM" meeting. Tabemashou will be having a "Teriyaki Sauce" fundraising in the future.

You can find all of these items and more in our [Online Letters of Hope](#) sent out by Roger. Those letters are also available on our website home page, as is the link (also home page) to the [Online Worship Experience](#).

Backpack Project

We have received \$976, for about 35 backpacks. Thank you for your participation!

