



The Konko Missions in Hawaii will fulfill Ikigami Konko Daijin's vision to embrace the world with the Konko Faith

## **Mutually thriving sustainability between Humans and the Natural World**

Rev. Yomisu Oya  
*Konkokyo Hawaii Center*

We express our deepest condolences to the victims of the earthquake in Japan. Our hearts go to all who have been victimized by the enormous energy of the land and sea, and the invisible radiation wafting in the air we breathe. Nature overpowered our most advanced technologies and systems.

As Konko believers, we seek the way for Kami and people to be mutually fulfilled, but how can we keep our minds open during such a difficult time like this? Regarding mutual fulfillment, the newly proposed preamble of the Konko Missions in Hawaii Constitution states as follows:

Mutual fulfillment has three ideal expressions: first and most important, the faith-based unification of the individual with the Divine Parent located in one's heart; second, the equitable and non-violent resolution of all disputes among family members, interest groups, and nations; and third, mutually thriving sustainability between humans and the natural world.

How can we develop these ideal relationships? Is there a way to maintain our relationship with the natural world even while facing a tragic natural disaster? To answer these questions, let us remember what Konko-sama wrote in his poem after visiting Hawaii in the summer of 2000. It was translated:

From August 10<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> of the year 2000, I traveled around the islands of Oahu, Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai, and deepened my awe and respect towards the great nature. Now I pray for harmony and coexistence between humans and nature.

Konko-sama deepened his awe and respect towards great nature. In the Japanese original, he used the word “畏敬(*i-kei*),” which means “awe and respect,” or “reverence.” The nature in Hawaii Konko-sama encountered made him feel *i-kei*. *I-kei* is an awe-inspiring, respectful, humble, and sincere feeling to something great. With this heart, Konko-sama said that he prays for “harmony and coexistence between humans and nature.”

The more humble we become, the deeper we could pray. Then the deep humble prayer reaches to the Tenchi Universe and something good starts happening. As we are all allowed to live within the blessings of the Universe, with utmost reverence, let us pray sincerely to Kami, our Divine Parent.

The Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony will be held at each church between the months of April and May. During the service, let us unite our prayers to receive divine protection and guidance with those who rebuild Japan.

# ***A Prayer of Hope***

Ikigami Konko Daijin-sama, Tenchi Kane No Kami-sama

Ikigami Konko Daijin-sama, Tenchi Kane No Kami-sama

The ground shook from deep within

And created the waves that destroyed coastal towns.

Thousands lost their lives, homes, and livelihood in an instant,

On March 11, 2011, in the northeast area of Japan.

Deep is our sorrow for those who died or are still missing.

We pray for the 320,000 survivors living in makeshift shelters.

Please provide them with water, food, medicine, clothes, and other materials,

To regain their spiritual and physical strength.

We pray for the people who work valiantly to maintain control of the damaged power plants.

Please protect and guide them, keep them safe, and put an end to this nuclear crisis.

Kami is with us all the time.

Our thoughts and prayers are with them all the time.

Let us pray and work together to rebuild Japan.

As we direct our hearts to Kami,

Take away the uneasiness, fears, and anger from our hearts,

Fill our hearts with Kami's love and compassion,

Guide us to maintain a peaceful and purposeful heart.

Please help us support those suffering in Japan.

Ikigami Konko Daijin-sama, Tenchi Kane No Kami-sama

Ikigami Konko Daijin-sama, Tenchi Kane No Kami-sama



# ***Announcement: Study Tour to Japan Cancelled***

Aiming to gain deeper understanding of our Founder's faith, KMH planned to have its first Faith Enrichment Study Session at Konko, Japan. We were planning to receive Konko-sama's daily Toritsugi Mediation, and attend the Konkokyo Independence Service followed by Konko-sama's Inauguration Ceremony. However, after experiencing a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami that hit northeastern Japan, we decided to cancel the study tour to Japan.

A disaster headquarters was set up on March 12 by the Rev. Mitsutoshi Sato, the Konkokyo Chief Administrative Officer at Honbu and 12 people were sent to the affected churches in northeastern Japan. The following report is based on their findings:

There are about 50 Konko churches in the northeastern area of Japan. It was confirmed that no church families were injured, but damages were done to the 21 properties of the Konko churches by the earthquake and tsunami. Specifically, walls had collapsed, floors were flooded, and possessions were severely damaged.

