



“Thank You Very Much, Konko-sama”

Reverend Tsukamoto Kazumasa
Director of the Outreach Department and KIC

These words are what the spiritual leader Konko-sama says every day. Each of us receives great blessings through the daily prayers and Sacred Mediation of our Founder and the successive Konko-samas. Reflecting on this, I cannot help but say, “Thank you very much, Konko-sama,” from the bottom of my heart.

The spiritual leader Konko-sama says, “Thank you very much, Konko-sama,” at the Mediation Seat, even though he himself is Konko-sama. When I first heard this, I wondered how to understand those words. I kept searching until I came across the following words of Konko-sama:

“My words, ‘Thank you very much, Konko-sama,’ do not refer to any one particular individual. When I say these words, many people come to mind—Ikigami Konko Daijin (our Founder), Tenchi Kane No Kami (the Divine Parent of the Universe), my ancestors, numerous mitama spirits, successive Konko-samas, their wives, everyone around me, and everything that takes care of me. I am thinking of all these people and things when I say, ‘Konko-sama’. I find myself spontaneously saying ‘Konko-sama!’ when, for example, my child stumbles over a stone. I do this without even thinking. I have been

trained to say ‘Konko-sama’ even in an emergency. With this in mind, I say, ‘Thank you very much, Konko-sama’ every day.”

I was deeply impressed by the thought and feeling the Konko-sama puts into this phrase. “Thank you very much, Konko-sama” are “words of prayer” that allow anyone to connect with the feelings of Konko-sama anytime and anywhere. I would like to cherish the thought behind these words.

In life, we often face difficulties, but we can feel at peace when we realize that we are embraced by great prayers and strive to live with gratitude.

Our Founder, Konko Daijin, gave the following teaching to Ms. Senda Shima:

“Tell about the divine blessings you have received to those who are unaware of Kami-sama’s blessedness. Then those people will be saved. Giving thanks this way will make Kami-sama most happy.” (Gorikai II Senda Shima3-3)

I would like to continue living a life of gratitude, sharing the blessings of Kami-sama with those around me, and praying that this joy and deep emotion will reach them.

From the Summary of the April 2026 issue of Konkoku Kyohou



In Celebration of the Centennial of Konko Missions in Hawaii

Reverend Yano Yasuhiro, Konko Mission of Wahiawa, Hawaii

The visitation of the fifth Konko-sama, the late Reverend Konko Heiki, and his wife to Hawai'i in August 2000—marking the 100th Anniversary of the Independence of the Konkokyo Religious Organization—was unprecedented in the history of the Konko Missions in Hawaii. It was a great blessing for local faith communities to welcome him to each church. Now, as we approach the Centennial Anniversary of Konko Missions in Hawaii on August 15, 2026, it is once again a wonderful and unexpected joy that the sixth Konko-sama, Reverend Konko Hiromichi, and his family will attend the celebration at Ko'olau Ballroom and make visits to churches on O'ahu. These occasions are rare and deeply meaningful for our community.

In September 1977, one year after the 50th Anniversary of Konko Missions in Hawaii, my wife and I came to Hawai'i to assume responsibility for the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. The church had remained open for five years following the passing of its founding minister, Reverend Takahashi Haruko, in 1972. During that time, Reverend Ishii Hiromichi and members of the Takahashi family faithfully cared for the church. When we arrived, only a small number of dedicated believers continued to support its activities.

Over nearly five decades, we have not experienced a dramatic increase in congregation size. Since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, people's attitudes toward gathering have shifted, and attendance has declined across both religious and broader communities. In response, we began livestreaming services—weekly, monthly, and annual—as a way to stay connected, though we still reflect on how effective this has been in supporting faith.

When we began our missionary work, a major concern was transitioning to an Eng-

lish-oriented church to serve a changing population. Over time, we have made progress in this area. However, new needs have emerged. Today, many seek a church that is welcoming, comfortable, and approachable. Amid these changes, I often reflect on whether the heart of our faith—Toritsugi mediation—continues to function as it should. This shift in needs is not unique to Hawai'i; it can be seen in other countries, including Brazil and Japan.

In thinking about these changes, I am convinced that the teachings of the Founder, Konko Daijin, remain essential to sustaining the faith. He taught, “If there is one true believer in a family, then all of the family members will become believers. If there is one family in a village who truly believes in this faith, all the villagers will begin to receive divine blessings.” (Gorikai III Jinkyukyogoroku37-2)

This reminds us that faith grows through sincerity, one person at a time.

The fourth Konko-sama, Reverend Konko Kagamitaro, expressed this spirit through the phrase “sewani naru”: to give thanks for all that supports our lives. A heart that continually expresses gratitude brings forth peace.

When we first arrived, we were told that this was America, not Japan, and that it would be difficult for ministers' children to follow in their parents' footsteps. Yet today, we have been blessed to see our children grow into ministers. Before our departure, my father compared our journey to sailing a small vessel into a vast ocean in search of treasure. After nearly half a century, I feel that we have found those treasures—in our children and in the believers who have deepened their faith.

As we commemorate this Centennial, my sincere wish is to witness people living this faith and to see the continued growth of our faith community in Hawai'i.



The Way of Kami and People: Expanding Across the Spanish-Speaking World

Reverend Iwai Ryoichi, Konkko Church of São Paulo, Brazil

The Fifth Konko-sama received the wish of our Founder, Konkko Daijin, who said, “I am aspiring for a blessing which will completely embrace the world with this Faith.” (Gorikai II Kunieda Sangoro 11). He entrusted us with this wish: “a life of sacrifice that embraces the world.” He also taught us, in a way that was easy to understand, that the very place where we stand is itself a part of the world to be embraced. From this teaching, I developed a deep desire to bring Konko-sama’s prayer to life, beginning from this very place where I have been given the opportunity to serve Kami-sama.

It has been about 30 years since Konkokyo propagation began in Paraguay. Today, our activities are centered in Asunción, the capital, and have spread to several rural areas. Through the mysterious workings of Kami-sama, we have also begun to sense since last year that propagation in Spanish-speaking Latin America is beginning to unfold. Reverend Maehara Hiromichi, the founding minister of Konkokyo in Paraguay, taught me through his own experience that it is essential first to understand what the person in front of us is seeking, and then to respond sincerely to their needs.

Practicing sincerity is reflected in our growing community. Each time we conduct a service in Asunción, more than 60 people participate. What is particularly notable is the large number of young participants: approximately 50% are in their teens to 30s. Even in rural areas, more than half of the participants are young people. Until now, we have carried out our activities in Paraguay with the hope of passing on the joy and gratitude of faith to the next generation. Recently, however, we

have felt an even stronger calling to focus on the youngest among us—those in their teens and twenties.

I was once deeply moved by the expression, “What you are asked to do is what you are being tested in.” I continue to hold these words in my heart and strive to accept what is entrusted to me as Kami-sama’s guidance. This was never more evident than about 25 years ago, when I had just begun a relation-

ship with Reverend Maehara’s daughter—who is now my wife. Reverend Maehara asked us to meet him at a coffee shop in Asunción. We wondered what it



might be about. There, without concern for appearances, he tearfully bowed his head and pleaded, “Please take care of Konkokyo in Paraguay.” Although we were taken aback, we replied, “We will do our very best.” Since then, my wife and I have continued our service, guided by the divine workings of Kami-sama.

Next month, we will hold the first anniversary memorial service for the late Reverend Maehara. We do not know if we have been able to fulfill what he entrusted to us. However, from Paraguay—known as the “heart of South America”—we sincerely hope that the Way of Kami and People, which embodies Konko-sama’s prayer, will continue to unfold beautifully throughout Latin America. We look forward to pursuing a uniquely South American model of faith: one where people can practice faith with gratitude and joy anytime and anywhere, whether alone or together, even without attending a church, and where this faith can be safely and confidently passed on to the generations to come.

Celebrating the 100th Anniversary in North America and Hawaii

We warmly invite you to join us for the Centennial Celebration as we give thanks for 100 years of divine blessings, spiritual growth, and heartfelt connections.

Konko Churches of North America

●Centennial Ceremony & Reception

○Date & Time: Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 11:00 AM- 3:00 PM

○Place: Konko Church of San Francisco,
1909 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115-3204 USA

●Contact information: kcnoffice@konkofaith.org

Please RSVP by July 14th.



Konko Missions in Hawaii

●Centennial Service & Luncheon

○Date & Time: Saturday, August 15, 2026, 11:00 AM -3:00 PM

○Place: Ko‘olau Ballrooms & Conference Center (Glass Ballroom)

●BBQ Beach Picnic

○Date & Time : Sunday, August 16, 2026, 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

○Place: Ala Moana Beach Park

●Contact information: kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org

Please RSVP by July 13th.



“Happy Heart Handbook” Published in Korean and English

Following the Korean version published last year, the English version of the Headquarters publication “Kokoro no Renshucho (Happy Heart Handbook)” is now available. This booklet presents the Konko Faith in an easy-to-understand way, accompanied by charming illustrations, and encourages the practice of faith in daily life. For inquiries about this booklet, please contact KIC.

마음의 연습장

행복하게 살기 위한
100 가지 실천



Happy Heart Handbook

100 Faith Practices
for Living a Happy Life



057

Go to Worship

Going to worship takes effort and time. Simply showing up turns your heart toward Kami-sama. That sincerity and effort are never wasted—Kami-sama gladly receives them.



059

Pray for Those Who Support You

Your life is supported by many people—drivers, doctors, teachers, workers, etc. Be grateful and pray to Kami-sama for their happiness.



058

Take a Deep Breath

Some people say sighing pushes happiness away. Instead, take a deep breath. Imagine Kami-sama taking your worries as you breathe out and filling you with fresh energy as you breathe in. With every breath, life is renewed.



060

Turn Blame into Care

Blaming someone can quietly hurt your own heart. When you feel the urge to blame, talk to Kami-sama instead. Looking at what may be behind their actions can help compassion grow.



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