Konko Missions in Hawaii NEWSLETTER

Malamalama



April 2018 Volume 36 Issue 1

The Konko Missions in Hawaii will fulfill Ikigami Konko Daijin's vision to embrace the world with the Konko Faith.

New Year's Greeting

Rev. Koichi Konko, KMH Center Director

Happy New Day! Everyday is a fresh new beginning. When we wake up in the morning, it is a new day. We should celebrate our life. Thus we shouldn't be stuck in the past but we can use the past, good and bad experiences, as fuel to go forward.

I walk to Liliha street from the residence before dawn every morning to open the church gate. Looking up at the sky while walking, I find the stars are twinkling.

The bright moon is in the air. I also see clouds are flowing past the moon. Depending on the season, sometimes the full moon is just above the church building. In that moment I can feel the surrounding virtue of the universe. We are allowed to live because of blessings of the Divine Parent of the Universe. I feel good and at ease while realizing this

fact in the dark looking up the sky.

I look at the church building and residence as well as the paved ground. They are shapes of blessings, too. I imagine the history of the church. There are so many people who were saved through practicing the Konko faith, teachings of Konko Daijin, and Toritsugi mediation. Their monetary offerings from their sincere hearts have been supporting the building and maintaince of the church. It is thanks to them, I am able to see the church building before me. I appreciate the work of Kami-Sama, our Divine Parent of the Universe.

I can feel the breeze, I see the stars and moon in the sky, I hear the leaves on the huge monkey pod tree in the Liliha bakery parking lot rustling. I sometimes smell something sweet wafting from Liliha bakery next door. I breathe the cool air. I am alive, I have senses. With my senses I notice daily blessings, which I easily forget or ignore. When I recognize and appreciate those everyday blessings, I feel good and refreshed. They even give me an energy overcome anything I may be going through.

I know I am receiving daily blessings as well as sig-



Full moon over Honolulu Church

nificant blessings continuously being granted by Kami-Sama. I feel the work of Kami-Sama in my bodily functions. I am in the Universe and Kami-Sama resides within me. We as human beings are all beloved children of Kami-Sama so we live in the blessings and love of Kami-Sama. We receive Kami's heart as we are born; Kami-Sama dwells within each one of us.

Recently, I feel more virtues and blessings surrounding me when I am

thinking about Kami-Sama and thinking about people with problems. I pray to Kami-Sama that they can find the way. That they can feel Kami-Sama.

It is important for us to keep Kami-Sama, our Divine Parent of the Universe, Source of our life, Ultimate Supporter of our life, in our minds. We are allowed to live in the Universe because of Kami-Sama.

Konko Sama said, "To be human is to help people." "Be aware that saving people in distress is to be human and practice faith." (excerpt from Kyoten I Yamamoto Sadajiro 65)

Since we receive so many blessings day and night, we need to share those with people around us, especially those who don't know about Kami-Sama, who have problems, who need help. It is like breathing. We need air to live, we need to both inhale and exhale. We cannot only "receive" like inhaling, but we need to "share" like exhaling, the way of the Universe.

There are many people who need help. We can help them through sharing our stories of blessings and guide them to church and help them seek Toritsugi mediation. This is *Omichibiki*. I would like to encourage *Omichibiki*. People might have big problems and not know what to do. However, Kami-Sama will grant blessings. Kami-Sama just needs people who can spread this Way of Faith. May Toritsugi mediators bond and reconnect people with Kami-Sama. Let us take on our roles as human beings. Through *Omich-*

ibiki we please Kami-Sama and also save ourselves.

We need to practice faith and feel Kami-Sama. We understand that every day is special and precious.

We should live day to day while practicing faith. We can become better people and help others.

How Does a Moment Last Forever

~Dorothy Kyōko Kodama: Hawai'i's Fukyō Kōrosha~

By Dr. Rev. Todd Takahashi

How does a moment last forever? How can a story never die? It is love we must hold onto Never easy, but we try

Sometimes our happiness is captured

Somehow, our time and place stand still.

Love lives on inside our hearts and always will.

