



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

160th Anniversary of the Establishment of Konkokyo

By Rev. Koichi Konko, KMH Center Director

This year marks the 160th anniversary for Konkokyo since Konko Daijin, our Founder, received the Rikkyo Shinden or Divine Call on November 15, 1859 from Tenchi Kane No Kami, the Divine Parent of the Universe. Kami asked Konko Daijin to retire from farming and devote himself to Kami-Sama to save people. Konkokyo considers this as the beginning of the religion.

The Konko Mission of Honolulu and the Konko Mission of Hilo will also celebrate their 90th Anniversary in August and November of this year.

I would like to take a moment to appreciate our Founder, his disciples, their disciples and initial members in Hawaii and all the founding ministers of the Konko Missions in Hawaii. I also cannot help but acknowledge all those who succeeded the faith and churches so that we are able to experience our 90th anniversary and 160th celebration today.

The current Konko Sama said at the Konkokyo 150th Anniversary Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Service, "I would like to appreciate from the bottom of my heart that we are relating to the Konko Faith that our Founder initiated through successive Spiritual heads and their disciples before us."

Somehow we are practicing Konko Faith and attending Konko churches. We know the Konko Faith and like the teachings. We acknowledge blessings and the Divine Parent of the Universe. We are connecting to the Founder's

Faith through our ancestors, parents, friends and ministers of Konkokyo. We realize we are fortunate in having our Divine Parent, church and Toritsugi mediation in our life. Someone connected us to the Founder and we shall be that someone for our children, grandchildren, relatives, friends, and people around us.

Konko-Sama also shared these words 2 years ago at the closing of a gathering at Konko town, "Our Founder said Konko is written with the Kanji characters for 'Golden light.' Any person is inclined to look toward light gradually, people will come toward the light." I believed Konko-Sama is encouraging us to become a light for someone. We can become the brighter light through trusting Kami-Sama and gaining trust from Kami-Sama.

I would like to continue to encourage you to "Omichibiki." Omichibiki is the action to take someone who Kami-Sama wants to help to the church and bring them to Toritsugi mediation. I pray Kami-Sama uses us to connect someone to the Founder so that he or she can be saved from difficulties. The individual can release the negativities and see Kami-Sama's love and learn teachings that support our life through Toritsugi Mediation.

Commemorating an anniversary is a wonderful opportunity to reflect back to the past to learn about Omichibiki from ministers and believers who came before us and return to the present to apply our faith life.

Let us continue to practice faith.

90th Anniversary Celebrations

The Konko Mission of Honolulu's 90th Anniversary will be a two-part celebration:

August 24, 2019, 2:00PM —Hotoku Service

August 25, 2019, 10:30AM —Anniversary Service



The Konko Mission of Hilo will celebrating their 90th Anniversary on November 3, 2019 from 11AM.

2018 KMH Honbu Pilgrimage

By Rev. Akinobu Yasutake, Konko Mission of Waipahu

By receiving divine arrangements, my wife Miyoko and I were able to attend the 2018 KMH Honbu pilgrimage together. The pilgrimage consisted of the KMH Faith Enrichment Program and the 4th International Gathering sponsored by the Konkokyo International Center (KIC). The schedule of the 2018 KMH Honbu pilgrimage was: meet at the Kofukan lodging by the evening of November 12, the KMH Faith Enrichment Program started from November 13, meeting with the Honbu Propagation Department on November 14 before noon, and the International Gathering was held from the afternoon of November 14 to November 15 until the Konkokyo Establishment Day Service was to be held. The participants were Koichi-Sensei, Flora and Paula Higuchi of Honolulu church, and my wife and me from Waipahu church. After my wife and I had spent a few days with Miyoko's sister's family and visited Toyohara church, Miyoko's mother's grave and Miyoko's father who is in a nursing home, we arrived in Konko in the late afternoon on November 12. After checking in to the Kofukan, we went to the main worship hall. It happened to be the time of the 4:00pm prayer, so we joined and visited the founder's grave and successive Konko-Samas' graves after. The leaves of the trees on Yuzaki hill started to change color beautifully, the weather was nice and the air was clear, so we felt like our hearts were cleaned. On the first night, we had to arrange our own meals, so we went to Tsuchiya restaurant nearby. On the way from Konko-Sama's grave, we had checked if the restaurant would be open. The restaurant staff said, "there is a group reservation at 7:00pm, so if you can come by 6:30pm, we can serve meals." Therefore, we went a little after 6:00pm. When we were about to leave after the meal, a woman came in. It was Rev. Hideko Konko, Koichi-Sensei's aunt. She said, "We are going to have a periodical gathering called 'Tsuchiya Kai' organized by Hiromichi-Sensei (Konko-Sama's first son). Although Hiromichi-Sensei cannot make it today, I would like you to join." I told her, "We have to go back to Kofukan as a bath time is arranged for us, but we can join until our bath time." Although it was a short time, we were able to meet and talk with some active Konko ministers and believers who live in Konko or nearby.

