



KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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E-mail: konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com. Also, find us on Facebook. Head minister: Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. Vol. XXIV, No. 10, October 1, 2012

You are cordially invited to attend the
Autumn Grand Ceremony
For Ikigami Konko Daijin
生神金光大神大祭

Date: Saturday, October 13, 2012

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Sermon: Rev. Reiko Yano

Kibimai: Rev. Edna Yano (Wahiawa)

Naorai fellowship dinner will follow. Let's receive the divine arrangements of being able to worship on this very important day.

“Ikigami Konko Daijin-ka” (Emulate the Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin)

By Yasuhiro Yano
Head Minister

We have observed the annual Autumn Memorial Service on Sunday, September 23. We have witnessed a transition of the church congregation to a new generation as we saw families with their children in attendance to the service.

In consideration of the history of the church which has celebrated 72 years of presence in the local community in Wahiawa, ideally speaking, the church congregation should have made a generational transition to the second and third generation of believers. They say thirty-years equals one generation. There is no doubt about this saying. The harsh reality can be too hard to face directly. We have no idea how the church will navigate through into the third and fourth generation of the operation in the future. The same can be true in other local Konko churches and other religions in Hawaii and worldwide.

But it is also a fact we have managed to perpetuate the operation of the church in the last 72 years. Personally, I have been overwhelmed how we were able to survive. The harsh reality is if there are no followers, the church will

close. And the continuation and expansion of the faith community is one of the greatest concerns and prayers throughout of my 35 years of service at this church.

The only conviction both my wife and I have held from the initial stage of our engagement into the operation of the church just 35 years ago on September 28, 1977 was the idea of “*Ujiko wa Kami ga hikiyoseru*” or Kami will help guide the people to the Toritsugi-Mediator. The message can be interpreted in many ways. But personally, I feel I must evolve to become such a Toritsugi-Mediator to whom Kami places trust and sends people to receive guidance.

In the Konkokyo faith community, they place a greater emphasis on the activation of the Toritsugi-Mediation. But the full functional name of the Toritsugi-Mediation is “Ikigami Konko Daijin’s Toritsugi-Mediation.” Toritsugi-Mediation alone will not fulfill the functionality of the Divine-Mediation. Toritsugi-Mediation can be the functional service by Ikigami Konko Daijin which was actualized by the Founder

When I was a teenage boy, I used to hear the message given by the Rev. Hidejiro Hosaka of Konko Church of Kawanoishi, which is my family’s native town church in Ehime. He used to tell us that we need to become an “ikigami” for which he used the expression of “Ikigami Konko Daijin-ka.” I have coined a term “Ikigami Konko Daijinization” for our spiritual transformation to the ideal stage of our faith development. The concept is not limited only to the ministers who provide the service of Toritsugi-Mediation, but can also apply to any believers who have ever established connectedness to the Konkokyo faith tradition.

There shall be a group of core dedicated believers who uphold the concept of “Ikigami Konko Daijin-ka” in the local faith community since we have commemorated over 70 years of operation. When I have witnessed how the family members would respond to the passing of the dedicated family members to the practice of faith, I just have to honestly extend my apologies to Tenchi Kane No Kami for not being able to fulfill the mission I have been bestowed.

I have identified two teachings of the Founder that will support the idea of “Ikigami Konko Daijin-ka” or attain spiritual fulfillment in line with the expectation of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

First of all, “If there is one true believer in the 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. (Gorikai III Jinkyukyogoroku 37)”

The other is the statement of the Founder Konko-Sama, “Few have a heart that Kami can accept. Those whose hearts can be accepted by Kami will be blessed with good health, wealth, and wisdom for three generations, resulting in a strong family lineage. Those whose hearts are not accepted by Kami may have wealth as well as wisdom, but will get sick. Those who have wisdom and good health will lose their wealth. If they do not lose their wealth, their beloved children will die, leaving no heirs. Since these people are not aware of Kami’s blessings, they are always lacking one thing or another. If you practice faith and understand Kami’s blessings, you will live a peaceful and stable life. You will have descendants and gain wealth. You will receive divine blessings from year to year, and then from generation to generation” (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 78).

I do not care much about the physical size of the church premises, but I do want to witness the growth of the faith community who uphold the concept of “Ikigami Konko Daijin-ka.”

Konko-Sama Says . . .

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Bulletin Board

H.C.R.P.

The Hawai‘i Conference of Religions for Peace (HCRP) cordially invites you to the **20th Anniversary PEACE PRAYER Celebration**.

WHEN: Sunday, October 28, 2012 at 4:00 P. M.

WHERE: Konkō Mission of Honolulu

THEME: “Peace” – Appreciation of Mutual Interdependence in the Universe

KEYNOTE SPEECH: Sister Joan Chatfield, M.M., Ph.D.

The Rev. Edna Yano will perform Kibimai sacred dance at the opening session of the conference. Dinner will be served and the Peace Cup will also be displaced. Please join us in celebrating this auspicious interfaith function together.

The Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace will hold its regular monthly meeting on Monday, October 8 at the Gedatsu Church at 1:30 p.m.

Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital

The monthly volunteer activity at the same facility will be held on Friday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. Your participation to the program will be very much appreciated.

KMH Board of Trustees Meeting

The regular KMH Board of Trustees Meeting will be held at the Konko Mission of Honolulu on Saturday, October 20 at 10:30 a.m.

Grand Services

Sun 10/7-Honolulu Church at 11:00 a.m.

Sat 10/13-Wahiawa Church at 6:30 p.m.

Sun 10/14-Waipahu Church at 11:00 a.m.

Sun 11/11-Hilo Church at 11:00 a.m.

Sun 11/18-Wailuku Church at 11:00 a.m. 20th Memorial Service for the late Rev. Kiyotaka Yasutake will also be observed concurrently.

Wahiawa Church Mini-Bazaar

We will hold a church mini-bazaar on Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Some white elephant items and foods will be sold.

Honoring Mitama Spirits

October

Shizue Yamamoto	10/6/2008
Hiromi Ishii	10/4/2003
Richard Mankichi Hirota	10/8/1990
Founder Konko Daijin	10/10/1883
Henry Yoshiichi Uyehara	10/10/2007
Francis Toshiji Suwa	10/12/1996
Saku Hasuo	10/12/1996
Isamu Tokumoto	10/14/1995
Pasqualine Webber	10/21/2010
Kazuyoshi Kidani	10/5/ 2006

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 followings 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 Matsutaro Kōsaka contributed the insightful articles. The translation is provided by Yasuhiro Yano. (Reference pages 22, 23 and 24)

No. 22 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. (II Yamamoto Sadajiro 3 Kyoten pages 715-716)

Kami sees all good and bad things

How would you respond to the statement, “Kami sees all good and bad things that are reflected in the mirrors?”

The Rev. Sadajiro Yamamoto who received this quoted message from the Founder once became puzzled at a story share by his father. When his father met the Founder for the first time, there should have been no way for the Founder to know how the Yamamoto residence looks like, but he depicted the exact features of his house as if he had once made a visit. In corresponding to this unreal visual phenomenon, the Founder explained, “when I close my eyes and pray, I become able to see the surroundings of the person’s home” (I Yamamoto Sadajiro 2-3). Because he had this knowledge about the visual power of the Founder, the Rev. Yamamoto might have accepted the message forwarded without any trace of doubt.

The Founder firmly stated, “You must practice faith and have a sincere heart because Kami knows all things.” The statement sounds so profound.

We have been consciously aware of how we continue to get blessed through our engagement in the practice of faith. But just try to visualize that Kami sees all images developed in our hearts through a coupled mirror. Sometimes we may smile while holding grudge and hatred toward the other person. At some occasion, we may exhibit our gesture of true sincerity in our belief in Kami while having little trust in Kami and hold some wrongs that can be totally offensive and irreverent in the eyes of Kami. Witnessing our true nature in this manner can be very overwhelming for us, and we may be filled with a sense of extreme shame and guilt.

We have taken our everyday life for granted only because we have no way of knowing Kami has been watching over us. But the truth is Kami actually sees all good and bad things. We should learn to be serious in pursuit of the faith and develop a true sincere heart.

No. 23—The easiest way to realize how Tenchi Kane No Kami protects us is by putting your hand on your belly during the hottest of summer. You’ll find your belly to be cool. Through Kami’s protection, you are able to work in the heat. And during the coldest of winter, Kami gives your bodies warmth, enabling you to keep living. In this way, kami protects us. Kami protects us day and night, throughout the seasons, every moment that we breathe. (I Yamamoto Sadajiro 3-1, 2 Kyoten page 363)

Realizing how Tenchi Kane No Kami protects us

This message was also shared by the Rev. Sadajiro Yamamoto. His initial pilgrimage to see the Founder was in 1876 at the age of 22. He continued to see the Founder till the age of 27. Many teachings shared by the Rev. Yamamoto show some distinctive character of rationality, which could be the reflection of the Rev. Yamamoto who was young and held a strong intellectual curiosity.

The quoted message shows that easiest way to appreciate the work of Tenchi Kane No Kami is to extend our insightful thoughts for our own bodily functions.

During the peak of hot weather during summer, you are working hard while experiencing streaming sweat from head to toe in the field. But when you place your hand over the belly, you will find the surface of the belly is actually cooler than the rest of the body. You may wonder why the body works in such a manner. What if both the belly and the internal organs built up excessive heat? The whole body would be affected negatively. Then you will learn to appreciate that a cooler belly works to keep the body from malfunctioning.

During the coldest day in winter, your hands and feet experience numbing coldness. If the internal organs also turn to cold, the whole body will cease to function as well. You will learn to appreciate the wondrous work of the body

The same applies to the breathing function as well. We breathe during day time as well as during sleep at night without much conscious awareness. We should appreciate the wondrous work of the breathing function that takes place.

Beyond our conscious awareness and perceptions, there exist some life-sustaining forces. When you become aware of the presence of the wondrous life-sustaining forces, and try to extend your appreciative thoughts, you have already

reached to the entrance to learn to further your appreciation for the wondrous work of Tenchi Kane No Kami.

No. 24—Think about how birds and animals survive, and you will understand the blessings of Kami. In winter, they don't put on anything extra; and in summer, they don't take off anything. Kami raises them without any problems. When cows or other animals give birth, the calf is not warmed by its mother, yet it grows into a large cow. Look at trees. They start from two barely visible leaves and grow without any special care. They grow into towering trees and benefit the world. People are blessed with wood for heating. If you think about this, you will understand the blessings of Kami. Realize the truth about things and practice faith. (II Yamamoto Sadajiro 5-1, 2 Kyoten page 716)

Appreciation of the blessings of Kami

In the same line of subject with the previous page, the Founder showed the Rev. Sadajiro Yamamoto how he could learn to appreciate the blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami. The Rev. Yamamoto once engaged in farming like the Founder had experienced many things in common in reference to the practice of farming with the Founder. The Rev. Yamamoto had common perspectives for many plants and animals in the field that could be shared with the Founder.

At first, the Founder introduced his insightful perception about the birds and other animals that could survive the cold winter condition without putting on anything extra and during the hot living condition in summer they don't take off anything extra. On the other hand, we try to cope with heat and cold living conditions by changing our wardrobe in corresponding to the given circumstance. It may be natural for us to conceive that we live on our own power in this respect. But when we extend our thoughts for the birds and other animals that try to cope with cold and hot conditions differently from us, we may learn to appreciate that there could be some force that helps them to survive in severe weather conditions.

The same can apply to the shelters and foods of the living creatures. Unlike people, they don't have any architectural housing complex and do not get foods in the same manner as we do. But they get all the needed life-sustaining elements from their living environment. When we try to extend our thoughts for the way the animals sustain their lives, we can identify some life-sustaining elements embraced by Heaven and Earth.

The Founder's insightful perception was not only given to the living creatures, but also given to plants in the fields as well. He identified the life-sustaining work of Heaven and Earth in the seedling of a plant which grew up to a towering tree. We see the wondrous work of Tenchi Kane No Kami in every step of the growth of a seed, which

germinates, establishes a root system, and develops a main trunk, branches and leaves; bears flowers and fruits which also reproduce the seeds in a cyclical manner.

To sustain a life cannot be separated from the blessings of Heaven and Earth.