



# KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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**Autumn Grand Service**  
**For our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin**  
**On Saturday, October 13, 2018**  
**At 6:30 p.m.**  
**Naorai fellowship diner will follow**

**Please join us to celebrate our blessed lives actualized through the eternal work of Ikigami Konko Daijin. Your presence is the most pure form of gratitude you could forward to the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin.**

## “Aien Kien” (相縁機縁)

### A fortunate encounter and a twist of fate

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

Today, September 27 is the 41<sup>st</sup> anniversary of our arrival to Hawaii for our missionary work. One day prior to our move to our destination, Konko Mission of Wahiawa, the late Rev. Kikue Kodama made an arrangement to stay overnight at the Honolulu Church. We left the Konko Church of Amagi on September 24, 1977, one day after our wedding which was held at the Amagi church. Both my wife and I were 26 years old. From time to time, I have contemplated over our missionary work. How should we spread the faith in Hawaii, at Konko Mission of Wahiawa? The founding minister, the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi, passed away five years prior to our arrival. The church needed a resident minister to sustain the operation of the church that celebrated 37 years of presence in Wahiawa. If the Rev. Haruko Takahashi did not engage in her missionary work in Wahiawa, both my wife and I would not be serving in Hawaii.

The Rev. Haruko Takahashi was initiated into the Konko faith through one fortunate encounter when she was young. It would be better to learn how she got initiated into the Konko faith and became ordained as Konko minister. The Rev. Haruko Takahashi expressed her eventualities in “Futabanotsudo” (A publication issued in commemoration of graduation from the Konkokyo Kokyusho Seminary, 1934)

*By Rev. Haruko Takahashi*

I was born in Kohala located in the Island of Hawaii, the United States of America (on April 10, 1910). I

had a visual disorder from childhood. The doctor told me that when I reach the age of 15 to 16, I had to undergo a surgery to correct my eyesight. I suffered from nearsightedness and cross-eyes. My eyes looked just like the bulging eyes of a dead fish. When I tried to see things or read books, I had to bring my face so close to the items. When I enrolled at school, I related my visual disorder to my instructors. They provided special attention and care for my needs. When I extended my thoughts for the people who showed great concerns and sympathies to me, I always felt depressed and complained. I feel overwhelmed with the thoughts of suicide every day till the age of 15 because of the situation.

At the age of 16, I went to see an eye doctor. He told me that he could not operate on my eyes. If my eyes were operated on my condition could worsen. He advised me that the cause of my defects should be identified first and find ways to correct them. Through extensive examination, the doctor found out that I also had some irregularities in my nose and tonsils. A corrective surgery was done to the area, and the doctor gave me shots for one month. But there was little improvement at all. The only way I could cope with the situation was to hide my defects by putting on eyeglasses.

At the age of 17, I took a sewing class. Since I could hardly advance my skills, I tried to extend my earnest prayers for my visual improvement through practicing faith in Oyakushi-Sama single-heartedly. My parents who were also concerned about me joined me in extending prayers for the deity. Also, I tried to avoid all fish and meat for about one year. I could only observe my own eating habit at my residence in privacy. When I was invited for a meal at the house of my sewing instructor, she noticed my strange eating habits of avoiding fish and meat and asked me why I was following such dietary restrictions. I revealed that it was for the purpose of healing my visual disorder through faith involvement of Odaishi-Sama and Oyakushi-Sama. Then she advised me by saying, “Would you mind to get involved in the religion I practice?” I asked her, “What kind of religion is it?” She told me, “I believe in the Konkokyo religion which worships both Tenchi Kane no Kami and Ikigami Konko Daijin.” She also shared with me many blessed episodes of her involvement in the religious practice.

That evening, she took me to the Konko Mission of Honolulu. I believe it was a deep divine arrangement for me. On that particular evening, the monthly service was in progress, and the minister was delivering a sermon. While I was listening to him, I felt I understood that I had committed grave irreverence against Kami without my knowledge in the past. I felt overwhelmed with the feeling of extending my apologies for all the wrongs I had committed unknowingly. The following day, I attended church and listened to the minister. I was in shock and awe for the great divine work of the earth which I had not been aware of till that moment in life. At that moment, I felt a ray of the sunlight penetrate into my eyes. From that day on, my vision improved significantly. I was overwhelmed with the feeling of joy, happiness and gratefulness for the apparent blessing and shed tears.

In one week, my vision returned to normal. I was liberated from my visual disorder. I wrote this matter to my parents. They didn't really believe me at first. But on one occasion, I had an opportunity to travel (to the Big Island) and returned home. The moment they witnessed me, they were overwhelmed with happiness and shed tears in gratefulness. I shared many blessed episodes of the Konko faith involvement with my family members. Then my family members all understood the grateful nature of the faith and have joined me in the practice of the faith together. Through such great blessings I have enjoyed, I became overwhelmed with the feeling of gratitude and this prompted me to enroll myself to the Konkokyo Kokyusho Seminary in this manner. It was through deep divine arrangement.

A fortunate encounter with Ms. Kusunoki, the sewing teacher occurred only because the Rev. Haruko Takahashi displayed strange eating habit. If Ms. Kusunoki was not a Konko believer and didn't care about the eating habit of the Rev. Takahashi, there could be no fortunate encounter for the Rev. Takahashi to initiate herself into the Konko faith.

We say "Aien Kien" (相縁機縁) or a fortunate encounter and a twist of fate in the Konko faith community. We continue to live in a chain of eventualities from the time of conception to our departure from this physical world. I believe every believer is initiated in the practice of faith through the eventualities of "aien kien" or a fortunate encounter and a twist of fate. In the last 41 years of our missionary work, I have witnessed many people come and go in the faith community. One of the great ministers in Japan said that what he did the first

thing in the morning was to extend thanks for his introduction to the Konko faith. The forth Konko-Sama, the late Rev. Kagamitaro Konko used to say, "We get engaged in the practice of faith because of the Founder, Konko Daijin."

Let us join to celebrate the annual Grand Service for Ikigami Konko Daijin to be observed on Saturday, October 13, 2018. The birthday of the Founder was September 29, 1814. This year marks the 204<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Founder.

## 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. Tenchi Kane no Kami has sent Ikigami Konko Daijin to provide blessings and teachings so that mankind may prosper. Kami is Kami because of man, and man is man because of Kami. Both are fulfilled through this mutual relationship (Konko Kyoso Gorikai No. 3 in Kyoten Gorikai III).

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. The whole world is Tenchi Kane No Kami's hiromae (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 6).



## Bulletin Board

### Monthly Services for October 2018

- 1 Mon -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 7 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
- 13 Sat -Autumn Grand Service (6:30 pm)
- 14 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Waipahu Church Grand Service (11 am)
- 21 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)  
-25<sup>th</sup> HCRP Peace Prayer at Honolulu Church (4 pm)
- 28 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)  
-Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)

### November 2018

- 1 Thur -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 3 Sun -Mini Bazaar (10 am to 2 pm)

### Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace

The 25<sup>th</sup> Interfaith Peace Prayer organized by HCRP and co-sponsored by The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii will be held on Sunday, October 21, 2018 at Konko Mission of Honolulu at 4:00 p.m. This year's theme is: "Being Mindful and Appreciative of Food's Life Force." Please join the meeting and find out diversity of faith traditions. Dinner and refreshments will be served. Please bring non-perishable food items. They will be donated to the Institute for Human Services and Holomua Na 'Ohana.

## Volunteer Activity

The regular monthly visit to the Wahiawa General Hospital Long-Term Care Facility will be made on Friday, October 19, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

## Honoring the Mitama Spirits

### October

Janet Kimie Faggard	10/3/2012
Hiroimi Ishii	10/4/2003
Shizue Yamamoto	10/6/2008
Richard Mankichi Hirota	10/8/1990
Sangwoo Shim	10/09/1982
<b>Founder Konko Daijin</b>	<b>10/10/1883</b>
Henry Yoshiichi Uyehara	10/10/2007
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 356,357and 358)*

**No. 356: If Konko Daijin leaves his place, people may meet unfortunate injuries. Konko Daijin prays for people to receive divine blessings and to not meet misfortune. So, there is no time to go out.** (II Sakane Risaburo 3-3 Kyoten page 557)

### The vital place of Toritsugi-Mediation

The message shows his conviction for his given task at the Toritsugi-Mediation Desk. What he did and what thoughts he held while serving at the divinely designated place are clearly shown.

The quoted message is a partial excerpt from the original message that goes, “From Otoshima, I used to go to Konko-Sama’s Hiromae between midnight and about four in the morning for three years. During that time, Konko-Sama served

at the kekkai mediation seat every night. One night, I suggested, ‘Ikigami-Sama, the moon is beautiful tonight. How about going out to see it? You are always sitting there and upholding your duties. But since it’s past midnight, there shouldn’t be any worshippers besides myself. Why don’t you go out and see the moon? It will be refreshing.’ Konko-Sama replied, ‘Sakane-san, if I leave my place, people may meet unfortunate injuries. When I pray for people to receive divine blessings and to not meet misfortune, there is no time to go out’” (II Sakane Risaburo 3).

Based on this legendary story, the ministers try to emulate the Founder in serving at the Toritsugi-Mediation in reminding themselves by saying, “The place of Toritsugi-Mediation shall always be occupied or in Japanese ‘取次に暇なし.’”

The Toritsugi-Mediator should be mindful in serving at the designated place in such a manner that regardless of the presence of visitors in the worship hall, he shall try to keep extending his prayers for the believers who conveyed their issues to get resolved. In place of the believers, the minister shall extend his prayers of appreciation for the blessings received, extend apologies for any irreverence and offenses committed unintentionally and ask for the dissolution of the issues they have to deal with. The ministers should identify the true nature of the messages forwarded to the place of Toritsugi-Mediation and convey the messages to Kami-Sama. They also need to identify any other elements that could affect the well being of the believers.

