Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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70th Anniversary Celebration
Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Sunday, March 14, 2010
<p>Attendees</p>

1) Abe, Colette  
2) Abe, Merle  
3) Dela Cruz, Donovan (Rep)  
4) Fujita, Minnie  
5) Fukuda, Amy  
6) Fukushima, Patsy  
7) Furusho, Alex  
8) Furusho, Nicholas  
9) Furusho, Randy  
10) Gombio, Elmay  
11) Gombio, Jason  
12) Gombio, Kamryn  
13) Greenhouse, George  
14) Greenhouse, Jerilyn  
15) Hayaba, Duichi  
16) Hayaba, Mitsue  
17) Hayaba, Rev. Nobuyuki  
18) Hayaba, Rev. Satoko  
19) Harano, Takashi  
20) Higuchi, Flora  
21) Higuchi, Kay  
22) Higuchi, Keihiro  
23) Higuchi, Paula  
24) Hirota, Doreen  
25) Ikemoto, Kazunori  
26) Ikemoto, Misato  
27) Ikemoto, Rev. Hiroe  
28) Ikemoto, Rev. Keiko  
29) Ikemoto, Rev. Shigeru  
30) Ikemoto, Rev. Suntaro  
31) Inagaki, Rev. Seijiro  
32) Inamoto, Masami  
33) Inami, Elaine  
34) Inami, Fumihiko  
35) Isaki, Arthur  
36) Isaki, Janelle  
37) Isaki, Rayna  
38) Isai, Nobuki  
39) Katto, Violet  
40) Kawahara, Shinichii  
41) Kikuchi, Scott  
42) Kitahara, Atsuko  
43) Kitahara, Kazunori  
44) Kiyuna, Richard  
45) Kiyuna, Shirley  
46) Knuppel, Nanako  
47) Knuppel, Kazuo  
48) Knuppel, Christopher  
49) Knuppel, Rev. Ichie  
50) Knuppel, Robert  
51) Kodama, Grace  
52) Konko, Rev. Koichi  
53) Kuroda, Tomie  
54) Fujiyoshi, Tatsuya  
55) Luke, Keith  
56) Matsuka, Tomie  
57) Matusume, Rev. Irene  
58) Maeda, Kaoru  
59) Masaoka, Yayo  
60) Hiraoka, Kenji  
61) Matsuoka, Reiko  
62) Matsunaga, Tsugumi  
63) Mikami, Mie  
64) Mitsuoka, Masahiro  
65) Morihara, Gerald  
66) Morihara, Hope  
67) Morihara, Katsuyu  
68) Morihara, Kiyoko  
69) Morihara, Kiyomi  
70) Morihara, Michiko  
71) Morihara, Steven  
72) Nagai, Rev. Makio  
73) Ninomiya, Kayo  
74) Ninomiya, Mitsuyo  
75) Ninomiya, Mieko  
76) Noguchi, Edith  
77) Noguchi, Edith Suzuyo  
78) Noguchi, Hugh  
79) Noguchi, Jean  
80) Noguchi, Richard Y.  
81) Ohata, Nancy  
82) Okazaki, Kyle  
83) Okazaki, Marisa  
84) Okuno, Rev. Setsuko  
85) Onizuka, Masatoshi  
86) Onizuka, Mitsuko  
87) Oya, Rev. Yumika  
88) Pangorang, Channon  
89) Pangorang, Chasan  
90) Pangorang, Curtis  
91) Pangorang, Elima  
92) Pangorang, Emelita  
93) Robertson-Aono, Leisha  
94) Satoh, Alvin  
95) Satoh, Bernice  
96) Suwa, Jane  
97) Suwa, Mitsuko  
98) Takahashi, Raymond  
99) Takahashi, Rev. Todd  
100) Tamashiro, John  
101) Tamashiro, Wanda  
102) Taniguchi, Karen  
103) Taniguchi, Masahiko  
104) Thomsen, Mika  
105) Thomsen, Samuel  
106) Thomsen, Seth  
107) Thomsen, Spencer  
108) Toma, Sharon  
109) Toma, Stacey  
110) Tottori, Miriam  
111) Toyofuku, Andrea  
112) Toyofuku, Donna  
113) Tsuji, Yukie  
114) Tsuyuki, Cheryl  
115) Uchida, Carolyn  
116) Uyeno, Momoe  
117) Watanabe, Yayoi  
118) Yakut, Toshie  
119) Yamamoto, Aiko  
120) Yamamoto, Alyce  
121) Yamamoto, Bruce  
122) Yamamoto, Harako  
123) Yamamoto, Marsha  
124) Yamamoto, Takeo  
125) Yamamoto, Tommie  
126) Yamanaka, Nancy  
127) Yamanaka, Ronald  
128) Yano, Jil  
129) Yano, Renee  
130) Yano, Rev. David  
131) Yano, Rev. Edna  
132) Yano, Rev. Megumi  
133) Yano, Rev. Reiko  
134) Yano, Rev. Rodney  
135) Yano, Rev. Yasuhiro  
136) Yasui, Aimee  
137) Yasui, Judy  
138) Yasui, Rev. Akinobu  
139) Yasui, Rev. Hisayo  
140) Yasui, Rev. Mayumi  
141) Yasui, Rev. Michiyoshi  
142) Yasui, Rev. Mitsuko  
143) Yasui, Rev. Miyoko  
144) Yasui, Rev. Noriko  
145) Yasui, Rev. Roy  
146) Yasui, Rev. Sachiko  
147) Yasui, Rev. Taka  
148) Yasui, Rev. Tetsuro  
149) Yoshino, Rev. Masahiko  
150) Yoshino, Rev. Sugako  

*Names have been revised 3/16/10  
*Printed at Aiea Copy Center, Hawaii
9:00 a.m.  -Registration
10:00 a.m. -Opening Remarks by MC: Mr. Randy Furusho
• Procession of the officiating ministers
• Kaichō (Opening of the altar curtains)
• Hairei (Clap 4 times—solemn greetings)
• Onusa Purification Rite
• Mediation Prayer
• Purification Prayer
• Kami Prayer
• Forwarding of the offerings to the altar
• Main Saishi by Chief Officiant: Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake
• Tamagushi Offering by Chief Officiant
• Tamagushi Offering by representatives and special guest
• Tamagushi Offering and recognition of dedicated church members 80+ years
• Recitation of the Divine Reminder (Tenchi Kakitsuke)
• Adoration Prayer
• Shintoku Sanji
• Hairei (Clap 4 times—solemn acknowledgements)
• Recession of the officiating ministers
  - Kibimai Offering by Ms. Renee Yano & Ms. Hope Morihara, Koto: Rev. Edna Yano
  - Rikkō Shinden
  - Greeting by Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake (Head minister of Amagi Church)
  - Greeting by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano (Head minister of Wahiawa Church)
  - Hymn: Shinjin no Eiko, Shinjin no Michi, Shining Shimmering Light
  - Tenchi Kakitsuke and Grace Before Meal
11:45 a.m. -Transfer to Dots in Wahiawa for reception
12:00 noon -Arrive at Dots in Wahiawa
  - Luncheon (Buffet)
  - Taiko performance by Honbushin Taiko Group
  - Konko Missions in Oahu Chorus Group (3 songs)
12:30 p.m. -Opening reception remarks by MC: Rev. Rodney Yano
• Rev. Yasuhiro Yano (Head minister of Wahiawa Church)
• Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake (Amagi Church)
• Mr. Donovan Dela Cruz (City Council)
• Mrs. Rene Mansho (Former City Council)
• Rev. Irene Matsumoto (Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace)
• Rev. Yomisu Oya (Konko Missions in Hawaii Center)
1:00 p.m. -Congratulatory Messages
• Minute messages by visitors from Japan
2:00 p.m. -Entertainment
• Skit: The Giant Turnip
• Karaoke: Spencer Thomsen, Mrs. Nancy Ohata, and Mrs. Violet Katto
• Hula: Kawaipunahele
• Other volunteers
2:45 p.m. -Konko Yūzaki Ondo (Bon Dance)
2:55 p.m. -Acknowledgements by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
3:00 p.m. -Closing Remarks by MC—Aloha

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For the last seven decades, leaders and members of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa have fostered and promoted peace throughout the community and served as a bridge to Japan. In this fast-paced technological world, the Konko Mission of Wahiawa has stayed true to addressing the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii in practicing of the Konko faith.

