

Fore
word**Asking for Divine Arrangements of Kami**

by the Reverend Koichiro Takahashi Director of Konko Library

My mother, who was the wife of the former Head Minister of Konko Church of Okayama, passed away in 2021. Serving Kami was her passion in life. In October of 2020, my mother had her 82nd birthday. Her children and grandchildren got together for her and a birthday party was held. There was a birthday cake for my mother and the cake had a lot of candles on it. The candles were lit and mother blew them out. I said to mom, "Share your thoughts with us, please." In a weak and faint voice due to her illness, mother said, "Well, I've lived twice as long as my mom did."

My mother's mother, Chiyono Yoshikawa, served Kami with her husband, Sadajiro in Harbin in northeastern China. (Sadajiro, my grandfather, was the Head Minister of Konko Church of Harbin.) Quite unfortunately, Chiyono passed away in 1949 at the age of 42. With her husband, she had to go through big chaotic situations as soon as World War II was over and they had to go back home to Japan. Extreme fatigue and

mental strain may have cost her life.

Right before she took her last breath, my grandmother, Chiyono, spoke to her children who were all in big sorrow at her bedside, "If you wonder why you are having troubles despite your devout faith, your faith has stopped. Think that it is because you are lacking in faith, and practice faith single-heartedly. Then you can receive divine blessings." I hear that Chiyono gently smiled when she said these words.

My mother was a 10-year-old girl at that time, and she used to say that she didn't need to doubt Kami thanks to her mother's words. In my mother's mind, however, there seems to be always two ambivalent feelings about her mother... one is a daughter's love and respect for her mother who dedicated her whole life to serving Kami. The other is that my mother must have felt a deep sense of regret over the absurdity of war. I don't think it was easy for my mother to always hold these ambivalent feelings, but her ambivalent feelings seem to have generated

an impulse and urge in my mother. This impulse urged her to pray to our Parent Kami for the fulfillment of people in need, I believe.

On June 16th, 1959, by the way, Dr. Beever, a religious studies scholar at the University of Chicago, visited the Konkokyo Headquarters. Dr. Beever went up to the Mediation Place for Toritsugi Mediation with the Third Konko-sama. The American scholar asked Konko-sama, "Please give me a message or two for not only the Japanese but also for people of the whole world." Then the Third Konko-sama replied, "People have various desires/wishes. I, therefore, pray to Kami that each of those people will receive Kami's divine arrangements on his/her desires." An official document confirms this very dialogue of the two people.

War is the greatest hardship imaginable, and my mother had to grow up as a little girl under such a harsh circumstance. A

wish was born in the little girl's heart, and being encouraged by her own wish, my mother dedicated her whole life to serving Kami. I have no idea how much Kami did for my mother over the course of her life.

Whenever I remember the aforementioned remarks of the Third Konko-sama, my heart is filled with deep gratitude and awe. I also cannot but believe that I am a child of Kami who needs Kami to make various arrangements for him from now on, just as he has needed Kami to do so until this very moment.

There are people who are being thrown into irrationalities such as wars and conflicts now. These people naturally tend to hold a chain of sadness and hatred in their hearts. I, therefore, would like to follow (the Third) Konko-sama and pray to our Parent Kami so that those people in warzones will instead be allowed to embrace a prayer for everyone's relief and comfort through Kami's merciful arrangements on them.

The Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith and the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama Are Held

In Order for Everyone to Smile ~towards the 150th Anniversary of Konko Daijin's Passing~

The Konkokyo Headquarters held the Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith and the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama at the Konkokyo Headquarters' Grand Ceremony Hall. The ceremony started at 13:30 of June 14, 2026.

The Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith (Kyoshu Konko-sama) was the Chief Officiant and 11 other Konko ministers conducted the ceremony. Konko-sama offered Tamagushi to the altar after reading aloud the Saishi Prayer as the Chief Officiant. Then there were the periods of

"commendation for Konko ministers with a 40-year sincere, selfless service" and "ceremony of ordainment for those who graduated from the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary." Then the Reverend Michio Hashimoto, the Chief



Administrative Director of Konkokyo, gave a speech.

During the period of "commendation for Konko ministers with a 40-year sincere, selfless service," the Rev. Ikuro Kataoka (Konko Church of Saizaki, Okayama Prefecture, Japan) represented 40 ministers who contributed to the wellbeing of people in need by engaging themselves in various activities of the Konkokyo Organization for many years and he received a letter of commendation and a wooden cup from Konko-sama. The Rev. Kataoka then stated his words of gratitude.

During the period of "ceremony of ordainment for those who graduated from the Konkokyo Gakuin Seminary," the Rev. Daiki Yasutake

(Konko Church of Chikushi Hongo, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan) represented 19 newly ordained (Konko) ministers and he received a letter of appointment from Konko-sama. The Rev. Yasutake then

stated his words of pledge. (Speech by the Chief Admin. Director to be posted later.)

