



# KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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E-mail: [konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com](mailto:konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com) Also, find us on Facebook. Head minister: Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. Vol. XXIX, No. 10, October 1, 2017

## You are cordially invited to attend the Autumn Grand Ceremony

**Date:** Friday, October 13, 2017

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Place:** Konko Mission of Wahiawa

**Speech:** Nicholas Jun Furusho  
Naorai fellowship dinner will follow.



Please try to make every effort to attend this vital festival held in appreciation of the infinite blessings we have enjoyed from Tenchi Kane No Kami in person and on time.

*\*Grand Ceremony Clean-up: 10/7 @8:00 am*

*\*Naorai dinner prep: 10/13 @9:00 am.*

## Awareness of blessings of Heaven and Earth

*By Yasuhiro Yano*

What I would like to witness in the faith community is the actualization and spreading of the concept of “Shinjin wa Shinjin de Kangaeru” or “Think faith to practice faith.”

The reason why the Founder Konko Daijin became actualized could be summed up in the message revealed by Our Principle Parent of the Universe or Tenchi Kane No Kami.

The Founder received a divine revelation from Tenchi Kane No Kami, Our Divine Parent of the Universe, “Early in the morning of October 14, (November 24), Kami imparted, ‘Those who have faith should not worry about the unexpected. 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 county, without exception’” (Oshirasegato Oboe-cho 26-22).

The message was given to the Founder just one year prior to his departure in 1883. Lately for some reason, the message stuck into my mind, and I have tried to figure out the reason. For 27 years, the Founder engaged in his divine mission of saving people through the work of divinely designated work of Toritsugi Divine-Mediation. This happened in corresponding to the divine request made through the message of the “Rikkyo Shinden” bestowed to the Founder and His Family on October 21, 1859. The primary function of Toritsugi Divine-Mediation is established connectedness between the people who seek help and Our Divine Parent of the Universe. The “Rikkyo Shinden” states, “There are many people like yourself, who have sincere faith in kamis, but still have many problems. Help the people by performing toritsugi. This will help Kami and save people. Man exists because of Kami, and Kami exists because of man. Thus, Kami supports man as

Kami’s child, and man supports Kami as his parent. There will be eternal prosperity through aiyo kakeyo, mutual interdependency.” I assume the Founder had saved thousands of people as Principal Toritsugi Divine-Mediator during his 27 years of dedicated services. During the course of his services of helping, saving and guiding “Taigan no Ujiko” or the believers who were in need of help and sought help through divine interventions, the Founder could have witnessed the emergence of “Konko Daijin born” among those people who came to seek help. The Rev. Juemon Saito who initiated his missionary work at Kasaoka was granted the name of Konko Daijin and several other ministers appear to have reached the state of “Konko Daijin.” There could have been many other ministers who had evolved to the state of “Konko Daijin” not only during the years while the Founder was alive. Actually, the message of “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” was actualized through those dedicated believers and ministers.

Even those who have engaged in pursuit of the Konko faith for so long would be puzzled about the message the Founder received just one year before his passing. In my understanding, Tenchi Kane No Kami might try to convince the Founder that helping people to fulfill the needs of “Taigan no Ujiko” or the believers who were in need of help and sought help through divine interventions was not enough. Tenchi Kane No Kami urged the need to get fulfilled His endeavor of emergence of as many “Konko Daijin” who would help the population in the world who are in the state of “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 county, without exception” (Oshirasegato Oboe-cho 26-22).

As Konko believers, being aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth which enable us to live shall be the primary goal in pursuit of the faith. Who would ever evolve to become “Konko Daijin?” Only Konko believers can evolve to the state of “Konko Daijin.” Actualization of “Konko Daijin” can be the ultimate fulfillment of divine endeavor. Although the state of “Konko Daijin” may seem impossible, we can start from the very beginning of becoming aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth. We can start expressing thanks for any elements in life that sustains our lives in one way or another.

For the monthly services for Tenchi Kane No Kami and Ikigami Konko Daijin and Mitama Spirits, I always extend my prayers for any basic elements in life, such as the air we breathe constantly, the foods we enjoy, the water we use, drink, the freedom of bodily functions and abilities, the land we live on, the clothes we wear, the houses we live in, the families we perpetuate, minerals of all sorts, the sunlight, the rains and the list goes on and on. Without being aware of any of these elements we may be taking for granted the blessings of Heaven and Earth. As we continue to get engaged in the practice of faith and become exposed to faith-

oriented perspectives, we are able to identify as many elements of blessings we enjoy from Tenchi Kane No Kami.

If we can appreciate the blessed nature of foods we enjoy, we may learn to appreciate the blessings of foods. The Founder said that all foods are provided to sustain our lives. Then we cannot be discriminatory when we consume them. We are constantly expressing such and such food elements are beneficial or harmful depending on one's discretion. Some people refrain from eating certain foods depending on their conviction for the food preferences or religious restrictions. But that discriminatory attitude towards the food can be the state of not being aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth which enable people to live. The Founder stated, "Food can be beneficial or poisonous depending on your own heart."