I’d like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa on its 70th Anniversary. Thank you for promoting strength through self-discipline, broad views, and acceptance.

May we all learn from your discipline to create a more peaceful world.

With warmest aloha,

Donovan Dela Cruz
Reverend Yasuhiro Yano
Head Minister
Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Congratulations on the 70th Anniversary of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. I believe that the greatest rewards I have enjoyed as resident minister of this local church in Wahiawa is the presence of the church congregation who have continued their dedication for the last 70 years, with the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi as our founding minister. I am especially overwhelmed with awe in witnessing the spiritual development of some of the church members who contributed their testimonials for the 70th Anniversary booklet. I can clearly identify that they have been receptive of the Konkokyo teachings that have been related for all these years. There could have been no better reward to have those church members who have been integrating the teachings of the Konko faith in their faith life. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Konko-Sama, Tenchi Kane no Kami-sama and all the people who have enabled us to continue our missionary work for all these years.

Although this church may be little in size and membership; the transformation of the congregation into true Konkokyo believers is by far the greatest thing to be thankful for. True believers can lead to a solid growth of the church congregation. Having core church believers is the most essential for the expansion of the faith community.

The interesting thing about practicing the Konko faith is that we do not just follow the minister blindly, but we find out our own way of defining what faith practice is all about. Each individual is like a faith-tree, in which the believer has every potential to thrive.

The teaching relating to the birth of a true believer is one of the teachings I cherish the most. “Everyone is now able to receive the blessings of Tenchi Kane no Kami because Konko Daijin received divine blessings first. If there is one true believer in a family, then all of the family members will become believers. If there is one family in a village who truly believes in this faith, all of the villagers will begin to receive divine blessings. Practicing faith is like one seed becoming ten thousand. Therefore, those who initiate faith should sow a good seed. If the seed is bad, it will be a bad start, and it will be difficult to raise, no matter how hard you try” (Gorikai III Jinkyugyogoroku 37).

It is my prayer, that we can positively address the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith, through better understanding the life and teachings of our Founder, Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Divine-Mediation for all matters. I also pray for continuous protection and guidance of Our Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane no Kami, as we stated in the Mission Statement of Konko Missions in Hawaii.
I would like to extend my sincere congratulations on the 70th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Wahiawa. The 70th Anniversary Celebration of a local church in Wahiawa is an actualization of the Divine-Mediation, which was initiated by the Founder, Iki-gami Konko Daijin and has been preserved by the generational Spiritual Head, namely, the Rev. Shijin Konko (2nd), the Rev. Setsutane Konko (3rd), the Rev. Kagamitaro Konko (4th) and the Rev. Heiki Konko (5th) for the past 151 years.

The Founder Konko Daijin, developed a global vision for the religion in wanting to witness and the Rev. Heiki Konko (5th) for the past 151 years.

Each of us, who believe in this faith shall have an obligation to live and pass on the faith tradition to others.

I sincerely extend my prayer that the way to actualize mutual interdependent relationship between Our Divine Parent and the beloved child will prevail in the state of Hawaii hereafter.

「金光教ワヒアワ教会布教70年おめでとうございます。教祖生神金光大神様、金光四神様、三代金光様、四代金光様、現教主金光様と151年にわたる御取次のおかげを蒙り、ワヒアワ教会布教70年おめでとうございます。」

 Reverend Michiyoshi Yasutake
Head Minister
Konko Church of Amagi

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History of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa

1910 4/23 - Rev. Haruko Takahashi (Founder of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa) born in Kohala, HI.
1926 9/5 - Formation of Konkokyo Hawaii Mamichikai by Rev. Kokichi Katashima, who visited the Konkokyo believers in Hawaii and the Mainland. The Mamichikai is a gathering of Konkokyo believers who came as plantation workers from Japan.
1929 8 - Konko Mission of Honolulu (Parent Church of Wahiawa) established.
1933 5/30 - Rev. Haruko Takahashi makes a pilgrimage to the Konkokyo Headquarters and Konko Church of Amagi in Japan for spiritual training.
1940 1/14 - Rev. Haruko Takahashi establishes initial outreach mission on 901 Kilani Avenue and begins missionary work.
1941 12/7 - Pearl Harbor attack and beginning of WWII. Rev. Takahashi detained by the US government and sent to relocation camps at Sand Island and Honolulu on Oahu.
1945 8 - Rev. Takahashi released from the internment camp.
1948 1/1 - Rev. Takahashi reopens the mission at the present site: 201 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI.
1951 4/18 - The Konko Mission of Wahiawa incorporated as a church.
1963 9/2 - Rev. Takahashi makes her last pilgrimage to the Konkokyo Headquarters in Okayama.
1972 12/24 - Rev. Haruko Takahashi passes away at the age of 62.
1976 4/30 - Rev. Hiromichi Ishii (Okuma Church, Japan) completes his duties as the resident minister and begins missionary work.
1983 10/10 - 100th Memorial Service for the Founder of Konkokyo, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama at the Konkokyo Headquarters in Okayama.
1985 8/24 - Mrs. Reiko Yano receives ordainment as Konkokyo minister.
1988 8/28 - 1st Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital LTCF (quarterly visits)
1992 12 - 1st Mochi Pounding activity at the church.
1993 8 - 1st issue of Wahiawa Konko Mission Children’s Newsletter published.

Reverend Masahiko Yoshino
Head Minister
Konko Mission of Honolulu

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations on the 70th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

When I extend my thoughts for the Konko Mission of Wahiawa, one of the most compelling elements is the fact of all three children of the Revs. Yasuhiro and Reiko Yano have emerged as Konko ministers in Hawaii despite substantial barriers of language and cultural differences between Japan and Hawaii. In witnessing the perseverance, endeavor of the resident ministers and the emergence of the local oriented young ministers, I am convinced that the determined prayers and endeavor we hold will surely be answered. I understand that Our Divine Parent seems to grant more blessings than what we ask for.

I sincerely extend my sincere prayer that the Way of Ikigami Konko Daijin will prevail in the local community in Wahiawa, and the state of Hawaii hereafter.
I am grateful that we expressed our appreciation to Tenchi Kane No Kami and to the spirits of our predecessors during the 70th Anniversary of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

Having received the Divine Call 150 years ago, our Founder started the Mediation in Japan. Since then, people were saved, this Faith spread, and churches were established all over the world.

The late Reverend Haruko Takahashi believed in Kami. She established the Konko Mission of Wahiawa in 1940. She planted the seed of Faith in this foreign land where the natural environment and culture were quite different from those of Japan. Much of her hard work is beyond our imagination.

Especially after the attack of Pearl Harbor, Konkokyo missionary work was prohibited. She was relocated to a concentration camp in Oahu. The fact that she managed somehow to sustain her faith in spite of the various bitter experiences of this grim time in world history played an exemplary role in laying the foundation of our present Konko Faith in Hawaii.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our predecessors. At the same time, I would like to express our appreciation to the Revs. Yasuhiro and Reiko Yano and their family, who served for the people of Hawaii. I also express our great joy to all of you, to all who are celebrating this memorable service, and to all who have been working so hard to spread our Faith in Hawaii.

I offer my sincerest prayer for the Konko followers at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa and pray for their steady growth and development, and for their boundless happiness and prosperity.

