

F o r e w o r d

**Let us Be the Light for World Peace and the Salvation of All Humans
by Embracing the Divine Reminder and Following its Teachings**

by the Reverend Kazuma Wada
Director of the General Affairs Department

The Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke reads, "Pray sincerely, With all your heart. Be one with Kami. Kami's blessings begin within Hearts grateful and caring, In harmony and joy. Look to Kami always, Now and forever. On this very day, pray." I humbly interpret the messages embroidered in this Divine Reminder as "Revere the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin and pray to the Divine Parent of the Universe with a single heart. And do this on a daily and monthly basis. The divine favor (your happiness) will be there for you when your own heart becomes a calm, delighted heart."

I am currently blessed with a 10-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter. I am the

This is what I mean by "letting someone know about the value and wonderfulness of Konkokyo through one's own faith." If we can put this into practice, then we will probably get to "be the light" as shown in the Basic Policy of the Konko Faith Organization.

I have just remarked the possibility of us "becoming the light." How can this "light" lead to world peace and the salvation of all humans? The current 6th Konko-sama kindly showed us an answer to this question, when he was the Director of the Hiromae/Worship Hall Department of the Konkokyo Administration:

"These are my favorite words, and they go, 'Thinking globally, acting locally.' Our perspective should be broad enough to let us think things globally. And yet we should act locally; we should act positively in our local community. Each of us may be a small individual. Not many people are able to make global activities. We, therefore, should look at ourselves well and do what we can do right here, right now. Our acts may be quite local and "small" accordingly,

father of these two little children. Whenever I pray to our Parent Kami for my children to succeed my faith, I try to make sure that "I do not stand right before these two kids. Instead, my children and I are in the same direction." One more important thing for me is that "I do not talk to my children about the Konko Faith/Konkokyo. I let them know about the value and wonderfulness of Konko Daijin's faith through my own faith." I don't think I can transmit the wonderfulness of Konkokyo to my children orally, saying, for example, "The Konko Faith is a religion which is..." and/or "You must do this because the Founder of Konkokyo tells you to do so." On the other hand, If I truly become happy and grateful due to practicing faith in the Konko Faith, and if I interact with my little kids with a positive, delightful attitude, my children will naturally feel, "Our dad is positive and he always smiles no matter what happens to him/us." That's when my little kids will have interest in Konkokyo that fundamentally constitutes my personality.

but we should be thinking things globally as we think locally.

The 4th Konko-sama said, 'When you sweep the road in front of your house, you are sweeping a road that leads to the whole world.' Here, he talks about the very sense that allows one to make local activities with a global perspective. You are not only doing a thing just around you... you are in fact covering/taking care of a part of the (Divine Parent of) the Universe. It is very important for us to be aware and conscious of this." (A quote of Rev. Hiromichi Konko's speech at the Commemorative Event for the 160th Anniversary of Konkokyo's Foundation on June 2, 2019, sponsored by the Konkokyo East/Higashi Kinki Diocese)

Let us become the light in order to first fulfill ourselves and then help people around us be saved. This effort, this act, is probably quite local. It may be nothing but one single drip of the vast ocean. But I humbly pray that we still would like to take our steps forward in order to help realize our Divine Parent's wish of "world peace and the salvation of all humans."

Address by the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo

At the Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith



Welcome to the Ceremony to Appreciate the Mitama Spirits of Konko Ministers and Believers with Outstanding Contributions to the Spread of the Konko Faith, ladies and gentlemen. I am truly

grateful that we are all being allowed to conduct this ceremony, asking Konko-sama, our Spiritual Leader, to serve as the Chief officiant.

This time, we have newly enshrined 74 mitama spirits to the Konko Headquarters' Mitama Ancestral Altar. 4,961 mitama spirits in total are enshrined at the Headquarters as of today.

We are here today in order to honor the divine virtue of our senior ministers who dedicated themselves for the propagation of the Konko Faith. Especially, we are here today especially for truly honoring and appreciating the divine virtue of the former, 5th Konko-sama who passed away this past summer. I am personally reminiscing the 5th Konko-sama's words upon his inauguration (in 1991), "I would like to contribute to world peace and the salvation of all humans."