Prior to the aforementioned Ceremony, the Rev. Kazumasa Tsukamoto, the Director of Ceremony Department, read out the names of the commended ministers and newly ordained ones.

Following the Ceremony, we had the "Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama" with Konko-sama and his wife in attendance. In this ceremony, Konko-sama gave words after a short speech of the Chief Admin. Director. After that, the Rev. Nobuo Sato, a Senior Adviser to Konko-sama, presented his words of gratitude. Finally, a bouquet as a symbol of gratitude of the whole Konko congregation was presented to Konko-sama and his wife respectively.

After all events were over, the commended ministers went to the first floor of the Konkokyo Headquarters' General Administrative Office Building, where they had their photograph taken. Then, they entered the hall and heard the Chief Admin. Director congratulate them. Finally, each of the commended ministers received a letter of appointment and a commemorative gift.

◆ Remarks by the Chief Admin. Director of Konkokyo ◆

Welcome to today's ceremony, ladies and gentlemen!

I am truly grateful that we are now holding the Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith with Konko-sama serving as the Chief Officiant.

During today's ceremony, 40 (Konko) ministers were commended (by Konko-sama) for their years' engagement in various activities of the Konkokyo Organization and contribution to the propagation of our Faith.

Also, 19 ministers were newly ordained. I congratulate all of you. For all of us and for the Konko Faith, this is quite encouraging.

There was a time when we used to hold the Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith on June 10th. Regarding this very date, there is an episode I would like to share with you. On the evening of June 10th, 1883, the Rev.





Norio Sato was waiting in his house in Geibi Province, because he had received a with you. On the evening of June 10th, 1883, the Rev. Norio Sato was waiting in his house in Geibi Province, because he had received a divine message from Kami that he would have a few guests on that evening. Just as instructed (by Kami), the Second Shinichiro Shirakami sensei and the Rev.



Fujimori Kondo visited the Rev. Sato. In Sato sensei's house, the three of them had a lively conversation about how they could/should work

in order for Konko Daijin's faith (the future Konkokyo Organization) to be officially approved for its propagation. They talked all night long and promised that they would cooperate with one another and work hard together. When the three ministers reported this to Konko Daijin, the Founder joyfully said, "'Both sides have come together,' and 'The time has come.'" These ministers are called the "Three Main Disciples," and they made tremendous contributions to the establishment of the Konkokyo Organization. The

official approval by the government for the Konko Faith, however, was not given during Konko Daijin's lifetime.

Two years after Konko Daijin's passing, namely in 1885, an official approval for propagation was given to Konkokyo that was now under the "umbrella" of Shinto. However, (unlike today,) there were many restrictions on Konkokyo's propagation at that time. Because of those restrictions, the Konko Faith at that time was unable to convey the full content of the Founder's faith without hiding. Years later, in 1900, our organization was able to become independent as "Konkokyo."

Our predecessors endured immense hardship for the sake of our religious organization's independence. Why were they able to survive those hardships? It is because our senior ministers/lay believers realized that they needed to convey Konko Daijin's faith to future generations as accurately as possible. They joined hands and worked very hard together. We, Konko Daijin's followers living today, would like to express our gratitude for this in today's

ceremony. I also would like to encourage us to let people near us know about Konko Daijin's faith towards the year 2033, the 150th Anniversary of Konko Daijin's passing. We would like to do this in order to help all people of the world smile.

In last year's Nationwide Gathering of Konko Youth, (the Sixth) Konko-sama gave us the following words:

"Kami has a wish that all people of the world will become happy. When people become happy, they put a big smile on their faces. Please consider how to help all people of the world smile." We spontaneously smile when we feel happiness. For example, when we are too hungry to be active and get to have delicious food in our mouth, all of us will feel happiness and smile. This kind of simple, everyday happiness is what the whole world wants now.

In August this year, the KCNA and KMH will hold the KCNA/KMH joint ceremony. This ceremony will be held in order to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Konkokyo propagation in Hawaii



and North America. The Rev. Masato Kawahatsu of the Konko Propagation Hall of South San

Francisco is recently distributing the following words to people:

"Let us smile more, let us laugh more, let us appreciate all the blessings from the past, now, and in the future so you can share the bright light with others."



This is something anybody can do as a form of religious practice. Smiling (to others) is probably an effort to express the Divine Reminder's "Kami's blessings begin within Hearts grateful and caring, In harmony and joy. Look to Kami always, Now and forever. On this very day, pray." in one's home, in one's neighborhood, in one's local community, etc.

We will have the Inauguration Ceremony for (the Sixth) Konko-sama after this ceremony. We are truly grateful that this Faith paved by our dear Founder has been handed down for six straight generations starting with Konko Daijin.

