



**You are cordially invited to attend the
Annual Grand Service for
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama
Thursday, October 13, 2022 @ 6:00 p.m.**

At the Konko Mission of Wahiawa

The Godaisai is a vital church function to celebrate the eternal spiritual work of the Founder Ikigami Konko Daijin. In-person attendance is encouraged. Our service will also be livestreamed on Facebook. The after service "Naorai" dinner will be served.
Speaker: Rev. Edna K Matsuoka

“Aien-Kien” “相縁機縁”

*By Rev. Yasuhiro Yano
Head Minister*

We say “aien-kien” or a fortunate encounter and a twist of fate that is shown in Japanese “相縁機縁” in the Konko faith community. The same expression is commonly used in our daily living. Both my wife and I have celebrated our 45th wedding anniversary as well as our missionary service here at this church.

It could be an “aien-kien” divine arrangement that I have been guided to the Konko Church of Tokiwadai while I was living in Tokyo. I met the late Rev. Michio Miyake, the founder of the church. It could be a divine guidance that I ended up becoming a Konko minister. Through my encounter with the Rev. Miyake, he guided me to go to the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka for my spiritual training. The Rev. Toshihiko Hosaka, the past Head minister of the Konko Church of Kawanoishi (my hometown church) made an arrangement for my entry into the church and concluded that the only way I could survive at the Konko Church of Amagi was I would have been presented as an offering in appreciation of the Yano family who have been saved through the presence of the Konko Church of Kawanoishi and the ministers dedications. He used the term “Osonae” of a believer as an offering in appreciation.

Interestingly, I knew the term of “Inochi no Ohatsuho” or an offering of a family member in appreciation of the blessings received by the family when I was attending a church in Tokyo. Casually, the expression itself referred to a daily visit to church in appreciation of the life given daily from Kami-

Sama. But at that stage, I had no idea of the meaning of the term.

The Rev. Hosaka took me to Konko Church of Amagi. It was my first visit to the church. It happened to be a church service day. The first impression was the size of the facility. It was so big with many building facilities in the site. The Rev. Hosaka introduced me to the Rev. Fumio Yasutake, Head Minister.

I entered the Konko Church of Amagi, just 48 years ago, on September 29, 1974. We now celebrate the Birth of the Founder as “Kyoso Seitan Sai.” While I was sweeping the church yard with a bamboo broom in the morning, an aged male church believer approached me and said to me, “Yesterday, as I also worshipped at the Konko Church of Kokura, Oyasensei told us that there was an offering of a 'shinja' or a believer to our church.” He continued to talk, “Through a humanistic approach, we have no way of telling what type of person Kami-Sama uses for Kami’s purpose”

「昨日小倉教会参拝のおりマイクロバスの中で親先生が、教会に信者のお供えがあったと話しておられました。人間では、神様がどのような人をお使いになるかわかりませんからなあ。」

Almost half a century has passed since then, I still feel overwhelmed with the feeling of gratefulness for the deep considerations and prayers extended to me by the late Rev. Toshihiko Hosaka. I also feel the same for the late Rev. Fumio Yasutake (past head minister of Amagi Church) who accepted me as an offering to Kami-Sama.

Though I have served here at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa for the last 45 years, I have a conviction it could have been meant for me to come to Hawaii and serve at the local church in Wahiawa by divine guidance in the form of “aien-kien” or a fortunate encounter and a twist of fate. I am not sure if I have fulfilled the concept of “Inochi no Ohatsuho” but I can attribute all of the blessings both my wife and our children have enjoyed thus far to this concept of “Inochi no Ohatsuho.” I simply wish and pray that people in the community would learn to appreciate the wondrous world of the Konko faith in the same manner as I have enjoyed thus far.

It could be naïve in a secular world, but I have been so grateful as a continuous “Inochi no Ohatsuho” daily.



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

October

Rev. Sugako Yoshino	10/3/2022
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
Saku Hasuo	10/12/1996
Francis Toshiji Suwa	10/12/1996
Isamu Tokumoto	10/14/1995
Kenneth Kenji Okimoto	10/20/2020
Pasqualine Webber	10/21/2010
Tahichi Higuchi	10/26/1945
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.

Bulletin Board

Church Services for October 2022

- 2 Sun -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
- 9 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service (10:30 am)
-Memorial Service for Rev. Mitsuko Yasutake following the Grand Service
- 13 Thr -**Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Service (6 pm)**
- 16 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 23 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)
-HCRP Peace Prayer at Gedatsu Church (4 pm)
- 30 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)

November 2022

- 1 Tue -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)
- 15 Tue -KMH 2nd Yatsunami Gathering on ZOOM (1:30-3 pm)

Announcements:

● HCRP Peace Prayer at Gedatsu Church

The Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace commemorates the 30 years of operation. After two years of pause, we will conduct the interfaith Peace Prayer gathering at Gedatsu Church on Sunday, October 23 at 4:00 p.m. The theme of the meeting is "Pieces of Peace." The guest speaker is Sr./Dr. Malia Dominica Wong (Dominican Sisters of the Most Holy Rosary/Chaminade University of Honolulu). Prayers by various faiths will be recited and dance, music and video presentation will be featured. Dinner and refreshments will be served. Please help bring non-perishable food items which will be donated to the Institute for Human Services (IHS). If you are interested in joining the event, please contact your minister.

Garage Sale

Thank you for your help and support for the garage sale conducted on Saturday, September 17, 2022. We had a net profit of \$776.95. All proceeds will be forwarded to Gohonbu as an offering from the church in appreciation of the blessings we have enjoyed.

Congratulations

Command Sergeant Major Jason C. Adkison has served two years of duty safely for the 3rd Battalion 25th Aviation Regiment. We pray for his continuous success and safety in the coming assignments.

Konko Missions in Hawaii

- Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Service Schedule
 - Sun 10/2 -Honolulu Church @11 am
 - Sun 10/9 -Waipahu Church @10:30 am
 - Thr 10/13 -Wahiawa Church @6 pm
 - Sun 11/6 -Wailuku Church @11 am

Obituaries in the KMH community

- Mr. Shunichi Kawahara of Konko Mission of Waipahu passed away on October 2, 2022. He was 87 years old.
- Rev. Sugako Yoshino, associate minister of Konko Mission of Honolulu passed away on October 3, 2022. She was 89 years old.
- We extend sincere condolences to both families and pray for the salvation of the Mitama Spirits.

- KMH CEOC Meeting on Zoom on Friday, 10/21/22 (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 Wednesday, October 5 and 19 (Wed. from 5 pm to 6 pm)

- HCRP Mtg @Honolulu Church, 10/17/22 (1:30 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 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 69 to 72)

(continued from the previous issue)

Kami' response to help Bunji

At the scene, a totally unexpected phenomena developed in corresponding to the thoughts held by Bunji in apology.

"Kami beckoned, 'You are correct. Come here -crawl if you must'" (Oboegaki 3-5-5). It was a divine voice Bunji would have never imagined at all. He doubted his own ears. Kami resumed to talk like a gush of water from a pipe.

Kami continued to talk, "The person who spoke was indiscreet, but you have scrupulous sincerity. On January 1, you worshipped at the village shrine and put your hands together to pray. I know what you requested. The village kami and other kamis are all here watching and listening to you" (Oboegaki 3-5-6)

"All the kamis had come and gathered. And you requested, 'This year I am forty-two, my unlucky age. Please do not have me be overcome with misfortunes.' "This time, you were to have succumbed to a fever. However, since the fever would have been fatal, I changed it to just a throat ailment. Since your faith has been so sincere, I will save you. From Kibitsu Shrine, you went home pondering over the significance of the two groans made by the sacred kettle. They were actually indications of your impending illness. By not practicing faith, you would have been overwhelmed with misfortune. On May 1 (June 14), I will give you a divine sign. Tonight, chant the Shingyō Sutra a hundred times in appreciation to Konjin and the other kamis. Have your wife change clothes and have her offer incense, lit candles, and rice grains to the Ishizuchi deity's altar for seven days. Nittenshi blesses you by passing over your head every day at midday. Bunji, I will have you in good health and not be short of rice for the rest of your life." Jiro's hand, which held a sacred staff, was jerked to hover above the beans and rice grains on the offering tray. When Jiro raised the staff, the beans and rice grains stuck onto the staff. We were instructed, "Receive these beans and rice grains with another tray and use them to make gruel for Bunji" (Oboegaki 3-7). In this manner, the episode was closed.

Realization of irreverence against Kami

Bunji felt like the opening sounds of Heaven and Earth. A ray of strong light seemed to shine upon him. He felt he

was able to finally meet the Kami he had pursued throughout his life. What had triggered this sequence of eventualities of spiritual awakening? Bunji felt that all the elements he had taken for granted in his life seemed to have collapsed all at once. His primary concern in life was to exercise utmost attention in avoiding any commitment of irreverence against Kami with sincerity and single heartedness for all those years. His endeavor to dodge any irreverence against Kami was totally nullified by Kami's one message, "Irreverence to Hyobi Konjin have been committed during the construction and the house move" (Oboegaki 3-4-5). Bunji acknowledged he had committed irreverence against Kami; lived in fulfillment of self-centeredness. He was totally defeated in regret. In helplessness he understood that the life he had tried to live pursued with sincere and single heart was just invalid in fulfillment of life at all.

He was overwhelmed in sadness in witnessing his own hopelessness; had no sense of help and protection of himself and indulged in helplessness. All he could do was to openly admit he had committed a grave offence against Kami. He was not accusing himself whether he had followed the Days and Directions or not. Observation of the Days and Directions was just an element that triggered to get awakened of the irreverence he would have committed as an individual. When he encountered the Kami who spoke of the irreverence he had committed, he acknowledged that the whole existence of himself was an object of irreverence against Kami. But his spirit remained calm. He witnessed his own collapse. Actually in that situation, he may have been able to witness a calm figure of himself that he had never seen in his life.

Strangely enough, Kami responded in witnessing Bunji's self-reflection of his life with Kami that he had committed a grave irreverence. Kami said, "You have scrupulous sincerity" (Oboegaki 3-5-6). Kami accepted Bunji's sincerity. Bunji acknowledged Kami's acceptance of himself who had committed irreverence and would not be worthy to get saved. At that moment, Bunji awakened that there could be a way to know Kami's will and the truth of life he had pursued throughout his life.

This drastic spiritual awakening took place in such a strange manner. If Bunji interpreted the eventuality of meeting Kami in an ordinary manner that Kami responded to help Bunji who acknowledged his own irreverence, the relationship of Bunji and Kami would become inconsistent. This interpretation would not be adequate. Through the divine message forwarded to Bunji, he could acknowledge his own nature of irreverence. Through the harsh yet enlightening words of Kami, Bunji erased any elements of self and restored his clean and fresh spirit like a new fresh sheet of paper. A fresh new sheet of paper implies that he could accept anything at all unconditionally and continue to live. Bunji's unconditional spiritual stance of accepting everything had agreed with the work of Kami.

(to be continued)