



## Camp Olowalu!!

*2007 KMH Ohana Camp was held on June 15 to 17 at Camp Olowalu on Maui. The followings are articles about the Camp.*

**By Nicholas Furusho (7 Year-old)**  
*Konko Mission of Wahiawa*

**On the first day** we had to wake up early and go to the airport to catch our flight to Maui. I met my friend Michi and his family at the airport along with Reiko sensei. Koichi-sensei rented a van and picked us up at Maui. We drove to Wailuku church where we attended the opening ceremony for the camp and played a name game. Following the service we went to the camp site, received an orientation for our cabin assignments, and ate lunch. Later Michi and I played until dinner and we did some more activities.

Saturday was filled with various fun ac-



tivities. We went for a Lahaina walk and made flags for our teams. There were team names like Gecko, Pineapple People, and Honu. First the Pineapple People won the first event, then Honu, and Gecko. We also did a Saturday Night Live program.



Holding his Memory Board of the KMH Ohana Camp

On the last day we woke up early to see the sunrise at Haleakala, but my Mom, Alex and I stayed in the van since it was cold outside and we were all sick the week prior to the camp. After breakfast we had to clean up the camp and we drove back to Wailuku church for lunch and the closing ceremony. It was back to the airport for our flight to Oahu and the drive back home.

I learned that we have to work hard to become an Ikigami and that we are always together with Kami Sama. I would like to thank Kami Sama for allowing me to attend the camp, the safe trip, the food we ate, and the fun I had with my family and friends. I would also like to thank the staff for planning the camp and the fun activities.

# KMH Ohana Camp Report

**By Miss Rayna Isaki**  
*Konko Mission of Honolulu*

From the time we landed on Maui, I was already looking forward to a weekend of excitement and fun. I was especially looking forward for the third day of our trip because we would witness the beautiful sunrise from Haleakala. After two full days of enjoyable activities and ono grindz, it was off to bed early for an even earlier wake. At 2:00am sharp, we got up and ready for some rigid temperatures.

Although I was really tired, I had the opportunity to get some sleep on the ride up to Haleakala. All the passengers were fortunate enough to get some rest but the drivers of the three vehicles were not as lucky. They had the huge responsibility of transporting everyone safely to our destination and probably received less sleep than us. This was not an easy task as high winds and complete darkness made it difficult to drive up the steep and winding roads. The looming precipice of the mountain contributed to the dangerous situation.

After close to 2 hours of driving under these conditions and a quick pit stop, we had finally reached the top of Haleakala at 10,000 feet above sea level. I was thankful to Konko Sama that the drivers were able to stay alert, endure the driving conditions and transport everyone safely. From the second I stepped out of the van, strong winds and freeeezing cold temperatures around the 40's just cut through all my clothing. I was wearing double and even triple layers, but that did not seem to help. My sister Janelle and I tried additional layers by sharing a blanket wrapped around the both of us. In the dark, we probably looked like a



Rayna and Janelle

big two-headed monster.

We reached there relatively early so we had about a 30-minute wait until the sun rose. It seemed like the longest wait ever just because I was cold, hungry and tired. I was amazed to see other tourists, presumably from places where they are used to the cold, in shorts and t-shirts! Even Reverend Koichi Konko was standing outside the observatory in shorts! Being born and raised in Hawaii, this was probably one of the absolute coldest times of my life.

As 5:30am approached, the sky began to lighten and the beautiful view above the clouds and mountain-tops came into sight. Excitement grew until finally a speck of the sun peaked through the horizon. Within minutes the sun rose to a quarter, half and then it was finally fully up. Its powerful presence lit up the entire surroundings as well as my spirits. I forgot about the cold, hunger pains and tiredness and embraced the wonderful experience. I began to appreciate having this experience and witness the start of a new day. I became thankful to witness such a beautiful event with my father, sister and fellow church members.

Following the sunrise was a morning prayer and a sermon from Reverend Saijiro Matsuda. Then we proceeded to our vehicles for some much-desired hot cocoa. I was very much looking forward to hot cocoa but unfortunately my tiredness got to me first. I feel asleep the second I got back into the van and when I woke, we were already back at Camp Olowalu. I may have missed the hot cocoa, but I was fortunate enough to make it safely to and from Haleakala, see the sunrise and experience good times with the church at Camp Olowalu on Maui.



