



Autumn Grand Ceremony

We warmly invite all church members to attend the **Autumn Grand Ceremony** in honor and appreciation of our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin, on **Sunday, October 13th at 5:00 pm** at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. This is a very important event, and your presence will be greatly valued. Our guest speaker for the evening will be the Rev. Koichi Konko (*Head Minister of the Konko Mission of Honolulu*)

Following the ceremony, we will have a **Naorai fellowship dinner**. We look forward to sharing this special time together!

Incorporating the Faith into My Life

By Mrs. Trisha Adkison



(L-R) Trisha Adkison, Jane Suwa (Trisha's Mother), (Back) Janet Miyasaka (Jane's Friend)

Hello. My name is Trisha Adkison, and I am a fourth generation member of the Konko Church in Wahiawa.

In August, Yano Sensei asked me to write a speech for the KMH gathering on September 7. The topic was

“How have I been incorporating the faith in my daily life.” I am an introvert, and a very shy person, and therefore do not like public speaking. Although my initial gut reaction was one of dread and anxiety, I soon became overcome by a feeling that can best be described as honor. I felt like something was telling me that this is a way for me to show my appreciation for this religion and all of the blessings that I have received. It’s my goyo.

So I asked Edna sensei for more information so I could start working on my speech because I’m not one of those people who can just speak on whatever thought pops in my head. She said that the topic is how have I been incorporating the faith in my daily life, and it should be about 10 minutes long. I started by listing the ways in which I try to incorporate the faith into my daily life, but I felt like I was bragging. And do I have enough to speak about for 10 minutes? I didn’t feel like I could, but I also know that it is what it is. I should just share all the ways that I incorporate the faith in my daily life, and it would be OK however long it is.

When I was growing up, I liked coming to church because I liked Sunday school. I liked our activities, games, and snack time. And I liked playing with Edna, Rodney, and David.

When I got older, I was really focused on sports, so I didn’t come to church as often. After high school, I joined the army, so I was away for many years. During that time, if I was scared or hurt, I would pray and ask Konko Sama for help. But I don’t remember really focusing on the faith. I always knew that I was protected and blessed. But I definitely didn’t say thank you as often as I should have.

We had the opportunity to move back to Hawaii in 2019. I feel like I have really elevated my game over the last five years. I think that is in large part thanks to Edna sensei. Her Sunday sermons and the stories and

experiences that she shares with us helps to elevate my faith.

Once she told us a story about how Clayton and she were driving home at night and they hit a pig. And in that moment, she said she wasn't sure if she swore or if she said Konko Sama. She said she was pretty certain that she swore. But they have a dash-cam and when they played it back, she said "Konko Sama!" And that's something that her parents do as well. So, I thought that is something easy that I can incorporate into my daily life.

Another thing that the Yano Senseis do is saying a prayer before they leave in the car. I thought that was another easy change that I could implement. I think it's a good way to start my day. First thing in the morning, I try to give my thanks but sometimes I'm rushing to get ready, and I forget to say it. But over the last few years I have now become in the habit of praying before I leave my house. When I get in the car, I clap my hands four times, and I start saying my prayers. Initially, it started out as "please help us all get to and from our destination safely and on time." But over the last few years, it has evolved into a list of things. I always start off with "please help us get to and from our destination safely and on time." And then I continue on with "thank you for letting me have a good night sleep. Thank you for allowing me to wake up in the morning. Thank you for all of the blessings that we have received. Thank you for my wonderful, loving, patient family and friends. Thank you for our cars. Please help them to continue to keep us safe and allow us to continue to rely on them for many more years to come. Please help guide us to make good decisions and to be one percent better than we were yesterday. Please help my friends and family. Please hear their unspoken prayers and give them peace of mind. Please guide them and protect them."

I've also found that whenever I'm sitting in traffic, which is twice a day every day, and I see an ambulance trying to get through traffic, I'll say "Konko Sama please help clear the way for the ambulance and please be with the EMTs and the person or people that they are going to help."

Anytime I see an animal that got ran over, I automatically say "Konko Sama please be with that animal's spirit."

I teach doctors, nurses, and support staff, and sometimes they can be more difficult than teaching children 😊. On the days that I have to teach, I say "Konko Sama please help me do well in my class today. Please give me good students. Please ease my anxiety and help me to be at peace in my heart so that I'm able to teach them everything that they need to know, and answer all of their questions so that they can go into their job and be the best that they can be."

I'm thankful for this religion, because even when the weather is not ideal, especially on days when it's raining so hard and it seems like my windshield wipers can't go fast enough, I say "Konko Sama, please help us all get home safely. Thank you for the rain. Please bring rain to the areas of the island that need it and please let the rain fall at a pace where the ground can absorb all of it and not have runoff or flooding." Now I feel like rainy days feel like Christmas time. Do you know that warm, fuzzy, loving feeling that people get at Christmas time? I feel like that every day and I think that is a result of the Konkokyo mindset. This religion has taught me to feel that way in my heart every day.

I've been in some very scary situations in my life but every time I say Konko Sama, I immediately feel more at peace. Generally, I am a very quiet person. But after brainstorming about this topic, I realize that I talk to Konko Sama the most.

I also try to instill that trust into my children, like the Yano Senseis. When my kids are scared or when they're hurt, I encourage them to take goshinmai rice and use the paper on their injuries. I make sure they have one in their backpacks and in their room. I hope to lead by example so that my children pick up my good habits, just like the Yano family. And hopefully there are some things that I listed that you can adopt and incorporate in your daily life as well. Thank you 😊

Voice of the Universe...

1. There are people between Heaven and Earth. Heaven is father and Earth is mother. Humans, plants, and other living things live on Earth through the blessings they receive from Heaven.

I Ishihara Ginzo 1

2. Heaven and Earth continue to live. Because Heaven and Earth are alive, all people are able to live.

III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 104

Bulletin Board

October 2024

1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)

6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Grand Service (11 am)

13 Sun -Wahiawa Church Grand Service (5 pm)

20 Sun -Monthly Memorial Svc (9 am)
-Waipahu Church Grand Service (11 am)

27 Sun -No Sunday Service

November 2024

1 Fri -Monthly Svc for Tenchi Kane No Kami (7:30 pm)

3 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (10 am)
-No Sunday Service at Wahiawa

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- Mahalo for your generous donations to help with the church electric plug installation.
 - Monthly Volunteer Activity at St. Francis The next activity will be on Fri, October 4 @ 10:30 am
 - KMH Kyōten Study Group via Zoom Voice of the Universe Join us: October 9 (Wed. 5 pm-6 pm)
 - KMH CEOC Mtg ZOOM on Wed, Oct 16 at 9 am.
 - HCRP Peace Prayer will be on Saturday, October 19th at 4 pm at Honolulu Church.
 - The 120th Anniversary of Amagi Church will be on Sunday, October 27th at 11 am.

Remembering the Mitama of 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

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, "Konkō Kyōso no Shougai" or "The Life of the Founder Konkō Daijin" authored by the Rev. Mikio Seto and published by Konkōkyo Theological Research Center in 1980. Many biographies about the life of the Founder Konkō Daijin exist. I would like to introduce this article for your reference in your pursuit of faith. An English translation was provided by Rev. Yasuhiro Yano. (continued from the previous issue)

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Acceptance of the Divine Request

Bunji tried to figure out the true nature of Kami's request for about 10 days after the revelation. He had to figure out how he could fulfill the expectations of the message; many people wished to be saved from suffering. He looked back at his own life in the past, anticipated the future perspective, and thought about concerns such as the family occupation of farming, the husband-and-wife relationship, community engagement, and so forth. He could hardly find sure answers to each of these issues he had to deal with. In particular, he had to manage the household operation, which demanded heavy responsibilities. As for the issue of saving people's lives, it was hard to find stability.

After Bunji gave deep consideration to all these issues, he concluded that the only path for him was to believe in Kami with absolute conviction. He believed Kami would find ways to deal with all of the pending issues he faced, such as giving up his farming career, giving up his family responsibilities, abandoning the conventional concept of household life like social achievements and status, refraining from community engagement, and giving up the pursuit of family prosperity. He believed a new world would unfold in response to his acceptance of the message. Hagio Konkō stated, "Giving up the occupation of farming and not listening to authority is only an individual matter. Saving people is the matter that would evolve after giving up personal matters." Bunji believed Kami

would give him a much greater mission than simply being a farmer.

Bunji stated, “As instructed, I quit farming and began to perform Toritsugi-Mediation in the Hiromae.” That was in October 1859.

The people in the village community responded to this situation with surprise and expressed, “How could he ever make such a bold decision?” (According to Seiichiro Nogama).

Like any other divine revelations, there was no title to the message revealed on October 21, 1859. The Konkokyo Organization has referred to that divine request as “Rikkyo Shinsen” or “Rikkyo Shinden,” both meaning the divine revelation. From a religious perspective, the given title of the message is appropriate. But from Bunji's perspective, who did not have any intention of establishing a new religious organization, the message would break apart the barrier of ordinary categorization of the Konkokyo Organization and naturally emerged as a divine response to the confused state of the human world. In this sense, the revelation could be referred to as “神願開示の神伝” which means “Revelation of Divine Will.”

Negative Responses of the People

The future perspective for Bunji, who gave up his farming career and dedicated himself to the service of Toritsugi-Mediation, was quite hectic as anticipated.

The initial rejection came from his father-in-law, Yaozo Furukawa, who expressed his anger against Bunji by saying, “You have the responsibility of raising many of your children. They would face difficult lives for sure. Stop engaging in your practice of faith.” His angry response was quite natural, considering his daughter and grandchildren. There was no reason why Bunji chose to dedicate his life to the function of Toritsugi-Mediation, giving up the stable, peaceful farming life of the family. He had no reason to jeopardize the life of the family members, including the children, for an unknown future. His father-in-law shouted in anger, “If you dare to destroy your family in that manner, just give up your practice of faith at this very moment.” But Bunji's determination was solid. Instead of listening to the complaints of the

family members and relatives, he replied, “All of you should practice faith.” They reflexively responded in refusal, “We will never practice the faith you believe in.” Because of the close relationship between Bunji and his relatives, their anger against Bunji became more aggravated, according to a talk by Tsurukichi Kageyama.

The village Head, Shiemon Ono, whose responsibility was to manage the village in a peaceful manner, said, “Bunji has engaged in worshipping the Konjin Deity. He is a farmer. He should be mindful that he should not be able to engage in his religious practice by giving up farming duties.” He gave warnings from time to time (According to Retsutaro Edo). Bunji and Shiemon Ono established a close relationship of trust. For Bunji, warnings from Shiemon were torturous in a sense. But Bunji could not stop following Kami's request. He had to ignore Shiemon's warnings.

Kami responded to the situation in which Bunji had to deal with waves of negative responses and gave him a message: “Don't worry about your children. Kami won't have children starve” (I Yamamoto Sadajiro 63-3). Bunji had to deal with the difficult situation in such a manner that, for himself, he could manage by giving up his personal wishes and wants, but in consideration of his family and relatives, he felt some limitations in dealing with the situation.

(to be continued)

Celebration of Life Service for Late Rev. Yoshie Nagai 9.18.24 at Hilo Church

