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## Konkokyo Big Bang!

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By Ms. Aimee Yasutake (Wailuku)  
Chair of the Conference Committee



The KMH Conference 2008 was held on Saturday, August 16, 2008 at the Konko Mission of Waipahu. The theme of this year's conference was "Konkokyo BIG BANG! The beginnings of the Konko Faith." The objectives of the conference were 1) To understand the Divine Call; 2) To realize your beginnings in Konkokyo; and 3) To acknowledge Kami's wish for you.

Over 60 members gathered in Waipahu under blue skies and cool breezes to take part in the conference. The day began at 10:30am with an opening prayer by Rev. Saijiro Matsuda of the KMH Center. After short greetings by the MC (Rev. Edna Yano), the Committee Chair (Aimee Yasutake), the KMH Center Director (Rev. Saijiro Matsuda), and special guest, the Director of the Konkokyo Propagation Affairs Department (Rev. Shoichi Izumi), the program started with an inspirational keynote speech by Rev.



Roderick Hashimoto (Chief Administrative Minister of the Konko Churches of North America). He spoke of his life experiences that led him to be a Konkokyo minister. His speech inspired us all to embrace our faith and encouraged us all to be proud as Konkokyo believers and continue to spread the faith. Following a Q&A session and group picture-taking, we all headed down to Sonoda Hall for a delicious bento lunch.

The afternoon program began with a video presentation of a special video put together by the Konkokyo Propagation Affairs Department (Fukyo-bu) in looking forward to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of

the Konko faith next year. The video showed rare images of the successive Konko-samas. Many participants were emotionally moved to see video and hear the voices of the successive Konko-samas.

The afternoon continued with a series of group activities to gain a deeper understanding of the Divine Call. Participants were split into groups of 8-10 members. The first activity was the "Buzz Session." Everyone eagerly exchanged their thoughts and ideas on their interpretation of the Divine Call. It was extremely interesting to hear everyone's varying interpretations. The open exchange helped each of us gain a little deeper understanding of the Divine Call and how the Konko faith was started.

The next activity consisted of answering three questions: 1) What can people do for themselves starting now? 2) What can people do for others starting now? 3) What can people do for Kami-sama starting now? Each member shared their answers with everyone and inspired each other to start with simple things to improve our lives and the lives of people around us. This led to the final group activity of starting to put together our own Divine Calls. Everyone received a sheet of parchment paper to fill in that helps us each to put together our own Divine Calls. These became nice mementos of the Conference to take home with us and to later *otodoke* to our own *sensei*.

These group activities were a different approach to the usual group discussions of past conferences. Overall it was a very positive experience that allowed everyone an equal chance to share their thoughts and experiences

about the faith. By putting a new spin on group activities, the committee was able to bring freshness to the KMH Conference. Hopefully everyone came away from the Conference with an improved knowledge of the Divine Call, and a better recognition of what Kami-sama wants for each of us.

The day ended with a great Chinese buffet dinner and a highly energized entertainment program. We were treated to a beautiful hula dance performance by the lovely ladies of the Konkokyo hula dance group. The powerful kendo demonstration by Dr. John Tamashiro and Rev. Kei Kunito left the audience awe-struck. Rev.

Hiromichi Konko, Rev. Saijiro Matsuda, and Mrs. Keiko Matsuda rocked the house with a few 'oldies but goodies'. The young ministers group closed the entertainment portion with a comical skit, "Hawaiian Rikkyo Shinden."

I would personally like to take this opportunity to once again thank the committee members, facilitators, and the Konko Mission of Waipahu for all of their hard work in making the 2008 KMH Conference a possibility. And of course, the Conference would not have been such a success without all of you who participated. Thank you and we hope to see you at the next Conference!!



## -Faith Enriched through the Divine Call-

### By Editor

We'll be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Konkokyo next year. Our Faith began when Konko Daijin accepted the "Divine Call" 149 years ago. And so it is extremely important for each of us to understand its message.

On August 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Konko Missions in Hawaii held a Faith Enrichment Meeting at the Konko Mission of Honolulu, focusing on the "Divine Call to the Founder and His Family." Fifteen eager members took part.

Our guest speaker was Reverend Yasuhiro Yano, Head Minister of the Wahiawa, who first asked the participants a question: "What do you feel when you listen to the ministers reading the Divine Call at your church?"

