



KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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E-mail: konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com Also, find us on Facebook. Head minister: Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. Vol. XXIX, No. 8, August 1, 2017

I introduced the following story to our church members on May 20, 2012 at the monthly memorial service. The article was found in the publication "Shin'ai" the monthly newsletter of Konko Church of Amagi issued on May 3, 2012. The story was a reprint from the article published in the publication "Shion" issued by the Konko Church of Yobuko in Saga. The English translation was provided by the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano

A Universal Amulet

One day a young woman aged around 18 to 19 years old came to visit the Konko Church of Amagi for the first time. She was a maid at a big restaurant in town named "Iroha." She extended her greeting to the Rev. Matsutaro Yasutake at the Toritsugi-Mediation Desk, and requested by saying "Can I have an amulet for myself?" The Rev. Yasutake showed a packet of "goshinmai" sacred rice and said, "You mean this?" She responded, "Yes! I want that" and tried to get a small amulet holder and tried to put the goshinmai packet into the holder. The Rev. Yasutake responded, "Are you trying to regard the goshinmai packet as your amulet?" She responded, "Yes. That is my intention." The Rev. Yasutake asked, "When you take a bath, what would you do with the amulet? If you hold the holder with you as you bathe, it will get wet." She responded, "Of course, I will take it off from me when I take a bath." The Rev. Yasutake asked, "When you go to the rest room, what would you do about the amulet?" She responded, "In consideration of the sacred nature of the amulet, I will take it off from me when I use the bathroom." The Rev. Yasutake further pressed her by saying, "I see. But can you be sure you will never get injured when you take a bath or encounter a sudden death while using the bathroom? There once was a person who encountered a serious injury while he was bathing at a public bathhouse. For no apparent reason, the ceiling of the bathhouse collapsed and fell on to the customers in the room. And he was also injured. There is also a healthy looking person who enjoyed his job. While he used the bathroom, he collapsed in the room and died on the spot. You may know many of those stories. You cannot be relieved of any dangers even while you are bathing or using a bathroom. You don't have to rely on the amulet you keep in your amulet holder. There is a very handy and universal amulet you can carry at all times. Do you want to have one?" She responded, "Of course I want to have such a wonderful amulet if there can be any." The Rev. Yasutake related, "It may take some time. Would it be all right for you?" She responded, "I don't mind about the time at all."

Then the Rev. Yasutake talked about the great nature of Tenchi Kane no Kami for three hours. She became overwhelmed with the stories shared by the Rev. Yasutake. She developed a full appreciation of the blessings of Tenchi Kane no Kami.

On her way home, she felt like she became a new person. All the scenes around her, the things she took for granted looked quite

different in nature. The messages shared by the minister reverberated repeatedly in her mind. She felt so happy and grateful.

At a dinner party at the restaurant, the customers enjoyed much drinking. They were ready to be served with rice and other side dishes.

When the maid tried to place some rice in the rice bowl for the customers, her right kimono sleeve accidentally got stuck on the kettle placed nearby. The boiling hot water in the kettle splashed on to the left hand of the woman. She felt a torturous sharp burning pain on her hand. In responding to the situation, she happened to remember a message given by the Rev. Yasutake. He stated, "In case of emergency, you don't have to call Tenchi Kane no Kami, just ask help by calling out the name of Konko Daijin. You shall be blessed promptly." Reflectively, she shouted out, "Konko-Sama!"

When she closely examined the injured hand, she found that the left hand and elbow turned red and experienced a sharp pain as if she was wearing a glove of needles. The torturous pain affected her whole body.

She responded to follow the instruction given by the Rev. Yasutake. She placed goshinmai over her wound and extended her sincere prayer to Tenchi Kane no Kami. The pain in her hand and arm began to subside and disappear miraculously.

She understood she would never be able to work the following day because of the seriousness of the injury. But the skin on her hand and arm showed little swelling. She really experienced the work of Tenchi Kane no Kami.

Overwhelmed with the wondrous blessed episode of the injury and her encounter with a truly grateful Tenchi Kane no Kami, she made a visit to extend her thanks the following day.

Shugyo (Spiritual training) Experience at Amagi Church

By Yasuhiro Yano, Head Minister

"Tadaima" in Japanese was the first greeting as Nicholas Jun Furusho entered into the Ohiromae (church hall) of Konko Mission of Wahiawa after experiencing two-months of *shugyo* life at the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka on August 1, 2017. I replied, "Okaeri." He then sat down on the first row of the chair and extended a prayer to Kami-Sama and Mitama-Sama and sat down at the seat for Toritsugi-Mediation. About half an hour later, after the Toritsugi-Mediation session was over, he joined me to extend a prayer in gratitude for his safe and sound return home. He learned to sit down on the floor in the formal "seiza" style and joined to recite Tenchi Kakitsuke with his mother, who picked him up at the airport. My wife, Reiko-sensei also joined in prayer.

He left Hawaii to Japan on May 27. I appreciate the given opportunity for Nicholas to stay at the Konko Church of Amagi from May 28 through July 28. For two months of stay, he learned to appreciate many elements of the practice of faith. The biggest development occurred to him was the determination he established during the two months of emersion in the deeply faith-oriented environment. He made a resolution that after graduation from college, he shall be back to the Amagi Church and enroll at the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary for ministerial training, hoping he could be of service to the Wahiawa Church and the faith community in Hawaii. That determination seemed to be triggered by the extended encouraging words from the most senior woman minister, the Rev. Michiko Yasutake, the wife of the late Rev. Fumio Yasutake. She stated, "In the next 4 years, I will be saving money for you so you to enroll into Gakuin." To be honest, I have never imagined he would be back home with such a resolution. My sole intention was to just have him exposed to the intense faith-oriented environment at the Amagi Church. But it could be a divine call for him. I pray his prayer will be fulfilled in academic achievement as well as spiritual development as a true Konko follower.

Nicholas reminded me of our three children who went to the Amagi Church right after the graduation from high school. David and Rodney spent three years and Edna spent two years in Japan for spiritual training and seminary. For six years (1996-2001) for this special faith-training program, everything was taken care of by the Oyasensei, the Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake and the church congregation. It could be said that it was the Amagi church who turned our children to become Konko ministers. Thank you Rev. Michiyoshi Yasutake, and all ministers, church congregation for allowing Nicholas to experience spiritual training at Amagi Church with unconditional acceptance and love.



Konko-Sama Says . . .

People exist because of Kami, and Kami exists because of people. Therefore, you should pray to Kami about everything, including sickness and problems, whether it is an emergency or not. Practicing faith is to have a heart like Kami in your everyday life. Praying to Kami by putting your

hands together is not the only way to practice faith. A single heart means one heart. So be sure you do not go astray by having a double heart. Depending only on Tenchi Kane No Kami is having a single heart. You should be single-hearted and receive divine blessings fully. (III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 198)

Konko Daijin said, "Everybody asks me to come to their homes, but since I cannot be absent from Kami's Hiromae, I do not go. However, I have never failed to help save a person who asked me for help with a single heart." (III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 55)

Bulletin Board

Main Services for August 2017

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 6 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)
- 13 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 20 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)
-44TH Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama at Honolulu Church
- 27 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)

September 2017

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

Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace

The regular meeting will be held on Monday, August 7, 2017 at Konko Mission of Wahiawa at 11:30 a.m.

Volunteer Activity

The regular monthly visit to the Long-Term Care Facility at Wahiawa General Hospital will be made on Friday, August 25, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

KMH Calendar

August 12 (Sat) -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting at Konko Mission of Honolulu at 10:30 a.m.

Honoring the Mitama Spirits

August

Masaru Nakano	8/5/2004
Sunao Hayashida	8/8/1958
Jinpei Hayashida	8/13/1939
Helen Y. Eguchi	8/14/1946
Masataka Yano	8/14/2012
Shizue Eguchi	8/19/2012
Rev. Masayuki Kodama	8/24/1973
Kima Yamashita	8/?/1979

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

Insight into the teachings in “Tenchi wa Kataru” or “Voice of the Universe”

The following are excerpts of series of an English translation of “Tenchi wa Kataru—Kanwa-shu” or “Compilation of Insight into the teachings in the Voice of the Universe” which contains 400 selected teachings from the original “Konkokyo Kyoten” or the “Konkokyo Scriptures.” Three authors, namely, the Revs. Mikio Seto, Yasushi Hata and Matsutarō Kōsaka contributed the insightful articles. The translation is provided by Yasuhiro Yano. (Reference pages 314, 315 and 316)

F. Faith and Pregnancy and Childbirth

No. 314

Do not think that you give birth through your own strength. Everything is done through the blessings of the Parent Kami. (III Shinkun 2-38 Kyoten page 776)

Through the blessings of Kami

A mother responded to this message by saying, “I believe it was my husband who gave the blessing of a child.” It can be true that a human conception can be realized through the relationship between a man and a woman. But we may have to extend our thoughts that the life on earth emerged some 3.6 billion years ago. In a sense it took more than 3.6 billion years for the human bodies have evolved into the shape of male and female.

The birth of a life in a woman is initiated through the meeting of one egg from the woman and one sperm from the man. A woman holds millions of elements that can be turned into eggs in the body. Only one egg from the pool of many eggs will meet just one sperm produced by the man. Only one sperm among millions of them will be able to meet the egg. The journey for the encounter is very difficult and mysterious for both the egg and the sperm. This moment of conception is truly wondrous and mindboggling phenomenon. Life science can explain every step of human development through advanced scientific technologies. But the wondrous nature of human conception will be eternal.

The fertilized egg will rapidly expand cells. In 280 days, the size of the egg will be multiplied to 2,000 times. During the expansion of the cells, each organ in the body will be shaped. No human interactions will be needed for this wondrous phase of human development. We cannot even produce a single nail on the finger of the developing fetus.

Thanks to the advanced ultrasound imaging technology, we can clearly visualize the development of the fetus from the very initial stage. It has been observed that the development of sex organs will take place at an early stage of development. The heart will start pumping blood. It is just wondrous in witnessing all those human developments. Those who get engaged in life science have always been overwhelmed with the mysterious nature of human life. Some of the researchers stated that the world of human conception is a wondrous world of a micro universe according to the presentation in “Human Body” produced by NHK.

There is an expression of “みな親神の恵み” in the original Japanese message. That can be interpreted in this way, “Every child is a blessing of Kami” regardless of the capabilities, personalities. It can be a divine reminder that we should not discriminate anyone.

No. 315

Women are like the fields of the world. Fields must be fertilized in order to produce precious crops. The seeds may be food, but they won’t grow well if the field is unproductive. For a woman, pregnancy is an important time. The child will be affected by the mother’s good or bad heart. A pregnant woman will want to eat a lot and have cravings for unusual foods. But if she eats in secrecy, she won’t have a good child. The child will develop a deceitful heart. The family should be aware of this. (II Nanba Ko 7-1, 2, 3, 4 Kyoten page 648)

Women are like the fields of the world.

The quoted message is a partial excerpt from the much longer original message. The Founder stated, “Women are like the fields of the world. Kami-Sama said, ‘Fields must be fertilized in order to produce precious crops.’” The Founder lived in the feudalistic society in which they perceived man shall be respected while women can be subjugated. The divine message delivered through the Founder was quite radical in those days.

They say, “Mother Earth” that produces any elements in life. The Founder, who got engaged in farming, understood that the poor fields wouldn’t produce any good crops. It could be the ingenuity of the Founder

who figuratively likened the women to the fields for production of precious things.

The Founder also explained about the importance of prenatal care. It is quite impressive that the Founder was able to understand the nature of female bodily functions to such an extent.

The importance of prenatal care has been well perceived by people in general due to advanced imaging technologies. A dramatic episode of images of a pregnant woman and the fetus through the ultrasound imaging was once broadcasted. The film showed the condition of the unborn child in the womb and the condition of the woman. The image clearly showed that the fetus responds to the spiritual condition of the woman. In that particular episode, the husband was not happy and was regretting the pregnancy. His spirit was reflected by the woman who experienced a deep anxiety. In reflection of the mother's spiritual condition, the fetus responded to become less active and curled up tightly in the womb. When the husband witnessed the fetus is alive and responds to live, he was deeply moved at the image. He changed his mind and allowed the birth of the child. The wife responded in great joy to the expressed thoughts of the husband. Corresponding to the change of the spiritual condition, the fetus seemed to understand the circumstance and responded to become very active. The episode became a sort of social phenomena.

The Founder advised Ko Namba to get engaged in the work of Toritsugi-Mediation. But she firmly refused. But she responded to this particular message and changed her heart and became engaged in helping others through the work of Toritsugi-Mediation. She set a good example of "Women are like the fields of the world."

No. 316

There are women who harbor wrongful ideas, commit irreverence and think of having an abortion during their pregnancy. But they should give birth to and raise the children Kami grants them with. Money can be made through human efforts alone, but children cannot be had without Kami's blessings. If those who will give birth are patient and think that they are performing a duty to Kami, that will be faith. (I Yamamoto Sadajiro 31-3, 4 Kyoten page 379)

Childbirth is a fulfillment to Kami.

In today's society, in regard to the issues pertaining to pregnancy, there seem to be two different thoughts. One is focused on controlled childbirths and parenthood programs for the sake of the welfare of the women, well being of the families, and the population issues of the nation. On the other hand, for those people who suffer from infertility, many options are provided, such as in vitro fertilization and embryo transfer. Because of those available alternatives of pregnancy, we are likely to perceive that the birth of a child could be managed by human-oriented decisions alone.

Because of the advanced imaging technologies, we can witness detailed processes of the entire human reproduction. And we have learned that the more we understand the mechanism of human reproduction, the more we feel overwhelmed with the wondrous nature of the reproductive functions.

It is said that the first living organism was born 3.6 billion years ago on the earth. In the first 40 days of conception, the unborn child in the mother's body continues to grow in replicating what has been inherited in the line of life initiated 3.6 billion years ago.

It is also identified that the reproductive organs have begun to grow at an early stage of pregnancy. We casually refer to our offspring as "My child." But the child has already been created to carry the task of perpetuating life. For us, to get blessed with a child and raise the child is the greatest responsibility in our life. There could be no sacred task than having a child.

The Founder stated, "Money can be made through human efforts alone, but children cannot be had without Kami's blessings." The message can be a reminder for us who enjoy economic prosperity on our own. But we have failed to raise children as blessed children of Kami.

In my understanding, technological advancements have intruded into our human life in disturbing manners. To resist this sort of disturbances into our life is to practice the faith. I believe the time has come that we should be awakened to the sacred nature of human reproduction.