Thank you. Aloha.
感謝は大切な要です。「感謝」があることでこの金光教ワヒアワ教会の70年記念祭を祝うことができます。それが出来るのです。「感謝」はこれから先の10年、50年、100年そして永遠に続いていくための無くてはならないものです。「感謝」で金光教ワヒアワ教会が誕生しました。「感謝」があることでこの金光教ワヒアワ教会の70年記念祭を祝うことが出来るのです。

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progress, and the minister was delivering a sermon. While I was listening to him, I felt un-
derstood that I had committed grave irreverence against Kami without my knowledge in the past.
I felt overwhelmed with the feeling of extending my apologies for the wrongs I had committed unknowingly.

The following day, I attended church and listened to the minis-
ter. My initial response to the messages I received from the minister was that I shed my

tears in awe for the great divine work of the earth which I had not been aware of at all till

that moment in life. At that moment, I felt a ray of the sunlight penetrated into my

eyes. From that day on, my visual condition became improved drastically.
I was over-
whelmed with the feeling of joy, happiness and gratefulness for the apparent

blessing and

shed tears.
In one week, my vision returned to normal. I was liberated from the visual irregularities.
I wrote this matter to my parents.

They didn’t pay much attention to my statement.

At one
time, I had an opportunity to travel (to the Big Island) and returned home.
The moment

they witnessed me, they exploded their feeling of happiness and shed tears in grateful-

ness.
I shared many blessed episodes of the Konko faith involvement with the family mem-

bers. The family members all understood the grateful nature of the faith and have tried to

pursue the faith altogether.
Through great blessings I have enjoyed, I am overwhelmed

with the feeling of thankfulness and gratefulness that I have enrolled at the Konkokyo Ko-
yusho Seminary in this manner through deep divine arrangement.

の意味の有難さを深く深く感じるようになったのは、ずっと後のことでした。御本部では、主人の兄の現岩谷教会長の
稲垣誠二郎師がお見送りに来て下さり、その後来布以来33年間信心の交流を続け、御家族挙げて私達の布教を親身に

お祈り添え下さりました。そして、主人が東京在学中に大変お世話になった常盤台教会に参拝、三宅美智雄師
は、御神米に、「有難きこの思し召いつまでも忘れずに行け人助けの道」とのメッセージをお下げになりました。そし
て、当時世界宗教者平和会議に深く関わり、他宗教との交流を推進されていた三宅先生のおかげで、現在のHCRPハワ
イ宗教者平和会議が設立されました。そして、主人が、活動の場を与えられ今日にいたっています。

ハピア教座はホノルル教座の出発です。初代金光正行師はすでにお国替えになっておられましたが、2代教座長星玉
喜久恵先生はご健在であります。星玉喜久恵先生は私の母のように優しく、心細やかに、お祈り添え、ご導頂

取りました。
若千26歳の私は信心がわかれているつもりでも、今思うと、何もかかれていないことが良くわかります。こ
んな私のハピア教座のご信者の方々は、ずっとついて来て下さいました。私は「信心辛抱」させて頂くのではなく、実

は、周りの方々が「信心辛抱」してくださったのだろうなと、今深く反省させられます。
ハピア教座は本当に家族のような教座です。大きな教座ではいえども、「どうしよう」としたら、「それー!」
とみんな集まってきて色々な活動が出来させて頂いています。みんな、「有難い、有難い、この金光様が有難い」と
言ってくださいます。御信者の中には、5世代続けて参拝される方もおられます。

私は、おのけの中で2男1女のお子供を授かったが、私達ハワイに来る前には3世代にお急がせされておりました。私

達は、ハワイへ初められてから firsthand　

の信任者の方々は、ご挨拶を頂くのではなく、彼らが「信心辛抱」してくださったのだろうなと、今深く反省させられます。
ハピア教座は本当に家族のような教座です。大きな教座ではないけれども、「何かしょう」としたら、「それー!」
とみんな集まってきて色々な活動が出来させて頂いています。みんな、「有難い、有難い、この金光様が有難い」と
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言ってくださいます。御信者の中には、5世代続けて参拝される方もおられます。
二人ともドイツに帰り、その後、私はマセドニアに配備されました。その間、ジエイソンは仕事の内容を変えるために再入隊しました。主人がバージニアに配備される前に一緒に生活できるように、早めにドイツに帰ってきました。

2001年9月11日、私たちは、ドイツの町で時を過ごしていました。翌日、主人がバージニアに行くので特別に一日の休暇をもらい、映画を鑑賞しました。

映画を半分見終わる頃に、友達から電話でニューヨークで何かとんでもないことが起きたと知らせてくれました。その内容は電話では話せないと告げ、私にすぐに仕事場に戻るように伝えてきました。急いで映画館をでました。ドイツの下町は異常に静かで、自分達の車に乗り込みました。急いで仕事に戻ると、警護の通常の8時間勤務に加えて、さらに延長の12時間勤務になってしまいました。混乱と悲しみの中で、主人は数日の中にはてどきます。本当に心配した。

非常に疲れ病気になるかと思える程心配しましたが、主人のことを本気になってお祈りいたしました。やっと、無事にバージニアに着いたとの知らせがありました。どれ程安堵したことでしょうか。数ヶ月ドイツにいて、後テキサスのフォートフッドに移転しました。

子供が欲しいと思っても、軍隊が私達を別々にしてしまいます。大変フラストレーションを覚えましたが、祈る他ありませんでした。ようやく懐妊して、ジエイデンが2003年3月に誕生しました。残念なことに、長男が5ヶ月の時に私はイラクに派兵になりました。主人も派兵の準備をしていましたので、長男をハワイに連れて来る他にありませんでした。結局、私はイラクから帰るまで長男をハワイで面倒を見ようとすることになりました。私が、派兵されている間、主人がお世話をしていただくことになりました。

私は、派兵されている間それぞれ金光様や私の御祖先が私を見守って下さり、その有難さは、言葉では言い表せません。数回、それこそ本当に命拾いをしたことがありましたが、恐怖は感じなかったです。心は常に平静で落ち着いており、訓練されたように冷静に物事に対処することができました。自分の属している部隊が無事に帰ってこれたので本当に心に嬉しかったです。イラクから帰る時に、帰国の日を待ってから、プライベートが2003年の年頭に誕生しました。二子に子供の名を思い思いに思って本当に有難く、家族と共に過ごす時間に感謝しております。

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Humbly we pray (Leader)
The Parent Kami’s great wish was thus fulfilled: Konko Dainin accepted the Call to Toritsugi That leads to the mutual benefit of Kami and ujiko.

By day he taught the Way of faith
To all who sought him,
Expounding the blessings of heaven and earth
And he knew not the dawning of day.

By night he prayed for those who grieved,
Seeking salvation for all who suffered
And he knew not the coming of night.

Though years passed and the world changed,
He did not waver from his task,
The divine task of Toritsugi.

Thus was given the sacred Tenchi Kakitsuke,
The guiding principle for our daily life.
The Divine Favor was thus renewed
And blessings flowed universally,
Establishing the way of eternal prosperity,
The Way of Toritsugi of Ikigami Konko Daijin.

By this wondrous revelation,
We are given knowledge of the Way.
Through all the hardships of this world,
Through pain of body and soul,
The way of Toritsugi teaches us
To turn our hearts to Kami.