Minutes turn to hours, days to years then gone

But when all else has been forgotten

Still [her] song lives on.

Good afternoon. My name is Todd Takahashi. Although I am not related to Dorothy, she was my calabash aunt and one of my biggest

supporters when I was preparing to become a minister.

This afternoon, we have all gathered here to *not* say goodbye, but to say thank you to an amazing woman who in one way or another touched our lives.

In the *norito* (main prayer) read by Reverend Kōichi Konkō, we learned a great deal about Dorothy: her birth, where she went to school, etc. In about one week, Dorothy would have been 88 years old. For this afternoon, I did not want to repeat facts that were already shared. Instead, I wanted to share with all of you, who Dorothy Kyōko Kodama was to me.

However, before I start, there are three facts that we must first accept in order to understand who this incredible woman was:

- (i) She was the daughter of immigrants;
- (ii) Her parents were both ministers of the Konkō Faith;
 - (iii) She was born to these parents; she never asked to be born to them; and she was never asked to be born into her family situation.



Please keep these three facts in mind, as I share with you, who I know Dorothy Kyōko Kodama to be.

Amazing Sister

Dorothy was an **amazing sister**, who lovingly put her life aside, in order for her siblings to live their lives to the fullest. As the eldest, she dedicated her life to her parents and the church -- by doing so Arthur, Lilian, Ernest, Grace, and Rev. Shukuko could have their own lives. If she had not, one of the other siblings would have had to do what she did.

She took care of her siblings during and after World War II, when her father -- the late Reverend Masayuki Kodama -- was interned and later repatriated to Japan. And yet, I do not think anyone ever heard her grumbling. She accepted this as goyō: service to Parent God.

Family was everything to Dorothy as well. She loved her nephew and niece. She loved her siblings. I remember seeing pictures of the Kodama Family together in the parsonage. I remember going across to the minister's residence and seeing pictures of her nephew and niece on the Kami Altar. It made sense why those pictures were there: She and her mother prayed for their 'ohana on a daily basis.

Amazing Daughter

She was an **amazing daughter**. I do not know of many children who would change their entire work schedules to just assist their parents and then leave their careers to care for their parents. But that was Dorothy. She retired at the young age of 60, knowing what the financial ramifications would be.

Grace, Dorothy's younger sister, told me that she believes her parents' ministry could not have been as successful as it was if it were not for Dorothy. The late Reverends Masayuki and Kikue Kodama did not drive. And Dorothy drove them everywhere, assisted them here at the church and outside when they had services and other activities, cared for them when they were ill, traveled with them all while caring their suitcases, etc..

Apostle

Most people would say that Dorothy was a **dedicated believer**. I could not disagree more. She was not a believer. She was beyond that. She was an apostle of our Founder, Konkō Daijin. She lived her life in accordance with the Konkōkyō teachings and had absolute faith in Parent God or Ikigami Konkō Daijin, Tenchi Kane no Kami.

Just before I moved to Los Angeles in 1997, I remember Ms. Yayoi Watanabe telling me the story about Dorothy going off to college. Just before Dorothy went to Kansas State College, Yayoi-san asked her, "Aren't you afraid of going to such a place where there are very little Japanese or others Asians?" Kyōko-san's response was, "As long as I have Kami Sama in my heart, I am not afraid of anything. I know that my parents are praying for me. And Kami Sama will protect me. I am not afraid."

That's a person of absolute faith.

Kind and Generous Person

I think most of us can agree that Dorothy was a **kind and generous person.** This year, I was very privileged to join Grace on her pilgrimage in Japan. We met many people who were beneficiaries of Dorothy's kindness and generosity: whether it be her taking care of them when they visited, gifts and/or omiyage, dinners or home cooked meals, etc.

I can easily name 10+ people who came to Hawai'i, and were recipients of Kyōko's love and generosity. Watch!