KMH Faith Enrichment Activities

Next morning, the KMH Faith Enrichment Program started. We woke up a little after 3:00am and joined in the receiving line of Konko-Sama's procession from his home to the main worship hall. Then the five of us attended the early morning prayer and received Toritsugi by

Hiromichi-Sensei (it appears Hiromichi-Sensei is being a substitute). During the past Faith Enrichment Programs offered by KMH, we learned about the founder and how Konko Daijin's faith has spread by visiting disciples' churches. This time, too, we visited two churches founded by disciples – Saizaki church founded by the late Rev. Jirosiro Kataoka and Kuban church founded by the late Rev. Sanokichi Sunami. Both disciples are well known in Konkokyo and appear in the Gorikai teaching books. The staff of the Honbu propagation department kindly arranged transportation, lodging and meals for us. First, we stopped at a family restaurant for



Otodoke with Rev. Kataoka, Konko Church of Saizaki

breakfast, then went to Saizaki church. I thought some of the roads on the way to the church looked familiar. It is no wonder because the location of Saizaki church is very close to Miyoko's hometown. Going through rice fields and narrow roads, we arrived at the church. The church building looks old, but I felt dignity and solemnity there.

At Saizaki church, Rev. Ikuro Kataoka, the 5th generation head minister, talked about the founder of Saizaki church, the late Rev. Jirosiro Kataoka. Although he was a farmer, he was well educated and assigned to important roles in the village. He was healthy and wealthy, but not blessed with a child; he kept losing children, and the oldest he had ever raised a child to was only four. People said, "It must be a curse of Konjin." He thought there must be some place that teaches about Konjin as it is one of the deities. Then, in 1866

he found out about the Hiromae of Ume Omori at Nakai about 4.4 miles away. He was a person who needed to understand things logically, or he could not be fully satisfied. He went to the Hiromae of Konko Daijin on February 4, 1868 for the first time. There, he could not be fully satisfied either, but he thought he would like to follow him as the founder had similar experiences of losing children and the founder told him, "Let us practice faith together." Later, Konko Daijin gave him a teaching through Toritsugi, "If



Konko Church of Saizaki

the whole family practices faith together, you will receive divine blessings.” After Jirosiro, his wife started to practice faith, then his brother and mother, but his father never went to the Hiromae for a long time saying, “It’s too far, and all others of the family go to worship, so that’s enough.” Nevertheless, one day, his father felt like going to the Hiromae in December 1872. He had difficulty in hearing, but he could hear Konko Daijin’s voice very clearly. Konko Daijin said, “A cane (meaning a grandchild) will be given to you.” The following year, on January 2, 1873, Konko Daijin told Jirosiro, “Kami makes Saizaki a branch Hiromae.” At this point, there was no sign of divine blessings, but Konko Daijin told him to start Toritsugi at Saizaki. Then, his wife became pregnant in spring, and in September gave birth to a son who eventually became the 2nd head minister of Saizaki church. Rev. Ikuro Kataoka explained, “It took seven and a half years to receive the divine blessing after he had visited the founder’s Hiromae for the first time. However, there are no records to indicate Jirosiro was frustrated or complained. He truly believed he would receive divine blessings for sure. He knew it would take time, and thought that in order to receive divine blessings, one must make an effort worthy of those blessings. The bigger the blessings, the more special those efforts must be.” Rev. Ikuro Kataoka also emphasized about Jirosiro’s character, that “he was very straightforward, steady and honest, which sometimes caused conflict with others, so Konko Daijin told him to be more flexible. The main objective of his faith was to be totally trusted by Kami-Sama, which also became the core of Saizaki church’s faith. To be trusted by Kami, we need to be trusted by our parents, spouse, family and people of society.”

