



## As long as Nittenshi (the Sun) exists, we do not need to worry



*By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano  
Head Minister*

I have spent 43 years in Hawaii, but this was the first unprecedented circumstance in which we had to obey the restrictive measures imposed by the state government and the federal government for over one month since mid-March, right after we celebrated the 80th Anniversary Celebration of our church in Wahiawa (March 15). Now social distancing will continue till May 31<sup>st</sup>. One of the most concerning elements of the situation is that we do not know when we would be able to enjoy all the freedom which we have been taking for granted for all these years. I have no way of knowing the devastating effects for the people that were employed in the primary tourist industry of Hawaii and the people who have lost their jobs and lost incomes. I have no idea how the governments would be able to deal with the situation. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation for the calm and peace we have been enjoying thanks to the work of the authorities and the people's compliance to laws.

Now I could have a deeper appreciation for the same sort of imposed restrictive circumstance when WWII broke out some 79 years ago. Churches were all closed down, Head Ministers were taken into custody at the internment camps. Majority of the people had to deal with the devastation of the circumstances. Now, many people may also have to deal with the life-changing devastations under the threat of COVID-19.

Even the Headquarters Church at Konko Town, Okayama, Japan has shown compliance with the governmental

measures and limited the church functions in such manners that the Spring Grand Services and major functions have been held exclusively with no presence of regular believers. The situation will continue to mid-June. All the churches, not only in Japan, but also in Hawaii and in North America also follow the limited activities.

At Konko Mission of Wahiawa, we have been live streaming via Facebook after the observation of the 80th Anniversary. But the core function of the Konko churches is the tradition of "Toritsugi-Mediation." You can contact your ministers and communicate with them for your prayers through phone calls, text messages, email or regular mail services. The church door has been open from around 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. We encourage everyone to practice faith at home daily. Pray at your household altar or a symbolic presentation of Kami's presence by placing a "Goshinmai Sacred rice packet" or Tenchi Kakitsuke or the Divine Reminder at an appropriate place. If you have your own prayer book, please recite the prayers. Recite the Divine Reminder and you are to get connected to Kami-Sama.

If you need any help, please feel free to contact your ministers. We have always extended our thoughts and prayers to each one of you in our daily prayers.

The Founder Konko Daijin stated, "Since Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Parent Kami of this world, all people who live between heaven and earth are the children of Tenchi Kane No Kami regardless of whether they practice this faith or not. If you practice faith in Kami, you will become close to Kami. Kami will then bestow divine blessings and turn major misfortunes into minor ones, and will take away the minor mishaps. Those who say that they practice faith but are still unable to receive divine blessings, do not yet know the true virtue of Kami. You should realize that misfortunes cannot be fully understood by man" (III Jinkyukyogoroku 32).

I would like to quote two messages of the Founder Konko Daijin that can be relevant to the current situation of the corona virus pandemic.

"There will be unexpected illnesses not only in summer, but also in winter. 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 where the sun shines, in every country, without exception" (Oshirasegoto Oboecho 26-22).

"Don't be surprised, no matter what happens. As long as Nittenshi (the Sun) exists, do not worry. I, Tenchi Kane No Kami, am like a parent. Children are fine as long as their parents are with them. If I no longer exist, the Universe will become dark. Nittenshi will never die. Pray for the prosperity of all people for all generations"(Oshirasegoto Oboecho 26-3).

Through the virtuous power of the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin, I sincerely and single-heartedly pray that the pandemic will calm down as soon as possible, and we will regain the normal lives we might have taken for granted for all those years.

### 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 May, 2020

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service, Tenchi Kane No Kami  
(Facebook Live 7:30 pm)
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)
- 10 Sun -Monthly Service, Ikigami Konko Daijin  
(Facebook Live 9 am)  
-Hilo Church Grand Service (No attendance)
- 17 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)

- 24 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (Facebook Live 9 am)
- 25 Mon-Visit Punchbowl National Cemetery of the Pacific  
(Meet up at Honolulu Church 8 am)
- 31 Sun -Sunday Service (Facebook Live 9 am)

### June, 2020

- 1 Mon -Monthly Service, Tenchi Kane No Kami  
(Facebook Live 7:30 pm)

The Konko Missions in Hawaii will be having a toilet paper and cloth mask distribution to people who are in need of these items. Items will be made available to Honolulu Church (500 care-packs), Waipahu Church (240 care-packs) and Wahiawa Church (240 care-packs) for distribution. Items have been donated by church members in the KMH congregation and an Aloha shirt company, which one of the members have affiliations with. We are very grateful for these generous donations. The Honolulu Church will be handing out the care-packs on Mon, May 11 from 12 noon till 3 pm or when supplies run out. **Wahiawa Church will also set up a booth outside of the church on May 11 from noon to 3 pm.**

### Obituary

In deep sorrow, we announce the passing of the **Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake** of Konko Mission of Waipahu on **May 1, 2020**. She was 86 years and 5 months old. We thank her for her 40 years of service at Konko Mission of Waipahu and the Konko faith community in Hawaii. We will all miss her cheerful presence and loving kindness.



## Honoring the Mitama Spirits

### May

Toshiko Yogo	5/2/2010
Kiyoka Takahashi	5/5/1999
Avelino Roldan	5/7/2017
Rev. Masahiko Yoshino	5/9/2013
Saichi Eguchi	5/9/1997
Rev. Hidejiro Hosaka	5/16/1972
Fernie Furusho	5/26/2001
Hideo Fujimoto	5/26/2005
Hiroshi Katsura	5/26/1959
Takahiko Yano	5/28/2016

*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 page 95 of the publication titled, 「生きる力の贈りもの」 "Ikiruchikara no okurimono" (Message of Enlightenment)*

*A compilation of messages from the 4th Konko-Sama (Rev. Kagamitaro Konko, Spiritual Head of Konkoko Religious Organization)" published in 2001 An English translation is provided by the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano.*

## **Show your gratitude for the elements of blessings received first**

One day, a Head Minister of a local Konko church made a visit to see Konko-Sama IV at the Toritsugi-Mediation Desk. He related to Konko-Sama IV (Kagamitaro Konko), "My eldest daughter underwent a surgery to remove the appendix. But through the procedures, she developed rheumatism. She developed a high fever. She recovered well enough to get discharged from the hospital. To show our gratitude for the recovery of my daughter from her ordeal, we tried to drive our car to the parent church. The car was occupied by the eldest daughter, her husband, the second eldest son and my wife and myself. On our way back from our pilgrimage to the parent church, at an intersection, our car stopped at the red light. The car behind our car didn't stop at the red light and slammed into our car. My wife and the eldest daughter suffered from cervical spine disorders and were hospitalized. Her husband and the second eldest son also suffered from whiplash. They were all discharged later on."

Konko-Sama IV, who listened to the minister responded to him by saying, "You sound like you have prioritized your elements of concerns first and your showing of thanks for the elements of blessings became secondary." After a pause, Konko-Sama IV continued to talk, "All of your expressed elements of concern were based on your heart filled with the elements of anxiety, worry and fear. The elements of anxiety and worry you keep in your heart help aggravate the instability of your heart."

The Founder stated, "A heart that feels compassion is a heart of Kami" (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 74-1). In the original Japanese, the Founder stated, "かわいいと思う心が神じゃ." But excessively extending the heart of compassion for your own child could bring some negative consequences. If your child demands recklessly, "I want to eat my favorite food as much as possible." And if you give him as much as he enjoys the food, he would suffer from stomach disorders that could cause him a great deal of suffering and could die.

In my understanding, you sound like you have prioritized the forty percent of blessings to get fulfilled, despite the fact you have already gotten fulfilled sixty percent of the elements of your concerned matter. You already have fulfilled sixty percent of your concerned matter. You just pray for the fulfillment of the rest of the forty percent. While you do not extend your thanks for the elements of

blessings you already have received, you try to request for the fulfillment of the unattained elements of forty percent.

Suppose if you desperately need 10 million yen. But you can afford 6 million yen on hand. You need the rest of 4 million yen. Your heart is filled with a desperation to get the needed 4 million yen. You already have 6 million yen on hand. You just need additional 4 million yen. What you need to do is to show your gratitude for the 6 million yen on hand. Keeping that heart of gratitude for the fulfillment of 6 million yen, you just pray to get the rest of 4 million yen. You sounded like you didn't show your gratitude for the 6 million yen on hand and worried over the 4 million yen that you want.

Although you said you encountered a car accident, you and your family members have been in the blessed state of being able to get medical attention. You have also been blessed enough to be able to come to this Hiromae worship hall in this manner.

You have been able to cook rice today. You have been blessed enough with good health that allows you to cook rice. In a sense, you can cook rice in blessedness. You can rest to gain your good health in blessedness. We are likely to pursue material success, such as getting rich. But one of the greatest blessings is our able body. When you cook rice, try to say your prayer in gratitude by saying, "In blessedness, I can cook rice, please let the cooking of rice go smoothly without any troubles." When the rice is cooked, try to say your prayer in gratitude, "The rice is ready to be served in blessedness."

When you use your laundry machine, be mindful that you can wash your clothes because of your able body and say a prayer, "Please allow me use the laundry machine." If you finish using the machine, say a prayer of thanks, "In blessedness, I could use the laundry machine."

The third Konko-Sama, Setsutane Konko, always extended his prayer, "No matter how much I have tried to show my thanks for the blessings received, I have never felt compelled in fulfillment for the gratitude I have extended to Kami-Sama. I have always been prompted to extend apologies for the inadequate nature of my expressed thanks to Kami-Sama."

We are the beloved children of Kami-Sama. We are children of Kami-Sama. I always remind myself that I am a child of Kami-Sama. One of my biggest concerns in daily living is to see if I have lived in such a manner that fulfills the heart of Kami-Sama and the heart of my parents.

My mother suffered from chronic arthritis that affected her hand and they became disfigured. But she lived a

fulfilling life till 77 years old. If you keep saying thank you in your daily living, you will live a life free of worries.

You can make a visit to extend your heart of gratitude at your parent church in blessedness. If you try to pursue your faith in exercise of saying thank you in your daily living, your life would be able to live a life in gratitude and get blessed. We are such beings that we would never be able to extend enough gratitude for the greater elements of blessings we receive knowingly or unknowingly.

The core element in pursuit of our faith is showing gratitude for any elements of blessing. Thanksgiving is the foundations of our pursuit of faith, the core element of the Konko faith. You don't have to worry. If you keep the heart of gratitude in pursuit of your faith, you are to get blessed. If you try to pursue your faith in the opposite manner, the blessings will also go the other way."

**Happy Boy's Day! This is the Koinobori currently up at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa!**