The Fourth Konko-Sama, the late Rev. Kagamitaro Konko expressed his awareness of blessings of Heaven and Earth in such a simple, yet profound manner. He used the expression of "sewani naru" or being helped and benefited in any way for the elements of blessing found in daily life. He thanked the pair of glasses he put on, the pen he wrote with, the sheet of paper he wrote on, the desk and chairs, the bodily functions of being able to move freely and so forth.

We will be observing the annual Grand Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa on Friday, October 13 at 6:30 p.m. The service is to celebrate the eternal presence and work of Ikigami Konko Daijin who was wholly aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth and expressed his grand gratitude to Tenchi Kane No Kami. It is vital for Konko believers to attend in person and celebrate our engagement in the practice of faith.

This time, Nicholas Furusho, who graduated from high school in May and experienced two-months of "Konko way of life emergence program at the Konko Church of Amagi", will share some of his experiences. The Rev. Edna Matsuoka will also follow up his presentation.

### **Konko-Sama Says . . .**

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. (Oshirasegote Obecho 26-22-2, 3)

### **Bulletin Board**

#### **Main Services for October 2017**

- 1 Sun -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (9 am)
- 8 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
- 13 Fri -**Autumn Grand Service (6:30 pm)**
- 15 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Waipahu Church Grand Service (11 am)
- 22 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)  
-24<sup>th</sup> Annual HCRP Peace Prayer at Gedatsu Church (4 pm)
- 29 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)

#### **November 2017**

- 1 Wed -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 5 Sat -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Wailuku Church Grand Service/25<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service for Rev. Kiyotaka Yasutake (11 am)

#### **Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace**

The HCRP will conduct the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Interfaith Community Peace Prayer on Sunday, October 22, 2017 at Gedatsu Church of Hawaii from 4:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. This year's theme for the gathering is "Water is Life—Expressing Gratitude to it in daily life." The guest speaker is Mr. Chris Cramer, president of Manualua Fishpond Heritage Center. The theme is closely related to the Konko faith tradition and universally practiced. The Rev. Edna Kazuko Matsuoka will offer a prayer this time. And the Peace Cups we painted will also be displayed at the site. Please join this unique interfaith function and enjoy sharing thoughts of different perspectives about the practice of faith. If you are interested to attend the program, please contact the Rev. Yasuhiro Yano at 621-6667 or [konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com](mailto:konkowahiawa207@yahoo.com).

#### **Volunteer Activity**

The regular monthly visit to the Long-Term Care Facility at Wahiawa General Hospital will be made on Friday, October 20, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.

#### **KMH Calendar**

On October 7 (Sat), "Okage wa waga kokoro ni ari" will be aired at KIKU TV from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

### **Honoring the Mitama Spirits**

#### **October**

Janet Kimie Faggard	10/3/2012
Hiromi Ishii	10/4/2003
Shizue Yamamoto	10/6/2008
Richard Mankichi Hirota	10/8/1990
Sangwoo Shim	10/09/1982
Henry Yoshiichi Uyehara	10/10/2007
Founder Konko Daijin	10/10/1883
Saku Hasuo	10/12/1996
Francis Toshiji Suwa	10/12/1996
Isamu Tokumoto	10/14/1995
Pasqualine Webber	10/21/2010
Kazuyoshi Kidani	10/2006
Donald Takeshi Katsura	10/31/1953
Edith Hisayo Tamabayashi	10/31/2014

*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 320, 321 and 322)*

**No. 320: If you practice faith, you should not say bad things even idly. What you say will come true. You should be careful when you scold your children. You should not scold them by telling them that they are fools or that they should not do such stupid things. You should tell them they are good and, because of this, should not do bad things. Children will be good and will not do bad things when they think on their own. However, if they have been told that they are fools, they will do bad things because they think they are fools. When they don't listen to you after all your efforts, pinch their bottoms without verbally chastising them.**

*(III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 164 Kyoten page 873)*

### **Praise and teach your children about the faith practice**

We may encounter such an occasion that friendly church members enjoy chatting happily and express something odd jokingly that could hurt relationships. The Founder implied that we should refrain from making any negatively inclined and carefree remarks that could offend others by thinking that Kami-Sama is always listening to whatever thoughts we might express.

When we deal with our own child who would commit something wrong, we are likely to get upset and emotionally overwhelmed and scold them by shouting profanity. The child could get confused by the act of senseless parenting. They could develop ill thoughts against his parents and develop an inferior complex. The news of a child hitting his own parents using a metal baseball bat developed lately could be one of the consequences of a troubled parent and child relationship.

If the parents respond to a troubled child in such a manner as saying, "You are a good boy. I believe you would not do such a bad thing again." The child may respond to such a considerate parent by disciplining himself to behave.

I believe the Founder was an excellent family-oriented educator as well as an effective child psychologist.

The wife of the Rev. Norio Sato, the founding minister of Konko Church of Geibi, compiled a notebook titled, "Kawaii Kodomo ni Shinjin no shitsuke" or "An introduction of the Konko faith to the young." In the

writing, she emphasized the importance of taking care of each and every child as a beloved child of Kami-Sama.

Here is an interesting episode about the wife of the Third Konko-Sama. At one occasion, one of the children behaved badly. She didn't verbally scold the child, but held the hand of the child and gently told him, "I will keep your hand in hiding for a while."

When dealing with reckless behaviors of a child, the parent should never respond to utter dirty words of blaming. The Founder's message, "When they don't listen to you after all your efforts, pinch their bottoms without verbally chastising them" implies, the parents should not scold them openly, but deal with the situation calmly. "Pinching their bottoms" does not mean much but implies a discreet and calm response to such an encounter.

**No. 321: Don't raise children by scolding them constantly. If you do so, they will grow up to lead loose lives. Raising the in constant fear will also make them cowards.** *(I Ichimura Mitsugoro 2-43 Kyoten page 231)*

### **Causes of difficult child rearing**

We sometimes witness parents who complain about their children who pursue pleasures or become indecisive in their lives. But they are just the reflection of the parents themselves. The Founder had never learned educational theories or psychologies at college, but he learned and practice to take care of his own children based on his spiritual convictions.

For parents, it would be easy to tame children by their own authoritative powers to behave without disruptions. But the children suffer from disturbing emotional storms in their heart.

When we take a close look at infants, they are constantly moving their bodies except when they are in deep sleep. They are conditioned to grow by moving their bodies constantly. If the parents restrict the freedom of movements of the children in consideration of their own conveniences, they would develop frustrations and may cause troubles while the parents are not in presence.

If the child rebels against parents, it would be too late for the parents to correct the situation. The parents

should be well aware of how they should get engaged in rearing their own children.

We also witness parents who use extreme foul and threatening languages in disciplining their children. The children become so frightened that they respond to cling onto the abusive parents in fear of their own lives. Some terrible parents take advantage of the trick and use it as a tool to discipline their children.

It is said that if the religious sects employ the tactics of fear for the people, they could attract many adherents. If the parents use the same fear-oriented tactics in raising their own children, they would see the due consequence that the children who seem to behave well could actually become shiftless, passive and cowardly people.

Parents should not fail in raising their children in disregard of the nature of beloved children of Kami.

**No. 322: If you hit your own head instead of your child's, there will be immediate divine blessings.**

*(I Shimamura Hachitaro 22 Kyoten page 330)*

### Hit your own head instead of your child's

If you are a parent, you may identify elements of yourself in your children in their talk and demeanors. When you encounter a situation in which you have to deal with your children who do not listen to you or committed some wrongs, you can find the elements of yourself who behaved in the same manner in the past. And you may remember how you interacted with your parents in the past.

It is quite natural that your children are like yourself. When you have to deal with a situation in which you have to discipline your children for the wrongs, you may hesitate to discipline them physically because you may feel pity for them. While you discipline your children, may feel like you are scolding yourselves.

The Founder pointed out that if we have developed understanding about this aspect of parent and child relationship, we are to get blessings promptly.

What blessing are we going to get? We can appreciate the endurance of the parental love for raising ourselves.

This heart of appreciation to the work of parents is the blessing we can enjoy.

The blessing actualized by the parents can be reflected upon the children. Here is an interesting episode. There was a believer named Masao Kubota at Konko Church of Hita in Oita Prefecture. He was admitted to enroll at a prestigious college called Ooita Shihaan. One of those days, he accompanied his mother to attend church. On their way home, he lectured his mother, "Even in the world of wild animals, the parents take care of their offspring. But only in the human world, the children take care of their parents. That is the reason why we teach the principle of "Oya-koukou" at school." In responding to him, mother said, "You are right. I only think about my parents back at my native town just a few times a year, but I have never spent a day without thinking about you." Masao-san was overwhelmed with the expressed mother's word and resolved to get engaged in the practice of Konko faith thereafter. Later, he served as "Shintosoudai" or the official lay leader in the faith community.



*The Oahu Konkokyo Chorus Group held its 20<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary at the Honolulu Church on September 4<sup>th</sup>. 35 people gathered. The Konkokyo Women's Group headed by Mrs. Wanda Tamashiro extended their support. Thank you very much!*



*On September 16, thirty-two volunteers came out to help with the Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace Community Clean-up at the Kakaoko Waterfront Park. Mahalo for your help. It was a great success!*