

Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI. 96786
☎ : (808) 621-6667 Cell: (808) 223-3448
✉ ednakazuko@hotmail.com URL: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/WahiawaMain.htm>



September 2021, Volume 29

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

**All services will be conducted in person as well as captured on Facebook Live*

September 2021

- 1 Wed -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 5 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage*
- 6 Mon -Labor Day Holiday!
-KMH MWSS gathering on ZOOM (10 am to 12 noon)
- 10 Fri -KMH Kyoten Study Group on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 11 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 12 Sun -Monthly Svc. Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9:00 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 **Share Okage*
-Happy Grandparent's Day in Hawaii!
- 16 Thur -KMH CEOC ZOOM Meeting (5 pm)
- 18 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 19 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Svc. (10 am)
- 21 Tue -Peace Day in Hawaii Bell Ringing (Log into ZOOM at 8:30 am)
- 24 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 25 Sat -Ehimemaru monument clean-up (9 am)
- 26 Sun -Autumn Memorial Svc 秋季霊祭 (10 am) **Take-home bento*
- 29 Wed -207th Birthday of Konko Daijin (9/29/1814)
-KMH Kyoten Study Group on ZOOM (5 pm)
- 30 Thur -Church clean-up (9 am)

October 2021

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 3 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage*
-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 9 Sat -Church clean-up for Autumn Grand Ceremony (8 am)
- 10 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage*
-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 13 Wed -Autumn Grand Ceremony (6:30 pm)
生神金光大神様 御大祭 **Take-home bento*

Konko Daijin says: I told Konko-Sama, "They are catching sparrows by using a crow for inducement. I thought this was a cruel thing to do." Konko-Sama replied, "A heart that feels compassion is a kami." (*Gorikai II Kondo Fujimori 17*)

Editor's thoughts: Feeling compassion for someone is a value that is beginning to fade. What are your attitudes towards the homeless, people who have mental illness or people who are experiencing substance abuse? Often times it may be difficult to offer help. Some may not want any help. But the least we can do is forward our thoughts of prayers and not think badly of them. By doing so, you are doing yourself a favor, Kami-Sama a favor and that person a favor. It's the thoughts we hold in our hearts that can either save or hurt people.

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.



Autumn Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, September 26, 2021 @10 am

Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Memo: Bento lunches will be distributed to take home after the service. Please RSVP by 9/24 so we can make enough bento. Thank you!

Let us remember the very people who laid the foundations of our existence. We are here because of our ancestors. We must give thanks for this truth and honor their Mitama Spirit. Your diligence to continuously remember and honor your deceased loved ones will contribute to the continual salvation of their Mitama Spirit. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones remembered, please register their names to Yano Sensei by Fri. 9/24. He will be reciting their names during the memorial service.

Let's join Peace Day in Hawaii Bell Ringing!
Register online:

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/peaceday2021/>

Date: Tuesday, September 21, 2021@8:30 am

8:30 a.m. – Opening Ceremony

9:00 a.m. – Minute of Silence

9:01 a.m. – Bell Ringing

9:06 a.m. – Peace Messages & Jake Shimabukuro

9:30 a.m. – Closing Ceremony



Kyoten Study Group

Come join us for our study group via **ZOOM**. We meet every 2 weeks and are currently studying the **Voice of the Universe**. We always learn something new
ID: 815 2952 9465 PASSCODE: 914385



Our next study group dates:
Friday, September 10 @ 5 pm
Wednesday, September 29 @ 5 pm

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2021

9/19 Sun -And 1-year Mem. Svc for the Late Rev. Makio Nagai (Hilo)
10/3 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
10/10 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
10/13 Wed-Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (6:30 pm)
10/24 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
11/4 Thr -Pilgrimage to attend Iwatani Church Centennial
11/7 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Ceremony (11 am)
11/14 Sun -International Gathering at Gohonbu cancelled
11/20 Sat -KMH Board Meeting (10:30 am) @HNL Church
11/28 Sun -24th Mem. Svc for Late Rev. Kikue Kodama @HNL (9 am)
12/11 Sat -KMH Head Minister's Mtg (10:30 am) @HNL Church
12/19 Sun -49th Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
12/26 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
12/30 Thr -30th Annual Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church (8 am)

Those who practice faith should feel gratitude even after sitting and resting on a tree stump in the mountains. (*Gorikai II Unknown 23*)



Happy Birthday

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

Founder Konko Daijin 9/29/1814 (207th)
Rev. David Yano Hope Morihara Stacey Toma

You can now support "**Konko Mission of Wahiawa**" when you shop through AmazonSmile!