Unless you need to go home right after this ceremony, I invite you to join the following Inauguration Ceremony. I also pray sincerely that you will get to receive even bigger and richer blessings from our Parent Kami than ever.

This is all for my remarks. Thank you very much.

The Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama



Following the Commemorative Ceremony for Konkokyo's Independence, the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama was held.

The Director of the General Affairs Department led Konko-sama and his wife to the stage. Soon after both of them were seated, the Chief Admin. Director of the Konko Faith stood before the worshippers and made some remarks. After that, Konko-sama gave words.

Finally, the Rev. Nobuo Sato (Konko Church of Geibi, Hiroshima Pref., Japan), one of the Kyoshu Konko-sama's official (elderly) consultants, stated words of appreciation to Konko-sama, representing the whole congregation of the Konko Faith.

◆ Remarks by the Chief Admin. Director of Konkokyo ◆

(The Sixth) Konko-sama finished his (first-ever) five-year term as the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith on March 26th, 2026. Konko-sama sincerely accepted the request of the entire Konko congregation and he entered his second five-year term as Kyoshu Konko-sama for us on the following 27th. This means that (the Sixth) Konko-sama continues to "unify the Faith" and "succeed the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin and graciously preserve the tradition of our Faith." All of us are deeply thankful for this.

Receiving Konko-sama's daily prayers and Sacred Mediation, the Konkokyo Organization sets forth the Basic policy, "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." The Organization also sets forth the Activity Policy,

1. We will make the function of each local Konkokyo church even more active than ever
2. Each of us will engage ourselves in the promotion of "Propagation by the Konko Organization"
3. We will cultivate valuable human resources for a bright future of the Konko Faith

And we have been conducting/implementing various activities.

We would like to become spiritually invigorated more than ever towards the 150th Anniversary of Konko Daijin's Passing that we will welcome in the year of 2033.

(The Sixth) Konko-sama has kindly/sincerely entered his second five-year term as the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of Konkokyo, and I pray that we will receive Konko-sama's prayers and Sacred Mediation more than ever and be allowed to receive grand blessings from Kami upon our faith lives. I also pray that we will be allowed to help all people of the world get to smile.

This is all for my remark. Thank you very much.

Words by Konko-sama

Since I took over the Fifth Konko-sama, I have served my role as the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith for the last five years. This time, I have been asked by all of you to continue to serve this important role, and I have humbly accepted your request.

I express my hearty appreciation towards the fact that I have been allowed to serve this role, being taken care of by everybody and every single thing. With a renewed determination and motivation, I would like to be useful (for people) more than ever.

I would like to continue to seek, express and hand down the faith of our Founder. I would like to receive Kami's blessings together with all of you and contribute to the realization of Kami's wish even if a little.

Thank you very much for your cooperation in advance.



◆ Words of Gratitude by the Rev. Nobuo Sato, a Senior Consultant to Konko-sama ◆

We are deeply thankful for you, because you have accepted the request from the whole Konko congregation and assumed the position of the Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of Konkokyo.

I am particularly grateful that you have been succeeding the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin which has a 168-year history and graciously preserve the tradition of our Faith. All of us are saved through receiving your Sacred Mediation. With your Mediation, we are also allowed to grow up spiritually and become fulfilled in every aspect of our daily life. I thank you very much for this.

When I look back on your last five years, since you became our Spiritual Leader 5 years ago, the whole world suffered because of Covid-19 for a few years. In the Konkokyo organization, the passing of the former Konko-sama (the Fifth Konko-sama) was a huge event. Each of these big events both inside and outside our Organization put us into turmoil and unrest, but your Sacred Mediation has helped us receive Kami's blessings and we are still allowed to receive divine blessings from our Parent Kami. Words can never fully explain just how much grateful we feel for you.

On New Year's Day of this year, a radio program, "Konkokyo Period," aired Konko-

sama's messages. Konko-sama said as follows: "Why do humans fight, destroy the nature and deprive many people of their smiles?"

By nature, people have capability to give a hand to someone that is in trouble. This is for everybody to be able to smile. It is my firm belief that humans are humans because they get to help others."

Here and there in this world today, we see various sufferings/difficulties. Under this severe circumstance, Konko-sama's messages are quite easy-to-understand and also important.

Our dear Founder literally walked with Kami especially when he was in difficulty.

The Founder also showed Kami's heartfelt wish, "There

are many people like yourself who have sincere faith in kamis but still have many problems. Help these people by performing toritsugi." I am now renewing my resolution that I would like to contribute to the realization of Kami's wish, "Show the world a state where both Kami and people will be mutually fulfilled."

Konko-sama, please stay healthy and mediate Kami and all of us. Please make each of us do goyo where each of us are needed. On behalf of the entire congregation of Konkokyo, I humbly express our deep, true appreciation and make a request to you.

Thank you very much.