**By Miss Chika Oya**  
*Konko Church of Sacramento*

I was lucky (or should I say blessed) to come to this year's KMH Ohana Camp. I should really thank Kami-Sama, since our campsite, Olowalu, was located in Maui, the Hawaiian island I have never been to. It was nice seeing how Ohana Camp brings quality time

together within family. This year, Ohana Camp's theme was "Together with Kami." The gorgeous scenery and relaxing atmosphere made Camp Olowalu an ideal place to learn this year's theme.

The camp started when we gathered and prayed at Wailuku Church, which later followed the icebreaker. The icebreaker consisted of a game which individual person says his/her name and do a motion to be re-

membered. Afterwards, we were set up in teams creating team names (Gecko, Honu, Pineapple People, and Da Group) and flag. To get to know the people within the team, we participated in “Dice talk”, which consisted rolling the dice and answering the question that corresponds to the numbers. Later that day, we participated in the scavenger hunt. The winning team gets to choose between chicken, pork, or beef to put in the team’s nabe, or hot pot, for dinner. At night, we had campfire. While eating smores, we saw the Big Dipper, the Milky Way, and brightest star near the moon (which no one knew what it was).

In the second day, we went on a treasure hunt in Lahiana. The treasure ended up being a piece of paper that says “Together with Kami.” For the rest of the day, some of us went to the beach during free time. Although the first beach we decided to go was too crowded, we were able to go to another beach. In the evening, we had Saturday Night Live, in Hawaiian style. During the Saturday Night Live, we all sang songs and performed a skit. It was hilarious seeing Reverend Saijiro Matsuda with a huge dread-lock wig.

Early next morning, we all went to Haleakala to see the sun rise. Going up 10,000 feet above sea level, the Haleakala was freezing cold. Looking around the view the moment I got to the area, I thought trees surrounded the mountain, but in actuality, they were clouds. The sunrise was so gorgeous that waking up at 2 AM and tolerating the cold weather during the summer was all worth it. After the sunrise, Reverend Matsuda led the Morning Prayer and gave a short sermon. He explained that with hope, even the darkest and coldest moment would eventually end when the sun rises. Later, we were given a square board to have other campers sign signatures (like something we would write in our high school yearbooks).

During the Ohana camp, I learned that I should relax and trust Kami. I learned that Hawaiians go by “Aloha time” while I tend to rush myself. During the camp, I hurried myself to get ready for the beach trip. When I finished getting ready, I thought I lost my keys. Rushing and panicking, I looked for the key. Reverend Reiko Yano walked in and helped me with the search, which she first prayed to Kami-Sama. Stu-



Chika (R)

pidly, the key was just sitting on my bed all this time. Again, Reverend Yano started to pray to thank Kami-Sama for finding the key. If I kept my mind level, trusted Kami and prayed a little more, I might have found the key sooner. Also during the “Dice talk” and other free times, I had a chance to talk to other campers. Many of them went through life threatening events, but they are perfectly healthy right now. I have never been in that situation, so I should thank Kami for that matter. But even if I did get into those situations, my initial thought should be of Kami-Sama and not a huge panic attack. If I can completely eliminate being panicky, I guess that is when I am truly “together with Kami.” Just like Reverend Matsuda has mentioned in his sermon, the sun will always rise, and I cannot stay in the darkness for too long. Once I see the sun, I will truly be thankful for the sun.



Regardless of age, the Ohana Camp was definitely an enjoyable way to spend summer vacation. From gorgeous sunrise to serene ocean, one cannot help but feel like he/she is part of the bountiful nature. I would like to thank all the staff for working so hard with the program, Reverend Roy Yasutake and volunteers for tirelessly cooking our meals and cleaning, and Yasutake sensei for welcoming us warmly in Wailuku Church. I enjoyed my first stay in Maui and cannot be anymore thankful. I am so glad I got to meet all the people who attended the Ohana camp in Olowalu campsite. Even without having long discussions or scheduled talk, I can understand what kind of personalities and daily life of the campers by sharing the same community in only three days. I really hope I can see them again.



# Memories of the Late Reverend Kikue Kodama

*This year marks the 10th year memorial anniversary of the Reverend Kikue Kodama on November 25, 2007 at 11:00 a.m. The following is a reprint of Reverend Kodama's biographic accounts from the KMH 80th anniversary booklet in 2006.*

**By Ms. Grace Kodama**  
*Konko Mission of Honolulu*

My mother, Kikue Kodama, came from a very spiritually enriched heritage before she reached Hawaii. Many of her family members and relatives were already part of the ministry that contributed to the establishment and expansion of the Konko faith in Japan. However, she started out her young adult life as an elementary school teacher and after having some experiences in the educational field decided to enter the Konkokyo Theological Seminary. Upon graduating in 1929, she could have remained in Japan and easily married into a household of a very established church but she preferred not to do so. I feel my mother was truly born to serve Kami on an arduous and turbulent path of life. She did not particularly care for a journey of ease and comfort where surroundings and circumstances were predetermined, and as fate would have it become a pioneer woman going into another country where the language, customs, and way of thinking were dramatically different from those of her homeland.