Humbly we pray
So we earnestly pray.
白壁の教会の中のゴザの敷かれたお広前で闊々と少なくとも60名程のお年寄りがぎゅうぎゅうになって座布団に座っていた。教会に面したムリワイ街の両脇にはずらーっと車が止まっていました。中には、遠くに車を駐車して、長く歩いてきた人もいました。教会の中からは日本語での祭典が行われていましたが、私にはさっぱりわかりませんでした。

祭典中、子供たちは、道路で遊び回っていました。丁度カーニバルのようで本当に賑やかでした。

女性の方々は、裏で祭典後の食事を準備していました。そのご馳走がいつも楽しみでした。子供ながら私は教会で貴重な経験をしました。その頃はただ友達や家族のものと楽しく遊ぶことに夢中で、大きくなるまで信じることについては殆ど無関心でした。しかし、金光教ワヒアワ教会にたくさんの思い出があります。

感謝というテーマは私が金光教で学んだことを最も的確に表現していると思います。物を無くして始めてその無くしたものの有難さに気付かされるようです。金光教は失う前に感謝することを教えてくれました。欠伸先生御夫妻は、私が教会に参拝されていて何か大切なことを教えてください。私は自分が受け取った言葉を、後になって自分なりに解釈し、自分自身の生活に融合させると、大変大きな意味を持ちます。それは私の信仰の根柢で、その見える方を教えてくれます。いつも教会に訪れるように、静かで落ち着いた感じに浸ることができることができます。教會を出る時にはいつも元気になります。

祖父祖母にそれも土日がこの宗教を選んでくださったことを大変幸運なことと思います。だから、その金光教のありがたさを忘れることができないので、70年記念祭はもうそこまで来ています。欠伸先生御夫妻のおかげで、この祭典に参加できるだけの健康な気分になります。皆様に、特に欠伸先生御夫妻に感謝の声を届けたいと願っています。

おかあさん
広田順子ドリーン

私のおかあさん、広田順子の方は、2009年11月17日に、86才で亡くなるまで一生懸命信心に打ち込んでいた。今では、御霊の神として私を厳しく見守ってくださっていると思います。おかあさんは本当に金光教や教会が好きで一直線でした。そんな私でも、金光教と言っておправりしていました。家族の者は、早くから金光教にご縁を頂いております。おかあさんといつも、私たちに金光教にお話ししいいことを教えてくれました。

おかあさんは、ワワイ島ヒロで生まれ、ヒロ教会に参拝し、西田良房先生のお取次ぎを頂いていました。教会までの長い道のりを歩いて参拝していました。晩秋、欠伸先生御夫妻のおかげで、この祭典に参加できるだけの健康な気分になりました。息息、特に欠伸先生御夫妻に賛辞合わせてお会い出来るのは大変な思い出でした。

おかあさんがいなくなっても、とてもさびしいです。けれども、おかあさんは、いつも私達のことを気に掛け、幸せを願っていると思います。

おかあさん、あなたが信心されたこと、尽きぬ愛に心より感謝いたします。

Recitation of the Tenchi Kakitsuke
Ikigami Konko Daijin
Tenchi Kane no Kami
Ishin ni Negae
Okage wa Wagakokoro ni ari
Kongetsu Konnichi de tanomei

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.

Adoration Prayer
Leader: We lift our eyes in awe toward heaven, soaring above

We lift our eyes in awe towards heaven, soaring above.
We bow our heads in prayer toward earth, rich and deep.
Living amid such gifts of Kami’s great giving,
How happy and grateful we are!

The Mediation of the Living Spirit does not stop for a single day.
The protection of the Parent Kami embraces all, far and wide.
The blessings of Kami flow without limit through all generations.
The ways of Kami are mysterious and wondrous, beyond our understanding.
Day by day, every day, earnestly and reverently,
We praise the virtues of Kami,
We honor the power of Kami.
神徳賛詞

仰ぎまつれば 天高拝おろがみつれば 地厚し 神の恵みに 生かさるる 身みの幸さいわいぞ ありがたい わが生神いきがみの御取次一日も欠かくるときのなく天地の神の御守もり遠とおき

近き隔へだてなし 神慈しみは 万代に 遍る 満て果て CHIKAKI NO HEDATENASHI KAN ITSUKUSHIMI WA YOROZUYONI AMANEKU  

神量かんはからいは 奇くすしくて 人ひとの思いを 及よばざる われら

今月今日 礼びまつって ひたすらに 神のみかげを賛えま KONGETSU KONNICHI IYABIMATSURITE       HITASURANI            KAMI NO MIKAGEWO TATAEMA

つらん 神のひれいを仰ぎまたる。TSURAN  KAMI  NO  HIREI WO      AOGI MATSURAN.

先生や信者の皆さん方を初めに尊敬してこられた方々から、その敬意を深く感謝申し上げます。"神様お世話の大きさに感謝の念をもって参上します。世間の人々が皆、神様のお恵みを思い出し、感謝の念を胸に一日一日を過ごし、人生の歩みを歩む中で、仲間や他の人を見る時、同じような思いを感じていただける。人々が、自分のことも、他者のことも思い Widow the to be in the condition of being able to be a partner. This cycle will differ depending on how stable one's life is, but it will eventually come around. The fear of encountering something unexpected will go away as time goes by. Life is short. One should strive to live a meaningful and valuable life. The confidence should make their life more enjoyable. The church will continue to provide support and assistance.

Since the beginning of the mission, my parents, Thomas and Hilda, were members of the Wahiawa Church. Although they are no longer with us, I believe they are still present in spirit. My mother said, "The family has been members of this church for 70 years since it was founded in Wahiawa." From that, I became the 3rd generation of members.

As a child, I remember visiting the church on Sundays, where the main hall was filled with people. I am grateful for the support group that has been with us for the past 70 years. This group has been with the church for a long time, and I believe they have a special bond with the church.
私が仏教にならないたえない大変な革命が軍隊生活から一般市民という転換を経験した際には、仕事を得るためには、少なくとも学士の大学卒業の資格をもつ必要があると感じました。正直なところ、教会は私に人生を見直す力を持たせたのです。60年記念祭をお祝い頂いたのは、つい最近のように思いますが、実の所自らの人生の上に大きな変化がありました。過去10年間で人生が変わったような出来事を振り返ってみると、私が遭遇しなければならない様々な出来事をいい時も困難な時も私の家族の御霊様、友人、それに先生が導いて下さったと思います。その意味で本当にこのような方々がいてくださったことが有難く感謝しています。

私が遭遇しなければならない大きな変革は軍隊での生活から一般市民としての転換から始まりました。仕事を得るためには、少なくとも学士の大学卒業の資格をもつ必要があると感じました。正直なところ、教会は私に人生を見直す力を持たせたのです。60年記念祭をお祝い頂いたのは、つい最近のように思いますが、実の所自らの人生の上に大きな変化がありました。過去10年間で人生が変わったような出来事を振り返ってみると、私が遭遇しなければならない様々な出来事をいい時も困難な時も私の家族の御霊様、友人、それに先生が導いて下さったと思います。その意味で本当にこのような方々がいてくださったことが有難く感謝しています。

現在子供達は小学校に通っています。妻の真澄は家におりパートタイムの学生として学びたいことを目指しています。私はこれら的一切を受け入れることが有難いと思っています。しかし、これらは偶然か神様のお計らいかと言われれば、私は、神様のお計らいと受け取っています。現在の経済状況の中で安定した仕事があり、都合良くいっていることが有難いと思います。大きな出来事については以上のようなことが言えます。日常のなんでもないことはどうなっているのか? 神様は自分の日常生活にどのように関わっているのか？通常の神様は私達家族に健康と必要な物を与えて生活出来るようにしてくださっている以外に、次々に起こる決断をしなければならない事を通して、日々信心の手腕を問われたり、お試しとしていています。神様は良い親であり、褒美や罰、原因と結果を通して、私に様々な決断をさせ、私の勇気を試すような状況を作り出しています。そのことを通して、結果がどのように出るかを予測させ、何が起こるかに応じて行動を変えることが求められます。神様の助けが十分でないような時は、私の祖先や友達の御霊のさらなる助けで導いて下さる。多くのシナリオは白黒がはっきりしない状況であり、どれだけ横道に反れたかに関わって、色々な段階での成功か失敗かがある。選択は自分一人のことであり、問題は、結果を受け入れなければならないこと、そして、その過程において神様の徳を得るのだと思います。全ての人は良い状態で生まれているが、しかし、一人一人違ってくるのは人生に於ける選択だと思います。神様の心で物事を見てみると、別の物が見えてくる。難しいのは、信心の目で日々頂いている数知れないおかげに気付くかということです。自分達の物の見方によって、頂いているおかげ、又そのおかげをどう生活の中で生かしていくかが問題となる。時には自分の欲を離れたり、他のものを犠牲にして、視野を広げて大きく物事をとらえる、結果を見なければならない。自分の欲ではなく、今あることを感謝し、お礼を申し上げること。最も大切なことは、物事をどのように捉えるかということが全てで、本当に信じることが必要です。}

**Shinjin no Eiko**

(Shining Laurels of Kami and People)

Lyrics by Kinzo Sato
Music by Michiharu Ohara

1) Ametsuchi wa Kami no futokoro
   Hito wa mina Kami no itoshigo
   Kagiri naki megumi no nakani
   Ikasaruru warera ureshiki
   Shinjin no Michi o
   Mayowazu ushinawazu
   Sue no sue made
   Oshie tsutaeyo oshie tsutaeyo

2) Hito no yo ni towa no hikari wo
   Itoshigo ni tsukinu mikage wo
   Chikawashishi mioya no Kami ni
   Sukuwaruru warera ureshiki

**Shinjin no Michi**

(The True Way of Faith)

Lyrics by “Shinkun”
Music by Toyoji Matsuda

1) Shinjin no michi o
   実心の道を
   迷わず 得ずわ
   もの末まで
   教え伝えよ 教え伝えよ

2) Mayowazu ushinawazu
   宣教師 август

3) Sue no sue made
   途につきて

4) Oshie tsutaeyo oshie tsutaeyo
   教え伝えよ 教え伝えよ
A Shining Shimmering Light

Original Japanese Lyrics and Music by Tamie Imaoka
English Lyrics by Lisa Uzunoe & Akiko Mito

With a heart/ caught up in doubt and worry
I face/ my life/ every morning
Wanting to shine/ but somehow holding back
Joy and fear/ swirl within my heart
Still I know/ even one as small as I
Can run/ into some day/ and find
A shining/ shimmering/ brilliant light
Glowing from/ a path that never ends

(Chorus)
Instead of/ losing hope or/ fearing what’s ahead
Let’s keep on/ moving forward/ with our heads held high
For we are all/ living in a world
That/ embraces you and me/ with its love
Supported by/ the prayers of those who/ care for us
We’re never/ alone in our lives

When I’m down/ and ready to surrender
When times are hard/ and it seems so dark
Just knowing each day/ that I’m never on my own
Gives me strength/ and courage to try harder
Holding hands/ with my friends standing by my side
Swinging arms/ together we will walk
To the shining/ shimmering/ brilliant light
Glowing from/ a path that never ends

(Chorus X2)

Grace Before Meal

All food is provided by Tenchi Kane no Kami, to sustain our lives.
Let us be thankful for whatever foods we may eat or drink.
Pray for good health, for good health is the foundation of all things.
Congratulations to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa in celebrating its 70th Anniversary! I’m treating it as if it were a centennial. With every church anniversary we are able to celebrate, I am amazed beyond words at how this little family church in Wahiawa was able to continue on for so many years. People often miss our church because it’s nestled in a residential area—but those who know the Wahiawa Konko Mission, are the people who truly realize that blessings can be received at this church.

I would like to thank our Divine Mediator, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama and our Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama and all the people who are part of our church Ohana—from the ministers, church members, friends and spirits of the deceased who continue to support us. I would also like to thank the many other people out there who continue to pray for the Wahiawa Church. This church exists thanks to all of you.

Open 365 days a year, the resident ministers are available to take your calls for mediation even in the middle of the night. I have been watching my parents take faith into action. They would take calls in the middle of the night, change into their robes, head to the church altar and pray for the individual that has called with news. Sometimes it was a phone call informing us of the passing of a church member; sometimes it was a call announcing the safe birth of a baby. Regardless of what kind of call or mediation it was, my parents took them very seriously and forwarded the prayers to the Divine Mediator, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama and Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama. They are my greatest spiritual mentors. It is they who inspired me to become a minister. I really appreciate my parents. That Rev. before my name is nothing to brag about—it’s just an indication that Konkokyo is the core of my life and that I am willing to be of service to the Divine Parent at all costs.

I went to the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka, Japan right after graduating from high school. I followed the same paths as my two older brothers. I saw a significant positive change in them, which convinced me that taking the same path is the right thing to do. I also went to the Konkokyo Seminary at the Headquarters in Okayama, Japan. I stayed in Japan for this spiritual training for two years. I am glad that I went while my mind was still soft—so I could capture every essence of the Konko religion. The many spiritual episodes I encountered while in Japan were phenomenal. I was submerged in the Konkokyo faith before I was even born. The more we learn about the faith, the more interesting it gets. And even if I have been in this religion my whole life, I discover new things about this faith almost every day.

Appreciation is how the Wahiawa Church began. Appreciation is why the Konko Mission of Wahiawa can celebrate its 70th year anniversary. Appreciation is the key element for our church to continue to exist in the next 10 years, 50 years, 100+ years and forever.
My Appreciation for Konkokyo  (日本語訳 P.34)
By Mr. Randy Furusho

Another decade has passed and as we celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa, I can honestly say, the church has definitely affected my insight on life through faith. It seems like the other day, when we were celebrating the sixtieth anniversary, but there have been a lot of changes in my life. As I reflect on some of the life changing events for the past ten years, I believe that Kami Sama, the Mitama spirits of my family and friends, and Sensai have helped guide me through the highs and lows which enabled me to cope with the various situations I have encountered. For that I am truly grateful and appreciate their existence.

Some of the major events I have encountered began with transition from military to civilian life. To be able to compete in the job market I had to go back to school and earn at least a bachelors degree or something. I was fortunate to have my veteran’s benefits to pay my way through school. There I was working full time and had to become a full time student to boot. My wife, Masumi was pregnant with Nicholas at the time and working too. After my first semester as a college student, Nicholas was born six weeks early due to complications experienced by Masumi. It was one of the happiest times in my life, but I became overwhelmed at times juggling my different responsibilities and the added sleep deprivation. During my senior year of college, my second son Alexander was born. He, like his brother had an extended stay at the hospital in the neo-natal intensive care unit (NICU) too. Somehow through some divine arrangement, I was able to complete my bachelors program, refocus on parenthood, and begin the search for my second career. Through a bit of prodding from a good friend of mine to give him my resume, I was able to land my present job as a government contractor, which has turned out to be challenging, rewarding and fun. I actually get to do what my major was in school and enjoy going to work with other professionals on my team to work with soldiers once again. The mission is real world, with our success being soldiers come home alive. I have the opportunity to travel in support of various training events and make side trips to visit family and friends on the mainland and abroad. I finally have the time to spend with my family, learning how to be a good parent, and watch the boys grow. During that timeframe, I also suffered the loss of my mother, some relatives, extended family and friends. I’m glad to have had the opportunity to spend some time with many of those relatives in their later years before they passed on.

At present, the boys are attending elementary school, with Masumi as a stay at home mom and a part time student pursuing her educational goals. I feel very fortunate for the outcome I have received for these major events, but would you say this is coincidence or Divine arrangement, I beg to say it is the later of the two. With the current state of the economy, I’m grateful that I have some job security and that we are doing well. That pretty much covers the big things that I have encountered so far, but what about the little things sometimes taken for granted every day.

you for the salvation of others.” It is through the initiation of the Rev. Michio Miyake that helped to establish the interfaith organization of Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace. Because of the connectedness to the interfaith communities of the Rev. Miyake, my husband also has gotten involved in the activities of the interfaith communities.