Late Reverend Yoshizo Yasuda - Former head of the entire Konkōkyō Religion

The Late Reverend Sueko Katsura and her daughter Reverend Ryōko Katsura – Konkō Church of Kokura

Late Reverend Fumio Matsui - 3rd head minister of the Konkō Church of San Francisco

Late Reverend Hisano Ibaraki - Konkō Church of Kii

Reverend Kazue Sato - Konkō Church of Takasaki: In fact, Kazue Sensei even remembers Dorothy and her going out to the movies to some place called the Tōyō Theatre.

Reverend Mitsue Saito - Konkō Church of Ōzu Reverend Norimichi Ibaraki - Konkō Church of Dōgo

Reverends Yoshio & Yokiko Asano - Konkō Church of Hon-Nakano

Late Reverend Nobuko Saitō and the Reverends Toyoo Saitō and Mayuko Kuwada - Konkō Church of Kasaoka

Mr. Harumasa Satō, Konkō Church of Takasaki Reverend Mikiko Kunitō - Konkō Church of Yamashiro

Reverend Mitsuo Ishimatsu - Konkō Church of Higashi Yahata

That is only 16 individuals. The tip of the iceberg. I would not doubt there are more! In fact, every church Grace and I went to during the pilgrimage, her family members always asked about Kyōko-san first, then they would reminisce about her loving and giving nature, AND most importantly the pictures!

Do you all remember her famous camera? How she would capture every moment? I cannot remember what church it was, but they said, "We still have a big stack of pictures!"

Mother and Daughter: The Two were Always Together

Dorothy also had a very special bond with her mother, the late Reverend Kikue Kodama. I truly believe that Dorothy's absolute faith in Parent God stems from having this special bond with her mother and witnessing her mother's faith in action.

Reverend Satoko Watanabe of the Konkō Church of Mino shared that whenever they -- Kyōkosan and Kikue Sensei -- visited, she was honored to be their driver and take them wherever they needed and wanted to go to. She was amazed and inspired at the love and care that Dorothy showered upon Kikue Sensei. There are many others who have witnessed this beautiful relationship.

Reverend Toyoo Saitō, Head Minister of the Konkō Church of Kasaoka, shared that he remembers when Kikue Sensei was hospitalized in Japan. Dorothy had called him not knowing what to do. Saitō Sensei rushed to the hospital in Fukuoka. While Dorothy went to make changes to their flight, Saitō Sensei watched over Kodama Sensei. Kikue Sensei was having a hard time breathing, and she would call out, "Kyō-chan, Kyō-chan". Saitō Sensei would gently rub Kikue Sensei's hands to keep them warm. He would gently rub her back in the hopes of soothing her. Then, he said to Kikue Sensei, "Let us pray." When he began to chant the Tenchi Kakitsuke, Kikue Sensei would call out, "Kyō-chan, Kyō-chan".

To Rev. Saitō, Dorothy and Kikue Sensei were the mirror image of each other. 一心同体: They were one in heart, mind, and soul. When he thinks of Kikue Sensei, he cannot help but to think of Dorothy at the same time, and vice versa. They were literally one and the same.

(Cong)

(Song)

Maybe some moments weren't so perfect Maybe some memories not so sweet But we have to know some bad times Or our lives are incomplete

Then when our shadows overtake us Just when we feel all hope is gone We'll hear her song and know once more Minutes turn to hours, days to years then gone But when all else has been forgotten Still [her] song lives on.

In Konkōkyō, we have a term: 布教功労者 (fukyō kōrō sha) or one who has rendered distinguished service to Konkōkyō. I truly believe that

Dorothy Kyōko Kodama is a 布教 And I do hope that she will be recognized as one by our faith this coming December.

Why?

Why she is our布教功労者: "You have Kami Sama in your bag"

Reverends Matsuko and Ryōko Katsura of the Konkō Church of Kokura, shared with me this story. It was the story that would be my foundation while in the Seminary. Every time I felt I wanted to give up, I recalled this story, and it was the impetus that got

me to move forward. And now that I am older, this episode in Dorothy's life means a great deal to me.

Grace Kodama thanked every-

one for coming to her sister's

funeral

At the age of 11 during WWII, Dorothy's father was taken away by the FBI and interned. As the church could not function, Kikue Sensei hid important items to our faith and one of them is the Tenchi Kakitsuke or Sacred Reminder. Kikue Sensei put the Tenchi Kakitsuke into Dorothy's bag telling her, "I am putting Kami Sama in your bag. Do not lose this. Do not let anyone touch what is inside your bag. Keep this bag safe. You have Kami Sama in your bag." Such responsibility to lay on a child of 11 years of age.

To most people, this would have been an unfair burden to places upon a child. But to Dorothy, who at the age of 11, understood and comprehended the situation, this was her goyō or service to God. How could she accept this? Why would she accept such a burden? To understand this, you need to understand her amazing mother and grandmother.

Why she is our布教功労者: Lovingly retired

When it comes to Dorothy, people keep saying that she "sacrificed" herself for her family and faith. I strongly believe the word sacrifice is a sacrilegious word when it comes to Kyōko. It is not the proper word to describe her actions. Nothing she did was a sacrifice, especially since it comes from a place of love.

She lovingly put her life, career, and health aside for our church, her parents and siblings. Most

siblings would hold a grudge towards their parents or other siblings because they had to "sacrifice" ... that was not Dorothy. She wanted her siblings to live their lives to the fullest. Caring for the church and her parents was her goyō ... her job ... her joy.

She did a great deal of goyo or service to Parent God for this church. From a young age, she translated for her parents, especially during the war. She drove her parents around: hospital visits, the

and honor of Parent God.

I believe her cousin, Reverend Norimichi Ibaraki (Konkō Church of Dōgo, Head Minister) stated it best:

banks, shopping, doctor appointments, etc. She would clean the church and home altars, she did the shopping for the offerings, she purchased office supplies, etc. She would later service the church in one of the hardest capacities: as a board member from 1981 to 1997. As a board member, she strongly believed that things needed to be done properly in service

Kyōko, your sense of responsibility for your parents, siblings, and the believers at Honolulu Church was very intense, and thus you did what goyō you were able to do for all of them with diligence, dignity, and love. This was your mission ... your responsibility. And you truly fulfilled it.

Notice, Ibaraki Sensei wrote "this was" and not "this became" your mission. It never became her mission because it was always there from the day she was born. Parent God had pre-ordained her with this mission and somehow Dorothy knew it. Dorothy never rejected it. Dorothy accepted it with appreciation and joy.

Why she is our布教功労者: Refusal

Reverend Saitō would often ask Dorothy to consider becoming a minister. He would tell her, "From Honolulu Church's very beginning, you were there at your mother's side doing goyō in some capacity. You always accompanied your mother on her pilgrimages to Headquarters and your parent church of Amagi. Doing just that is the same as doing goyō as any minister.'

Dorothy's response would always be, "My mother is the real minister. Albeit I could not comprehend my father's strictness towards her, I witnessed my mother unconditionally and respectfully calling him "Sensei" or "Reverend". I could never do what my mother did. I could never have that kind of faith or do that level of goyo."

Dorothy was more qualified to be a minister than most ministers in my religion. I know that she was more qualified than me. She would not even entertain the idea of becoming a Hokyō or Minister's Assistant. Her humility and willingness to serve God as just Dorothy -- not Reverend Dorothy or minister's assistant Dorothy -- but just Dorothy, I believe qualifies and is absolute proof of her distinguished service to our faith.

She is a 布教功労者, or one who has rendered distinguished service to Konkōkyō.

On a Personal Note

Both the Late Reverend Kikue Kodama and Kyōko were my biggest supporters when I wanted to become a minister. It was Dorothy, who translated for me when I could not speak Japanese. She helped me to understand her mother's heart and intent. And for that, I am truly indebted to her. It is as if I am both Kikue Sensei and Dorothy's first and last disciple.

I will never forget the love they extended to me. When I was at the Seminary: Seminary story. You see they did something that has never been done in the 100+ year history of the Seminary: interrupt a class to see a seminarian. I clearly remember a staff member coming to the class and asking for Roy Yasutake, Mayuko Saitō, and me to follow her. The three of us were very quiet because we all thought we were in trouble. My mind was racing thinking, "Did I do something?"