In 1928, at the request of the Reverend Matsutaro Yasutake of Amagi Church, Fukuoka Prefecture, my father, Masayuki Kodama, went to Hawaii to propagate the religion. On May 20, 1929, he married mother in Japan and in early August 1929, returned with his young bride. She was about to turn 22 in September and he, 26 years of age in November.

On August 27, 1929, the Konko Mission of Honolulu was established at 1851 Liliha Street. To accommodate the growing membership, on August 21, 1939, the church relocated to its present site at 1728 Liliha Street. Members recalled that my mother was a devoted, hardworking, and conscientious wife and parent.

Of the numerous and harsh physical, emotional, social and financial trials experienced and overcame

by mother in her ministry, I believe the war experience clearly embodies the resiliency of her character and the remarkable strength of her soul. It is of this spirit that I now share with you.

On December 7, 1941, with the outbreak of World War II, all missions were closed and Masayuki Kodama and his disciple ministers Haruko Takahashi, Santaro Sonoda, and Kiku Horibe were interned. Kikue Kodama was left behind with six young children...Dorothy, Arthur, Lillian, Ernest, Grace and Doris. The profound impact of the World War II internment camps on the lives of Japanese Americans, as well as, Japanese nationals cannot be underestimated. We experienced very long separation and almost no communication with our family members as



he was interned on Sand Island, Oahu and in five mainland, USA states. Before he was repatriated to Japan on September 1, 1943, father made the request to mother to have his family return with him. She relayed to him by letter that the mortgage payments on the church property were almost paid off; they are responsible to the members; and that the children are growing up well; so please be at peace. Feeling assured, he asked that she look after matters in his absence and returned back to his country. Till mid-September 1946, close to three years, no communication was ever allowed between them.

The war years were difficult for mother as she assumed the role of caretaker of the church. Prayer was confined to a sacred shrine hidden in her bedroom. However, on the second night of father's internment, she saw a dream that made her realize that though he was not physically present at the church he would still serve his family and the congregation through his prayers. She embraced the spiritual guidance of Iki-gami Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane no Kami, Kyoshu Setsutane Konko and his wife and Amagi Church's Reverend Matsutaro Yasutake. She prayed hard that she could serve the church well. Mother's faith deepened when she received many dreams that offered spiritual enlightenment on different matters during father's eight and a half years of absence.

During the hardship times, also, mother bore the great task of raising her young sons and daughters.

However, my brothers and sisters and I saw our parent as a strong and determined woman and not as a weak and fearful one. She was kind, loving, patient, very caring and concerned for all. She always made her children feel safe and secure, and that things would be fine. Stressful and anxiety-filled situations never seemed to keep her down. She was the quiet at the center of the storm, the anchor of the family. She had

been a rock and foundation of our lives.

After father returned to Hawaii on April 28, 1950, another chapter in our church history began.

After many, many long years of service in the ministry together, father died on August 24, 1973, and mother on November 28, 1997.

As I reflect on the past, I can recall mother's words, "In facing the years that follow...I firmly believe that,

# Annual Homage to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

**By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano**

*Head Minister of Konko Mission of Wahiawa*

The Konko Missions in Hawaii has preserved the tradition of the annual homage to the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific on Memorial Day, falling on the last Monday of May. The tradition was established by our pioneer ministers.

This year, a group of ten people, including ministers and lay believers, assembled at the Konko Mission of Honolulu at around 8 a.m. and made a pilgrimage to the Punchbowl National Cemetery on Monday, May 28. Greeting us upon our arrival at the main entrance of the cemetery was the American flag. Streaming in the air at half-staff, we placed a floral offering at the base of the flagpole. We recited the Tenchi Kaki-tsuke (Divine Reminder) while offering a prayer of appreciation for all the people who dedicated their lives for the sake of our nation and for their contribution to world peace.

After our group picture taking, we started our pilgrimage to the graves in the green field of the caldera. Every grave was adorned with a miniature star span-gled banner and a fresh flower lei, which the Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts help put up every year. Identifying graves related to the Konkokyo community in the vast expanse of greenery is no ordinary walk in the back yard. We do this every year, but still need to rely on a map to guide us to each grave. As a symbol of peace, we placed an origami folded paper crane and poured water on each headstone and extended a brief prayer for the Mitama spirit. This year, we visited 16 graves. The numbers of



graves we visit have been gradually increasing, due to the passing of the veterans. Due to the limited field space, the recently deceased have been accommodated in the columbarium. According to the Web page of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, the number of interments at Punchbowl Cemetery has increased to 47,298 as of 2006.

Among the many headstones, several of them are inscribed with the distinctive Konkokyo crest, which has received official approval by the government, and is kept in the archives.



When we started the gravesite pilgrimage, the annual Mayor's Memorial Day Service was in progress from 8:30 a.m. Over half-way through our pilgrimage, as we reached the courtyard at the base of the "Statue of Columbia," the solemn service was at its climax with the dedication of the state anthem. We paused and joined the general audience for a while. After the 21-gun salutation, four fighter jets tore across the sky with their

thunderous roar in the missing man formation to honor the fallen service people. Then we continued our pilgrimage.

Our pilgrimage ended at around 10 a.m., and we returned to the Honolulu Church where we enjoyed refreshments, courtesy of the Honolulu Church.

The annual visitation to the Punchbowl National Cemetery reminds me that we have been enabled to perpetuate the operation of Konkokyo in the country where we can enjoy freedom and security—which has been built and preserved by our dedicated predecessors, who have sacrificed their own lives for the nation.



# Gohonbu--The Kewlest Place on the Face of this Planet

By Rev. Edna Yano  
*Konko Mission of Wahiawa*



The Headquarters initiated a “Human Resource Development Program,” which is aimed to provide extended learning opportunities for the young ministers in the Konkokyo faith communities in Konko Missions in Hawaii and Konko Churches of North America. I happened to be asked if I was interested in this program. I wished to go to the Headquarters and meet Konko-Sama on my New Year’s Resolution. Certain that Kami-Sama had granted my wish, I accepted this offer without reservation. An all expense-paid three-month stay at my most favorite place on earth, I am so thankful; I couldn’t have asked for more. I will return to Hawaii on August 13<sup>th</sup>.

I arrived at *Gohonbu* (Headquarters) on May 23. I was at the Konkokyo Seminary five years back, so as soon as the train reached *Otani* in *Konko-Town*, and I saw the roof of the Headquarters from a distance, it made goosebumps form on my skin, and tears well up in my eyes. I regard Gohonbu as my second homeland. I felt like Kami-Sama’s huge outstretched arms came to give me a warm bear hug.

I am currently at one of my favorite places on the face of this planet. This is the very place that our Founder, Ikigami Konko-Daijin was born. This is where the Founder encountered many hardships. This is the place the Founder realized the true grace of Tenchi Kane no Kami. This is where the Founder initiated the Divine Mediation that continues till this day. Konko-Daijin’s prayers have crossed vast oceans starting from this spot in Okayama, Japan. There can’t possibly be another place more worthy to be at than Gohonbu.

In wanting to make the best out of the three short months I’m here, I try to wake up at 3 a.m. to greet Konko-Sama as he makes his way toward the main worship hall from his residence at 3:45 a.m. It’s not as easy to continue this every day. Sometimes I

have no trouble waking up; sometimes it’s painfully difficult. But as difficult as those times may be, it never fails to amaze me that this tradition of Konko-Sama’s daily procession to the *Hiromae* (Main Worship Hall) at this early hour has been continuing non-stop since the tradition was established when the 3<sup>rd</sup> Konko-Sama, the Reverend Setsutane Konko was in service in 1925. It doesn’t matter if there is a hurricane tearing its way in that area; Konko-Sama proceeded to the *Hiromae* at 3:50 a.m. Currently, Konko-Sama arrives daily at 3:45 a.m. on the nose. With the renovation of the *Hiromae* from February 24, through July 6, 2006, the *Shūtokuden* became the temporary worship hall. The *Shutokuden* is located about the length of a football field further. A further walk meant an earlier procession time. Even after the renovation was complete, the time of the procession remains at 3:45 a.m.

The echo of the *geta* (wooden clogs) against the concrete pavement could be heard from a distance, and it gets louder with each step. He is accompanied by three worship hall attendants who walk in rhythm with him. There are several greeters every morning at the premises of the headquarters. Sometimes there are mass crowds who come from near and far to greet this virtuous sacred figure. As routine as it may seem, I am amazed with awe every morning I witness Konko-Sama make his way towards the *Hiromae*. He experiences a fresh new day in good health. He prays for the goodwill of everyone; he lives only for world peace and salvation.



