Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter

Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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October 2020, Volume 28

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**All services will be conducted via Facebook Live due to COVID-19*

October 2020

1 Thr -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
3 Sat -"Okage wa Wagakokoro ni Ari" *KIKU TV (7 pm-9 pm)
4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
10 Sat -Church clean-up for Autumn Grand Ceremony (8 am)
11 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
13 Tue -Autumn Grand Ceremony for Founder (6:30pm) 生神金光大神様御大祭 **Take-home chirashi-sushi bento*
18 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Okage sharing
24 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
25 Sun -Monthly Mem. Svc. (9 am) 月例霊祭 *Okage sharing
30 Fri -Facebook Live Halloween Pumpkin Carving (5 pm)
31 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am) *Happy Halloween!!

November 2020

1 Sun -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
-Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)

Konko Daijin says… It is said that an unpolished gem doesn't sparkle and is like an ordinary stone. One who practices faith must polish the gem in one's heart. Even ordinary steel can be polished to gleam like silver. Gold and silver as well, without polishing, won't shine. Humans are the lord of all living things. Polish the gem in your heart and conduct yourself well in everything. Otherwise, people won't respect you, even if you think you are practicing faith. It is because of your self-centered faith. (Gorikai I Yamamoto Sadajiro 52-2,3)

Editor's Memo: Some people believe that humans are born as sinners. They are born dirty, impure and come equipped to cause evil deeds. In Konkokyo, every person is born pure, innocent and clean. And only as we get older, we learn about bad behavior, or are treated as such, so it shapes who we become. Every person is a precious child of Kami-Sama, so everyone is born with the heart of Kami. Thus, they have the ability to become a Living Kami through the practice of faith. If Kami-Sama is our Parent, it is only natural for us to have the capabilities of attaining that level of divinity. Various encounters and life experiences shape us to be who we are. Like-wise, we are all like a diamond from the beginning. Depending on how we choose to live our life, we can sparkle magnificently, or remain dull. But even for a dull diamond, it can still be cut and polished to be multi-faceted and sparkly through the practice of faith. It is never too late to polish our diamond hearts.

Sunday School Oath

I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.

Don't Miss Watching:
"Okage Wa Wagakokoro Ni Ari"
Movie about our Founder, Konko Daijin on KIKU TV. Saturday, October 3rd
7:00 pm-9:00 pm

Autumn Grand Ceremony

For our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

Date: Tuesday, October 13, 2020 @ 6:30 pm
Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa
Mini Sermons by: Revs. Yasuhiro and David Yano
Rev. Koichi Konko and Rev. Edna Matsuoka
Memo: Join us via Facebook Live or in-person, following the COVID-19 precautions of wearing a face mask, washing your hands before entering the worship hall and practicing physical distancing by household. Take-home chirashi-sushi bento. Let's honor and appreciate our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin for paving the Way of Happiness and Blessings.

Online Halloween Pumpkin Carving

Friday, 10/30 from 5pm

Due to the pandemic, we will conduct our pumpkin carving as an online event on Facebook Live. Have your pumpkins ready!

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2020

11/1 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
11/8 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
11/21 Sat -KMH Board Meeting @Honolulu Church at 10:30 am
11/29 Sun -Memorial Svc for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 9 am
12/7 Mon -KMH Head Ministers Meeting
12/20 Sun -48th Mem Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi 10 am
12/27 Sun -End of Year Service at 9 am
12/30 Wed-29th Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church at 8 am

The Story of Konkokyo will be on TV!

Life of Konko Daijin

With English Subtitles

"Divine Favor Depends Upon Your Own Heart"

Date: October 3, 2020 (Sat.)

Time: 7:00-9:00 PM

Channel: KIKU TV

Watch the awe inspiring movie about the life of Our Founder, Konko Daijin, and animation Tales of Toritsugi Mediation following it on ***KIKU TV***.
Please share this wonderful opportunity with your friends as well as your family!
Don't miss it!

Konko Missions in Hawaii

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Happy Birthday

To all the people born in the month of October!
Please continue to receive Infinite divine blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

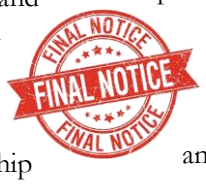
Rev. Heiki Konko
(5th Spiritual Head of Konkokyo)
Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi
Deborah Amado
Erik Miyasaka
Michelle Noguchi

Rev. Sachiko Yasutake
(Konko Church of Amagi)
Jane Suwa
Hugh Noguchi
Chason Pangorang
Jill Michie Yano

Editor's Note

Dear Reader, I hope this newsletter finds you in great health and overall wellbeing.

October is Autumn Grand Ceremony Season! And also the month that KIKU TV will be airing the Konkokyo movie, **Okage Wa Wagakokoro Ni Ari: Divine Favor Depends Upon Your Own Hearts**. The live action movie of the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin will be aired on Saturday, October 3 from 7pm-9pm. Don't miss it! You will learn what kind of a person Konko Daijin was. To honor our amazing Founder, Konko Churches throughout Hawaii will be holding their Autumn Grand Ceremony—Godaisai. Our church Godaisai will be held on **Tuesday, October 13 at 6:30 pm.** Please join this very important ceremony via in person or Facebook Live. We will be practicing COVID-19 precautions. Please wash your hands before entering the *hiromae* (worship hall), wear your face mask and practice physical distancing by household. Naorai fellowship dinner will not be served; however, we will prepare *chirashi-sushi bentos* for you to enjoy as a take-home gift. See you!



The Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin talked about how important it was to be grateful for our daily blessings—the things we tend to take for granted like waking up in the morning and being healthy on a day to day basis.

Just recently, my mother was listening to the radio during the radio-advice hour. She heard a woman pleading to its listeners for advice on her house rent. She was saying that her and her husband came to Hawaii from Japan to work in the tourism industry. They were able to pay their rent on time without any worries and live a pretty good life. However, due to the pandemic, the tourism industry in Hawaii basically got shut down and they are in big financial turmoil. Their monthly rent is stacking up and their landlord keeps telling them to pay for the rent. And it was becoming a great stress for her and her husband.

There are countless people in Hawaii who are in the same situation because Hawaii really relies on tourism.

I remember my childhood and just up till a decade ago when the financial struggles for our family was real. If you have never been through financial struggles, it may be difficult to comprehend. Sometimes we had utility companies come in person and knock on our door as a final warning before cutting off our utilities. Our telephone line and electricity was cut off once because we couldn't pay. Our used-car we had on loan was at the brink of getting repossessed as well. It was so hard for us. Bills were piling high and debt was accumulating like an ever growing snowball. I used to cry and say to my mom, "If I was only old enough to work, I can help pay the bills." It was during the peak of our financial struggles that my mom decided to write a letter to Kami-Sama on a monthly basis since 1998. At first, her letters were brief and she only requested for enough financial resources to pay for various things we needed for that month, like the car payment, church service offerings, offerings to other churches, utilities and necessities to run the household.

Eventually, her letters became like journals of the previous month. She would write important things that happened, and began to write "Thank you for helping us last month. We were able to make ends meet through your blessings." My dad also started to offer all the mail that came in to our church to the altar before opening them. Even mail that people consider "Junk mail" we place them on the altar and give thanks for them.

These financial struggles did not change the sincerity they had towards Kami-Sama. They still sent a monthly appreciation Ohatsuho offering to the Gohonbu Headquarters, Amagi Church and our parent church—Honolulu Church. They could have skipped the offering and pay the bills, or send less than what they normally offer, you'd think. But their extent of sincerity to Kami-Sama was beyond that. They never ceased to give their thanks to Kami-Sama no matter what. Even if our electricity and telephone lines were cut, the sun continued to give us light and life. My parents wanted to acknowledge these blessings as being more important.

Through doing all this, little by little, Kami-Sama has been granting us blessings to survive all these years. Even if it was a struggle, everything turned into a divine blessing and we haven't got the "FINAL NOTICE" calls and visits from utility companies these days. Time and again, we remember those more difficult days and we can be very thankful for being able to pay those bills on time. When bills come, we don't complain; but instead give thanks that we can use the utilities till today and that we can also pay the bills again this month.

Currently, it's my mom's gratitude journal that is piling high. She shared with me her earlier entries and it brings back memories of what happened during a particular month and year. Her journal serves as a reminder of our blessedness throughout the years.

We can never get complacent though. The moment we get arrogant and used to the blessings; the blessings are surely withdrawn. Everything is possible thanks to Kami-Sama's divine blessings; not just a small percentage of our day. Our existence is owed to the blessings of Kami-Sama. We are just being allowed to live. Everything we have gained, including virtue and our life can be taken away overnight. Thus, we must make it a habit to give thanks for this very day. If we can give thanks daily to Kami-Sama and to each other, we can live without regret.

For people who are experiencing struggles currently, I highly encourage you to take action by writing a prayer request to Kami-Sama once a month and offer it to your home altar. You will begin to notice that what you have written will come to past. The blessings will come to you in reflection of how much effort and sincerity you are putting in to Kami-Sama. If your thoughts towards Kami-Sama is as small as a toothpick, your blessings will be equally thin and tiny. If your thoughts toward Kami-Sama is as big as a mountain, the blessings will reveal itself bigger than a mountain.

Kami-Sama is like the sun. Place an object in front of the sun, and a shadow will automatically be there. The object you place in front of the sun is the extent of your sincerity. The shadow that is casted is your blessing. It's nothing complicated.

My mom began writing those monthly prayer letters to Kami-Sama out of desperation. But I can tell that her sincerity was as big as a mountain, so her blessings came back as big as the shadows it'd cast.

Struggles are not something we ask for, but through experiencing struggles, we can become resilient and all the more appreciative when we overcome them. Thank you for reading.

This month the 27th Annual Hawaii Conference of Religions for Peace (HCRP) will not be conducted this year due to COVID.

Our Halloween Pumpkin Carving will be held on-line via Facebook Live on Monday, October 30th from 5 pm. Have your pumpkins and tools ready. Have a Happy and safe Halloween!

Yes, we will pass out treats on Halloween!

Aloha, Edna