For lunch, we stopped at a restaurant near Saidaiji station. Miyoko and I felt strange because we had been in Saidaiji, Miyoko’s hometown, a few days before, leaving from Saidaiji station, and we could see the house Miyoko used to live in on the way and Miyoko’s high school from the restaurant. Next, we visited Kuban church. Again, we went through rice fields and narrow roads, and arrived at the church. At the Okekai, the 4th generation head minister Rev. Akinori Sunami asked, “Which one is Yasutake san?” “It’s me, sensei,” I responded. Then he said, “How is your father? He and I were classmates at the Konko seminary school and we were in the same dorm room.” Rev. Sunami first explained about the history of the Kuban area. 350 years ago, a daimyo or a feudal lord of Okayama, Mitumasa Ikeda, tried to expand farming land by reclamation of the delta area of Kojima bay between Yoshino and Asahi rivers. Numbers were assigned to each reclamation work area from No. 1 to No. 10, and Kuban literally means No. 9. Therefore, the Kuban area is relatively flat with no mountains around, and parts look so similar to each other that even police officers sometimes get lost while patrolling.

The founder of Kuban church is the late Rev. Sanokichi Sunami, who was born in Goban (No.5). He was adopted



At the Konko Church of Kuban, founded by the late Rev. Sanokichi Sunami

when he was six years old, but his foster parent had his own son later so the adoption was terminated. When he was 22 years old, he was adopted by the Ishida family through marriage. However, his mother-in-law passed away and his father-in-law got remarried. The second wife had a son and heir, so he went back to the Sunami family. With such complicated family relationships and violent tempers of the family members, there were often conflicts among the family members; so much so that they did not work together at farming land. Therefore, the neighbors realized that the family members were not

close to each other. Sanokichi was well educated and served as village head, and he worked to mediate and reconcile when conflicts occurred among village people, but he could not reconcile his own family members. He first went to Saki Aoi’s Hiromae in Goban, and one day he joined Aoi’s group to visit Konko Daijin’s Hiromae. At the beginning, he actually felt suspicious about Konko Daijin as people would say he used foxes and badgers. They tried



Konko Church of Kuban

to go to Konko using a ship, but it was cancelled due to weather conditions, so they walked to Konko. They arrived in Konko very late at night and felt freezing cold. Konko Daijin received a divine message that “three people from Bizen (east Okayama) are coming to worship,” so he waited for them until very late at night. Also, at Kibinoya inn, a bath had been prepared for them. Sanokichi really felt Konko Daijin’s extraordinary Toku (virtue), and thought he would also like to receive such Toku.

One day, after he had a quarrel with his father, he went to Konko Daijin’s Hiromae. Konko Daijin told him, “Family conflict can be an irreverence to Kami” and gave him the Tenchi Kakitsuke, explaining the line “Okage wa Waga Kokoro ni ari” – divine blessings are within your

own harmonious and joyful heart. He brought back this "Waga Kokoro" home and the family members reconciled, apologizing to each other. He practiced Konko faith very hard, doing some asceticism such as early morning Mizugori (cold-water ablution). Later, he was told by Konko Daijin, "Spread the true faith," so he started Toritsugi in his house at Goban while doing farming and working as village head. Later, he retired from farming and being village head and established a Hiromae at Kuban. Construction of the current church building started in 1912 and completed in 1914. "Because of the teaching of Waga Kokoro given by Konko Daijin, which became our family's core of the faith from generation to generation, I am so grateful that my family of 3 children and 9 grandchildren (3 each) are very close to each other," Rev. Sunami said.

Through visiting the disciples' churches, I thought there are different emphases and characteristics in each Konko church. However, I felt there is one thing in common: it is important that a family practices faith together, being close to each other. On the way to Konko, we stopped at Koraku-en, one of the three great gardens of Japan, located by Okayama castle. I heard that Flora and Paula visited Kenroku-en in Kanazawa, which is another of the three great gardens of Japan, before coming to Konko, so I told them jokingly, "Wow, you visited two of the three great gardens. Just one more to go (Kairaku-en in Mito)." In Koraku-en, we enjoyed the beautiful garden, which is indicative of nature such as rivers, lakes, forests, mountains, and rice paddies. After we enjoyed dinner at an all-you-can-eat shabu shabu restaurant, which made us so full, we went back to the Kofukan where we saw Rev. Oya and some others who came to attend the 4th International Gathering.

4th International Gathering

Next morning, again we attended the early morning service. After the meeting with the propagation department, we went back to the Kofukan and realized that registration had started for the International Gathering. Including Honbu and KIC staff and participants from Hawaii, North and South America, and South Korea, 49 people participated in this International Gathering. At 1:00pm, an opening service was held at the main worship hall, and we recited Tenchi Kakitsuke in Japanese, English, Portuguese and Korean. I was really impressed that Tenchi Kakitsuke was recited in several languages and hoped it would be translated into all languages and recited all over the world. Otodoke at the Okekai was done in Japanese and English, and Konko-Sama greeted the participants in both Japanese and English as well. The first program was "Discover Goreichi (spiritual town of Konko)," and we visited Rikkyo Seijo (the founder's original worship hall and mediation place). There, we recited Tenchi Kakitsuke in four languages again, and Rev. Kiyoji Konko (second son of Konko Sama) explained the significance of Rikkyo Seijo and talked about three springs. He said, "There are three

springs: the first one is the Honbu Hiromae (main worship hall), the second is the Hiromae at your local church and the third is at your home and working place. Those springs are connected invisibly just like springs connected underground." Then we visited the house where the founder was born. Officially speaking, it is not a Konko church, but it has a Hiromae and Okekai just like a Konko church. Rev. Wataru Kandori showed us the original Tenchi Kakitsuke and some clothes Konko Daijin used during his pilgrimage. Behind the house, there are graves of the founder's parents and siblings, and we offered prayers there. We went back to Honbu passing very narrow roads, and attended the 4:00pm prayer and Konko sama's recession.

At 5:30pm, we had a dinner party at Yatsunami hall. While having a delicious dinner, representatives of Brazil, South Korea, Hawaii and KCNA gave a presentation or speech. Koichi Sensei gave a presentation showing a DVD of Hawaiian nature, as the narration of the DVD talks about heaven and earth and how those stories have been passed on from generation to generation, which has similarities to the Konko faith. At the party, Rev. Matsuda, a former director of the Hawaii Center, and Hiromichi Sensei played guitars and sang some rock music. At the end, we made a big circle holding each other's shoulders and sang a Konko song, "Oyagami no Yozashi no mama-



The Founder's birthplace, the home of the Kandori family with Rev. Kiyoji Konko and Rev. Wataru Kandori



Rev. Saijiro Matsuda and Rev. Hiromichi Konko rocking out

ni," if my memory is correct. One of the things I felt so grateful about is that three of my classmates from Konko seminary school attended this party and we were able to talk and take a group picture with the Chief Administrative Officer of Konkokyo, Rev. Nishikawa. Another thing I was impressed with was that there is a Chinese (or Mongolian) training student in the seminary and another training student who is fluent in English as he went to an international school. Both of them participated in the party and we had a chance to socialize with them.

Next morning, we gathered at the Kofukan entrance at 3:30am, welcomed Konko-Sama (Hiromichi-Sensei) and attended the morning service. After the service, we cleaned around Rikkyo Seijo. I swept the leaves on the steps to the founder's grave. After breakfast, we gathered at Shutoku-den (former main worship hall, currently used for faith trainings) for a faith enrichment workshop. First, we watched an old video of the 100th year anniversary service for the establishment of Konkokyo. Then, we split into groups of 8-10 for a group discussion. Before coming to Shutoku-den, we wrote a goal for the year. Each group made a circle and we each shared our "goal for the year" after a self-introduction. With Rev. Kawai of Nakano church as a discussion leader, our group was a Japanese-speaking group but had one participant from South Korea with Rev. Tsukamoto, a former Seoul Center Director, translating. Including him, our group had two members who were not Konko believers originally, but started to practice faith because of their wives. The other person is a member of Ginza Church. First, they just drove to and from the churches for their wives, then started to have tea, and little by little started to get involved in services or activities. Although they are in different countries, they both had very similar introductions to the Konko faith, and we all agreed that a wife's influence is very significant in any country. The person from South Korea said he was impressed with the words "Okage wa waga kokoro ni ari" in the Tenchi Kakitsuke, and he thinks the teaching can be recognized internationally. My aim is, "Passing faith on from generation to generation." My daughter gave birth to

a baby girl this January; therefore, I really wish this faith is passed on to not only my children, but also grandchildren and further. At 10:00am, the Konkokyo Establishment Day Service was held at the main worship hall. Rev. Koichi Konko and other ministers from North America, Brazil, and South Korea participated as officiants for the service. I was chosen to be one of the leaders as we recited "Toritsugi Shoshi." After the service, we took a group picture in front of the main worship hall. Then, the closing ceremony was held at Yatsunami hall.