We then exchanged our initial thoughts. One said, "I'm so thankful that tears come out. I wonder how our founder and his wife could accept this message. This message shows us the true way of salvation." Another shared, "It is hard to imagine or identify the situation. How could a family survive if this happened today?" Another member stated, "The new world was opened up by this message!"

Then Reverend Yano started giving a presentation that covered a lot of ground about the Divine Call: "The Divine Call can be conceived as the culmination of trusting relationships between Konko Daijin and Tenchi Kane no Kami. Konko Daijin had developed full confidence in Kami, and Kami also had developed full confidence in Konko Daijin. This mutually fulfilling confidence between Konko Daijin and Kami contributed to the actualization of the 'Divine Call to the Founder and His Family.'

"The steps to faith maturation taken by Konko Daijin can be steps we can follow in pursuit of the faith. We cannot standstill and claim we are Konko believers. We need to advance our faith as Konko Daijin demonstrated. And the growth of each and every believer shall contribute to the fulfillment of Kami, Konko Daijin and the believers."

Following this, we shared our "second thoughts" about the Divine Call, and deepened our understandings. And we got better prepared for the Big Bang Conference we had two weeks later, and for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Konkokyo next year.



# Our Ohana Built up by "Believing in Kami!"

By Rev. Kei Kunito (KMH staff member)

This past June 20<sup>th</sup> through 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Konko Missions in Hawaii held a Summer Ohana Camp in Makakilo up at Camp Timberline. Focus was on the theme, "Believing in Kami." Twenty-one members of all ages joined in.

We had a number of aims. First was for our leaders to try out a few skills they'd picked up from a previous Leadership Training Camp. Second was for our youth to develop their senses of imagination and expression through close involvement in Nature – to be aware of the Kami within us by experiencing real fun in our Faith. Third was for all of us, based on the teachings of our Faith, to build up our Ohana.



## DAY 1

We all met at the Waipahu Church, then began with an opening prayer. Reverend Alvin Yasutake (captain for the camp) gave us orientation; he filled us in on what to expect in coming days at the Ohana Camp. We then piled into our cars and headed out to the campsite.

At the site we pitched tents all together. After this we broke down into teams, with each team coming up with its own special flag and group name: "A Creek," "Wild Cats," and "Konko Kampers."

Time for Grinds. The three teams would take turns to do the cooking. The first meal for us was Chili-with-Rice. And it was ono, and it was gobbled up quickly!

It turned to dusk and then to dark. And we got whimsical. We could see a sky full of bright stars, so hard to see when in places like Honolulu. We roasted marshmallows over campfire, then stuffed them in with some chocolate between crackers, and gobbled up – a tidy snack that is fit for a shogun. We then turned in for the evening.



## DAY 2

We woke up to morning sunshine, and to the cool mountain breezes at Camp Timberline. We ate a

breakfast, then held a morning assembly. Reverend Alvin presented praises to the teams who'd excelled from the previous day. Then Reverend Edna Yano jumped from the sky, or so it seemed, and got us all to liven up with morning exercise – Karate motions to the beat of funny music. We had to catch all our breaths after this, and while we did this we tried all our skills at a Goshinmon jigsaw puzzle picture of the Konko Crest.

We then went out on a hike to the "Nanakuli Look-out." Not too hard. Invigorating. And what a view when we got there! And what a workout! And what a sweat! But there was more than just hiking involved in this venture. We took part in a scavenger hunt. Our purpose here was to explore and to learn the many workings and many mysteries of our environment, plus even more, to get a feeling of being attuned to being as one with



Mother Nature.

Each of the teams was given task to try to find approximately ten "philosophical" items along the trail of our hike, things like, for examples, Find an item that symbolizes you, or, Find an item that reminds you of Kami Sama. At the end of the scavenger hunt, each team presented its items, and then compared them to the others. This was fun and creative.

Time for Lunch after this -- "Carton Dogs." Hotdogs in buns are wrapped up in aluminum foil then put into milk cartons and placed over a fire. Kau kau ono! as they say.

Time to go down to the beach after this. We went down with happy keiki to white sand with big smiles. And then we played the famous "Lamb and Wolf" game. Two people here are blindfolded and then are put in a large ring in the sand. The "Lamb" person wears a bell around his or her list. The "Wolf" person then tries to catch the "Lamb" by the sounds of the bell. Both the catching and the escaping were very crazy to watch. We all enjoyed.

