



# KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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## Spring Grand Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami On Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.

The Grand Service is one of the major ceremonial services of the Konko faith community. Through the service, we seek to acknowledge and extend our sincere gratitude for the work of Our Principle Parent of the Universe that provide the universal blessings of sustenance for all living things. Please join the service through Facebook Live due to the threat of the Coronavirus Pandemic.



## 80th Anniversary Celebration

*By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano  
Head Minister*

We are responding to the regulations of the authorities under the unprecedented circumstance of the Corona Virus Pandemic. Our church functions and any other religious gatherings has been restricted to minimize the spread of the highly contagious virus. Through the virtuous power of the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin, I sincerely and single-heartedly pray that the pandemic will resolve as soon as possible, and we will resume our normal lives that we have taken for granted for all those years.

In the Konkokyo faith community, we say "Nann wa mikage" or "divine blessings in disguise." This unusual

circumstance gives us the best opportunity to reflect on the way we have lived without paying less attention to the blessings we take for granted. Give thanks for your good health, for the safety of the family and community lives, for the land we live on, the food we enjoy, the water we use, the air we breathe, our bodily functions and abilities, the family we perpetuate, and the list goes on and on endlessly.

We live in the blessedness of Heaven and Earth. Even the invisible corona virus also exist in this fundamentally life-sustaining blessed environment. The best remedy to cope with the current unusual situation is to practice saying thank you for any visible and invisible elements in life that sustain our lives in one way or another.

On Sunday, March 15, we could hold the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the Konko Mission of Wahiawa as scheduled, despite the fear of the corona virus pandemic. The weather was the finest despite the rainy days before. Initially, we have expected the attendance of approximately 150 people who responded to our invitations. Just a day before the anniversary celebration, the governor announced that gatherings of more than 100 people should be refrained. Due to the fast evolving circumstance of the corona virus, some people canceled their attendance to the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. There were a couple of people who felt uneasy and did not like the fact that we were still moving forward with our celebration. It was a risky situation.

At one point I wondered if the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, Head Minister of Konko Church of Amagi, and chief officiating minister for the function would not be able to arrive in Hawaii due to the evolving circumstances and travel restrictions. Even if people were not able to come, we were determined to hold the service anyway. I was even beginning to think that if Oyasensei is not able to arrive in Hawaii to be our Chief Officiant, I will then be responsible to officiate the service. The cancelation of the function was not in my agenda.

Thankfully, on March 13, we learned the entourage of seven believers headed by the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake safely arrived in Hawaii. Later I learned that even at the

Amagi Church, the believers were apprehensive in visiting Hawaii for the Wahiawa Church Anniversary due to the coronavirus. A few people from the Japan group also canceled and the remaining six were debating if they should continue on, but Oyasensei, the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, responded to the situation by saying, "Even if I am the only one to travel to Hawaii, I will go." Then the six people made up their mind to follow him. It is this spirituality exhibited by the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake that has run through as the core spirituality of the Konko Church of Amagi.

On the service day of March 15, the bus arrived and many believers from Honolulu, Waipahu, Wailuku, Hanapepe, San Francisco and Amagi arrived. Our local church members and friends welcomed them in deep gratitude. The fine weather and the fully blossomed sakura tree in the yard also seemed to welcome all of the people who came in full smiles. Some 123 people showed up to attend the anniversary function. Each and every one of the people that were able to make it to our celebration has brought energy.

The anniversary ceremony was conducted at the church at 10:00 a.m. The main worship hall held around sixty people. We also had people join the service in the basement meeting room where the TV showed the services taking place in the service hall via Facebook Live. I asked the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, Chief Officiating Minister to make a presentation in Japanese. Some people may have wondered why we need a Japanese speech. But his indispensable presence at the service alone in itself is a fine message I wished for people to feel and understand.

I would like to thank the Rev. Dr. Todd Zenji Takahashi, who provided an English interpretation of Oyasensei's message. Thank you also to Mrs. Trisha Adkison who emceed for the service session.

After the service, we moved to Dots' in Wahiawa for our luncheon reception. Thank you Wahiawa Church members and friends who helped prepare the place so beautifully. I felt very grateful that the invited dignitaries showed up to join us for the reception. We received a Certificate of Recognition on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary from Councilwoman of the City and County of Honolulu, Ms. Heidi Tsuneyoshi. We enjoyed the food, the thunderous sounds of taiko drums, presentations of chorus led by the Rev. Reiko Yano, beautiful hula dance by our church members and friends from Kaala Nippongo

Gakuen and an elegant solo hula presentation by Ms. Jeddie Kawahatsu from San Francisco. Thank you Mr. Shunichi Kawahara for your singing of Kampai. Thank you Mr. Gilbert Phillips for the professional harmonica presentation and Mr. Jessie Macadangdang for your ukulele presentation. Thank you Rev. Rodney Yano for emceeding during the reception.

After the functions at the reception site, the church members and friends helped to clean up the site and returned the church hall back to its regular seating arrangement. Just after finishing all the work for cleaning up and returning chairs and benches to church, it rained cats and dogs. It was a divinely arranged celebration for sure.

The theme for this 80th Anniversary is "Thank you for the blessings till today." When my wife and I first arrived and turned the light on in the worship hall 43 years ago, I started to practice saying a prayer of "Kon nichu made no orei." I have tried to say thank you for the blessings received till this day from the day one and be able to continue to say the same today, for 43 years. I am not sure how long I would be able to uphold this practice of saying thanks for the blessings received till this day, but feel grateful I have been enabled to do so till this day.

Thank you again for your thoughts, prayers and joining the 80th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Wahiawa.

## **Konko-Sama Says . . .**

Although people live between heaven and earth, they are unaware of Kami's blessings. Shrines, temples, and houses all stand on Kami's land. Without realizing this, people consult the Days and Directions and are disrespectful to Kami. They suffer hardships due to these offenses.

No one is aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth which enables people to live. Kami shall have people become aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth by having Konko Daijin be born throughout the world. (Oboecho 26-22-3)

The Founder Konko Daijin prayed Tenchi Kane No Kami, "When the people of the world pray to Ikigami Konko Daijin with a sincere and single-heart, please fulfill whatever request they have." (Gorikai II Unknown 7)

# Bulletin Board

## Church Services for April, 2020

- 1 Wed -Monthly Service (7:30 pm)  
5 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)  
-Honolulu Church Grand Service, no attendance  
due to COVID-19 pandemic (10 am)  
12 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)  
-Waipahu Church Grand Svc, no attendance

## **13 Mon -Wahiawa Church Grand Service for Tenchi Kane no Kami (Facebook Live at 6:30 pm)**

**\*No attendance. Join us online**

- 18 Sat -Wailuku Church Spring Grand Service  
(No attendance)  
19 Sun -Monthly Service (Facebook Live 9 am)  
26 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)

## May, 2020

- 1 Fri -Tenchi Kane No Kami Monthly Svc (7:30 pm)

## Honoring the Mitama Spirits

### April

Masaru Shimabukuro	4/1/2019
Gilbert Toshio Iwasa	4/9/1999
Zenji Takahashi	4/12/1966
Frances Shigeno Takahashi	4/13/2009
Yoshiro Kamitono	4/16/2000
Kiku Takahashi	4/26/1967
Robert Mendoz	4/27/2006
Richard Yoji Noguchi	4/28/2016
Shinichi Furushima	4/30/1996

*If you wish to have a name added to the church Mitama listing or removed, please contact Rev. Yasuhiro Yano.*

*The following is an English translation of a message found in the publication titled, "すべてに礼をいう心"*

**(The heart of extending gratitude to any elements in life)**

*"A compilation of messages from the 4th Konko-Sama (Rev. Kagamitaro Konko, Spiritual Head of Konkokyo Religious Organization)" published in 1993. An English translation is provided by the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano*

## **Thank you Okaasan (お母さんありがとう)**

While you take care of your infant child, try to say, "I became your parent because you were born as our child. Thank you my dear baby." You cannot claim yourself as parent if you do not give birth to your own child. It is through the birth of your child that you become a parent to that child. Both the child and you, as a parent, grow up interdependently. When you take care of your child, try to extend your thought of gratitude toward your own mother by saying, "Okaasan, thank you for your loving care." When you extend your thoughts towards your mother who might have taken care of you by changing your diapers and washing soiled diapers, your heart would naturally be filled in deep gratitude and you may naturally feel like saying, "Thank you, Okaasan." You can enjoy changing and washing diapers in gratitude. If you do not have that heart of gratitude, your heart would be occupied in complaints and you would maybe blame your child instead, by saying, "You soiled your diapers again and again?!" The heart of gratitude would instantly banish from your heart. On the contrary, when you extend your loving thoughts toward your mother, you would feel like saying, "Thank you, Okaasan." Keeping that heart of gratitude in taking care of your own child, you would feel like appreciating the fact that you were able to keep the heart of saying, "Thank you, Okaasan."

## **Wahiawa Church 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Snapshots 3/15/2020**