Get the Amazon shopping app via App Store or Google Play

Join AmazonSmile Simply sign up by selecting your favorite charity

Turn on AmazonSmile through "Settings" in the main menu



AmazonSmile will donate 0.5% of all eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop!

Okage Sharing

My name is **Jayden Kahaka'ioikamalie Adkison** and I am the 5th generation to attend this church. I have attended this church since I was about 5 from what I remember. It is out of one's mind to believe that I am now 18 years old giving a speech to all of you that still probably see me as that young boy.

Over these past couple of years, I have learned a lot about myself, the importance of family, friends and practicing faith. I have been blessed with countless of exciting opportunities such as moving to new states, meeting new important people in my life, experiencing different cultures and my parents would even say "getting to live a blessed/spoiled life."

I have just recently graduated high school and I am still in shock. I still remember graduating 8th grade and registering into that big new high school campus. All my middle school teachers would say horrible things about high school throughout the year

such as "That won't slide in high school" or "In high school you're going to get a ton of homework and be up till 3am." All of this kind of paranoid me at the beginning because you do get a little more homework and responsibility. Although this is true, you learn to overcome many necessary obstacles and phases that make you into who you are as not only a student but as a person. This is important especially because of this past year. We all had to adapt and change because of Covid. Businesses shut down, schools shut down, pretty much the entire US shut down but we made it through the storm and are now more cautious of our health and being more sanitary.

I am blessed that I was able to remain healthy and so were my family and friends. Now that vaccines have started to become stronger, things have been reopened and society has slowly gone back to normal. Because of this I have been blessed yet again to be able to go to college but to also pursue my passion and play on their soccer team. Being able to move back to Hawaii is a blessing itself and I couldn't be more happy to share this moment with you all.

As I leave to start a new chapter of my life, I will always remember the things about this church and the true message of Tenchi Kane No Kami's teachings and guidance. One of the things that will always hold a place in my heart is singing "Shining Shimmering Brilliant Light" together because it makes the energy in the room more powerful as if it's more than a song and it always makes my day. Every day I have received guidance to my issues, or even felt relieved from my anxieties knowing that Kami-Sama has heard my words. I also learned especially from my mom that having a good relationship with the Universe and reconnecting back with the Universe is very important to relieve stress and to get away from the electronics and other distractions. It is a blessing to have such amazing people in my life because they all have had an impact in who I am today. My amazing dad, beautiful mom, crazy brother, beautiful girlfriend, and my silly dog Koa, have always helped me through my darkest days and never shy away from the chance to make me into a better individual in any way. I couldn't have asked for a better life and I will continue to make everyone proud and practice faith every day. Thank you so much. (*Testimonial shared at church on Sunday, August 1, 2021*)



Editor's Note



Dear Reader,

I hope this newsletter finds you in great health and overall wellbeing. September is the month of the Autumn Memorial Services throughout Konkokyo. These large memorial services are held twice a year. Once in the spring and once in the autumn. Monthly memorial services are also held to honor the people who passed away in a specific month. Our daily thoughts and prayers for their eternal salvation of our deceased loved ones are also a tradition we cherish in our faith. To honor our loved ones for the legacy they left behind, let's dedicate a portion of our Sunday, September 26, 2021 at 10:00 am as we conduct our Autumn Memorial Service. You are welcome to join us in person or on Facebook Live. It's your dedication of your time that will mean a lot to our beloved loved ones who have passed.