The Rev. Sachiko Yasutake of Konko Church of Amagi and many other fellow students at the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary also gave us encouragement and sent us off to Hawaii. Of course, we have been so grateful for the extended support and prayers of our parents and family members back in Japan. The late Rev. Shoichi Okuno was Chief Administrative Minister of Konko Missions in Hawaii in those days. He worked hard in bring us to Hawaii.

The Konko Mission of Wahiawa is a branch church of Konko Mission of Honolulu. The founding minister, the Rev. Masayuki Kodama had passed away before we arrived in Honolulu. The second Head Minister, the Rev. Kikue Kodama was in good health and was serving for the faith community. The Rev. Kikue Kodama was like a mother figure for me. We enjoyed her gentle nature, thoughtfulness and deep prayers for us.

The Konko Mission of Wahiawa is a family-church where all members are members of an ohana. Whenever we initiate community activities, they all respond positively and we are able achieve whatever goal we aim for. The people in the faith community express their thoughts by saying, “I feel so thankful. I feel so grateful. I really appreciate the Konko-Sama in Wahiawa.” Some families have preserved the faith tradition for five generations.

Our three children (David, Rodney and Edna), who experienced spiritual training at the Konko Church of Amagi, and enrolled at the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary at the Headquarters Church and were ordained as Konko ministers provide me a great deal of hope and joy. The Rev. Kikue Kodama was like a mother figure for me. We enjoyed her gentle nature, thoughtfulness and deep prayers for us.

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Message of Appreciation (日本語訳 P.38)
By Reverend Reiko Yano (aka: Okusan)
Associate Minister
Konko Mission of Wahiawa

I feel overwhelmed with the heart of thankfulness and gratefulness in commemorating the 70th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Wahiawa. The founding minister, the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi initiated her missionary work in Wahiawa on January 14, 1940 and served for the faith community for 32 years till her passing on December 24, 1972. After the passing of the resident minister, her siblings helped to keep the doors open for the congregation for a few years. The Rev. Hiromichi Ishii, who was sent to work for Konko Missions in Hawaii from Japan also served temporarily till the next minister took over the responsibility of the church. Both my husband and I came to take care of the church on September 28, 1977, and have served for 33 years for the faith community in Wahiawa.

Just a day after our marriage ceremony at the Konko Church of Amagi, where both of us were undergoing spiritual training, we left the church for our missionary work to Hawaii in September 1977. Upon our departure, the late Rev. Fumio Yasutake, the Head Minister of the church, gave us a message for our missionary work. The message on the wrapping paper of the goshinmai sacred rice read, “信し辛抱の徳” (Shiyin Shinbou no toku) or “Earn divine trust through your perseverance in exercise of the faith.” I understood the message as a condensed earnest prayer for us. We also made a visit to the Konko Church of Hirao where I used to attend regularly and learned about the basic elements about the practice of faith. When we arrived at the church, the regular church service was in session. After the service, the Rev. Masato Yoshino, Head Minister and the church congregation gave us encouragement for our missionary work by reciting “Banzai” three times.

We also visited the Konkokyo Headquarters Church at Konko Town in Okayama. The 4th Konko-Sama, the Rev. Kagamitaro Konko was serving at the Mediation Desk. In responding to our forwarded message of our missionary task in Hawaii, he gave us a long talk. In his message, he mentioned two main thoughts. One is, “Inochi no shin no hatakari” or “The core vital functions given to every living thing.” The other is, “Konnichi made no orei” or “Extending appreciation for all the blessings being received.” My husband was so much overwhelmed with the shared messages and always talked about the two messages repeatedly for the regular monthly services. It was years later that I learn to appreciate the profound meanings of the two messages.

The Rev. Seijiro Inagaki, head minister of Konko Church of Iwatani in Hiroshima, came to send to work for Konko Missions in Hawaii also served temporarily for the congregation for a few years. The Rev. Hiromichi Ishii, who was sent to work for Konko Missions in Hawaii from Japan also served temporarily till the next minister took over the responsibility of the church. Both my husband and I came to take care of the church on September 28, 1977, and have served for 33 years for the faith community in Wahiawa.

How does Kami Sama fit into my daily life? Well, besides the standard answer of Kami allowing us to live each day through providing my family and I with good health and the necessities for life, I am permitted to challenge or test my faith on a daily basis through a series of choices. I believe Kami Sama being a good parent, produces situations to test my mettle by allowing me to choose different courses of action using a reward and punishment system or cause and effect. That way I can learn from the experience by assessing the outcome, develop a better solution if the event arises again and move on to the next decision point. If by chance I waiver to far off track, I will be guided back on course, hopefully with minimal deviation. As if Kami Sama isn’t enough help, I also have the Mitama spirits of my ancestors and friends as additional resources to draw on. Since most scenarios do not necessarily have a black or white solution, there are varied levels of success and failure which relate to how far you may wander. The choice is yours and yours alone, the catch is that you will have to live with the outcome, make amends if needed and maybe gain divine virtue along the way. All people are created good, it’s the choices made in life which make each one of us different. With a heart of Kami, you will have a different outlook of life; the hard part is how we recognize the many blessings we all receive each and every day by using our spiritual eyes. Depending on your perception, the blessings received and how we apply it in our lives will determine the outcome. Sometimes you have to broaden your scope and look at the big picture or end state by eliminating your selfish desires and make other sacrifices to achieve a goal. Be thankful and appreciate what you have, not what you want. Most importantly, since perception is everything, you have to truly believe. I constantly ask for guidance and wisdom from Kami to become a better parent and make better choices at each decision point. I encounter in my daily life. It might not be the best example of faith, but so far it seems to work for me. I may not become a kami anytime in the near future, but it is work in progress.

Recently I have turned my attention back to golf following an extended hiatus after Nicholas was born. As frustrating as it may be, golf is very humbling and like Konkokyo depends upon one’s own heart. Let me try to justify and quantify my reasoning for this bizarre choice and how it has opened my eyes both physically and spiritually. Golf is a wonderful individual sport which crosses many barriers and teaches us lifelong values like honesty, integrity, sportsmanship, respect, confidence, responsibility, perseverance, courtesy, and judgment. It is dynamic because every shot requires focus to achieve that precision required to propel the ball to a desired location that is affected by external factors you have no control over like the weather and terrain, as in life itself. Even if you don’t execute the perfect shot, you must learn to accept the outcome and move on; assessing what you could do better and making the adjustment for the next time those like conditions exist. How well or poorly you do is dependent on your attitude, ability, and skill set. In other words, you have to make do with what you got right now this instant. You also have an excuse to get in some exercise for your body playing outdoors and learn to appreciate the beauty of nature as Kami has provided, the grass, trees, sand, and sometimes water in which you have to negotiate that little ball around the course. As you need to replenish your body with substance like food and water to sustain your energy, remember that Kami has provided these things for you too. You also have a chance for some quality alone time, time to
ponder whatever thoughts you might have or just relax to relieve some stress. Sometimes the game will add the stress to your day, if that is the case; maybe you might have to ask Kami or the Mitama spirits for some assistance without a penalty of course for using an outside agency. Sorry for the poor golf humor, you must do what you have to in hopes to conquer those golf demons inside. It’s your mental toughness against the course and an elusive number called par. If by chance you are playing with others who might be better or worse than you, there is a handicap system in place to help level the field, making it enjoyable for all parties involved. Winning or losing is secondary when compared with the time spent with companions who enjoy the sport as much as you. Even with perfect strangers, bonds are made and friendships developed over the time spent together. Hey, this might be a good tool for propagation and membership too. I have spoken to others about Konkokyo during conversations on the course. I feel that the more you practice the better you will get to know yourself, your capabilities, and build a good character or divine virtue, just like going to church. Some people jokingly speak of golf being a religion; they don’t know just how right they are, not because they are playing on a Sunday either. If you opt to cheat by breaking a rule, you are only shortchanging yourself and prolonging your journey toward success and ruining your good reputation. For these reasons I now have the boys involved with junior golf on Saturdays where we can spend some father-son time together and we can gain that forementioned virtue collectively. Nicholas goes more often than Alex, but right now I think it’s more for socializing with the other kids than practicing on his game or life skills. Eventually, I hope the whole family will get more involved with the game so I won’t be the only one reaping the blessings of Kami and having fun doing it. And yes if you have to ask, I have been humbled by players both senior and junior to me.

As you can see, my faith training is still at the individual level in search of attaining the heart of Kami. I still need to work more on the Toritsugi portion though, by sitting down with sensei and have him convey my prayers to Kami in a more direct manner. Granted, sensei has helped me out with the bigger events of my life in the past as stated in my introduction. I just feel that the petty things in my daily life may become a bit burdensome for him and Kami to work on using the express route. I guess I’ll eventually start when the time comes, just as we all reach different evolutions in our life. I’ve seen it within my peer group and others as we reach various phases in our lives. In our younger years, we attend church because our parents bring us. Then there is a period where we spend our time searching for our existence and future, normally as we become adults attending college or seeking a career path. Once we reach some comfort zone and feel a bit more secure, we realize something is missing in our lives and eventually come to the conclusion that is religion or faith that we need to fill that void. Now with a reenergized conviction to enhance ourselves through faith, we learn more about ourselves and begin to share more with others. As more time becomes available for us to share, we can now start giving back to our community in which we live. For some, this cycle happens a bit sooner than later based on how secure we feel, but it does happen. A life threatening event in our life usually accelerates the process. Life is short; the time we spend in a physical form should have substance and quality. I feel religious faith enriches that quality time and that the church is there to provide the support.

**Message of Appreciation**

By Reverend Rodney Takashi Yano
Associate Minister
Konko Mission of Wahiawa (Currently at San Francisco Church)

First of all, I would like to say congratulations to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa, its congregation, its supporters and the many families and friends that have become a part of this church’s Ohana.

I am currently serving at the Konko Church of San Francisco for a little over five years now, and it has been a tremendous growing opportunity for me in many ways. I really feel that it has helped me to become a better rounded person. But there are things that have gone on in my life that had forced me to slow down and think about a bit. I remind myself of where I came from originally, thinking about faith, and to my surprise with a lot of prayer and appreciation, Kami always makes things work out.

As the years passed living in the mainland, I saw myself growing an even stronger connection to Hawaii, its people, lifestyle, and of course the food. Mmm, I can taste it now, Hirota-san’s special macaroni-salad, Suwa-san’s cakes we had for Birthday-Sundays, Noguchi-san’s cottage cheese Jelli-O. Oh there’s too much to list. I find myself reminiscing about the many priceless memories of the “good old days” (I feel older now) growing up in this church with my siblings and friends; whether it was playing hide-and-go-seek around the church, to jumping our bikes over make-shift ramps, to catching lizards all around the neighborhood, oh and don’t forget the Mochi pounding! It was all good times!

One thing that I can be sure to look forward to is that the Wahiawa church will always continue to thrive for many years to come. I am forever grateful to Kami-Sama and everyone’s prayers and support that helped Wahiawa church get to where we are today. Congratulations once again and thank you very much!
guard duty in addition to my normal 8 hour work shift. Despite the chaos and sadness, Jason had to leave several days later. I was so afraid for him.

I continued to pray for him even though I was exhausted and worried sick. He finally called to tell me he made it to Virginia safely. I was so relieved. I stayed in Germany for a few months and then got transferred to Fort Hood, Texas.

We were trying to have a baby but the Army kept separating us. It was frustrating but all I could do was pray. I finally got pregnant and Jayden was born in March 2003. Unfortunately, I had to deploy to Iraq 5 months after he was born. Jason’s unit was preparing to deploy so he had to bring Jayden to Hawaii. In the end, Jason was able to stay in Texas until I returned but he had to work long hours so we decided to leave Jayden in Hawaii until I returned. I am so thankful to my mom and grandma for taking care of Jayden while I was deployed.

I cannot find the words to adequately describe how thankful I am that Konko-sama and my ancestors watched over me while I was deployed. I had several REALLY close calls but I didn’t feel scared. I felt peace and calm in my heart, which helped me to think clearly about what I have been trained to do. I am thankful that my unit returned safely. I got pregnant soon after I returned and Bryce was born in January 2005. We are so thankful for our two sons and we felt that I should get out of the Army so that I could be with Jayden and Bryce. Jason is still in the Army and will be able to retire in 9 years. He is currently serving his third deployment in Iraq.

We are also thankful that our extension got approved so we are able to stay in Hawaii for another year. I am thankful to my family for helping me take care of my kids while I attended school at night. I have such heartfelt gratitude for the numerous blessings that I have received over the years and I cherish the generous and loving people who have been a part of my life. And I cannot think of a better way to show my appreciation than to bring my children to church so that they learn to trust in Konko-kyo like I have and so they look to Konko-sama and our ancestors to help guide them in the right direction.

I’m extremely thankful to be part of the Wahiawa church, from the beginning when sensei and the members welcomed me in and provided comfort and friendship to me and eventually my family as we grew in numbers. As my extended family here in Hawaii, they have given me support, knowledge, wisdom and good old advice. We may not have seen eye to eye at times, but the mutual respect we have for one another keeps me going back. This support group has extended throughout all the Konko Missions in Hawaii too. I’m truly grateful to this Ohana, they have shown me the true meaning of the aloha spirit and as our membership here advance in their years, eventually transitioning to the Mitama realm; I will always remember the support provided me and pray for and to you. Thanks to you, I can now definitely call Hawaii home for my family and I. Do I miss San Francisco and KCNA? Sure, but I think Kami intended for me to stay in Hawaii and try to make a difference here.

Konkokyo is a wonderful religion, though difficult to understand at times because of its simplicity. If we just open our hearts to recognize the blessings we receive, then we can truly understand the core tenet of APPRECIATION.
My Mother
By Ms. Doreen Hirota

My mother, Chieno Hirota, was a devoted follower of the Konko-kyo faith until she passed away on November 17, 2009, at the age of 86. Now she is a Mitama Spirit watching over us. She loved the Konko-kyo Religion and Church and always relied on Konko Sama for everything in her life. We were introduced to the Konko-kyo faith at a very early age. Mom told us to always pray to Konko Sama in our daily life.

While growing up in Hilo, Hawaii, she attended the Hilo Church under the spiritual guidance and Divine Mediation of the Reverend Yoshifusa Nishida. Mom would walk for miles to offer prayers at the church. When she moved to Wahiawa, she continued this faith by attending the Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

My mother would always tell us to drink “Goshinmai” daily and always depend on the “Goshinmai” and “Omiki.” She was a lovely and wonderful person and always worried and prayed for her family. Her faith in the Konko-kyo Religion was very strong and immeasurable. She proved her “Isshin” or single-heartedness throughout her entire life.

We are going to miss our mother immensely but we know she is always watching over us and praying for her family’s well-being.

Thank you mom for your faith and never ending love.

Message of Appreciation
By Mrs. Trisha Adkison

I have been attending the Konko Church of Wahiawa since I was little. I liked coming to church every Sunday. Looking back, I remember that I did not like to read from the Gorikai because I did not want to feel embarrassed if I could not read a word in romaji. However, I did love to sing and I always looked forward to Sunday School. The children attending Sunday School were all around the same age so we got along well and had a lot of fun.

Throughout the years, I continued to attend church with my mother and grandmother. I joined the Army soon after graduating from Leilehua High School. I was stationed in Germany for my first duty assignment. That is REALLY far away from home for someone who has never lived by herself, let alone outside of a quaint little country town like Wahiawa. I was often homesick but found much comfort in the letters and phone calls home. Reverend and Mrs. Yano would mail me the church newsletter and I am so thankful that they continued to do so wherever I moved to.