Dinner was back at camp, and a great bar-becue. A lot of meats. A lot of veggies. The air was





full of spicy vapors. The mouths watered. We dove in. And very soon the bar-be-cue was long gone.

After dinner we went back to the campfire, the best part of our time on Day One. But oh no, here came rain from the heavens! We would have to Plan B. We located a canopy. We set a torch in the middle of things for a campfire.

And then each team made entertainment. We all sang songs with choreography. We all created a delightful environment. In a skit called "Believing in Kami," a leader decked himself out as the 'fire king,' and gave a sermon. We had convulsions of laughter.

### DAY 3

On Day Three we all worked on our final activity, craft making. Reverend Roy Yasutake gave us help in how to use a small pocketknife to make bamboo chopsticks and cups. This we did. We would use these same handmade utensils to eat lunch, "*Somen-nagashi*" (which is a unique Japanese eating style wherein noodles flow down a stream of water, then are scooped up). This activity was intended to improve our general level of skills, plus learn safety in the use of sharp tools, plus practice helpfulness. Great efforts were made at coming up with individual and very custom-made chopsticks and



cups, and at assembling the needed tripods.

At lunchtime we all gathered around our *somen-nagashi* stand and ate heartily. This was a crazy and a really wonderful time.

And after this it was time for us now to take down all the tents and pack up, and clean up our Camp Timberline.

And it was time for a closing ceremony. Awards were presented. Everyone received a neckerchief as a remembrance. The Captain Reverend Alvin presented the certificate awards.

'Mahalos plenty' we must extend to everyone who was involved. We had a special very wonderful time. Kami blessed us, and this showed through all our efforts within the vastness of Nature. "Believing in Kami" was our camp theme. We all tried to live up to this ideal.

Thank you, Kami Sama. Our Ohana Camp at Camp Timberline was full of fun, ono food, good companionship, and close contact with great Nature.

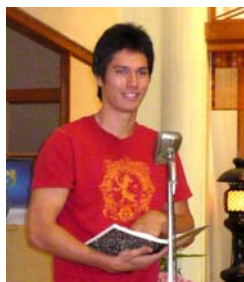
PS: We'd like to share some impressions that have come in from the ones who took part in our outdoors activity: "Campfire was great fun!" "*Somen-nagashi* was the greatest!" "This camp taught me the importance of working with one another." "I could feel something familiar in Kami's serving and blessing throughout the Ohana Camp." "This Camp was fulfilled with the content of the theme 'Believing in Kami'!"





# I Enriched My Faith and Learned More About Konkokyo

By Mr. Scott Kilousky (Honolulu)



Even before leaving for the Young Adult Seminar, I had the feeling that it was going to be a positive and eventful trip. I began to receive numerous blessings days and hours before the Young Adult Seminar and my flight to California. While I was waiting to board the plane, an announcement in-

formed me that my flight would be delayed due to some mechanical issues. The group of people around me groaned in disappointment and frustration. I heard them complaining that they were on their way home and did not want to be stuck at an airport any longer than necessary. I, on the other hand, was too focused on the “breaking news” that was playing on one of the many televisions in the gate area. I learned that a flight that had departed from Honolulu, was forced to make an emergency stop in Los Angeles due to some type of mechanical malfunction. The first thought that came to my mind was, “Wow that could have been our flight.” I was glad that they had found the mechanical problem with our plane prior to take off. That was a blessing.

I don't know how many people reading this know me, but I'm 6'3" and I do not do well on airplanes because I am always so cramped. When I got on the plane, I saw that my seat, 23F, was an isle seat and I thought that maybe I could get two seats to myself. I finally made it to the empty seats and looked up, I was definitely sure it was 23F. Unfortunately, I was wrong, it was 24F. I got to my seat, sat down next to some lady, and though she seemed nice, I could only think about those two empty seats. Finally, the flight was fully boarded, but I was still cramped and uncomfortable. As we are about to take off, I turn around to see if anyone is sitting in those two seats, NO ONE IS! At this point the aircraft doors are closed and no one else is coming aboard. So I get out of my seat and plop down in row 24 seats F and G. I was so grateful to Kami-Sama for giving me the two seats. After this, I knew for sure that the Young Adult Seminar was something Kami-Sama really wanted me to participate in because I had not yet even arrived and already I had begun to receive so many divine blessings.

This year, the KCNA conference was held at the Saint Mary's College in Moraga, California. On my first

day, it was awkward because I was the first to arrive and I didn't know anybody. I am not the type of person that introduces myself to new people, but luckily everyone was friendly and open. I got to meet so many interesting young people who were my age and from churches across North America. The theme for YAS this year was motivation. Jennifer Shimoda, our director, decided to organize a new project where the YAS would organize and facilitate a discussion as well as learning activities for the youth campers. Throughout the seminar, I learned a lot of important things about the religion. I was able to learn the difference between Konko-sama and Konko-Daijin. The YAS was also fortunate enough to have the unique experience of having Rev. Rod Hashimoto speak about the structure of KCNA as well as Rev. Edna Yano, who was visiting from Hawai'i, to inform us about the activities and format of the KMH.

On the third day we listened to a lecture by Karen Kobayashi and participated in a group discussion. During the discussion we were asked as a group to come up with our own definition of motivation. We decided that

“motivation is a person, place or thing, a ‘beacon in the fog’ that inspires us to reach our goal.” On the morning of the last day I had to give a sermon. I was able to speak about all the blessings I had received on my trip to YAS. After my sermon, it was time for us to put our planning into motion and facilitate the discussion/activity time with the youth campers. Miho and I were the leaders of the youngest group. In the space of a few hours, we were able



Courtesy of KCNA

to bond with the youth campers, discuss what motivation means to them, and play a few games that allowed them to think creatively about the Konko religion.

The blessings I received on this trip were innumerable. I made many new friends, enriched my faith, learned more about Konkokyo, and am now planning on attending the Fall FTI seminar in Gardena, California. Before I came to YAS I didn't think that there were that many people around my age that were Konkokyo believers. By bonding with other young people who are Konkokyo, I felt more comfortable and excited about learning and growing in my faith. By coming to Saint Mary's and participating in the Young Adults Seminar, I was motivated to strengthen my faith. I was very blessed to be able to have the opportunity to participate in the Young Adults Seminar. Thank you to EVERYONE that took part in YAS and to those that help me get there!

## Waipahu Konkoyo's 70th Anniversary Celebration!

By Dr. John Tamashiro (Waipahu)

The anniversary theme—Inner Peace, World Peace—accurately summarized three purposes of our program. First, the planners invited Rev. Masato Kawahatsu, former Waipahu minister who presented the keynote sermon. Second, we honored all our ministers, past and present for their service to us. Third, we recognized three members who had gallantly fought as infantrymen during World War II.

Although Reverend Kawahatsu did not specifically mention the words “Inner Peace” in his featured address, he conveyed their meaning by utilizing the important term “wagakokoro” or the harmonious and joyful heart. According to this Reverend from San Francisco, to attain this ideal state of being, a believer should behave positively, laughing and smiling often, as well as chanting “thank you” one thousand times a day. Equally as challenging was his prescription that the conscientious adherent should refrain from negative words and selfish thoughts. Finally, a true disciple of our religion should strive to transcend his ego by serving others and praying for world peace. Only when the able practitioner thus aligned himself with Kamisama within his heart will he attain enlightenment.

This journey into oneself is made easier by another type of inner peace, i.e., collaborative relationships between devotees and senseis within a church. Because the search for the Kami within our hearts has been encouraged by the Sonodas, Kawahatsus and Yasutakes, we showcased their cooperative efforts with the congregation as well as their complementary leadership roles over the past seventy years.



Enduring long hours of otoritsugi prayer while kneeling on the okekkai floor, the Sonoda family solved many health problems of their membership. Overcoming cultural barriers between Japan and the US, the Kawahatsu family inspired young believers to Americanize their Sunday program and inter church gatherings. Streamlining our social gatherings, accounting functions, and service rituals the Yasutake family has helped to sustain our church organization.

The second half of our theme—World Peace—was highlighted by a significant ceremony venerating those Nisei members of our church who had fought the Nazis during World War II. Unlike the traditional orientation of the Konko faith which is to reform the individual these Japanese American infantrymen risked their lives in order to destroy the fundamental causes of this global conflict that included Japanese militarism and German racial superiority. Moreover, the personal sacrifices of these Nisei veterans, Mr. Roy Nakatani, Mr. Dyke Kunishige and Mr. Thomas Yabuki, convincingly removed the suspicions of disloyalty directed against their ethnic group immediately after the Pearl Harbor attack. In the long run, their courageous exploits promoted equal rights for an oppressed minority.

Which orientation has been stronger on this occasion—the introspective search or the globalized striving? Our program proves that it is possible to do both. After all, our principle speaker did come from far away with a message directed at spiritual self-improvement not international cooperation. However, the former trend was much more clearly voiced by the featured speech with our presentation to Nisei veterans only implying universal problems for today.

## "Laugh & Peace" Enjoyed at Rakugo!

By Rev. David Yano (Wahiawa)

What is Rakugo? It's a form of sit down comedy that reenacts the daily life of people by invoking laughter through using the imagination of the audience. The art of Rakugo has a rich 400-year history. It was originally started by Buddhist temples to ease the understanding of Buddhist teachings during their sermons.

Mr. Katsura Kaishi is a famous English Rakugo comedian in Japan and throughout the world, who is also a descendant of the 6<sup>th</sup> Katsura Bunshi Rakugo comedian. As an ambassador for Cultural Exchange, he had been going on tour throughout the United States from April till September of this year. He has been awarded numerous prestigious awards, including the award of the Japanese Ministry of Cultural Exchange. He has gone to 32 cities and had done a total of 60 performances throughout his tour in the United States.

Mr. Katsura Kaishi was born as the son of a head minister of the Konko Church of Hankyu Tsukaguchi in Hyogo, Japan. He is also the grandson of the late Rev. No-



rio Sato, who was a disciple of Konko Daijin, the founder of the Konkokyo religion.

Hawaii was one of the many destinations for Mr. Kaishi's Rakugo tour. What a performance! A show was held at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. He made us laugh so much by introducing the art of Rakugo to everyone through the use of video and demonstrations. I enjoyed his explanations of how Japanese people make mistakes when using English. He gave us examples of how Japanese people can't differentiate the sounds between 'L' and 'R' when used in different words. Another example of Rakugo was shown by using our imagination and his Japanese fan as a prop to imitate chopsticks when eating noodles. He had shown us the different sounds when eating udon, soban, and soba noodles. He then asked the audience, "Do you know the differences with the sound? They all sound the same! There is no difference!" He made us laugh so much when he said that.

The Rakugo performance at the Konko Mission of Honolulu was a success with a great turnout of about 80 people.

# KMH Local Church News

## Konko Mission of Honolulu

**Sunday School:** "We Can Do That?!" was held on May 11, 2008. We made an oven out of a cardboard box.

Back to School Service was held on July 13, 2008 for the youngsters to pray for their physical, mental, spiritual, and academic success in school so that they can become wonderful and useful people.

"BODIES!" was held on August 31, 2008. We went to "BODIES THE EXHIBITION" We realized Kami-Sama's amazing work..

**Parent's Day Potluck Party:** The Parent's Day Potluck Party was held at the social hall to acknowledge the elderly as our parents and enjoy food together on May 25, 2008.

**One for the Road Yard Work:** Volunteer members worked together to clean outside of the church on June 8, 2008 after the Sunday Service

**Community Service Day:** Volunteer members went to the Kuakini Geriatric Care Center for KMH Community Service Day to entertain the elderly there on July 20, 2008.

**Rev. Masayuki Kodama's 35<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial Service:** The 35<sup>th</sup> year memorial service for Rev. Masayuki Kodama was held to appreciate his work while he was alive as well as after becoming a Mitama spirit on August 24, 2008.

**Baby Shower for Rev. Saijiro and Mrs. Keiko Matsuda:** The baby shower for Mrs. Keiko Matsuda was held at the social hall on September 14, 2008 to celebrate their future addition of a new family member!

**Study Group:** Rev. Todd Takahashi conducted the monthly study group to deepen our Konko faith on the following days; May 7<sup>th</sup> after 7:30 p.m. evening prayer, June 11<sup>th</sup> after 7:30 p.m. evening prayer, August 13<sup>th</sup> after 7:30 p.m. evening prayer, and September 3<sup>rd</sup> after 7:30 p.m. evening prayer.

**Ikenobo Style Flower Arrangement Class:** Rev. Sugako's Ikebana classes were held on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of every month except August. There were classes on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of August.