## **Ministers Seminar**

### **Seeking an Openness in the Face of Adversity\***

Speaker

**Rev. Dr. Shinkichi Kawai**

*Head Minister of the Konko Church of Nakano*

**Date:** Saturday, April 23, 2011

**Venue:** Konko Church of Waipahu

\*This talk will be given in Japanese only.

#### **About the Seminar**

As ministers and mediators, it is important to be open in the face of adversity. There are many things in life that are difficult, distasteful, and impure; however, these are the very moments that we must face head-on and receive divine blessings. In this seminar, we will explore and discuss about having strength when encountering unexpected matters in the future with absolute faith to Kami.

#### **About the Speaker**

Rev. Dr. Shinkichi Kawai is the head minister of the Konko Church of Nakano, located in Tokyo. He received his doctorate at the University of Tokyo, Faculty of Letter in Religious Studies. He was ordained minister in 2003. Prior to becoming a minister, he was a professor at the University of Tokyo.

# The Most Reverend Heiki Konko: Kyoshu for the Fifth Time



**Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato**

The Most Reverend Heiki Konko has served as *Kyoshu*, the Principal Mediator for twenty years, and completed his fourth term on March 26, 2011. The election for *Kyoshu* took place on February 15 by all head ministers, and the Reverend

Heiki Konko received the majority vote. With this result, Rev. Mitsutoshi Sato, the Chief Administrative Officer, visited the Reverend Konko's residence, made a report, and requested as follows:

I humbly ask you to consider the request of all the churches. On behalf of all the people of Konkokyo, I sincerely ask you to accept the position of Principal Mediator. Please succeed the sacred work of Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin, and serve as the spiritual leader of Konko religion. We receive the grateful blessing of aging day by day, but our health condition changes. If I think this way, this is beyond your call of duty, but please accept our sincere request.

Reverend Konko accepted this request right away. Rev. Sato returned to his office, and shortly afterwards, Rev. Hiromichi Konko, the first son of the Reverend Heiki Konko brought the letter of acceptance with his signature. Rev. Sato later recalled this moment and said, "Konko-sama's clear answer to our request and his kind consideration by sending his son all the way to my office was a fresh, crisp breeze that purified my heart."

Rev. Sato reflected on the overwhelming service and absolute faith demonstrated by all successors of our Founder to carry out the work of Mediation as the Principal Mediator. Rev. Sato urged us to understand and receive the accumulated virtue of our successive spiritual leaders. He also reminded the importance of understanding the true meaning of Mediation of the Principal Mediator. Through Mediation, he expressed his strong wish to strive forward together for the development of Konko faith in the future. Lastly, Rev. Sato shared the words of the present Konko-sama, following the fourth Konko-sama's teaching, which says, "Value everything with utmost sincerity."

People who love and care for everyone and everything sincerely from the bottom of their hearts like Kami smile naturally.

Konko-sama's Inauguration Ceremony will be held on June 12, following the Konkokyo Independence Service. Let us express our thankfulness to Konko-sama and pray for his strong health to continue his work for this faith and all people in the world.

*The acceptance of Kyoshu, the Principal Mediator was announced to the administrative officers of Honbu on March 16, 2011 by Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato, the Chief Administrative Officer. The following is parts of his speech about how Ikigami Konko Daijin's Mediation has succeeded for five generations.*

On September 27, 1883, after the evening prayer, the Founder said, "I, Konko Daijin have taught the way of faith for a long time. Hagio, take my place." He retired after these words and passed away on October 10. Following these words, Hagio-sama served for Mediation until the Founder's Fiftieth Day Memorial Service. However, since he became too busy with numerous affairs, Konko Shijin-sama took over the work of Mediation.

Konko Shijin-sama served Mediation for 10 years and passed away on December 20, 1893. He did not feel well from July of that year. However, he continued to serve and drank four and a half gallons of water a day. It is said that Hagio-sama also served for Mediation starting around December 10.

Kondo Fujimori-sensei and others became aware of Shijin-sama's health condition, and they came to visit him from Kinki and other areas. Shijin-sama served for Mediation for the full days of December 14 and 15, and served for a half day on December 16. He retired from the hiromae after that.

It was four days before his passing. In the evening of December 18, he left the following words:

I was to die when I was six years old. However, Kami-sama bestowed blessings through my father's sincere and wholehearted prayer, which I feel grateful for.