Grand Service Hall Altar

Describing Konko-Sama in today's term: He is the MAN! Presently, the Reverend Heiki Konko presides as the 5<sup>th</sup> Konko-Sama, the Principal Mediator.

To some, he is known as the man of few words. He may not be a super-talker, but if you talk to him and ask questions, he will respond. And yes, he is fluent in English and German, too! If you ever have the opportunity to meet him at the Headquarters, I encourage you to receive his divine mediation. There is no need to fumble for proper Japanese words, because he will hear you through your sincere heart. The Konko faith is unique because we can freely meet Konko-Sama, our Principal Mediator without prior reservations. Such luxury!

Konko-Sama is a full-time mediator and a full-time family man. He cherishes his family, which continues to thrive. He loves classical music, especially by Beethoven. Konko-Sama is also inspired by impressionist painters such as Cézanne and Monet. He has also been to places like Europe, California and Hawaii.

When I went to Japan, I had some things in mind to ask Konko-Sama, but when I actually got up to Konko-Sama and took a bow, my memory was swiped clean, and the only thing that came out of my mouth was words of appreciation. Many people I know mentioned the same phenomenon. It must be the virtue of Konko-Sama, or it must be my conscious playing tricks on me. But then again, I get another thought in my head that says,



Rev. Edna Yano

Reading Main Saishi Prayer by Konko-Sama

“Edna, mediation to the Principal Mediator of the Konkokyo Organization should only be limited to words of appreciation, and nothing else” (This is just my thinking; I’m probably wrong). Many people come to seek the mediation of Konko-Sama on a daily basis, so I might say it’s quite difficult to discuss deep issues with Konko-Sama for hours at a time. Also,

the ceiling is high, so every

word seems to echo throughout the worship hall. If that’s of no concern to you, feel free to talk to Konko-Sama about anything.

Your local Konko Church is at your service basically 24 hours a day. The doors may be closed throughout the night, but you can reach the reverend by phone. We do not have to lug our problems in our suitcase and present them to Konko-Sama all the way up in Japan; we can leave that up to the Divine Mediator back at our local churches. There are some individuals who have lugged their issues and presented them to Konko-Sama, and came back receiving divine blessings; so, it really depends on the individual on a case-by-case situation how one is to mediate to Konko-Sama.

The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration since the Founder received the Divine Call on November 15, 1859 will be held in 2009. We are hoping that you can plan ahead and be a part of this historical celebration. Feel for yourself, the sacred energy of *Goreichi* (The Sacred Land of Konko), and “Receive the deep blessings flowing from Otani” (*Gorikai III Omichi Annai* 2).



Processional at Predawn

# KMH Ohana Get-together

**Theme:** Together with Kami

**Date:** August 18, 2007 (Sat.) at 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Place:** Konko Mission of Honolulu  
& Liliuokalani Park

**Activity:** Stone Painting



- Free admission
- All ages are welcome
- Potluck lunch
- KHC provides your airfare for the neighbor islands

*Come and Join us!!*



Notice:

Rev. Koichi Konko was appointed as the assistant head minister of Konko Mission of Honolulu on June 18, 2007.

## KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII

HONOLULU	1728 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817 Phone: (808) 533-7173 Fax: (808) 521-7423 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com">Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com</a>
HILO	58 Huapala Lane, Hilo, HI 96720 Phone: (808) 935-3239 Use same # for Fax.
WAIPAHU	94-106 Mokukaua St., Waipahu, HI 96797 Phone: (808) 677-3716 Use same # for Fax. E-mail: <a href="mailto:kmh-waipahu@peoplepc.com">kmh-waipahu@peoplepc.com</a>
WAHIAWA	207 Muliwai Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786 Phone: (808) 621-6667 Use same # for Fax. E-mail: <a href="mailto:konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com">konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com</a>
WAILUKU	2267 Mokuhanu Rd., Wailuku, HI 96793 Phone: (808) 244-4738 Fax: (808) 242-7603
HANAPEPE	c/o Rev. Setsuko Okuno 1544 Molehu Dr., Honolulu, HI 96818 Phone: (808) 423-7707

## KONKO CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA

### Administrative Office

5319 Sherbrooke St. Vancouver,  
B.C., V5W 3M3, Canada  
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: Rev. Koichi Konko

1744 Liliha Street, Suite 304, Honolulu, HI 96817

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

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

**Konkokyo Hour : Radio K-ZOO AM 1210 at 7: 00 am, every Sunday**

To: