



KONKO MISSION BULLETIN

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Autumn Grand Service for our
Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama
On Saturday, October 12, 2019@ 6:30pm
Guest speaker: Rev. Akinobu Yasutake
(Konko Mission of Waipahu)
Naorai fellowship dinner will follow
Please join us to celebrate our blessed
lives actualized through the eternal work
of Ikigami Konko Daijin. Your presence is
the purest form of gratitude you can
forward to Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

"Okagesamade" (In blessedness)

By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano

Head Minister of Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Both my wife and I have celebrated the 42nd Anniversary of our service at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa on September 28, 2019. Personally, I feel very grateful we have been able to enjoy our good health, and family relationships. I am happy that the believers in the faith community have also stayed connected to Kami-Sama and the church for all these years. I always remember a message that goes, "Being cured is not a blessing. Having good health is" (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 46). The English translation may not fully convey the original message in Japanese, but the truth is simply stated that having good health is the state of ultimate blessedness. For anyone who suffers from physical, mental, emotional and any other personal issues, being cured and dissolved of issues shall be the ultimate blessedness. No one can dispute the truth. We feel so grateful to be healed of any disorders. It is a natural reaction as human beings. But people hardly show gratitude for the ultimate state of blessedness we can ever enjoy—the state of good health.

About three years ago, when I was hospitalized for the removal of my gallbladder that became infected and inflamed, I learned to appreciate the very nature of the message. If my hospitalization was a bit late, I could have died due to sepsis, says the physician. I didn't have the usual symptoms commonly associated with gallstones, such as pain. The only thing I really had was feeling extremely fatigued after doing some repairs and maintenance around

the church and residence. Every time I overworked myself, I would have no appetite the whole day. And I would break out in a high fever and have nausea and vomiting. My daughter noticed my face looking a little dusker than usual. I had little sufferings, but my family members became very worried about me because they couldn't quite figure out what was going on. So, my daughter forced me to go to the ER. Thankfully it was Veteran's Day, and my daughter and son-in-law were off from work.

While I was hospitalized I felt like the whole hospital as one great team have been trying to help me with my healing of my illness. Every element in the given environment at the hospital, the facility, various medical instruments, equipment, all the staff members, the housekeeping, the food service workers, the nurses, doctors, the security people, the continuing care coordinator, the ward clerk and aides all worked hard just to treat me. What I can extend is the thought of thanks for all who have worked for me in one way or another. In blessedness, I was able to get discharged after five days of hospitalization.

The same thought could apply for our 42 years of living in Hawaii. I feel grateful to be of service to Kami-Sama at Konko Mission of Wahiawa. Whenever I sit down on the floor of the sanctuary and face toward the altar, I extend my thanks for the presence of the church, good health of myself, my family members, our church believers, the Mitama Spirits of all those people who have ever been guided to the church in one way or another, the town of Wahiawa, the State of Hawaii, the United States of America that allow the operation of our religious faith and the Japanese community in Hawaii and so forth. The first thought I have extended in my daily prayer is the thought of "Konnichi made no orei" or the sum of all the elements of blessings that have contributed for the blessings I have enjoyed in one way or another.

Since the very first day that I entered into the sanctuary of the church, I have tried to extend my thought of "Konnichi made no orei" every day in the last 42 years. I am not sure how long I would be able to keep this spiritual daily practice, but I feel grateful I have been able to do so up to this point in life.

As I always have shared the thought of "Konnichi made no orei" or extending thanks for any and all blessings that have contributed to the sustenance of our normal life. It is not just a random act of extending our thanks for the blessings

we have enjoyed. It is a continuation of the act of blessings we have ever extended our thanks. I have jot down the names of the people who have ever come into contact with our church. All of you who regularly attend the church are also included. The first message I add to each and every believer's name is the message of "Konnichi made no orei" or extending thanks for the continued enjoyment of the blessings each of you have received. It includes your good health, good relations and good financial standing. Our life becomes strenuous if even one of the three elements I have mentioned earlier will not be fulfilled. If you have enjoyed good health, try to extend thanks for your good health. If you have enjoyed good human relationships, try to extend your thanks for the relationships. If you have been much blessed financially, or even if you may encounter some stressful situations, as long as you have been enabled to continue your normal life, try to extend your thanks. These are the due prayers of thanks to Tenchi Kane No Kami, Our Divine Parent as Konko believers.

The year 2019 marks the 160th year since the Founder received the Divine Call or Rikkyo Shinden that signified as the birth date of the Konko Religious Faith on October 21, 1859 (Lunar calendar). The Headquarters will hold a celebration service on November 15 in commemoration of the special day. Prior to the Main Service, the Fifth Annual International Gathering will be held on November 14 at Headquarters Church. Some 20 people will join the pilgrimage for the functions from the Konkokyo community in Hawaii.

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. (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 3)

Bulletin Board

Monthly Services for October 2019

- 1 Tue -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 5 Sat -Church cleanup for Grand Service (8 am)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Grand Service (11 am)
- 12 Sat -Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Service (6:30 pm)
- 13 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Waipahu Church Grand Service (11 am)
- 20 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)

- 26th HCRP Peace Prayer at Honolulu Church (4 pm)
- 27 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 115th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Church of Amagi (Rev. Yasuhiro Yano will attend)

November 1, 2019

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 3 Sun -90th Anniversary of Hilo Church (11 am)
-No church service

Volunteer Activity

The regular monthly visit to the Wahiawa General Hospital Long-Term Care Facility will be made on Friday, October 25, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

HCRP 26th Annual Peace Prayer

The Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace will organize the 26th Annual Interfaith Peace Prayer in co-sponsorship of The Interfaith Alliance Hawaii regular meeting on Sunday, October 20, 2019 at Konko Mission of Honolulu at 4:00 p.m. The theme of the meeting is "Compassion in Daily Lives." The guest speaker will be Mr. Scott Nishimoto, Executive Director of "CEEDS of Peace." Dinner and refreshment will follow the program. Please bring non-perishable food items. They will be donated to IHS and Holomua Na 'Ohana (Weinberg Village Waimanalo). From Konkokyo faith community, the Rev. Edna Matsuoka will offer a prayer.

Interfaith Community Clean-up Program

The Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace organized the 4th annual Interfaith Community Clean-up Program at Kakaako Waterfront Park on Saturday, September 28. The good weather condition and around 30 people from Rissho Koseikai Church members, Ehime Kenjinkai members and Konko church members joined the program. Thank you for your participation and support for the program. Human suffering could be attributable to the ignorance of the blessed nature of Mother Earth. The purpose of the program is to spread the awareness for the blessed nature of the land that is the very foundation of our life. It is a small act of expressing our gratitude for the tremendous blessings we enjoy from Earth.



Konko Missions in Hawaii

- The 2020 KMH-KCNA Joint Conference Committee Meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16 at 6:00 p.m. at Konko Mission of Honolulu. The KMH Community Engagement and Outreach Committee Meeting will be held on Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.
- "Okage Wa Wagakokoro Ni Ari" movie featuring the life of the Founder, Konko Daijin, will be aired on KIKU TV on Saturday, October 5th at 7:00 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
Founder Konko Daijin	10/10/1883
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 391, 392 and 393)

No. 391: People should broaden the Way of Faith. Kami will grant blessings. (II Kobayashi Saisaburo 13 Kyoten page 507)

People should broaden the Way of Faith.

Saisaburo Kobayashi made his first visit to see the Founder in 1875. He stated the first impression of the Founder, "Konko-Sama seemed so divine that I felt compelled to bow my head" (II Kobayashi Saisaburo 1).

In corresponding to his advanced spirituality, the Founder gave him a message, "An education is unnecessary to perform Toritsugi. A sincere heart is all one needs. Kami speaks through those who perform Toritsugi. Even if they say something mistaken, Kami will make it the way it was said. There's nothing to worry" (II Kobayashi Saisaburo 12). Later on he founded the Konko Church of Mino.

He devoted in pursuit of faith so intently. He might have responded to the forwarded message from the Founder, "People should broaden the Way of Faith. Kami will grant blessings" in such a manner as to devote in his missionary work with a true sincere heart and devotion. Even though he got blessed in his

missionary work and the church thrived, he always reminded himself to be modest and remembered the message "People should broaden the Way of Faith. Kami will grant blessings." He never became arrogant like other ordinary people would.

It is true that a minister would be invigorated in his missionary work in corresponding to the blessings received from Kami. At the same time, Kami also responds to such a minister who work hard and actualize blessings through his missionary work and give much great blessings for the work of the minister.

The minister who received this message would be resolved in his missionary work in humbleness. The message also shows that the Way of Faith would thrive through the work of interdependent relationship between Kami and the believers.

No. 392: Those who establish the Way of Faith should eliminate their immediate desires and gain future virtues. Despite hardships and adversity, be a supporting cane or pillar for others. (II Takahashi Tomie 26 Kyoten page 614)

Gain future virtues.

Tomie Takahashi gained such a great trust from Kami who stated, "You are one in a thousand followers." But the people in the community did not acknowledge the way of her practicing of faith for some reasons. They slandered and spoke ill of her by saying she was an evil badger. She was also put into a cage for punishment. But later on, she showed her gained virtue as to be able to serve as a respectful mentor for student ministers who tried to initiate their own missionary work.

In reference to Kyoten Scriptures, there is a message prior to the quoted passages. The message reads, "Establishing a way of faith is easy for the upper class, but difficult for the lower classes. Therefore, as lower-class people, we need more time. We will establish the Faith through Kami-Sama's blessings. We must wait till it's time. I was a manure carrier, so people doubted me. But while I keep my patience, I will receive virtue,' Konko-Sama always said" (II Takahashi Tomie 25).

Dr. Shigeyoshi Murakami, a religious researcher, made a remark about a distinctive feature of the Konko faith, "The Kurozumi Religious Faith gained momentum in spreading the faith through the influence of the believers who belonged to the upper social status, while Konkokyo thrived through the combined effects of the believers who belong to the lower social status. But the drastic social change reversed the social status of the upper and lower classes in Japan. In corresponding to the changes in society, it also reversed the way religions communities responded." This was mentioned in "Kindai Minshuu Shuukyo Shi No Kenkyu" or "A research on the history of the modern religious sects popular among the general public."

The Founder pursued faith in such a manner as "to eliminate immediate desires and gain future virtues." Two years after Saito Juemon was put in jail, Konko-Sama said, "As past incidents have shown, this Way of Faith has not yet been established. Until the caretakers complete their training, Kami will wait. In thirty years, the Way of Faith shall broaden. In the meantime, even while wearing rags and living on gruel, practice faith and wait till it's time" (II Takahashi Tomie 23).

No. 393: It is a reflection of Kami's power when people criticize or speak ill about Kami. It is impossible to keep someone who does not understand this faith from criticizing it. People cannot predict the future. Even if people may say things that soil your face, do not be angry. Kami will wash your face. (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 96-1, 2 Kyoten page 797)

Kami will wash your face.

The quoted message is based on the teaching found in "Jinkyukyogoroku" in the Konkokyo Scriptures. After relating the quoted message above to Jirosiro Kataoka, the Founder continued to say, "Don't worry about what other people say. Everyone talks. How can people foresee the future when they cannot even see behind closed doors? 'Win by losing. Wait for the right time with discretion. Those who have just started practicing faith, immediately get upset when others speak ill of them. They are not able to repress their anger and some of them even retaliate. However, when they deepen their faith a little, they will get angry but will be able to tolerate others speaking ill of them since they keep in mind that they are practicing faith in Kami. As people deepen their faith more, they will not get angry even when others speak ill of them. On the contrary, they will feel sorry for those people, because Kami sees what is happening and might punish them. And this will cause those, who practice faith, to begin worrying about those who speak ill of them'" (III Jinkyukyogoroku 191).

The Founder himself experienced such treatment from the village people who degraded him by calling, "the manure-carrying farmer Konjin" could experience anger from time to time. But through his pursuit of faith, he learned to handle such situations in corresponding to his advanced spirituality. Even to Tomie Takahashi, the Founder related, "Those who are establishing the Way of Faith mustn't get angry when others speak ill of them. Despite the droppings the sparrows and crows make on the shrines, Kami quietly endures. Lose to others now, and win in the future. If you take on an opponent, you will only have a fifty-fifty chance of winning" (II Takahashi Tomie 27).

Because of the conviction held by the Founder, "Even if people may say things that soil your face, do not be angry. Kami will wash your face," he could appreciate that it could be a reflection of Kami's power when people criticize or speak ill about Kami.

We also should learn to live the faith in conviction of Kami's power and contribute to help spread the faith in society.

Mochitsuki with the Webbers (September 1, 2019)



Autumn Memorial Service (September 22, 2019)