## Konko Mission of Hilo

### Annual Daisai for Tenchi Kane no Kami

Daisai service held on Sunday, May 11, 2008. Delicious lunch followed the service.

### Mitama Matsuri

Annual Autumn Mitama Matsuri service held on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2008

**On September 1,** Carolyn and Kevin Aihara received a special blessing with the arrival of their first child, Tyler Kei Aihara. Tyler is the great grandson of the late Revs. Yoshifusa and Fuji Nishida, founders of the Konko Mission of Hilo.

## Konko Mission of Waipahu

**June** is the traditional month for weddings and here at Waipahu two couples exchanged their vows. David Estalilla Vallo Jr. and Clarabelle Castaneda Delacruz tied the knot on June 2, with Rev. Tetsuro Yasutake officiating and Rev. Mayumi Yasutake assisting. Clara was a caregiver for Mrs. Tottori and so she had on occasion gone to church with Mrs. Tottori.

**On June 8,** in a somewhat informal wedding with Karen Taniguchi playing the couple's favorite songs and sister-in-law, Larrilynn Holu singing the Hawaiian Wedding song, Joel Tamashiro and Aki Saita of Yokohama, Japan exchanged vows in a traditional san san kudo style wedding. A small reception followed in the Sonoda Hall. Joel is the second son of John and Wanda Tamashiro.

**On June 15,** the Waipahu Konko Mission celebrated its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Pearl City Country Club. (See page 6)

Rev. Tetsuro and Mistuko Yasutake were also surprised with a 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary cake presented by their son Rev. Akinobu Yasutake and his family who attended the celebration from California. A few weeks later Rev. Tetsuro and Mistuko Yasutake went to Japan for an orei mairi and visited the graves of Rev. Santaro and Sueka Sonoda, the founders of our church who are lying in rest in Kumamoto, Japan. They were also able to celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in Japan.

**On June 17,** Mako and Karen Taniguchi's little cutie granddaughter, Mia Skye Taniguchi was born to Michael and Kim Taniguchi. Michael is the Taniguchi's eldest son and this is his first child. Kim and Michael reside in San Luis Obispo, California but will be visiting Hawaii very soon.

**In August,** Indei Sensei and Elaine attended a conference at the British Columbia University in Vancouver where he demonstrated advanced Shiatsu techniques and principles to the licensed therapists of Canada.

**On August 24,** John and Wanda Tamashiro celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Princess Kaiulani Hotel where they honeymooned years ago. It was more special because their adult children who were their former kids, treated John and Wanda to dinner at Roy's and planned a scrapbook that highlighted what their marriage meant to their children and also treated them to the Society of Seven show and a breakfast buffet at the Moana Surfride. John and Wanda were so moved by their former kids.

**On August 29,** Mrs. Ruth Tottori celebrated her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday with her favorite uni sushi and a cake with everyone on Sunday. Karen played her favorite songs, Kitaguni no Haru, Karasu, and Happy Birthday which her family sang for her. Ruth really enjoys music and can still remember the words to all the patriotic songs and Japanese children songs she learned as a child.

**On August 30,** Karen and Mako Taniguchi celebrated their 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary, Mako wanted to go to McDonald's, but since it was a special occasion, they went to Genki

Sushi. Don't feel sorry for them because in May, they and the Kawahara's took a cruise to Alaska.

Mako Taniguchi, Shun Kawahara, Shinji Nakanishi, Takeo Yamamoto, and occasionally John Tamashiro are continuing the repairs and paint jobs at the church.

## Konko Mission of Wahiawa

**Sunday School:** On Sunday, May 4, children as well as their parents enjoyed making paper "Koi-nobori" for a Boy's Day activity held after the Sunday service.

**Rev. Todd Takahashi's Study Session:** The Rev. Todd Takahashi coordinated a faith study session at Wahiawa Church on Sunday, June 29 after the Sunday Service. He has initiated his monthly faith study session regularly held at the Honolulu Church in the last several years.

**Visitors from Japan:** The Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake and his entourage of 13 pilgrims from Konko Church of Amagi extended their courtesy visit to Wahiawa Church on June 14 as they participated the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Waipahu. Eighteen church members from Wahiawa attended the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Waipahu held on June 15, 2008.

**Church Picnic at Waimea Beach:** We held a church picnic at the Waimea Beach Park with the visitors from San Francisco Church including the Rev. Masato Kawahatsu and his family and Rev. Rodney Yano on Wednesday, June 18 from 10:00 a.m. Rev. Rodney stayed in Hawaii from June 17 through June 24 and returned to San Francisco for his work/study program at the church.

**Church Garage Sale:** We held a church garage sale for the youths on Saturday, July 5 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. A portion of the proceeds was forwarded to the victims of the earthquake in China. Some of the proceeds were also allocated for the payment of registration fees for the KMH Conference held at Waipahu Church.

**Back to School Service:** The annual Back-to-School Service was held on Sunday, July 27 at 9:00 a.m.

**KCNA Camp/Conference:** The Konko Church of North America invited the Rev. Edna Yano to attend the Youth Camp, Young Adult Seminar, and the Conference observed at the St. Mary's College of California from August 8 through August 10.

**Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital:** Twelve members of our church congregation made a regular quarterly visit to the Wahiawa General Hospital to offer a volunteer activity program by means of entertainment for the people cared for in the facility on Sunday, September 7 from 10:00 a.m., after the monthly service. After we return to the church, curry and rice lunch was served in the hall. The monthly visit to the facility was also made on June 13, July 11, August 8 and September 12 at 10:00 a.m.

**Congratulations:** "Omedeto Gozaimasu" and congratulations to the Rev. David Michio Yano as he successfully graduated from University of Hawaii at Manoa with the Bachelor's of Science degree in Nursing on May 18, 2008. David, Megumi, Renee and Jill have visited their family back at Konko Church of Shiranuhi, Fukuoka, Japan from June 6 through July 23. We pray that his learned skills and knowledge as a nurse will help him to evolve to become an even greater Konko minister who can provide wider services to the community.

Congratulations and best wishes for the newly-wed. The Rev. Yasuhiro Yano officiated the wedding service for Mr. Raymond K. Perreira and Ms. Delilah M. Huertas at the church on August 8, 2008.

**Announcement:** Konko Mission of Wahiawa Church Bazaar will be held on Sunday, October 26, 2008 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

The annual Peace Prayer gathering coordinated by the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace and co-sponsored by The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii will be observed at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii on Sunday, October 26 at 4:00 p.m. Thirteen "Peace mugs" painted by some of the Wahiawa Church members will be displayed at the event.

## Konko Mission of Hanapepe

### Kauai Gathering

Was held on May 25 in Hanapepe, and 12 members took part. Revs. Setsuko Okuno & Saijiro Matsuda flew in from Honolulu. Next Kauai Gathering will be held on November 23 at Wong's Chinese Restaurant in Hanapepe.

## Konko Mission of Wailuku

**On Sunday, July 20,** we held our Back to School blessing. Following the service we gathered outside for a bit of Japanese, summer fun. We took part in Wailuku's first ever somen nagashi, just like the ones they had at the Ohana camp! Despite using a plastic pipe instead of bamboo, the somen was yummy and everyone had fun catching their lunch. We will put up an album on our web site in the near future, so please visit us. (Photos courtesy of Mrs. Arleen Shinozuka)

**On September 21,** we held our Autumn Mitama matsuri. We also observed Rev. Takiyo Nakai's 40<sup>th</sup> year memorial rites. Many members (14 of them) of Rev. Nakai's family joined us (some of her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild). As they all live on Oahu it was especially blessed that they were all able to make arrangements and attend. "Grandma" Nakai was most definitely watching over us and even her picture, by the Mitama altar, seemed to smile more.

We are currently looking for all interested parties in help with 2009's Ohana camp, to be held on Maui. Even if all you have are suggestions, that is by no means a "small" contribution. If you have volunteered for camp service in the past, please consider helping us again. Hope to hear from you soon.

### 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).

## Faith Enrichment Meeting

**Guest:** Dr. Yotaro Miyamoto

PhD on the Study of the Religious  
Structure of Sacred Biographies;  
Professor at the Kansai University in  
Osaka, Japan



**Theme:** "Let's Narrate a Sacred Story of Each"

**When:** December 6 (Sat), 2008 at 1:00 PM

**Where:** Konko Mission of Honolulu

**Who:** Open to all

*Please join us!*

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

To: