



KONKO MISSION BULLETIN



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E-mail: konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com. Also, find us on Facebook. Head minister: Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. Vol. XXXI, No. 3, March 1, 2019

The Annual Spring Memorial Service will be observed on Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 10 a.m. At the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. Through the service, we will extend our sincere appreciation for the contributions, support and guidance of the deceased ministers, family members and our ancestors for our blessed lives we now enjoy. Please join us in commemorating this vital function of the Konko faith in person and on time. A fellowship lunch will follow the service.



If you would like Yano Sensei to call the names of your deceased beloved, please let us know by 3/22.

The power of showing gratitude

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



I enjoy watching Japanese TV programs. Lately what I have been hearing on the news is a frequency in domestic violence, such as parents being murdered by their own children; young children being abused and ending up dying; husbands killing their once-beloved wives who became disabled and so forth. The news of this sort could be just the tip of the iceberg. Whenever I watch about this tragic news, I have always been prompted to one particular thought of “*Inochi no Shin no Hataraki*” or “A vital core function of life.” If they would have ever exchanged greetings among the family members in the morning or say even a few words of appreciation for any elements of gratitude toward one another, the tragic consequences could have been avoided. It could be such a minor, yet vital element in daily living that would contribute to enrich or deteriorate the relationships in the family, the work place, the community life and even international relationships. They say peace begins with one person. A person of gratitude, a person of peace will contribute to the peace in the family, in the community and even to the world.

From time to time, I have quoted a message of “*Inochi no Shin no Hataraki*” that was shared to us by the 4th

Spiritual Head of Konkokyo, the late Rev. Kagamitaro Konko, when we sought Toritsugi Mediation before embarking on our missionary duties in Wahiawa some 42 years ago. Now we have been exchanging congratulatory messages with each other by saying “Omedetō gozaimasu” or “Congratulations for the birth of a baby,” and “Arigatō gozaimasu,” “Thank you, I feel grateful for our being blessed with a new life in the family.” We simply celebrate a birth of a new life and a continuation of the family lineage from generation to generation. Konko-Sama elaborated the thought by saying, “When a baby is born, everybody exchanges congratulatory messages of ‘Omedetō Gozaimasu’ and ‘Arigatō Gozaimasu.’ When that baby grows, at every milestone such as birthdays, entering school, graduations, getting a job and getting married, we keep on exchanging congratulatory messages in celebration of the blessings of an individual. It is the same function we can find in the life of plants and any other living things. The roots of a plant keep taking up water and nutrients up to the stems and leaves, and the leaves create the food through the process of photosynthesis and send down the food to every part of the body. Once the plant ceases to function in this manner, it is to die sooner or later.”

In blessedness of Tenchi Kane no Kami, Our Principle Parent of the Universe, a baby is born to the blessed couple. But any relationship may evolve to any directions depending on the various uncontrollable factors that affect the relationship of any sort in one way or another. We cannot predict the future and cannot solidify our established relationships no matter how favorable they may look. That is how fragile we are. And that is the inevitable nature of human existence. Anything may interrupt the activation of “*Inochi no Shin no Hataraki*” at any moment and we may have to deal with problems. We exchange wedding vows as a spiritual formality of preserving the wonderful moment in life. But the reality is that more than half of married couples end their relationship in one way or another. Marriage is a human institution created by the wisdom of humanity to perpetuate our human race in the best possible way. Naturally, some of these relationships may encounter collapsible consequences despite our sincere attempt of preserving our relationships.

Any relationship can begin to crumble if the bonding elements deteriorate. And the bonding element we can



identify through our spiritual eye in the Konkokyo faith tradition is the heart of appreciation, which is the central element in the thought of “Inochi no Shin no Hataraki” or “A vital core function of life.” Appreciation does not just refer to things that may bring us joy; there is more to it than just that. Appreciation may refer to any element of blessing both visible and invisible that we may take for granted in our daily living. It may boil down to our spiritual awareness of blessings of Kami based on our spirituality.

The fact of being able to read this message is a blessing. Being able to use all our senses is a divine blessing. The fact of our being able to see, hear, breathe, eat, move, act freely and any other personal abilities and capabilities are blessings we may need to celebrate at any given moment. It may sound too extreme for you, but I now come to appreciate the references given by the 4th Konko-Sama about the down-to-earth application of the work of “Inochi no Shin no Hataraki.” He automatically extended his thanks for the pen he wrote with, the paper he jotted down on, the glasses he put on, the desk he used and the list goes on and on. If we keep that expanse of awareness of blessings of Kami in such a manner as has been demonstrated by our spiritual leader, our whole life can identically evolve to a life full of appreciation. This may be the extent of our spiritual awareness of the blessings of Kami. If we still can find negativities in life, there shall be no problems. Any problem can be just a tiny floating element on the surface of a broader ocean of elements of blessing of Kami-Sama. Things should evolve in the way Kami intends us to enjoy if we have reached this stage of spirituality as Konko believers.

Once we encounter major encounters in life, we may react in such a disorderly manner that our hearts and minds would be saturated with the tidal waves of worries, complaints, negativity and end up in confusion. And we fail to become aware that we have been in the midst of the working of the Divine Parent or “Something Great.”

Konko-Sama Says . . .

Everyone around the world is a child of Tenchi Kane No Kami. The world is full of Tenchi Kane No Kami’s blessings. Not having these blessings is like not having any air. So without divine blessings, people cannot live, not even for a minute. (II Sato Mitsujiro 14-3)

“Konkō” means “golden light shines.” The “Kon” comes from the “Kane No Kami.” The “kō” 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)

Although Kami cannot be seen, you are constantly walking within and through the midst of Kami. Even while fertilizing a field or walking along a path, you are in Tenchi Kane No Kami’s Hiromae. (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 6)

Those who are able to live due to Tenchi Kane No Kami’s blessings are in between two mirrors. Kami sees all good and bad things that are reflected in the mirrors. You must practice faith and have a sincere heart. (Yamamoto Sadajiro 3)

Bulletin Board



Monthly Services for March, 2019

- 1 Fri -Monthly Svc. for Ikigami Konko Daijin (7:30 pm)
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 4 Mon -HCRP Mtg. at Palolo Kwannonji Temple (1:30 pm)
- 10 Sun -Monthly Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)
- 16 Sat -Ohana Camp Garage sale (9 am to 2 pm)
- 17 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Spring Memorial Service (10 am)
- 24 Sun -Annual Spring Memorial Service (10 am)
- 31 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)

April 2019

- 1 Mon -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 6 Sat -Church Clean-up for Grand Ceremony (8 am)
- 7 Sun -Honolulu Church Spring Grand Service (11 am)
- 13 Sat -Wahiawa Church Spring Grand Service (6:30 pm)

Volunteer Activity




The regular monthly visit to the Wahiawa General Hospital Long-Term Care Facility will be made on Fri, 3/8 at 10 a.m.

KMH Meetings

Joint KMH-KCNA Committee meeting will be held at Konko Mission of Honolulu on Fri, 3/22 at 5:30 p.m.

Honoring the Mitama Spirits

March

	Sandy Abe	3/4/2014
	Edith Lin Hai Noguchi	3/7/2016
	Richard Fujio Tamabayashi	3/7/1999
	Matsuyo Arikawa	3/8/1995
	Thomas Toshito Yamamoto	3/16/1991
	Mitsuko Suwa	3/21/2012
	Yoshikazu Hirota	2014

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 371, 372 and 373)

Section 3: Saving People

A. Praying for Others

No. 371: Put yourself last, and pray to save others first. Then Kami will take care of your needs.

(II Tsugawa Haruo 1-3 Kyoten page 625)



Pray to save others first.

It is our human nature to respond to protect ourselves and secure our own lives. We may be able to appreciate the expressed message of “Putting yourself last, and pray to save others first” but we may not take actions in such a manner. It could be an impossible demand. But the Founder extended such a conviction. What would be the reason for his conviction?

Does the Founder instruct us to give up in caring our own security? Do we have to sacrifice ourselves for the sake of saving others?

The Founder disliked the idea of sacrificing ourselves for the sake of saving others and taking light of our own lives. Norio Sato recalled a message from the Founder when he was desperate in saving a person who suffered a serious condition of abdominal dropsy. The Founder stated, “Do you guarantee that a person’s life will be saved? You shouldn’t do so. The future is completely unknown. Doctors talk about patients in critical or hopeless conditions, and Kami also says that life-spans are limited. I cannot exchange your life for the life of only one believer. Even if one person dies, save many people through the strength of your single-heartedness” (I Sato Norio 7).

The Founder might try to convince the believers that they would get blessed if they try to act in such a manner as putting yourself last, and pray to save others first. Then Kami will take care of their needs.”

One of the church believers got involved in an eventuality. One of the neighbors who lived in the same apartment building developed an emotional disorder. She

tried to disturb people in the apartment including the church believer and the family members. She even tried to harass her children. The believer came to church and asked help for the troubling situation. I responded to her by quoting the message of the Founder, “Please try to extend your prayer for the troubled person to get blessed to regain her good health.” She vehemently complained to my extended thought by arguing, “Why would I have to pray for the person who has caused us so much trouble?” But somehow she responded to my extended thought and prayed for the troubled person. The troubled neighbor regained her good health. At the same time, the believer expressed her gratitude that she also got blessed for the wellness of her own heart in dealing with the troubling situation.

No. 372: Don’t ever forget the longtime pain you have suffered and the divine blessings you have received.

As long as you don’t forget these two things, your illness won’t recur. Hereafter, when people come to you in pain, give prayers for them while recalling your own suffering and the divine blessings you have received. If you don’t care about others because you yourself are already cured, your illness will return.

Keep receiving divine blessings with the heart you have now, then your illness won’t recur, and future generations of your family will also received blessings.

(I Ogihara Sugi 6-5, 6, 7 Kyoten page 267-269)

If you don’t forget the pain and the gratitude for the recovery, you are to enjoy no recurrence of the same pain.

Sugi Ogihara suffered from a prolonged illness. While she was bedridden, her heart was saturated with complaints. One of the family members went to see the Founder in search of help for Sugi. The Founder informed that Sugi should reform her heart of complaints. Sugi responded to the extended message and got blessed with full recovery from her illness. She made a pilgrimage to see the Founder in appreciation of the blessing received. The Founder gave the quoted message to Sugi. Sugi recalled, “I felt so thankful that I was speechless. I bowed my head down toward the tatami mat in front of Konko-Sama and showed my deepest thanks without saying a word. Konko-Sama noted, ‘Sugi, you seem very grateful indeed.’ Upon hearing these words, I could only utter, ‘Konko-Sama, I can’t say anything.’ And I just kept crying” (I Ogihara Sugi 6). Then the Founder gave the following message.

Anybody who has ever experienced the miraculous nature of being healed of an illness is grateful beyond normal expression. But no matter how deep our gratitude we

might have held at one such occasion, the feeling of gratitude will gradually fade away as time passes by. The Founder reminded Sugi, “Don’t forget the longtime pain you have suffered and the divine blessings you have received. As long as you don’t forget these two things, your illness won’t recur.” The Founder extended further reminder, “Hereafter, when people come to you in pain, give prayers for them while recalling your own suffering and the divine blessings you have received.”

The Founder tried to encourage Sugi not just to get fulfilled for her own recovery from the illness, but to be of service in helping others who also have been in need of help through her episode of getting blessed.

No. 373: There are many who speak ill of others. If you are in such company, try to get away. Help people secretly. If you help people secretly, you will naturally receive Kami’s blessings. (11 Ōkida Kisaburo 16-1, 2 Kyoten page 455)

Help others discreetly.

In general, we are likely to respond with envy, bias with others and get engaged in fighting and blaming them. There would be only a few who may not respond in such manners. For example, when we interact with other people in a circle, we would enjoy gossiping and spreading rumors about others. In corresponding to the atmosphere of the group, we would become the ones who speak ill of other people and feel ashamed of our own shortcomings. It could be assumed that rumors could easily be spread in a closed community.

The village people rumored about the Founder as “the manure-carrying farmer of Otani.” They rumored that Konko Daijin committed burglaries in collusion with his followers” (Konko Daijin Oboegaki 19-2). The Founder extended his prayer in sympathy for their distorted spirituality.

The Founder disliked those people who gossiped and slandered other people and religious faiths. If there were any elements of those people in sight, he Founder turned his face away from them and stopped talking.

As the Founder stated, “If you are in such company, try to get away.” It may sound too passive. But the Founder knew that meddling with those kinds of senseless people would be of no use. Instead, he encouraged to talk with such people discreetly and tried to help others. The way the Founder responded would be far more constructive. Such manners of helping others would be acknowledged by Kami and gain Kami’s virtue. Society today is flooded

with overwhelming tidal waves of scandals. But Konko believers should be mindful of getting blessed with “toku-virtue” or trust from Kami through our practice of faith.

The Sakura Blossoms in the Church Yard

