



KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

Konko Mission of Wahiawa, 207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI. 96786. Phone/Fax: (808) 621-6667, Cell: (808) 226-9594
E-mail: konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com. Also, find us on Facebook. Head minister: Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. Vol. XXXII, No. 1, January 1, 2020



 **Konko Mission of Wahiawa**
80th Anniversary Celebration

"Thank you for the blessings till this day" 今日までの御礼

Date: Sunday, March 15, 2020
Time: Sign-in from 9 am. Service at 10 am
Place: 207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa
Reception: Dot's in Wahiawa at 12 noon
(Location of reception: 130 Mango St, Wahiawa)

Please RSVP by Sunday, January 12, 2020

For more info, contact: (808) 621-6667



"Okage-samade"

By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
Head Minister of Konko Mission of Wahiawa

A Happy New Year and Congratulations for the 80th Anniversary of Konko Mission of Wahiawa. I wish for you to continue to enjoy your blessed lives you have been able to sustain through the work of Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Divine Parent of the Universe.

The annual Mochi Pounding Marathon started with demonstrations at JCCH on December 21, Hilton Waikiki Beach on December 26, Prince Waikiki on December 27, Konko Mission of Wahiawa on December 30 and Ritz Carlton Residences on January 3, 2020. Through the series of mochi pounding, we have pounded approximately 380 pounds of sweet rice into mochi. I have never imagined we would be pounding mochi in Hawaii when I arrived here 32 years ago.

I simply wanted to share the joy of mochitsuki in a traditional manner by Usu mortar and mallets I enjoyed when I was a child. The family in Ehime practiced the annual mochitsuki from early in the morning till late in the afternoon as the New Year came around. I enjoyed the smell of the firewood that steamed the mochi rice and the sounds of the mallets hitting the mochi, "pettan, pettan." The images and all elements of mochitsuku were deeply embedded in my mind.

Some thirty years ago, when our children were elementary students, I tried to recreate the tradition of mochitsuki. But the main element of Usu mortar was hard to get. The cost of bringing a heavy mortar from Japan was prohibitive. I made research of how the people in the Japanese community practiced mochi pounding. I found out their endeavor of actualizing mochi pounding by the Japanese immigrants who created lava rock mortar, wooden mortar, concrete mortar and so forth. But they didn't appeal to me much for sanitary and aesthetic reasons. I tried to create my own version of usu mortar utilizing a proper sized mixing bowl. A mixing bowl was attached to the bottom side of a trashcan and I poured cement to fill the space. It worked but the size was a bit small. I asked one of the church members who was a sheet metal specialist to create a stainless steel shell for a mortar. I asked him to create three of those stainless steel mortar shells that were filled with cement. We have been using the two bigger sized mortars for the annual mochi pounding. They can hold up to 10 pounds of sweet rice at one time and can process more than 300 pounds of rice into mochi.

When I was an elementary student, the mechanical mochi making machine became popular and the traditional mochitsuki using mortar and mallet declined because of the elements of preparations and cleaning up for the event was cumbersome. Using a mochi-making machine, it would be far easier and clean-up easier. One of those days, an elderly neighbor told me, "The mochi produced with mortar and mallet is really tasty." But he used the mochi-making machine instead. I simply felt the mochi is much tastier than the machine produced mochi, why don't we keep the tradition?

Mochitsuki in Hawaii is popular only because of the Japanese-oriented society. The people simply enjoy the tradition of mochi, especially for the New Year's festivity. The Japanese-oriented people simply appreciate the tradition of mochi and mochi pounding. But those people who are totally foreign to the mochi making tradition show interest and curiosity.

Konko Mission of Wahiawa will be commemorating the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the operation of the church on Sunday, March 15, 2020. We have been enabled to sustain our church operation due to many basic elements and people, such as the Japanese-oriented community formed by the immigrants who came to Hawaii over 150 years ago. There were some Konko believers among them.

All the six churches were founded in responding to the needs of the people in the community at Honolulu, Hilo, Waipahu, Wahiawa, Wailuku and Hanapepe. This is true not only for the Konko faith, but also many other religious faiths from Japan, such as Buddhism. And the fundamental elements of the United States government and the state of Hawaii allows us to operate our church. We cannot think of establishing a Konko church at some countries that restrict foreign religious activities.

Our founding minister, the Rev. Haruko Takahashi was a Nisei, a second generation of American of Japanese ancestry. She initiated in her missionary work in Wahiawa on January 14, 1940. But in the wake of WWII on December 7, 1941, she was taken into custody at Sand Island Internment Camp on December 14, and later moved to Honouliuli Internment Camp and was released on July 7, 1944. She reopened her the church at the current location at 207 Muliwai Ave., Wahiawa in 1948. She passed away on December 24, 1972. Five years later, both my wife and I have started to take care of the faith community in Wahiawa in 1977.

We say "Okage-samade." "Okage" simply means "shadow", unknown, unidentifiable elements in life that fundamentally sustain our life. The thought of "Okage-samade" sums up the meaning of our whole life. Anything at all in our life could be appreciated through the expression of "Okage-samade."

A simple act of mochi pounding can be possible because of "Okage-samade" that implies, our good health, relations, finance, and all visible supports and invisible elements that have contributed in the act of mochi pounding.

We are able to hold the 80th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Wahiawa because of the elements of "Okage-samade." If you would ever be able to appreciate the meaning of "Okage-samade", please join to celebrate the 80th Anniversary Celebration together on March 15, 2020.

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 enable 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)

Bulletin Board

Church Services for January 2020

- 1 Wed -New Year's Day Service (9 am)
- 5 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 12 Sun -Monthly Svc for Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)
- 19 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (10 am)
 - Wahiawa Church General Meeting
 - New Year's party, bring min. \$3.00 grab-bag
- 26 Sun -KMH Women's Gathering at HNL Church (9 am)
 - No church service at Wahiawa

February, 2020

- 1 Sat -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 2 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)

General Meeting & New Year's Party

We will hold the annual Church Members Meeting on Sunday, January 19, following the monthly memorial service that starts at 10 am. The New Year's party will follow the general meeting through 3:00 p.m. Please bring a grab-bag item of minimum \$3.00 value for the party.

Church Painting

We will paint the external wall of the church building on Saturday, January 11 from 10 am to 2 pm. Prior to the painting, we will start preparations for the painting on Sunday, January 5 after the Sunday Service.

Volunteer Activity

The regular monthly visit to the Wahiawa General Hospital Long-Term Care Facility will be made on Friday, January 10, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Mochi Pounding

Thank you very much for your commitment and hard work for the series of Mochi Pounding, starting at JCCH on December 21, Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel, Prince Waikiki Hotel, Konko Mission of Wahiawa, and all the way to Ritz Carlton Residences on January 3, 2020.

KMH

- The KMH Community Engagement and Outreach Committee Meeting will be held at Konko Mission of Honolulu on Friday, January 10 at 6:00 p.m.
- KMH-KCNA Joint Conference Committee Meeting will be held on Monday, January 17 at 5 p.m. at Konko Mission of Honolulu.
- KMH Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 25 at 10:30 p.m.

Honoring the Mitama Spirits

January

Owari Kaneshige	1/2/1989
Clarence Olsen	1/3/2013
Paul Akita	1/13/2008
Alesandro Caraballo	1/17/1985
Tama Noguchi	1/17/1985
Mitsuru Miyamoto	1/20/2007
Tsuneko Takahashi	1/24/1997
Chikiko Hayashida	1/24/1940
Marc Perrone, Jr. (MJ)	1/27/2010



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 399 and 400)

No. 399: Teach and pass on the true faith to future generations without losing or straying from it. (III *Shinkun* 2-50 *Kyoten* page 777)

Teach and pass on the true faith.

My grandmother, the late Rev. Sato Hata departed in 1948 at the age of 83. She kept a memo in her "Goshinmai" sacred rice packet holder.

In the memo, she wrote, "When I came to get married to my husband who initiated his own missionary work in Tokyo, I could not get even some remnants of sewing thread and piece of cloth used for fixing clothes. But now, through blessings received, we have been able to work hard for the organizational official tasks. I feel so grateful for the blessings we have enjoyed till this day. I feel like to shed tears in deep gratitude. I pray that those descendants who would take over the operation of the church would perpetuate this gratefulness in serving Kami-Sama hereafter. I sincerely pray that my thoughts and prayers would be fulfilled."

The message was jotted down in April of 1941. Fifty years have passed ever since she moved to Tokyo. That date coincidentally corresponds to the time when her husband and her took care of the Konkokyo delegates from all over Japan who petitioned to the Ministry of Education for the internal affairs of the entire Konkokyo organization called, "Kyoudan Jikaku Undo" or "Spiritual Movement of the Organizational Self-Awareness."

She jot down her thoughts after sending all those people off from Tokyo.

Later on, during the WWII, the entire church facility was destroyed. They lost everything and returned to their initial stage of missionary from scratch again. But the grandmother never complained at all. She kept that memo in her own goshinmai sacred rice packet holder at all times. She didn't speak much. She never preached me at all. She dedicated in doing whatever she could in support of the operation of the church in gratitude. The message, "I sincerely pray that my thoughts and prayers would be fulfilled" sounds so powerful that I feel like to get convinced.

I believe all of our predecessors in the faith community might have held that conviction in their pursuit of faith even if they did not express out loudly or did not keep their thoughts in writings.

When we extend our thoughts for those predecessors, we feel obligated to pass on the faith to generation to generation without any doubts.

No. 400: "Konko" means 'golden light shines.' The "kon" comes from the "kane" in Kane No Kami. The "ko" comes from "hikari" meaning sunlight. Sunlight provides the world with light. therefore, it means that the entire world is being blessed by Tenchi Kane No Kami's light shining throughout the world. (II *Konko Hagio* 21 *Kyoten* page 523)

Divine light shining throughout the world

In reference to "Konkokyo Kyoten Scriptures", this message was given to Hagio Konko on January 16, 1883, the year the Founder departed. The same nature of messages can also found in the section of "Jinkyukyogoroku" in the scriptures, "You should use this name, Konko, as your family name after consulting with your family. 'Konko means 'Golden light shines' as a flash of lightning. Light make the world bright. Nothing can be seen when he world is dark. Anybody will be inclined to look toward the light. Look forward to the future about everything'" (III *Jinkyukyogoroku* 65-3).

Another message of the same nature also can be found in the section of "Oshirasegoko Oboecho" revealed on October 13, 1877 (November 17 of the Gregorian Calendar). The message reads, "How is Konko written? It is written with the kanji character for golden light! Any person is inclined to look toward light" (Oboecho 21-30-2). The message was given to Hagio in corresponding to the surging influence of Kurozumi Religious faith that gained official status as an independent religious entity in October of 1876. The statement, "Gradually, people will come toward the light" implied that people would respond to the light of Konko faith in the future. The Founder envisioned the future of the Konko faith in that manner and related the message to Hagio as his last wishes.

In the message, the Founder explained, "'kane' represents Kane no Kami." The Founder transformed the nature of "Konjin" as a fearful deity perceived by the general public into the great deity of Heaven and Earth and referred to the deity as "Kane No Kami" in great reverence. The Founder envisioned a wondrous divine world of Kane No Kami lightened both Heaven and Earth. That was the glory of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

Konko Religion came into existence for the divine mission of revealing the great divine presence and work throughout the entire world and bring forth peaceful world for humanity. The author felt like to witness the message of the Founder vividly reverberate throughout the world.

Pictures from the Mochitsuki. Thank you for your help



At The Ritz-Carlton 1/3/2020



Church Mochi Marathon 12/30/19



At JCCH 12/21/19



At Hilton Waikiki Beach Hotel 12/26/19



At Prince Waikiki 12/27/19