After Shijin-sama passed away, Fujii Komajiro and his son served for a while. However, Konko Setsutane-sama succeeded to follow Shijin-sama's will, when Shijin-sama's Tenth Day Memorial Service was held on December 29. He was only thirteen years and four months old. Setsutane-sama said in August 1936:

I who knew nothing sat as I was told. I was told that it is fine as long as I am seated. In earlier days, I always cried because it was difficult. However, I followed my parent's teachings and continued to sit with patience. After some time, I found myself beginning to have less desire, or not even think of wanting something. I started to feel grateful at all times, and felt that it was not enough, even after expressing much appreciation. I constantly expressed my apologies for my lack of appreciation. It was such a grateful feeling.

Here, we can observe a dramatic change in his way of thinking. These changes make us wonder what had happened during the years he spent at the Mediation. The important words here are: “following my parent’s teaching.” The parent here is Shijin-sama; however, it could also be interpreted as the work of parents starting from the Founder. Setsutane-sama stated that he sat with patience, and there must have been something that made him patient. We have to ask ourselves what this was.



3rd Konko-Sama

In August 1961, he was inaugurated as *Kyoshu* for the fourth time according to the by-laws amended after World War II. Ten days after his inauguration, he rested for a month due to sickness. In January 1962, he served in the processional of the early morning as usual, but he limited serving at the Kekai Mediation to an hour, twice in the morning and once in the afternoon. From January 23, 1962, the early morning processional was conducted by his deputy, and he served at Kekai Mediation once in the morning and once in the afternoon. His physical condition grew worse. Finally, he ended his service on March 9, 1963. His condition became serious the next day, and he passed away around 3 o’clock in the afternoon of April 13, 1963.



4th Konko-Sama

The fourth Konko-sama wrote:

My father supports me always as I fall in  
And I renew my heart everyday.

As evident in this poem, the fourth Konko-sama adored and respected the third Konko-sama, and served continuously for twenty eight years long. On December 25, 1990, he was hospitalized, yet he continued to mediate for administrative matters. On January 10, 1991, he passed away at the age of eighty one years and eight months.

On that day, the present Konko-sama accepted to be the deputy Principal Mediator. The election for *Kyoshu*, the Principal Mediator was taken place, and he accepted the request to be *Kyoshu* from all the people of Konkokyo on March 27, 1991. He often refers to the teaching of the fourth Konko-sama, which goes: “We are taken care of based on the heart that feels thankful for everything.” He received the fourth Konko-sama’s heart and presently serves for Mediation at the age of 77.

In this way, the Principal Mediators since the Founder have served until the last moment of their lives.

## A Minister who sought, received, and actualized Mediation

Rev. Yomisu Oya

The 30<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service for the late Rev. Yoshifusa Nishida, the first head minister of the Konko Mission of Hilo was solemnized in conjunction with the Spring Memorial Service on March 27, 2011 at the Konko Mission of Hilo.

Previous believers of the Konko Church of Dairen wrote about Rev. Nishida, which was published for the believers of the Konko Mission of Hilo on November 11, 1979 at its 50<sup>th</sup> year anniversary service. The title of this Japanese book is *Nishida Yoshifusa Sensei Goshugyo yori Sai-fukyo made*, or *Rev. Yoshifusa Nishida: From his Faith to Restarting Propagation*. Based on this book, let us see how Rev. Nishida received blessings.

Rev. Nishida was born in Shimane, Japan in 1890 and moved to Dairen, Manchuria when he was young. When working at a grocery store, he fell ill. The doctor diagnosed him and prescribed a medicine. However, the medicine caused side effects, and he suffered from stomach and intestine ailments. Seeing him suffer, the owner’s wife at the store suggested him to visit Konko Church. He followed her advice, and visited the Konko Church of Dairen where Rev. Matsuyama served for Mediation.

Rev. Matsuyama’s teachings changed Rev. Nishida’s way of life. He decided to stop taking medication and practiced faith single-heartedly. He visited the church every day. He began to eat, gradually got stronger, and started to work again.

He continued practicing faith after he received blessings. Through the Mediation of Rev. Matsuyama, he went to Honbu to become a minister. He then served as an associate minister at the Konko Church of Dairen for over ten years, and he was asked to spread the Konko Faith to the people of Hawaii. He arrived in 1930.

Rev. Nishida was welcomed by the believers at the port of Honolulu. He then learned that the believers wanted him to stay at Honolulu until Rev. Kodama regained his health and returned from Japan. He stayed in Honolulu, thinking that this must be divine arrangement. On the day that Rev. Kodama came back, he went to Hilo to spread this faith.