I met my husband, Jason Adkison, while stationed in Germany. We had a whirlwind romance typical to Army couples. We were engaged after 3 short months and planned to go to the Justice of the Peace to get married. However, Jason knew I was homesick and that I never could have imagined myself getting married without my family there by my side. He asked if I wanted to go home to get married and, of course, I said YES! It took us a couple of months to get our leave dates approved and before I knew it, I was home.

I’m a procrastinator and I’m grateful that my family has always saved me during “crunch time.” In my defense, it is hard to plan a wedding in Hawaii when you are all the way in Germany! My family helped me set up our small Japanese style wedding at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. I was overwhelmed but could not have asked for a more perfect day.

We returned to Germany and I got deployed to Macedonia soon after. While I was deployed, Jason re-enlisted so that he could change his job. I was allowed to return to Germany early to spend time with him before he had to report to Virginia. On September 11, 2001, we were spending the day in downtown Germany. I requested the day off because Jason was scheduled to fly out to Virginia the next day. We decided to watch one last movie together.

Halfway through the movie, my friend called me and told me something bad happened in New York. She said that she couldn’t tell me over the phone but that I had to come into work right now because we were being locked down. We immediately left the theater. Downtown Germany seemed unusually still as we rushed back to our car. I hurried into work and ended up pulling 12 hour shifts of
Jane says her family has been coming to this church for over 33 years and now her grandchildren and Mitsuko’s great-grandchildren, Jayden and Bryce are now attending this church on Sunday, too. Jane says, I thank Konko-sama for all the blessing I have received. Through Konko-sama’s okage (blessings) I have 2 daughters and three grandsons, Philip age 14, Jayden age 6 (going to be 7 on March 13, 2010) and Bryce age 5.

I pray to Konko-sama and recite the Tenchi Kakitsuke every morning before I leave the house and every night before I go to sleep. In my prayers, I thank Konko-sama for all the okage (blessing) my family have received and for keeping us all safe and healthy each and every day. I try to come to church every Sunday and listen to both Reverend Yano’s sermons and get inspired and after reading the Gorikai we all stand up and sing some songs. We all like the song “Shining Shimmering Light” because this song gives you hope and tells you you’re not alone so stand tall and have faith. I enjoy coming to church and when we read the Gorikai books which is in English, we understand and are learning the teachings of Konko-kyo. Before the teachings were all in Japanese and I only know some words and couldn’t understand some of the teachings until we started to hear the sermons and teachings in English.

The grandchildren like when the church have special activities. We celebrate birthdays, and most of the holidays throughout the year doing craft activities. New Year is the best because we have a New Years party, play games, have lunch and everyone participates in hitting the piñata. We also get to draw the next New Year’s astrological animal. Every time I have an event or function I need to go to I always pray to Konko-sama first thing in the morning, “Please get me there on time and please help me find parking space”. When I arrive at my destination I am surprised that I actually find parking space. I believe if you pray to Konko-sama wholeheartedly you will receive divine blessing. I do not know of any other religion, when you ask for something and you pray wholeheartedly, you will get divine blessing (okage) from Konko-sama, sometimes quickly sometimes in a couple days, but the diving blessing does come. Our family would like to thank all the Reverends in the Yano family for continuing the church services for this church and for praying for all of us each and every day.
Message of Appreciation

By Mr. Bruce Yamamoto

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my family's involvement in The Konko Church. 70 years of service in Wahiawa is a tremendous fortune to our community. I am very grateful and proud to be a part of your faith. Kami could not have chosen a better Reverend and family to run The Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

My parents, Thomas and Hilda Yamamoto were members of The Konko Mission of Wahiawa. They have both passed on and will be with me in memory at the celebration. My mother had mentioned to me that her parents, Sojiro and Tama Noguchi were members of the Wahiawa church when it first opened, which would be 70 years ago. That would make me a 3rd generation member.

As a child I can remember attending seasonal church service in the evening, with standing room only on the front lawn. At least 60 elderly church members would be sitting on zabuton's, taking up every inch of the Goza floor inside the white wooden building. Muliwai St. seemed to have cars parked on both side for many blocks. Some people would have to walk a long ways from their parked cars to get to the Church. All I could hear coming from inside the church was the service being spoken in Japanese, which I could not understand. During the service, the children were playing and running up and down the street. It was like a Carnival, excitement was everywhere.

The women would be down stairs in the back getting the food ready for the meal after the service. I always looked forward to having this tasty dinner. As a child, my brothers and I had great experiences at the Church. Priority at that age was having fun playing with friends and family. We did not know what the religion was all about until we got older. There is lots of memories at The Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

Appreciation is probably the best word to define what I have learned most from the Konko Church. It appears that it is only when you loose something, you can appreciate its value most. Konko Kyo has taught me to appreciate what I have before it is gone. Rev. Yano and Mrs. Rev. Yano will say a few words of wisdom to me when I visit the church. These words have great meaning when I interpret and fuse it with my experience's in life. It gives me a strong non-materialistic view at life. A calm and relaxed feeling comes over me whenever I attend this Church. I always leave with a positive attitude and a clear mind.

I am very fortunate that my Grand Parents and my Parents had chosen this religion and; therefore, giving me the chance to enjoy what it has to offer. The 70th anniversary is only a few weeks away, and thanks to Kami Sama and The Yano Family, I feel healthy enough to attend the festivities. I look forward to seeing everyone, and especially the Yano family at the celebration.

Appreciation (Okayage)

By Mrs. Mitsuko and Ms. Jane Suwa

Our SUWA Ohana (Family) has been with the Konko Mission of Wahiawa church for five generations. It started with Mrs. Mitsuko Suwa’s parents Mr. and Mrs. Sōjiro and Tama Noguchi. When they were attending church, Reverend Haruko Takahashi was the minister. Mitsuko drove her mother and her mother’s friend, Mrs. Kane-shige to church on the 13th, 23rd and 24th every month so they could attend church services at night. As the years past, Mrs. Suwa did not want to drive at night so Jane Suwa, her daughter-in-law offered to drive them to and from church. Since Jane had to pick them up after wards she decided to wait and listen to the church services. At that time it was spoken only in Japanese and Jane understood only a few words.

This was how Ms. Jane Suwa, Mitsuko Suwa’s daughter-in-law became involved with the Wahiawa Konko Mission, which was over 30 years ago. After awhile, Mrs. Suwa started bringing the whole family to church on Sundays. After the services were held, the church started Sunday School for the children. They learned to speak some Japanese words, played a Japanese card game to find the hiragana characters, made arts and crafts and after the activities we all had refreshments. Our children grew up together with the Reverend Yano’s children and went to the same schools until they all graduated from high school.

As the years past, the sermons were done by both Reverend Yasuhiro Yano and Reverend Edna Yano in English and Japanese. We appreciate the sermons being done in English today because the sermons are positive and involves the present everyday situations that the Reverend encountered and we can relate to what they went through. We come to church every week and we learn something about the Konko-kyo teachings. When we leave the church service we feel happy and refreshed and can go through the week feeling blessed and knowing Konko Sama is watching over us.

As of today, our family extends through five generations who are now attending the Wahiawa Konko Mission church, which started from Mrs. Mitsuko Suwa’s parents Sōjiro and Tama Noguchi, Mrs. Mitsuko Suwa, daughter-in-law, Ms. Jane Suwa, daughter, Mrs. Trisha Adkison and Trisha’s two children Jayden and Bryce Adkison.

Mitsuko Suwa says through Konko-sama’s okage, I just celebrated my 88th birthday and I am in good health. I am blessed with 7 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren. Not everyone can have grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Every night before I sleep, I thank Konko-sama for all the okage (blessings) my ohana (family) have received everyday.

Jane Suwa would like to thank Mitsuko Suwa for bringing her family to this church. (Continued on next page)