What could be much vital is that the Toritsugi-Mediator should earn enough spiritual powers to get actualize the blessings need for the believers through his work. Such spiritual powers can only be earned through the gained trust from Kami-Sama for their day-to-day engagement in his dedicated work as Toritsugi-Mediator who are always attentive in fulfilling his duties.

To attain fulfilling results for any of our work at jobs, we may have to work hard. As the Founder stated, the ministers who serve at the designated place of Toritsugi-Mediation seat without leaving the spot, play a vital role.

**No. 357: Konko-Sama always prayed, “Even if I were punished and my body was torn limb from limb, or if I were publicly exposed in villages and at street corners, or if my house was covered with grass, I wouldn’t mind at all. When the people of the world pray to Ikigami Konko Daijin with a sincere and single-heart, please fulfill whatever requests they have.”** (II Unknown 7 Kyoten page 266)

### Sacrificed life for the sake of saving people

The message shows the absolute conviction of the Founder who wouldn’t mind to sacrifice himself and the life of the family in fulfillment of saving people through the work of Toritsugi-Mediation. The Founder might have held this sort of conviction at all times, but this quoted message was one of the rare instances that revealed his inner thoughts.

There have been many extraordinary individuals, especially, religious leaders who expressed their absolute conviction that they wouldn't mind for their own death and sacrifices in responding to the divine calls. Even for the instance of the Founder, we may become impressed by his expressed determination. But we should learn to appreciate the background elements why the Founder reached to such a state of mind. The Founder responded to a call that was so overwhelming that he wouldn't mind to sacrifice himself and the life of the family members. The quoted message preserved by an individual whose name was unknown identified the call given to the Founder. The Founder always prayed, "Even if I were punished and my body was torn limb from limb, or if I were publicly exposed in villages and at street corners, or if my house was covered with grass, I wouldn't mind at all. When the people of the world pray to Ikigami Konko Daijin with a sincere and single-heart, please fulfill whatever requests they have." We can identify three elements in his extended prayer.

First, the Founder's prayer was broad. He prayed for all people who extended whatever wishes. He tried to listen to all people without discrimination. He tried to listen to all problems without holding prejudice.

Second, the Founder's prayer was easy to follow. The only element the believers should do is to pray with a sincere and single-heart.

Third, even those people who could be labeled as hopeless and helpless could be saved through the work of Ikigami Konko Daijin for sure.

It is amazing in finding out the great nature of Toritsugi-Mediation the Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin perpetuated.

**No. 358: I asked, "Konko-Sama, what will happen to this Faith after you are gone?" He answered, "You need not worry. Only my physical form will be gone. Having a physical body makes it difficult for me to see people's suffering in the world. When my body is gone, I can go to where I am requested and save people."**

*(II Karahi Tsunezo 4-2 Kyoten page 486)*

### **Call my name; I will be there to respond.**

The eternal work of Toritsugi-Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin after his passing will be discussed in the following four pages, including this page.

The quoted message is also a partial excerpt from the original message that goes, "In August 1883, after docking my boat at Onomichi, I went to Konko-Sama's Hiromae. After kindly giving many teachings, he said, 'Karahi Tsunezo of Suo Province, if I, Konko Daijin, complete a hundred days of faith training, I will become a kami after passing away. I am depending on you to spread the Faith in the thirty-three provinces in the west.' These words struck my heart, and without realizing what I was saying, I asked 'Konko-Sama, what will happen to this Faith after you are gone?' He

answered, 'You need not worry. Only my physical form will be gone. Having a physical body makes it difficult for me to see people's suffering in the world. When my body is gone, I can go to where I am requested and save people.'"

As for the death of the Founder, many people believed that he will never die because of his virtue as an "ikigami" or a living kami. Tsunezo Karahi was also one of them. When he heard the expressed thought by the Founder, he was so surprised and confused.

The Founder denied the expressed worries of Tsunezo and convinced him to be at ease by firmly stating, "You need not worry. Only my physical form will be gone. Having a physical body makes it difficult for me to see people's suffering in the world. When my body is gone, I can go to where I am requested and save people."

There have been many great figures in the world who showed no fears about their imminent deaths. They believed in a peaceful world after their departure from the physical existence. Some of them believed in the eternal spiritual life after death. They have developed their conviction for their own passing. The Founder Konko Daijin was one of few people who have ever expressed that he would be able to save more people after his passing.

The way how the Founder lived and dedicated to saving people through the work of Toritsugi-Mediation in his entire life contributed in producing such a convincing message as has been quoted.

## **Mini Bazaar and Rummage Sale Will be held on Saturday, November 3 from 10 am-2 pm Konko Mission of Wahiawa WELCOME!**