In the beginning, no one visited his church. Day after day, Rev. Nishida continued to offer rice to the altar in the morning, prayed all day, and have the offered rice in the evening. He had one meal a day. One day, a Buddhist monk visited his church. The monk suggested him to introduce Konko faith by visiting households with him. This way, Rev. Nishida would be able to receive some offering to avoid starvation. Rev. Nishida expressed his appreciation for his thoughts, but he politely refused the offer. He was following the teaching of not going to believers’ homes to give prayers and sell teachings. Following this teaching, he continued his practice of faith at



the church.

It was when a year and half had passed. A big man wearing black glasses came to visit the church. He said that his child was sick and the doctors gave up hope. He sought help from other religions but none of them had worked. He said he heard about Rev. Nishida at the laundry shop near the church. Rev. Nishida gave a prayer with him and taught him teachings. Rev. Nishida also said if he and his family practices faith, he would receive blessings. The family started to visit everyday, and his child got well. This story spread by the word of mouth, and many gradually started coming to the church.

During the war, Rev. Nishida was forced to be separated from his family and resided at the internment camp in San Francisco. It took a long time until the family was reunited. When the war ended, Rev. Nishida requested to return to Japan to help people who suffered from the war. Since he left his family in Hilo, he tried to come back to Hawaii. However, his efforts were in vain. He was unable to be with his family, but Rev. Nishida received a divine arrangement to be in the presence of Rev. Matsuyama's passing. He wrote about this experience in a newsletter of his parent church issued at the Spring Grand Ceremony in 1957 with the title, *Hawaii Sai-fukyo, or Restarting Propagation in Hawaii*.

The following is what Rev. Nishida wrote in his article:

I am indebted to Rev. Matsuyama. It was five years ago, when I was trying to come back to Hawaii. After much effort, I prepared all documents required to return to Hawaii. I made two copies, and sent one to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan and brought the other to the U.S. Consulate. I then cabled the message to Rev. Matsuyama. Shortly after, I received a letter from him. Four or five days after I received his letter, I went back to Okayama. Rev. Matsuyama was resting in his bed because of his illness, but he told me to bring him a pencil and a piece of paper; I brought these to him. He wrote something on the paper and gave it back to me without saying anything. I read what he wrote. It said, "Having heard that your applications were accepted, I gave an appreciation to Kami-sama. However, when I feel this will be the last time to see you, tears come out and I have no words." I was speechless.

However, the application form and all the documents that I prepared came back to me with a letter from the U.S. Government. My request to return to Hawaii was denied. Both the Consulate General and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed their sympathy and tried their best, but nothing could be done. People said that there was no hope. I agreed with them and came back to Okayama. When I

communicated this to Rev. Matsuyama, he listened to me and said calmly, "so o ka na a," or "is that so?"

That night, at a little past 11, Rev. Matsuyama summoned everyone at the church. I was sleeping, but I went to the hiromae worship hall. Mrs. Matsuyama asked, "What is going to happen this late at night?" Then he replied, "We are going to pray for Rev. Nishida to return to Hawaii. We have to pray now." Then his prayer started. I was so tired and sleepy. Besides, the decision was already made and nothing could be done. But I prayed together with Rev. Matsuyama. Rev. Matsuyama prayed and prayed. He chanted Obarai prayer repeatedly. I felt sorry for him, for praying so hard after serving for mediation all day.

However, the government that humans created and Kami's arrangement are different. Kami's workings became a reality. A letter came to me from the U.S. Consulate, which granted me permission to return to Hawaii. Everything went smoothly after that, and I was able to come back to Hawaii after Rev. Matsuyama's 40 days memorial service. I feel grateful for the blessings that I received through the prayer of the late Rev. Matsuyama and the virtue of Kami-sama.

Rev. Nishida was a person who received Kami's arrangement and gained divine virtue. He was in Japan before Rev. Matsuyama came back from China, and was able to help him physically. At the same time, Rev. Fuji Nishida, his wife who received blessings in Hilo frequently offered various food items to Rev. Matsuyama's church when the people in Japan had nothing to eat.

Kami's mysterious arrangement continued. Kami made Rev. Nishida remain in Japan until Rev. Matsuyama passed away. Kami recognized the strong bondage between Rev. Matsuyama and Rev. Nishida, like a parent and child. This bondage is only possible when we have a child who cares for his/her parent and the parent who loves his/her child.

A believer of Dairen Church wrote, "The Rev. Matsuyama always said, 'After I die, I will go wherever I could not go when I had a physical body. And I will work for the people to receive blessings from Kami.'" This was realized with Rev. Nishida. Rev. Nishida was surely able to feel the strong prayer of the late Rev. Matsuyama at all times back in Hilo. Behind these two great ministers' parent-child relationship, the voice of Kami seems to echo in our hearts, which says, "Kami supports man as Kami's children, and man supports Kami as his parent. There will be eternal prosperity through *aiyo kakeyo* (mutual fulfillment)."

# KMH Faith Enrichment Seminars

## Faith of Ikigami Konko Daijin

Guest Speaker

**Rev. Hiroshi Takebe**

*Director of the Konkoyo Research Institute*



**Date:** June 17 - 19, 2011

**Venue:** Konko Mission of Honolulu

### Program\*

Friday, 16:00 - 18:00	Konko Daijin's Image of the World
Saturday, 9:00 - 12:00	Relationship between Kami and Human Being
Saturday, 13:00 - 16:00	Kami's Care
Sunday, 13:00 - 16:00	Being with Kami: Trial and Proof

\* The lectures will be given in Japanese, shortly followed by English interpretation. There will be time for question and answer after each lecture. Bento and refreshments will be served.

### About the Speaker

Rev. Hiroshi Takebe is the Director of the Konkoyo Research Institute since 2005. He was ordained as minister in 1983. He is a graduate of Kyoto University and majored in Literature. Some of his well-known publications include: *An Analysis of Konko Daijin's Viewpoint of Transcendence* (2006), *A Question to the "Relationship between Kami and Human Being": As Manifested in Konko Daijin's Record of Revelation of December 24, 1858* (2004), and *Konko Daijin's Image of the World and View of the Universe in His Later Years* (1993).



## 2011 Faith Enrichment Seminar Registration Form

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

CHURCH AFFILIATION: \_\_\_\_\_

I will be attending:

- Friday  
 Saturday AM  
 Saturday PM  
 Sunday

Send the registration form to: **Konko Missions in Hawaii**  
1744 Liliha Street #304  
Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/Fax: (808) 536-9078  
E-mail: [kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net)

**RSVP by May 31, 2011**

### KMH Mission Statement

The Konko Missions in Hawaii addresses the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith through a better understanding of the life and teachings of Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Toritsugi (Divine-Mediation).

## Upcoming Events and Services

### *Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony*

*April 10 Konko Mission of Honolulu*

*April 13 Konko Mission of Wahiawa*

*April 17 Konko Mission of Waipahu*

*May 8 Konko Mission of Hilo*

*May 15 Konko Mission of Wailuku*

### *Ministers Seminar*

*Saturday, April 23 from 10:00 - 15:00 at KM Waipahu*

*Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Shinkichi Kawai*

### **KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII**

HONOLULU 1728 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 533-7173  
Fax: (808) 521-7423  
E-mail: [Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com)

HILO 58 Huapala Lane, Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-3239  
Use same # for Fax.

WAIPAHAU 94-106 Mokukaua St., Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone: (808) 677-3716  
Use same # for Fax.  
E-mail: [konko.waipahu@gmail.com](mailto:konko.waipahu@gmail.com)

WAHIAWA 207 Muliwai Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786  
Phone: (808) 621-6667  
Use same # for Fax.  
E-mail: [konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com](mailto:konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com)

WAILUKU 2267 Mokuahau Rd., Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: (808) 244-4738  
Use same # for Fax.

HANAPEPE c/o Rev. Setsuko Okuno  
1544 Molehu Dr., Honolulu, HI 96818  
Phone: (808) 423-7707

### **KONKO CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

**Administrative Office**  
1911 Bush St. #4A  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 1(800)719-5262 Fax: (604)-876-4326  
E-mail: [kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org](mailto:kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org)  
Website: <http://www.konkofaith.org/>

## Konko Missions in Hawaii

Malamalama Editor: Kei Kunito

1744 Liliha Street, Suite 304, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/Fax: (808) 536-9078 E-mail: [kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net)

Website: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/>

Konkokyo Hour : Radio K-ZOO AM1210 at 7:00 a.m., every Sunday

Radio KNUI AM900 at 6:20 p.m., every 2nd Sunday

To: