



Short Teachings from Various Material

- Be happy to have life. Divine blessings depend upon our joyous and harmonious heart.
- Grow up everyday. You can show yourself to Kami-Sama with confidence.
- Kami-Sama is beyond our understanding.
- We find life worth living while becoming a useful and helpful person. We feel happiness in helping others.

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Five Ways for Shinjin

September 29, 2014 is the 200th birthday of Konko Daijin who founded the Konko Faith. He taught us how to practice Konko Faith while he was alive and continued to teach us as a *Mitama* Spirit after he passed away. With only two years of schooling and studying, he knew limited *kanji* characters. Yet he used those *kanji* characters to put extra meaning to the words by using different *kanji* characters for certain words.

You may know that each *kanji* character has different meanings. You may also know that most *kanji* characters have different ways of reading. We also use different *kanji* with the same pronunciation according to the meanings. For example, 橋, 端 and 箸 can be read “*Hashi*”, with different meanings, such as bridge, edge and chopsticks. Some have exactly the same pronunciation and others would be pronounced similarly but with different accents.

“Faith” is *Shinjin* in Japanese. We use 信心 for *shinjin*. I looked it up in my Japanese English dictionary and it says *shinjin* means faith, belief, piety, and devotion. 信(*shin*) is belief and 心(*jin*) is heart. However, there are many ways of writing *shinjin* in *kanji* using different characters with different meanings. The five ways of writing *shinjin* characters (信心, 真心, 親心, 新心, 心神) help me to bond with Kami-Sama and practice faith.

信心(*shinjin*) is having a heart that believes. Believing is very powerful. We start by believing we exist and are allowed to live because of Kami-Sama's love and



“Go Shinjin”
from Oboegaki
The 2nd Konko-Sama's
hand writing

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October Schedule

Note: All church services will be held on Sunday at 9 a.m., unless specified.	
Autumn Grand Service at other churches: Waipahu 10/12; Wahiawa 10/13	
4	Sat 10am Mochi Making for Autumn Grand Service
5	11am Autumn Grand Service for our Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin
12	Sunday Service
19	Monthly Service & Monthly Memorial Service – One for the Goyo
26	Sunday Service
31	(Fri) 5 th Konko-sama's 80 th Birthday

blessings. Our body and spirit come from Kami-Sama. By believing Kami-Sama, who is the root and source of life, has changed and greatly improved my life.

真心(*shinjin*) is having an honest and sincere heart. 真 is truth and genuineness. An honest and sincere heart is important to receive trust from people as well as from Kami-Sama. A heart of honesty and sincerity will bring a happier life for us and people around us.

親心(usually read *oya gokoro*, but can also be read *shinjin*) is parental love. 親 is parent. Parental love is unconditional and Kami-Sama also has unconditional love for all of us. We can depend on and trust Kami-Sama as an ideal parent. We also should realize there's parental love within each one of us. All people have this parental love, but some do not realize this because the love may be deep within them. Someone needs to believe them to let them find and nurture parental love within them.

新人(*shinjin*) is a newcomer or rookie. 新 is new and 人 is a person. I think a newcomer is young, naive, but passionate and hopeful. He or she needs to learn many things and should be humble, but also enthusiastic and eager to learn. The newcomer has energy to move forward and improve oneself; everyday is a fresh new beginning and brand new day. Everyday is a new day, and being humble and not arrogant helps us appreciate our blessings.

心神 (*shinjin*) is having a heart directed toward Kami-Sama. 神 is God and a deity. Konko Daijin used this term in his teaching. All of us are beloved children of Kami-Sama, and therefore, all of us have Kami-Sama's heart within us. We need to put our efforts in all aspect of our life and direct our hearts toward Kami-Sama, otherwise we forget that we are allowed to live amidst Kami-Sama's love and virtue and Kami-Sama is within us.

We need to understand that *shinjin* is to have a strong relationship with Kami-Sama. Believing Kami-Sama, being honest and sincere, understanding Kami-Sama's parental love and having parental love, being humble and appreciating everyday with a renewed heart, feeling Kami-Sama by turning our heart to Kami-Sama, are all elements for me to practice Faith.

We have a choice to practice faith to be a better person and have a better life each day or live with just human emotions without faith. I prefer to live and walk with Kami-Sama.

Teaching from Konkokyo Kyoten

A person requested Konko-Sama, "It's okay for me to come and hear the same teaching each time, but today, please give me a different teaching."

Konko-Sama answered, "I also want to give you a different teaching, but you are still unable to practice what I have taught." Without even raising his head, the person apologized.

[Konkokyo Kyoten Gorikai II: unkown 13, Page 269, Konkokyo Honbu 1987]

"You shouldn't cry, feel grief, or say bad things in front of someone who has died. It will agonize his mitama spirit. Praise him instead, then his spirit will rest in peace."

[Konkokyo Kyoten Gorikai II: unkown 19, Page 270, Konkokyo Honbu 1987]

Konko Mission of Honolulu 85th Anniversary

Konko Mission of Honolulu 85th Anniversary was held on August 24th along with the 41st memorial service for the founding minister, Reverend Masayuki Kodama. We appreciated Divine Parent of the Universe and Reverend Kodama through attending the service. We also enjoyed good food and entertainment.



Autumn Memorial Service

Autumn Memorial Service was held on September 21. Head officiant Reverend Konko read about 500 individual names and family names to revere *mitama* spirits before us. Reverend Oya Yomisu gave a sermon. He mentioned the *mitama* spirits are happy while we are attending the memorial service because all *mitama* spirits named by the officiant were in the worship hall. He talked about his experience with his grandfather's *mitama* spirit when he decided to become a Konkokyo minister.



Teaching of Reverend Masayuki Kodama

Founding Minister of Konko Mission of Honolulu

To be grateful for your body, even if you are suffering from an incurable disease for many years, you must have a sincerity and a heart so big and so sincere like Kami-Sama's.

To be able to be grateful for a troublesome person you must see people with a sincerity like Kami-Sama in your heart.

To be able to be grateful for your misfortunes you must look at your misfortunes with a sincerity like Kami-Sama's.

To put it in another way, it can be said that one's illness, troublesome people, or misfortunes bring out the Kami-Sama-like sincerity from within you.

March 22, 1965

Testimony by Mrs. Amy Fukawa

Testimonial on June 29, 2014 – By Amy Fukawa

My Father, Kenneth Kenichi Yamada

I would like to speak about my father today. Some of you may remember him as Mr. Yamada, or Yamada-san. After he retired he came to church everyday on the bus. He was very conscientious about keeping the church yard looking nice and tended the garden daily. He also helped with various preparations for the church services.



Those of you who knew him would know that he was a man of few words. He was very gentle and kind, and never had an unpleasant word or thought about anyone. He just minded his business. He was also very devoted to Konkokyo and was so happy that Michele and I became active believers, especially Michele, who he adored. His hope was to take Michele to Honbu one day.

Behind all my father's good-naturedness, he had a very sad and lonely childhood. His father died when he was a toddler and his mother left the Yamada family, leaving her son to be raised by his grandmother. Then, in his adult life, he suffered many incidents of serious health scares and physical dangers.....which fortunately he survived due to his faith in Konkokyo.

He was born in Hawaii but grew up in Hiroshima, Japan. When he returned to Hawaii in his twenties, he was introduced to Konkokyo by Mrs. Kaoru Ota, his childhood friend from Hiroshima. He met my mother and they were married in 1941, just at the time Pearl Harbor was bombed.

My father worked as a taxi driver and had many regular customers because he was dependable and they trusted him. When I was a little girl, I remember that he came home one night, injured and beaten. He was barely able to walk. My mother nursed him but he never went back to driving the taxi. He said that a couple of the other drivers were resentful that he had many regular customers and picked a fight with him. After that he decided that he would never work for others so he bought a panel truck and started to peddle pastries to selected neighborhoods. He was happy being his own boss. Unfortunately, he sustained a back injury from the beating which bothered him his entire life.

Then, when I was in high school, some drug crazed men “held up” my dad in his truck. He offered them his money but they shot him in the chest, anyway, and ran away with his money.

On the street where he was shot, at one of the homes on the street, a customer of his came out to help him. She was a nurse and helped to stop his bleeding while waiting for the ambulance. The doctors operated on him.....the bullet was in his lungs, less than an inch from his heart. Kami was truly there, protecting him.

After a while he recovered and returned to work. However, his return to work was too soon. After about a year, he became very ill, this time they diagnosed him with TB and had to be hospitalized at Leahi Hospi-

tal for about 2 years. We did not know how he contracted TB but his weak immune system must have caused it.

Again, he recovered thanks to Kami-Sama's blessings, and was able to work again.

Then when I was in my 20's, as he was driving home in his truck, some young boys who were drinking smashed straight into the back of his truck. It propelled him off the road and he smashed into a huge tree. His truck was totally damaged but he survived without any injury. The boys in the other car unfortunately were injured. I went to the accident scene and looked at the tree and also saw my father's truck. The front windshield and frame were smashed in and missed his head by only an inch or two. Again, my father survived. The judge gave the citation to the boys claiming they were speeding and drinking.

With all these traumatic incidents, being beat up, getting held-up and shot, developing TB illness, and the truck accident, my dad never lost his faith, never felt anger or defeat, never resented or felt self-pity. Instead his faith grew stronger. He prayed every morning and every night, so intensely that he often had to wipe tears from his eyes when done.

Finally, I would like to tell you about when illness finally took his life. Due to the damage already done to his lungs in the past, they were very weak (probably a form of COPD) and he was in and out of the hospital for months.

The last time I took him back to the hospital he told me not to let the doctors do any more procedures. My mother had passed away ten years before and I knew my father still missed her. But the doctors wanted to operate to relieve the congestion in his lungs. The operation did not go well, and he remained unable to breathe or eat on his own. The doctor kept him in a comatose state to allow his body heal, but after months passed and his condition was deteriorating, I was persuaded to stop the machines due to his signed Health Care Directive.

After he passed away and as I tried to get back to my normal life, I couldn't help feeling guilty about giving the approval to stop the machines. It caused me so much sadness and guilt. Then one night, a few months later, my father appeared in my sleep. I was walking up a massive white bridge, which extended way beyond my vision. I saw my father lying down on the side of the bridge, on a plain platform.

I was so happy to see him and expected him to get up and talk to me. But, he simply got up and walked up to me and looked at me, with a kind and loving expression, without saying a word. I waited to hear him say something to me, but he just smiled and turned and walked up the bridge away from me.

I woke up and was shaken.....but somehow I knew it was a message from my father telling me that everything was OK, and that I should not feel sad or guilty. I was so grateful for his message. I realized that he was not really my dad anymore, but he had transformed to a "mitama". Even to this day, there are moments when I feel both his and my mother's presence, sometimes at home, and sometimes at this church.

I admire my father greatly, and hope I can be as positive, patient, caring and humble as he was. He never got angry or impatient, he did not have any bitterness in his heart, and he showed only love and kindness to his family.

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HONOLULU**

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**The Movement
for the Mutual Fulfillment of Kami and Me**

I will seek and receive Mediation
I will realize the blessings of Kami
I will live a joyful life of appreciation
I will be one with Kami
I will pray for, help, and guide others
To actualize the Way of Kami and people

Konkokyo Declaration

As humans, who are all allowed to live by the Great Universe,
We accept and respect all lives as being precious,
And pledge to manifest an ideal world where
Kami and people,
People and people, and People and all things
Live together through an Interdependent (*Aiyo kakeyo*) relationship.



**Essence of Practicing Faith
of Konkokyo**

- Good thoughts with a sincere and thoughtful heart and,
- Doing a good deed with a conscientious and kind heart and,
- Being honest all the time
- Trust and being trusted by Kami is the aim of Faith.
- We all are receiving daily blessings every moment; the blessings that we need at certain times are the result of practicing Faith.

**Autumn Grand Service
for Ikigami Konko Daijin**

Autumn Grand Service will be held on **Sunday, October 5, 2014 at 11 a.m.**

Mochi making for the Service is on Oct. 4 (Sat.) from 10:00a.m.

The Autumn Grand Service is to acknowledge the divine work of *Ikigami Konko Daijin* as the eternal *Toritsugi* Mediator at each church.

Ikigami Konko Daijin left a teaching, "When my body is gone, I can go to where I am requested and save people." (extracted from Voice of the Universe page 118 #359)

Konko Daijin is spiritually present at all local churches to support and guide each *toritsugi* mediator in saving and helping people. Let us show our appreciation to Ikigami Konko Daijin by making time to assist in the preparation for the service and by attending the service so that we can gain more virtue for our future. NAORAI REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED