



2022 HCRP Peace Prayer



*By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
Head Minister*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace. I have been involved in this organization from the very beginning of the formation of the group.

The annual Peace Prayer coordinated by HCRP was held on Sunday, October 23 at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii. Because of the pandemic, we have not held the event since 2020. The last event was held in 2019 at the Konko Mission of Honolulu.

This year's theme was "Pieces of Peace" and the speaker was Sr./Dr. Malia Wong. About 80 people responded to attend the function this year. This was by far the greatest turnout we have had. Five people from the Konko faith community attended.

Only a limited number of people show interests in the interfaith community gathering for peace. Most people feel such a meeting would be of no help in prevailing peace. It could be true. Peace prayers have not stopped the military conflicts in the world. Many people are still suffering. This is the reality of the life we live.

In reality, everyday life is a life based on interfaith interactions. When we step out of the house, the people we meet come from different religious backgrounds. When you go to shopping at a nearby grocery store, the customers that shop, the staff that

work are all from different spiritual beliefs. When you go to work, this also holds true. This is especially true in Hawaii where we have a melting pot of different cultures and beliefs.

Ten years ago, the 20th anniversary of HCRP was held at Konko Mission of Honolulu. At that time, Sister Joan Chatfield introduced a conversation that took place with Rev. Koreaki Yano of the Church of Perfect Liberty. They agreed that the HCRP was a unique interfaith community that cannot be found anywhere else in the United States. The speaker, Sister Joan pointed the unique nature of the interfaith community distinctively marked with the spirit of Aloha could partly be attributed to the isolated geographic location of Hawaii. She extended her thoughts and prayers that Hawaii will evolve to become the capital for interfaith dialogue and cooperation.

Rev. Michio Miyake of Konko Church of Tokiwadai in Tokyo came to Hawaii to hold a service of apologies in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Pearl Harbor Attack in 1991. The services were held at Pearl Harbor and at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific at Punchbowl. He used the expression of "Owabi No Saiten" or the Memorial Service held in deep apologies for those people who lost their lives.

After the service, he coordinated with his friends and various people involved in WCRP in Hawaii, such as Risshokoseikai, Gedatsu Church, Church of Perfect Liberty, Buddhist sects, Christian churches and so forth. In 1992, the WCRP Hawaii Chapter was established.

After the 911 attacks in New York, we changed the name of our organization to The Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace, and has been operating locally till this day. HCRP has been in operation for 30 years. It would be rare for an organization like HCRP to continue to exist so long.

One element I noticed about the organization is that we do not use the word "Justice." The world is full of injustice, but it depends on each person's perspective.

“Peace and Justice” is a common phrase and not many people question that expression. In the past, a minister from Japan, Rev. Idei of Risshokoseikai spoke about the use of Justice for our organization. Anything could be justified; look around the world. Those in power take for granted the use of justice for their own sake, but many people have suffered because of imposed justice. It could be an inevitable consequence as we live.

The reason, this interfaith community has continued to exist could be attributed to the fact that we do not use the word “Justice” for the presence of Peace. I am not sure which direction this community would evolve to in the future, but I would like to see people practice their faith sincerely.

The Founder Konko Daijin said, “If there is one true believer in a family, then all of the family members will become believers. If there is one family in a village who truly believes in this faith, all of the villagers will begin to receive divine blessings. Practicing faith is like one seed becoming ten thousand. Therefore, those who imitate faith should sow a good seed. If the seed is bad, it will be a bad start, and it will be difficult to raise no matter how hard you try” (III Jinkyukyogoroku 37).

This message can be adopted to each one of you who practice your own faith. This is what I learned through my 30 years of interactions with different people of different religious and spiritual practices.

Konko-Sama Said...

Everyone is now able to receive the blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami because Konko Daijin received divine blessings first. If there is one true believer in a family, then all of the family members will become believers. If there is one family in a village who truly believes in this faith, all of the villagers will begin to receive divine blessings. Practicing faith is like one seed becoming ten thousand. Therefore, those who initiate faith should sow a good seed. If the seed is bad, it will be a bad start, and it will be difficult to raise no matter how hard you try. (III Jinkyukyogoroku 37)



Honoring the Mitama Spirits

November

Katherine T. Kawaguchi	11/7/2016
David Suyeki Oka	11/8/2006
Rev. Takashi Inagaki	11/9/2004
Ronald Minoru Miyatake	11/14/2000
Chieno Hirota	11/17/2009
Nobuko Yano	11/18/2016
Toshihiko Hosaka	11/20/2008
Crandal Ancog	11/21/2008
Cecilia Asako Soma	11/24/2003
Tei Yoshiiwa	11/24/1973
Yoshitoshi Uyehara	11/25/2000
Rev. Kikue Kodama	11/28/1997



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

Bulletin Board

Church Services for November 2022

- 1 Tue -Monthly Svc Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Svc (11 am)
-Rev. Kiyotaka Yasutake 30th Memorial Svc following the Grand Service
- 11 Fr -Private funeral service (11 am)
- 13 Sun -Monthly Svc for Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)
-Late Rev. Sugako Yoshino Funeral Svc at Honolulu Church (2 pm)
- 15 Tue -KMH 2nd International Yatsunami Gathering on ZOOM (1:30 pm to 3:00 pm)
- 16 Wed -Private ocean ash scattering service (11 am)
- 20 Sun -Konko Church of San Francisco 90th Anniversary (10:30 am)
- 27 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)
-Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 25th Memorial Service (10 am)

December 2022

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

Announcements:

●2nd International Yatsunami Gathering
KMH has organized the 2nd International Gathering in celebration of the day November 15, the Founder Konko Daijin received the Divine Call “Rikkyo Shinden” that designated him to the function of “Toritsugi-Mediation.” Actual day of revelation was October 21, 1859 based on the lunar calendar. November 15 is based on Gregorian calendar.

At Gohonbu (Headquarters Church at Konko Town, Okayama) the annual service called “Rikkyo Kinen Sai” has been held. In the last five or six years, Konkokyo International Center in Tokyo organized a gathering in coordination with the observance of the annual service. But due to the pandemic, the gathering had not been held for two years. KMH responded to the situation and initiated the ZOOM International gathering we named as the International Yatsunami Gathering from 2021. “Yatsunami” refers to the Konkokyo crest with 8-petals. Each wave can be regarded as a local faith community around the world. The primary purpose of the ZOOM gathering is to share the joy and happiness as Konko believers actively engaged in the practice of the Konko faith around the globe. We feature the generational Spiritual Head of the organization reverently referred to as “Konko-Sama,” whose main task is “Toritsugi-Mediation,” the very task Kami designated in the Rikkyo Shinden. KMH, KCNA, Japan and Brazil will be contributing songs, musical presentations and dance. Please join the ZOOM International Yatsunami Gathering by just connect to the site:

ID: 862 3043 3190 Passcode: 829276

●KMH CEOC Meeting on Zoom on Wednesday, 11/9/22 (3 pm)

●The Community Engagement and Outreach Committee initiated the bi-monthly KMH Kyoten study group via Zoom. The main reference book will be “Voice of the Universe.” Please join the study session and deepen your understanding about the messages of the Founder on November 2 and 30 (Wed. from 5 pm to 6 pm)

The Life of the Founder

金光教祖の生涯 瀬戸三喜雄 金光教学研究所 紀要別冊教学叢書 2

The following is an English translation of a book titled, "Konko Kyoso No Shougai" or "The Life of the Founder Konko Daijin" authored by the Rev. Mikio Seto, and was published by the Konkokyo Theological Research Center. The publication was made in 1980. There are many biographies about the life of the Founder Konko Daijin. I would like to introduce this article for your reference in your pursuit of faith. An English translation was provided by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. (Page 72 to 74)
(continued from the previous issue)

(Continued)

Kami tried to have Bunji realize his own relationship with Kami by for quite some time and by using every means possible. But there was no way Bunji could understand Kami’s concern for him. What Kami wanted Bunji to acknowledge was just the opposite of the general concept about the practice of faith. People were guided to avoid any irreverence against Kami through tangible and intangible means. People believed that divine protection could be received only by avoiding any irreverence against the deities they believed.

But Bunji realized he could not get divine protection no matter how fervently he tried to follow the Days and Directions to avoid irreverence against Kami. It could be ironic that the true nature of Kami was revealed after Bunji exhausted all possible ways to avoid irreverence against Kami.

What’s puzzling was how Bunji was able to acknowledge his own irreverence against Kami at the very point he had exhausted all possible ways to avoid irreverence against Kami. In general, it would be impossible for Bunji to acknowledged that he had committed irreverence against Kami. The very reason could be the divine message, “Irreverence to Hyōbi Konjin have been committed during the construction and the house move” (Oboegaki 3-4-5).

Not everyone could ever accept such a divine message seriously and calmly. It could be possible to deny the divine message and avoid such an encounter as a human being. A divine message could become valid only when a person responds; at the same time, that person should acknowledge that human effort alone is not the only way out of a gridlock. Both Kami’s intent and acceptance of the message by Bunji helped to establish a connection between the two. This development seemed to be actualized in corresponding to a sincere and single hearted pursuit of faith displayed by Bunji. It could be a rare and random phenomenon that happened to evolve between the two.

In this manner, a completely new way to get saved was actualized between Kami and Bunji. It was not meaningless that Bunji exhausted every possible way to avoid to commit irreverence against Kami; a new path opened up upon the collapse of all the attempted efforts Bunji meticulously exercised. A new world

with Kami would not have been realized without the impasse Bunji encountered.

In accordance with the revelation from Kami, it seemed that Kami had watched the way of life Bunji lived from a long time ago. Kami was aware that Bunji extended his prayers to the village deities at New Year's Day; the unusual soundings of "Odōji" sacred kettle at a shrine; at the age of 42, he was to succumb to a fever, but was changed to just a throat ailment. Bunji had no idea that Kami-Sama was watching over him all this time and sending messages to him from time to time. But this time Kami-Sama was revealed clearly. Kami made a promise, "Nittenshi blesses you by passing over your head every day and midday. Bunji, I will have you in good health and not be short of rice for the rest of your life" (Oboegaki 3-7-6). Accordingly, Bunji began to regain his good health in May and on May 4, he became well enough to celebrate Boy's Day. That was the first celebration of the Boy's Day for Unojō and the celebration for Bunji's start of a new life.

A careful observation of the development at that time revealed that some of the occurrences could hardly be rationally explained, such as Kami changed Bunji's fatal illness to a mere throat ailment. Should we try to examine the unknown element by the use of today's advanced knowledge of rationality, or try to understand how they lived under that given situation? We would like to take the stand of the latter position rather than find rational explanations. It would be too harsh if our life would be evaluated and examined by means of more advanced methods to be developed in future generations. Likewise, we should be careful we try to examine and evaluate the life of the people in the past by means of today's advanced methods.

It would be possible that divine message revealed through the mouth of Jirō reflected some of the elements of daily interactions with Bunji, such as knowledge about his daily living, and also the knowledge of Jirō who had extensive experience of Shugen-dō practice. Bunji sincerely accepted the words spoken by Jirō as a divine message. His acceptance of the message as Kami's voice helped him to direct to pursue a new spiritual world. The message spoken through the mouth of Jirō sounded true Kami's voice for Bunji.

(To be continued)

Pictures from the 30th Anniversary of Hawaii Peace Prayer at Gedatsu Church of Hawaii 10.23.22



Rev. Yasuhiro Yano and family have been a part of HCRP for all 30 years in blessedness.