I want to share with you the benefits/values of inconveniences. I was watching NHK World a couple days ago and came across this very interesting topic that grabbed my attention.

In this day and age, we want things to be as convenient and time saving as possible. If church can be attended through watching online, "Hey, I'll take that!" Right? No need to wake up so early, no need to dress up, no need to waste gas, no need to prepare an offering. It saves money and time!

I'm sure a lot of churches and temples have lost their regular membership because the pandemic is causing so much fear and forcing people to stay home and enjoy church from the comforts of their couches instead of the pews. Some people may even declare that it didn't even matter in the first place whether they went to church every Sunday or not. They may say, "Nothing changed, I'm still alive, I still receive blessings." And not going to church became a plus for some because now they have more time for themselves.

Do you believe so? The social aspects of our lives have definitely diminished due to not going places anymore. For some people, the church was their only means of a social connection. And the spiritual connection has also diminished and placing trust in Kami-Sama has faded as we are constantly bombarded with negative news of the ongoing pandemic and etc.

But I believe that there is virtue in going through the inconveniences of still going to church because you are putting forth that much energy into your practice of faith. The founder Konko Daijin said "People say, 'I cannot go to the hiromae because I am so busy.' I will not force people to come even when they are busy. I know that if they are receiving divine blessings in their daily work, it is only natural that they have no free time. They should, however, try to make spare time on rainy days or holidays and come to the hiromae to receive divine blessings" (Gorikai III Jinkyu Kyogoroku 31-1,2). "Practice faith conscientiously. Saying that you practice faith at home and

using it as an excuse is the start of losing your faith" (Gorikai II Kondo Fujimori). If we get lax in our faith, the blessings begin to reflect our attitudes. Okage blessings are merely the shadows cast by the sincerity of our heart. Showing a cumbersome attitude towards going to church saddens Kami-Sama and Kami-Sama doesn't ask people to come out of obligation. Kami-Sama just wants our sincerity. Yet it's so hard to even do that these days. There is virtue in putting in some time to do inconvenient things.

People may be afraid of going to the hiromae to gather on Sunday. However, the hiromae is open every day. If people are afraid of coming because of the crowd of people, come on a weekday, when no one else is around. There are many ways and options to show our sincerity to Kami-Sama. The relationship we have with Kami-Sama is personal. Kami-Sama's blessings are reflected in the sincerity of our actions.

There is reward in not taking shortcuts. Take for example, hiking up Diamond Head. How many of you have done that? Hopefully if you live on Oahu, you all had a chance to climb up there. But what if they just made an elevator from the base of the mountain to the very top? And you can get up there in just 15 seconds? That would be pointless right? The reward of the breathtaking view awaits those who took their time, energy and sweat to

hike up there and climb the acute inclined stairs leading to the first tunnel. You will not feel exhilarated if you just went up there with the elevator and not break even a bead of sweat.

What about marathons? I would personally never pay money to go run a marathon to get tired and sore all over just to win a t-shirt after crossing the finish line. But I do know a lot of people who do, because they can feel a sense of accomplishment. People would get big blisters form on their soles near the end of their trek, and it would be all worth it once they finish the marathon safely. It holds a lot of meaning for each marathoner.

How about growing your own fruits and vegetables? We have it so easy in our era. And you wouldn't believe how hard it was for our ancestors several hundred years ago to get food in their bellies. They didn't have grocery stores. They had to hunt for their food. They had to forage through the forest for edible berries and fruits. They had it very hard. And there were hungry predators too, like lions, tigers and bears that would attack humans! Try growing your own food, then you will be able to appreciate its value. I planted carrot seeds more than a year ago, and the carrot root is only about an inch in diameter. But it's so precious to me because I watched it grow from seed. I wouldn't even want to sell it.

I planted flower seeds in the yard back in May, and now they are beginning to flower. I can buy a bouquet of flowers,



but the satisfaction of growing your own from seed is priceless. The seeds we planted and waited patiently will grow. With encountering inconvenience, we can appreciate its value.

Who uses the thick phone book these days? No one. People just toss it into the recycle bin. But you never know what other businesses you will stumble upon when you open the yellow pages in the printed version.

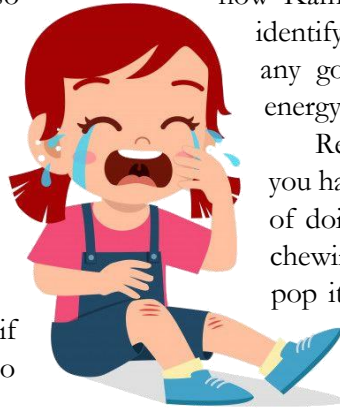
In the NHK world program, there was a man named Mr. Kawakami who purposely led a life of inconvenience for 20 years. He even uses a degrading navigation system. Which is basically a GPS that erases the road you have traveled on once, so the next time you go to the same location, you cannot take the same route twice. That way you can learn to be familiar with different uncharted territory. When things are so convenient, you will find little value in it, and your brain will become lazy.

Inconvenience brings about more of an emotional connection. Deliberately inconvenient activities can stimulate the minds of everyone. Kids nowadays are only accustomed to remote controls, and automatic things. A pull cord to adjust the speed of the fan or to dim lights is something kids have never seen before in this age, especially if they were brought up in a house that uses Alexa to turn on the lights.

Experiences of minor inconveniences can actually be good for the brain. Through encountering inconveniences, we can learn to solve small problems. Like the jungle gyms these days are too safe. Kids don't scrape their knees anymore. Our childhood was all about cuts, scrapes and bruises from falling or getting into accidents. We used to always get bullied too. We'd get picked on for the clothes we wore, the way we walked, the way we talked, the way we looked, for being Japanese, for being poor, etc. But we survived. I think it actually made us stronger.

Kids these days are too dramatic when they get a little cut and they bleed. They think they are going to die. When they get teased for the smallest things, they come home crying and never want to go back to school again. When people encounter problems, they immediately get discouraged and never return, or move somewhere else. They do not know how to problem solve effectively. Problem solving skills have to begin at a very early stage in life. Or else, they may grow up to be adults that can never be satisfied.

People are always trying to achieve perfection and absolute comfort. And anything that disrupts that comfort is eliminated. Relationships as well. Faith as well. So instead of being discouraged by inconveniences in our lives, let's learn to appreciate them. When problems occur, we have to learn to place trust in Kami-Sama by praying wholeheartedly and doing our part as well to problem solve effectively. We need to put sincerity in our actions.



Can you think of something cumbersome, but must never be rushed or done carelessly? Airplane inspections or safety inspections of machinery or equipment. If you think about it, you would really hope that whoever inspected the airplane that you are about to ride on did an excellent job. On rare occasions we may get an announcement at the gates and we are told that due to a mechanical issue, we will have to go to another gate or that we will have to wait hours for another plane to arrive. Majority of the people tend to grumble when that happens. That happened on a few flights in the past. But instead of grumble, I say "Thank you Konko Sama." It could have been worse. Had that airplane flown, it might have been our last flights. We never know when or how Kami-Sama is protecting us. So we must try to identify the blessings at hand. Grumbling will not do any good. It will only concentrate more negative energy that is already being emitted by everyone else.

Reestablish that connection with Kami-Sama if you have become distant. You will realize the benefits of doing so. My mom always says that faith is like chewing on dried bonito. There is no flavor when you pop it into your mouth. But with time, the umami comes out and you will be able to appreciate its value and flavor. And it will enhance your life, just like how *katsubushi* enhances dishes with its umami. People may not see the difference in just a year of faith practice, but if they can practice faith for 10 years, they will definitely see that something has changed in a positive way. That is faith. It shouldn't be rushed; it should be consistent. Thank you for reading.

-Edna



Ehimemaru Summer Memorial Service 8/13/21



Picnic with Rev. Rodney, Fong and friends at Haleiwa