



***Teresa Bryant (Canada)***  
***Buddhist Name: Amita Prajnatarā***  
***Prajña became an aspirant in 2004***

17 years ago in Burlington, Ontario I became an aspirant and embarked on a new path with the Order of Amida Buddha. 5 years later, in the year of my mother's death, in the comfort of my home, on November 11th - Remembrance Day, I was ordained and became Amita Prajnatarā. The ceremony and all it represents lives on in me.

The nembutsu remains my daily practice and refuge. Additionally, I am drawn to other contemplative practices which include the practice of silence, sacred reading, and meditativewalking. My motto is: "read, write, walk and pray".

The Amida Mosaic sangha pre-existed my ordination and has continued in one form or another for over 20 years now. To this day the sangha, which fluctuates in membership, meets regularly to hear and practice the Dharma and support one another in friendship. A wonderful development has been the addition of Dayavati as co-leader. We are currently meeting every other week on-line. I remain a psychotherapist, work that I consider integral to my ministry.

The ways I practice have evolved over time as I am increasingly informed by Buddhist psychology and spirituality. Clients often seek me out because of this integration. I have a particular interest in serving those who are in significant life transitions, grieving, and/or want to engage wholeheartedly with their aging process.

At my Ordinations part of my personal vow read: "I vow to care for the sick and dying". On that day I had no idea how these vows might be realized, however inspired by them I undertook training to become a hospice worker. In the past 10 years I have worked as a Director of Community and Supportive Care at a hospice, and as a psychotherapist to palliative clients and their families. This work has given me great satisfaction and has been a cornerstone of my ministry.

In regard to the Order, I am delighted to be part of Amida-gana, which allows me to use my leadership skills in service of the Order. Also, I am currently developing programs on faith development, and kalyanamitra training. I plan to offer these to anyone who is interested including Order and shu members. I experience being an Order member as natural and inspiring. While I am at a distance from so many dear friends, my belonging is never far from my mind. In reciting the nembutsu I am reminded of the Buddha and also of the community that holds me in faith, harmony and awareness. I know that I can turn to members if I am in need. The Order of Amida Buddha is my spiritual family.

Website: Amida Mosaic Psychotherapy, [www.amidamosaic.com](http://www.amidamosaic.com)  
Email: [amidamosaic@gmail.com](mailto:amidamosaic@gmail.com)