When the door opened to the headmaster's office, there was Dorothy with a big smile and open arms. All three of us received gifts from Kikue Sensei and Dorothy that day, however we were not the only recipients of their aloha. All the seminarians and the staff received something. That is so Dorothy.

I know that Kyōko's love is here at this *hi-romae* (workship hall).

Kyōko's *toku* (virtue) radiates here at this hiromae.

And now Kyōko's mitama will watch over not just her family, but all of us.

She, along with her parents and other family mem-

bers, will guide Kōichi Sensei and his family, as well as each and every one of us. And for that, I am so grateful.

One more last thing, on behalf of every minister in Hawai'i, on behalf of all believers of the Honolulu Church, I want to personally thank the Kodama Family: Grace, Lilian, Reverend Shukuko, and Sharon for allowing Kyōko-san be a part of this church and our lives. I am sure there were times you wished she had just thought of herself and done things for herself versus always doing for the church. We thank you very much for sharing Kyōko-san with all us.

How does a moment last forever?

How does our happiness endure? Through the darkest of our trouble Love is beauty, love is pure

Love pays no mind to desolation It flows like a river through the soul Protects, persists, and perseveres And makes us whole.

Minutes turn to hours, days to years then gone But when all else has been forgotten Still [her] song lives on.

Menken, Alan. (2017). How does a moment last forever [Recorded by Céline Dion]. On *Beauty and the Beast* [MP3]. Burbank, CA: Walt Disney Records.



Dr. Rev. Todd Takahashi

Editor's two cents

So, what were you doing when that now infamous ballistic missile attack false alarm happened back in January? What was your reaction when you found out it was a false alarm? There were a great deal of people who were understandably upset at the irresponsibility of the person who mistakenly sent out that false alarm. I personally feel that laying blame on that individual is pointless. I chose to instead to take this absolutely terrifying and unfortunate situation and turn it into a chance to re-evaluate what I hold dear and what I choose to put my energy into. Had that really been my last day on this earth, would

I have been able to say that my life was fulfilling and I can leave this earth with no regrets? I felt a strong need from that day on to truly live my life to its fullest and without regret. Ballistic missile attack or not, the truth is tomorrow is really not promised, ever. Therefore, we should be focusing our energy on living the best life possible everyday. When something like this happens, it serves as a reminder to always be grateful for what I have, and to not waste any opportunities to let my family and friends know that I love them. I would not want to leave this world without letting them know that. Stop wasting time.

Konko Mission of Waipahu 80th Anniversary Celebration



When: June 17, 2018

10:00 - 2:00

Where: Pearl Country Club

Theme: Crossroads: Past, Present and Future

Fee: None

You and your family are cordially invited to attend our anniversary, celebrating our 80 years of ministry in Waipahu, honoring our founders and ancestors and praying for our descendents' happiness. Keep this date open!

Reverends Tetsuro and Mitsuko Yasutake

S Jan	M	T	w	Т	F	S
7	1 8 15 22 29	9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31	18 25	19 26	27
4 11 18	5 12 19 26	6	21	8 15 22	23	10 10 24
4 11 19 29	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29	9 16 23 30	3 10 17 24 31
Apr 1 ® 13 22 29	9 16 23 30	24	18	19	20	21
6 13 20 27	7 14 21	15 22	16	17 24	18	19
10 ① 24	4 11 18 25	19	13 20	7 14 21	15 22	9 16 23
13 22	9 16 23	10	11 18 25	12	13	14
12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	8 15 22 29	16	10	18
2 9	3 10 17	4 11 18 25	5 12 19	13 20	14 21	22
Oct	1 8 15 22 29	9 16 23 30	10 17 24 31		12 19	(3) 20
41118	5 12 19 26	13 20 27	7 14 21	8 15 22	9 16 23 30	10 17 20
2	(3)	4 11 18 25	5 12 19 26	6 13 20 27	7 14 21 28	1 8 15 22 29



