

Florida Impressions

I am a simple person
who is easily moved by another person's sincerity,
or another person's pain.
I am also someone who has such hard places
in my heart, that to face these walls
I need friends, comrades, *zenchishiki*.

For three days now
I have looked across a room, or
walked alongside others
whose faces and lives are so much a part of my own.

We speak of bonds, human bonds
and I see these bonds can reach beyond
each of our lives,
and these bonds can embrace
so many others.
And because we choose kosen-rufu,
trust and caring, as our greatest goal
and President Ikeda as our Sensei
what can we not accomplish together?

In my heart
I celebrate and welcome
the eternity of life
that has brought each of us here together.

— *Isabel Almeida, Buffalo, N.Y.*