Next year, Japan, our country, will have the 80th anniversary since the end of World War II. For these 8 decades, we have received lots of blessings from our Parent Kami and have taken steps towards achieving "true world peace." We have been taking these important steps on a constant basis.

A local Konko church in Hiroshima (Prefecture) was badly damaged due to the atomic bomb attack of August 6, 1945, just 9 days before the end of the war. Despite the heavy damage, they continued to use the church building and five believers' families lived at the church. And the family of the church built a tin-roofed shack and lived in it.



One day, the head minister and his family totally ran out of food, and they finished their breakfast with nothing but a soup with potato leaves and stems. As for lunch, they made

porridge from wheat and ate it. They got the wheat through a public food distribution. The head minister said to his family, "I hear that they call this food oatmeal in America. Let's eat it with a plate and a spoon." It was all the humor the minister could squeeze out at that time. And the whole family ate the porridge as merrily as they could.

During or shortly after their extremely humble lunch, a believer came over to their church for worship. The church member cried and said at the Mediation Place, "We have rice but we only have 15kg of rice. We are being seriously worried about this. What can we do?"

This person had 15kg of rice and yet told his head minister that his family was destitute. The head minister and his family didn't even have rice itself and had just finished eating soup with potato vines. The minister was astonished to hear what this believer had to tell him, but imparted as

follows:

"You live your life, looking at your rice. It's right there in your home and it is visible. As for me, I live my life, 'looking' down below the potato; the earth. There's Kami in my heart, which keeps me in composure. You feel helpless because you depend upon your own rice. Having 15kg of rice means you and your family will be able to survive for one or two weeks. Stay worry-free during these two weeks and ask Kami for a divine arrangement from now, so that you and your family will be able to get over this big hump." The believer was delighted to hear his minister say so and went home.

Looking back at that day, that very Toritsugi-Mediation, the head minister says, "I was allowed to perform such Sacred



Mediation for that person because I was eating nothing but potato leaves at that time. This was indeed an ikigami or a living god/kami. It was when my living faith (not a dead one) worked effectively for that gentleman."

This, I believe, is a valuable answer to the question, "What is true peace?" Life based upon the faith of Konkokyo leads to true peace eventually, indeed.

Our Founder teaches us, "Though people call me (Konko Daijin) 'Kami,' I am not the only one. All people who come here are the children of Kami. To be an ikigami is to have Kami born within you. I was the first to receive such divine blessings. You can all receive divine blessings in the same way." Is it only true of those who lived in the same era as the Founder? No. It is true of us all as well. All of you and I are here now for today's ceremony. Each of us is a "child of Kami," and this is what our Founder is teaching us about.

Today, as many as 239 Konko believers have just been appointed as the Ministers' Assistants/Hokyo by Konko-sama. All of these newly appointed Hokyo are truly encouraging to me and I am grateful accordingly.



The Konkokyo Organization is planning to implement various activities with the Basic Policy, "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so,

let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." I pray that we will move forward with this basic policy from next year (2025).

After this ceremony, we will hold a Meeting/Get together for All Konko Congregation with Konko-sama, our Spiritual Leader, and his wife in attendance. In this Meeting, we will listen to reports by a few volunteer workers who engaged themselves in reconstruction aiding activities on the Noto Peninsula of the Ishikawa Prefecture, Japan, that was heavily damaged with a massive earthquake that broke out on January 1st, 2024.

the best use of their reports, making them as a precious catalyst for our future actions. As ones with faith in our Parent Kami, our actions from now should be faith-based. And when we take those actions, the kami-like heart/kami-gokoro in us should be energetically activated.

We will soon have the conclusion/end of this year, 2024. I sincerely hope and pray that those who are here will receive the divine virtue of our Parent Kami through today's ceremony and that all of you will go home safely. I also pray that you will all welcome an upcoming New Year's Day graciously and joyfully, remembering Konko Daijin's words, "You will also get to receive such a blessing from Kami, just like me," for this will help you receive even greater, richer and broader blessings from Kami from now on.

This is all for my address. Thank you very much.



It is almost one year since this tragic earthquake occurred on Noto. There are a lot of people who are still being forced to live under an extremely severe circumstance as citizens in the victimized area. I, together with all of you, would like to offer my/our deepest condolences to people on the Noto Peninsula. Let us make