2018 KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII CALENDAR

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

General Meeting

02/17 (Sat) 13:30 - 16:00

Board of Trustees Meetings

01/20 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00 05/19 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00 08/11 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00 11/24 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

Young Adult Gatherings

Every 2nd Saturday

Faith Enrichment Program

Hawaii Gathering 07/29 (Sun) 10:30 – 15:00

Honbu Pilgrimage 11/9 (Fri) – 11/16 (Fri)

Kauai Gathering

TBD

Head Ministers' Meeting

12/03 (Mon)

Ministers' Gathering

06/02 (Sat) 10:30 - 15:00

Missionary Women's Group Meeting

03/02 (Fri) 10:00 Honolulu

Community Activities

05/28 (Mon) 8:00 Memorial Day 07/15 (Sun) 9:30 Kuakini Medical Center

10/21 (Sun) 16:00 HCRP Peace Prayer

Konko Founder's Movie on KIKU TV

TBD

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Konko Mission Women's Group

Wahiawa Mission Family Camp

07/07 (Sat) - 07/08 (Sun)

KCNA

7/20-22 2018 KCNA Conference At Loyala University, Chicago

SERVICES & GRAND CEREMONIES

Spring Memorial Services

03/18 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu 03/25 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo Waipahu Wahiawa

Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremonies

Wailuku

04/08 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu 04/13 (Fri) 18:30 Wahiawa 04/15 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu 05/06 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku 05/13 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

Autumn Memorial Services

09/16 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu 09/23 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo Waipahu Wahiawa Wailuku

Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremonies

10/07 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu 10/13 (Sat) 18:30 Wahiawa 10/14 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu 10/28 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo 11/04 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

Anniversary Ceremonies

06/17 (Sun) 10:30 Waipahu 80 Yrs

Memorial Services

 04/08 (Sun) 11:00
 Rev. Masahiko Yoshino
 5 Yrs

 06/ (Sun)
 Rev. Katsuo Yasutake
 10 Yrs

 09/23 (Sun) 10:00
 Rev. Takiyo Nakai
 50 Yrs

Volume 36, Issue 1 Page 7

Konko Missions in Hawaii

Malamalama Editor: Aimee Yasutake 1728 Liliha Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: (808) 536-9078 E-mail: kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org

Website: http://konkomissionshawaii.org/

Konkokyo Hour: Radio K-ZOO AM1210 at 7:00 a.m., every Sunday

То:			

KMH Mission Statement

The Konko Missions in Hawaii addresses the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith through a better understanding of the life and teachings of Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Toritsugi (Divine-Mediation).

"Malamalama" is now available through e-mail!

For our devoted readers who would like to receive the "Malamalama" electronically, please let us know at kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org

For our readers who would still prefer a hard (paper) copy, please do not hesitate and let us know.

Thank you!

We welcome any and all article contributions! If you have an interesting story of faith, inspiration or have any ideas or suggestions for material you'd like to see in future issues of the Malamalama, we're all ears! Please contact us at kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org.

KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII

HONOLULU 1728 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: (808) 533-7173

E-mail: Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com

HILO 58 Huapala Lane, Hilo, HI 96720

Phone: (808) 935-3239

WAIPAHU 94-106 Mokukaua St., Waipahu, HI 96797

Phone: (808) 677-3716 Use same # for Fax. E-mail: Ytetsul@outlook.jp

WAHIAWA 207 Muliwai Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786

Phone: (808) 621-6667 Use same # for Fax.

E-mail: konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com

WAILUKU 2267 Mokuhau Rd., Wailuku, HI 96793

Phone: (808) 244-4738 Use same # for Fax.

HANAPEPE c/o Rev. Setsuko Okuno

1544 Molehu Dr., Honolulu, HI 96818

Phone: (808) 423-7707

KONKO CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA

Administrative Office

1911 Bush St. #4A San Francisco, CA 94115

Phone: 1(415) 851-9722 Fax: (604)-876-4326

E-mail: kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org
Website: http://www.konkofaith.org/