When I attend an activity like this Faith Enrichment Seminar and International Gathering at Honbu, I always feel something great. First, Konko town itself is a very special place to me. I feel like I came home, not just because I used to live there when I was in Konko Gakuen High School for three years and in seminary school for another year, but I feel Konko is like my spiritual home. It is a place where many people with good hearts gather and pray; therefore, I feel spiritually refreshed. Secondly, I feel so grateful that I could meet many friends (new and old) of Konko faith who encourage and inspire me. My faith, which is sometimes stagnant, can be revitalized spending time with those friends of Konko faith. I am so glad to see some young people who are very devoted and high-spirited. I feel as if I received some energy from them. Next year marks the 160th year since Konkokyo was established. There will be a special service and activities at Honbu. I would like as many people as possible from Hawaii to visit Konko on this special occasion and feel something special.



Participants of the 2018 Konko International Gathering

2019 KMH Pilgrimage to Honbu

It's not too late to join the fun this year!!

The 2019 KMH Honbu Pilgrimage is scheduled for November 11 to November 20, 2019. The tentative schedule is as follows:

- Nov. 11 Depart Honolulu for Kansai International Airport
- Nov. 12 Arrive at Kansai International Airport
Stay at hotel near Kansai International Airport
- Nov. 13 Visit Konko Church of Osaka
Leave for Gohonbu Headquarters
Stay at the Kofukan in Konko Town
- Nov. 14 Join the 4th Konkokyo International Gathering Day 1
Stay at the Kofukan
- Nov. 15 Join the Konkokyo International Gathering Day 2
Visit Konko Church of Kasaoka
Stay at the Kofukan
- Nov. 16 Leave for Amagi
Visit Konko Church of Kokura
Visit Dazaifu Tenmangu
Visit Konko Church of Amagi (stay at hotel near Amagi Church)
- Nov. 17 Leave for Takachiho (stay at hotel in Takachiho)
- Nov. 18 Sightseeing in Takachiho
Visit Konko Church of Takachiho (stay at hotel in Takachiho)
- Nov. 19 Leave for Kumamoto (stay at hotel in Kumamoto)
- Nov. 20 Leave for Hakata and Fukuoka Airport
Fly to Honolulu

All those interested in joining the pilgrimage, please contact Rev. Koichi Konko. He can help you with arrangements for accommodations, however participants are asked to take care of their own airline reservations.





2019 KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII CALENDAR

MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

General Meeting

02/16 (Sat) 13:30 – 16:00

Board of Trustees Meetings

01/26 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

05/18 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

08/10 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

11/23 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

Young Adult Gatherings

Every 2nd Saturday

Faith Enrichment Program

Hawaii Gathering

07/28 (Sun) with Rev. Amy Uzunoe-Chin,
Chief Administrative Minister of KCNA

Honbu Pilgrimage

11/11-11/20

Kauai Gatherings

TBD

Head Ministers' Meeting

12/02 (Mon)

Ministers' Gatherings

07/27 (Sat)

Missionary Women's Group Meeting

05/12 (Sun) Hilo

Community Activities

05/27 (Mon) 8:00 Memorial Day

07/14 (Sun) 9:30 Kuakini Medical

Center

10/20 (Sun) 16:00 HCRP Peace Prayer

Konko Mission Women's Group

01/27 (Sun)

06/30 (Sun)

Konko Founder's Movie on KIKU TV

TBD

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Wahiawa Mission Family Camp

07/06 (Sat) - 07/07 (Sun)

KCNA Conference

08/09 (Fri.) - 08/11 (Sun) at UCSD

Youth Camp

8/6(Tues.) - 8/9(Fri.)

Young Adult

8/7(Weds.) - 8/9(Fri.)

Family Camp

8/8(Thur.) - 8/9(Fri.)

SERVICES & CEREMONIES

Spring Memorial Services

03/17 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

03/24 (Sun) 10:00 Waipahu

Hilo

Wahiawa

Wailuku

Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremonies

04/07 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

04/13 (Sat) 18:30 Wahiawa

04/14 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu

05/05 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

05/12 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

Autumn Memorial Services

09/15 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

09/22 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo

Waipahu

Wahiawa

Wailuku

Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremonies

10/06 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

10/12 (Sat) 18:30 Wahiawa

10/13 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu

11/03 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo (90th Ann.)

11/09 (Sat) 11:00 Wailuku

Anniversary Ceremonies

08/24 (Sat) 14:00 Honolulu Hotoku

08/25 (Sun) 10:30 Honolulu 90 Yrs

11/03 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo 90 Yrs

Memorial Services

04/14 (Sun) 11:00

Rev. Mitsumasa Yasutake 10 Yrs

03/24 (Sun) 10:00

Rev. & Mrs. Santaro Sonoda 45 Yrs

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Konko Missions in Hawaii

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To:

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.

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