



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

## The Way of Faith – Walking with Kami



### Introduction

Twenty four believers attended the first 2015 Konko Missions in Hawaii Faith Enrichment Meeting at the Konko Mission of Honolulu on Saturday, June 27, 2015. Rev. Shinkichi Kawai, Deputy Director of the Konkokyo International Center and the Head Minister of the Konko Church of Nakano gave us a lecture in Japanese with English interpretation. The lecture provided the opportunity for believers to understand different aspects of the Konko Faith showing how blessings are continuously realized by receiving and practicing faith in our daily lives through Toritsugi Mediation. This *Malamalama* issue features the first half ("Konkokyo as the Way" and "Practice to acquire the Faith") of Rev. Shinkichi Kawai's lecture titled, *The Way of Faith – Walking with Kami*, with the second half (*Touched by Kami's Wish for my "inochi" life and living Kami's Wish*), which will conclude in the next issue.

### Konkokyo as "the way (MICH)"

Rev. Shinkichi Kawai introduced the Japanese word, *MICHI* (or *DO*) , referencing two sources.

One is the traditional Japanese cultural "*MICHI*, which is used in Japan as part of the name of a number of traditional skills or codes of behavior, as in KADO, SADO, SHODO, JUDO, KENDO, and KYUDO. The basis of the *MICHI*, the Way, resides in posture and body movement. The fundamental postures are stand-

ing upright and sitting upright. These are related to an etiquette that forms a correct attitude toward life." ([http://www.city.kanazawaishikawa.jp/dentou\\_e/way/waye.html](http://www.city.kanazawaishikawa.jp/dentou_e/way/waye.html)) The other one is religious *MICHI*, which is used in Tenrikyo. "We Tenrikyo followers refer to our faith as 'the path' (or michi). ..... When we use the word "path," we are first and foremost referring to the very teachings Oyasama gave us. We describe our daily efforts to live up to God the Parent's intention as "having faith in the path," "walking the path," or "following the path." People who engage in this effort are called "followers of the path" or "children of the path." Finally, the way we use the word "path" can also refer to Tenrikyo as a whole. As I mentioned above, this path is a path that is to be followed by all the people of the world. It is indeed the absolute path which leads to the Joyous Life." (<http://www.tenrikyo.or.jp/en?newsletter/html/tt5/michi.html>)

Rev. Kawai further elaborated on the difference between *MICHI* and religion. The Japanese word *KYO* of Konkokyo was influenced by the word "religion," which came to Japan in the late 19th century. It is the word based on modern Protestantism, which has its doctrines and organization. On the other hand, the Founder of Konkokyo developed and established this *shinjin* or faith through his actual practice before the word "religion" was introduced to Japan. Therefore, when we are asked about our faith or religion, we tend to explain Konkokyo as a "religion." However, if the question were the way that we believe, we would say how we are practicing faith. Rev. Kawai noted that *MICHI* is a very useful and important concept to express and practice Konko faith. He then spoke about how we could practice to acquire our Founder's faith through his experiences.

### Practice to acquire the Faith

Rev. Kawai spoke about two places to practice faith. One is at church and the other, at home. He further noted that the combination of practices in these two places makes what happens in our lives wondrous and extraordinary. We then realize Kami's act in our daily lives.

We go to church to attend services, receive Mediation, and give our prayers. During that time, directing our hearts to Kami, we appreciate, apologize and pray to review our faith. In this way, we practically try to have a better relationship with Kami. We try to understand Kami's thoughts based on whatever happened in our daily lives. Later the

answer will be given through what happens next in our daily lives and then we understand Kami's will. Rev. Kawai shared his experience in which he has been receiving extraordinary blessings at his church. He learned Kami's heart in a series of events that happened at his church. He always started with his prayer, and saw what happened. Then he changed his prayer a little, to see what would happen. He developed and deepened his understanding of Kami's heart in the process of practicing faith in this way.



### Experience at Nakano Church

A small old storage shack stood on a property owned by the neighbor of Nakano Church. It blocked half of the church front and made the church look small from the street. The church couldn't purchase the property, because the owner was not willing to sell it for a long time. However, Rev. Kawai prayed everyday as he cleaned the church property to be able to purchase that little plot of land. His prayer was genuine because he prayed for making the church for people to find MICHI in the Nakano area.

Since he had always been cleaning the street in front of the land, the owner started to talk to him, expressing her appreciation. 5 years later, when the owner's mother passed away, she asked the church to buy her property. In this way the church was able to purchase the land in 2010. Rev. Kawai would later understand that this was a perfect timing for the Nakano Church.

On March 11, 2011, the East Japan Earthquake hit and the wall of the second floor of the church collapsed. They needed to check quake resistance for the church building and asked the Nakano Ward Office for assistance. The Office introduced an earthquake examiner. Surprisingly, the examiner who came to visit the church was Rev. Kawai's friend. Kami sent him to Rev. Kawai for the next arrangements.

Rev. Kawai met him about 20 years ago while he served at a voluntary activity. He was a member of the *Rissho Kosei-kai*, a religious organization. He is also an architect and took good care of designing the structure of the church building. He also introduced a construction company that he knew. They are also the *Rissho Kosei-kai* church members and tried to do the construction with a great care for the church.

While restructuring and rebuilding the church, the ministers needed a place to stay. Then, the Nakano Church decided to build a minister's residence on the newly purchased land before starting the construction of the church. For the ministers' residence, Revs. Shinkichi and Mayumi Kawai had a particular company in mind. Rev. Kawai phoned a member of his church who was a former presi-

dent of the company. He said to Rev. Kawai over the phone, "I will tell the President at the new year party tomorrow." The timing was right. On the next day, the president made a call to Rev. Kawai and confirmed that they will do their best.

Soon they sent a crew for the building, however, due to some miscommunication, the crew that was sent were not specialists for residences. However this miscommunication turned out to be blessings. Again, this was Kami's arrangement. Rev. Mayumi Kawai had a particular architect in mind after seeing many model houses. But, Rev. Kawai knew that the architect was not available in the Nakano Area. Now, this is a wondrous way that Kami makes arrangement. Knowing Rev. Kawai's request, Kami chose a person who knew the architect very well, and he made a special arrangement for the architect to work for the residence. The architect who was supposed to work at the different area in Tokyo and was not available for the Nakano Ward. He started to design the residence because they said that they would do their best. His design perfectly fit to the open lot. The residence was completed on October 29, 2012.

The construction for the church quake resistance started after the residence was completed. However, the next agenda was the open space between the church building and the ministers' residence. Nakano area is in the region of loamy layer of the Kanto district. When it rains, the ground becomes very muddy. When the sun shines, it gets very dusty. An additional and unexpected extra work on a premise was requested. The most suggested solution would be either pavement or planting trees in the open area. The church members suggested making a lawn or putting blocks to make a children's play ground or parking lot.

However, Revs. Shinkichi and Mayumi Kawai remembered what made the series of constructions possible. It was their prayers to serve for MICHI. Their next quest is "How the open space should be used for MICHI, the way?" They prayed for the answer. The common thoughts they had were: it should be used for the joy of the people who live in the area, and express our way of faith and Kami to the people. Then one person came into Rev. Mayumi Kawai's mind. It was Mr. Yasuo Kitayama, a contemporary master gardener who has received international repute. He is the top gardener in Japan who worked national treasures in Zen temples in Kyoto. In addition, how could he make time to come to Tokyo with his busy schedule having works all over the world. Rev. Shinkichi Kawai said, "No way."

About a month later, Rev. Mayumi said, "If Mr. Kitaya-



ma is impossible, how about one of his disciples who lives in Tokyo?" Then Rev. Shinkichi searched the phone number of Kitayama Zoen and made a call to ask his disciple in Tokyo. No one was available on the phone and Rev. Shinkichi left a short message with his name, Konkokyo Nakano Church and phone number. Within 30 minutes, Mr. Kitayama called him back. Rev. Shinkichi stunned by hearing what Mr. Kitayama said over the phone. He said, "I am coming to Tokyo on December 4 and 5. What time is good for you? I will do my best even for a single tree or moving one stone."

In the afternoon of December 5, 2012, Mr. Kitayama came to the church. In a straightforward manner he immediately asked the budget including yearly expenses. Mr. Kitayama accepted their offer with their budget. He said, "Nature cannot recover once destroyed. Therefore, the landlord should take care of it to maintain the nature." And he also said, "I do my work only for people that I feel right. I do not work involuntarily."

Revs. Kawai could not understand why Mr. Kitayama accepted the offer even after they heard what he said, because it did not explain fully why he decided to work for the Konko Church of Nakano. Then Mr. Kitayama said, "To tell you the truth, I once received advice from the Founder of Konkokyo." Rev. Kawai surprised at hearing what Mr. Kitayama said.

Mr. Kitayama became an independent gardener when he was 26. He had confidence, but no job came to him. While

he was struggling his mother received Mediation from the 4th Konko-Sama for him. Konko-Sama said, "*Hottokinasai*, Leave him alone." Having heard his friend saying what Konko-Sama said, he thought "It means that I will be okay, so let me do my best." And he continued, "Because of these words, I was able to continue my work until pass the age of 60."

Rev. Shinkichi Kawai understood why Mr. Kitayama took this job. The key word was the name of "Konko." Rev. Shinkichi remembered he left his church name on the message on the phone when he called the first time. He did not know the relationship between Mr. Kitayama and the 4th Konko-Sama.

The Garden for the opening area was started by the master gardener, and the story continues.

By Rev. Shinkichi Kawai,  
Translated by Rev. Yomisu Oya



## The Way of Kami and Me to the World

By Rev. Shinkichi Kawai, translated by Rev. Yomisu Oya

On June 26, ten ministers attended the first 2015 KMH Ministers' Seminar. Rev. Shinkichi Kawai of the Konko Church of Nakano gave us a lecture in Japanese. His lecture helped ministers understand how to care for each individual and what Kami is asking us to do. The ministers discussed the importance of seeking, conveying and supporting people for a true and sincere faith. Rev. Kawai concluded that we should actualize the world of *inochi* life to be saved in the secularized society by advocating "*Kami-yo* in *nin-yo*."

During this seminar, Rev. Kawai introduced a lecture note from the Rev. Toshimasa Okanari, the Konkokyo Chief Administrative Minister. His lecture was given at the second ministers' seminar held in February, 2015 at Konko, Japan. The following are the notes of the first part of the lecture by Rev. Okanari.

### The 3rd Konko-Sama's Prayers and Toritsugi There are various requests

Dr. Beaver of the University of Chicago visited Konko in June, 1959. When he received Toritsugi from the 3rd Konko-Sama, he asked, "I would like to have a message from you for the people of the world." Dr. Beaver expected to have a message for world peace, inequality, discrimination, and etc.

However, the 3rd Konko-Sama replied, "There are various requests. Therefore, I pray for each one to receive divine

arrangements." Hearing these words, Dr. Beaver said, "Thank you. I understand clearly."

Rev. Okanari introduced how two distinguished people felt after hearing this story.

○ Rev. Masao Takahashi

Rev. Masao Takahashi said, "Dr. Beaver asked for a message for the people of the world. However, the 3rd Konko-Sama replied with what he does in his daily life." What did it mean? The 3rd Konko-Sama had received various requests at the *Okekkai* Mediation Place. There may have been requests that were considered to be headstrong or selfish. Sometimes, a parent and a child or husband and wife came to blame each other at the *Okekkai*. However, the 3rd Konko-Sama would listen and receive each request and pray. How did he pray? Rev. Takahashi said, "There are various requests. I pray for each one to receive divine arrangements." The 3rd Konko-Sama continued to pray in this way, and he made a statement based on the way he had been doing. Rev. Takahashi noted, "It has continued since our Founder started." Then he concluded, "Dr. Beaver asked for a message to the world. If one message comes out, another one comes out. The more messages we make, the more confusing the society will be. They have different principles and standpoints. There are

many ways and teachings. They are all different. However even if it were different, each one has to find a solution in one's actual life. But, the requests in the actual lives cause the problems. The requests differ from each individual and each step. Even the same person could change depend on times and situations. Therefore, the 3rd Konko-Sama said, "There are various requests. Therefore, I pray for each one to receive divine arrangements." The 3rd Konko-Sama prayed based on the way he lived. Kami's working would be realized in the difference of the deeds of Konko-Sama and us. This is the work of Toritsugi." (*Zen-kyoshu Konko Sama wo itadaku*, receiving the former Konko-Sama) Rev. Takahashi had received Toritsugi from the 3rd Konko-Sama and served for Kami. At the same time, he had sought "A heart of Toritsugi" and "The Way of the ways."

○ Dr. Michio Araki

Dr. Michio Araki was born as a son of a head minister of a Konko Church. He contributed to this way of faith by studying world religions. He expressed a broadness and depth of Konkokyo by introducing this 3rd Konko-Sama's story as follows:

"The 3rd Konko-Sama just talked honestly about what he had been doing in his daily life. The content of *toritsugi* is huge."

"I met Dr. Beaver at the University of Chicago. He was the director of a protestant World Missionary Research Institute. His specialty was the study of missionary work. It was a study of the spread of Christianity to the World, and was quite different from mine. Therefore, I didn't have a chance to talk to him. However, what the 3<sup>rd</sup> Konko-Sama prays is far beyond religions in Japan and Christianity, and was opened widely to all religions and all people's re-



quests. It has a capacity to go beyond any human domains. As is well described by the Founder's saying, "All people are children of Kami," Konkokyo characterizes its broadness that embraces the whole world. We are so fortunate having Konko-Sama for all these years. It is a tradition that has continued since our Founder. If all the religions in the world had this prayer, no wars would occur – no Iraq War and no Israel problems. Isn't that right? I wonder that we are the ones who are making this prayer too small." (*Kiki*

*no jidai ni ikiru chikara wo*, The strength to live at a crucial period of time)

Dr. Araki stated, "What the 3<sup>rd</sup> Konko-Sama prays is far beyond religions in Japan and Christianity, and was opened widely to all religions and all the people's requests."

"Being open" means that all people's requests, no matter what it may be, will be allowed and accepted. And it indicates a broadness of the 3rd Konko-Sama's prayer. Furthermore, this prayer has continued since the Founder and became a tradition embracing the World. This is the main es-

sence of Konkokyo. In other words, it has been said, "*michi no michi taru tokoro*, this is the way in this way" or "*toritsugi no kokoro*, the heart of toritsugi."

Dr. Araki further stated that if all the world religions pray in the same way, there would be "no Iraq War and no Israel problems." There would be no confrontations if any and all requests are accepted. There is a prayer, which says, "There are various requests. Therefore, I pray for each one to receive divine arrangements." This is a huge prayer that can go beyond any boundary, and bring humanity "World Peace."

Recently, I am frequently using the word "*Toritsugi no roman*, toritsugi romanticism." Dr. Araki surely expressed "*Toritsugi no roman*" beautifully in his way.

## Stories Beyond One Pencil

*Back to school service sermon given by Rev. Akinobu Yasutake at the Konko Mission of Waipahu*

I feel grateful that we could gather here to hold a monthly memorial service followed by a back to school service. Now it's time to go back to school for students and teachers, but are you ready to go back? Need more vacation? But we must realize that we are lucky to be able to go to school. There are many children who cannot go to school in the world because of war, lack of freedom due to political or religious restriction, poverty, health issues, and many other reasons. Data from UNICEF (United Nation's International Children's Emergency Fund, worldwide organization supporting children) shows there are 57 million children who cannot go to school in the world. Other data says 110 million. It is getting better as the number has decreased by 45 million compared to 15 years ago,

but it is still a very big number. It is also said there are 775 million people who cannot read or write in the world. But your country is peaceful enough, your family has enough money, and you are healthy enough so that you can go to school. So you have to remember that you are so lucky and blessed, and you should be appreciative of that. I would like to remind you of one more thing. Do you know what this is? Yes, a pencil. One of the important supplies you use at school.

But can you make a pencil by yourself? Probably not. So someone is making it for you, right? I noted there is a Japanese picture book titled "Stories Beyond One Pencil 「一本のえんぴつのむこうに」." The book il-



illustrates that one pencil is made through so many people, actually showing their names, pictures, and personal stories. The first person is Mr. Bodymahattaya in Sri Lanka, an island country near India. He works for a graphite mine 1000 feet below ground where it is so humid and hot. Graphite becomes pencil lead. The next person is Mr. Dan Landless in the United States who is a lumber jack. Everyday he wakes up at 3:30 in the morning, has breakfast, and then goes to the mountain to cut trees using a chainsaw. Then, the person who delivers those trees is Mr. Tony Gonzalez. He is a truck driver and a good father. Then the lumber goes to a factory to make flat boards. There are many people working on that. Then, the boards are shipped to Japan by a Mexican ship. In the ship, there is a Mexican captain, pilot, mates, engineers, and cook. After the ship arrives in Japan, Mr. Kiyoshi Takahashi, a crane operator, unloads the wood boards. Those raw materials for pencils are delivered to a pencil factory in Japan, again through many people's hands. In the factory, Ms. Mieko Ookawara and other workers make 420,000 pencils a day using the wood and lead. Mrs. Kimino Sato who runs a stationary store purchases pencils from the factory and sells them to students and other people. Those are the stories behind one pencil.

Just a pencil, but it is made and comes to you

through so many people's hands. You have to remember that there are many people working hard to make the pencil and those people have families and personal lives. Not just pencils, but notebooks, erasers, text books, clothes you wear and so many others things. You can go to school and study because of help and support from many people. Please do not forget to be thankful for that. Above all, there are other important people who help you to study. Yes, teachers. Teachers help you to study a lot. Who else? Yes, your parents and family. Without their support, you cannot buy pencils and go to school. Let us not take it for granted. Also, please remember that because of the blessings from heaven and earth, we can get pencil lead and trees to make pencils. Please keep an appreciative heart for such divine blessings. I am not talking just to students, but parents, teachers, and all people including myself. We all have to be aware that we can learn, work, grow, and live life because of the support and help from family, other people and divine blessings. Parents with a first grader are also first graders. We all have to grow together, help each other, and keep an appreciative and joyful heart. I pray for your good health and I hope your school life is enjoyable.



## One Faith-full Flight

*By Mr. Daniel Jackson, Konko Church of Portland*

Hello, for many of those who do not know me, my name is Daniel Jackson. What I was asked to write about is a very personal story for myself and my family. I will tell you a bit about a catastrophic in-flight engine failure while I was working as a Captain as an Emergency Medical Airlift Pilot.

It has been a few years since this failure but it was a life changing event that I will never forget. The Pratt & Whitney PT6 engine is a very reliable engine with low incidents and statistics, the PT-6 engine being one of the better constructed and reliable engines in the aviation industry. The hours per incident/accident especially with a TBM Socata C2 is very low.... (The kind of French aircraft I was flying). So low it is very difficult to find out a lot of information about any catastrophic engine failures.

Well, I can tell you that my engine did fail. While I was flying out of a local Oregon airport. We had just dropped the patient off. It was about 830pm during a hot summer day. We departed and it seemed like a normal takeoff, with



all instruments reading fine and in the normal operating limitations. The crew medic was sitting in the Co-Pilot seat and the medical ICU nurse was sitting in one of the backseats. We started to climb the foothills of the Cascade Mountain Range. I just passed Mt. Hood behind me to the left heading southbound. Climbing

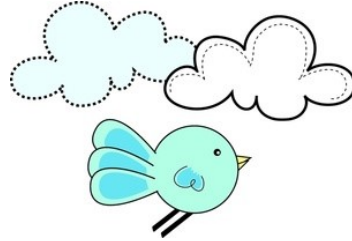
through flight level one eight zero to level off at flight level one niner zero on auto pilot... (18 thousand and 19 thousand feet, please excuse the aviation terms.).

When the plane started to level out and capture flight level one niner zero. The medic and I were hearing a humming noise. All of the instruments looked to be in normal operating ranges. I asked the medic if he was hearing the same noise as well and he replied "yes." As soon as he answered we all heard a small explosion in the engine. It was quite a loud sound it was the kind of sound that makes you know there is a serious problem that has just occurred.

After the explosion in the engine, a red light appeared on the center advisory warning system... (the lights that you



*Daniel Jackson pictured here with his beautiful family. He is married to Terisa Uzunoe, daughter of Revs. Uzunoe. He shared this incredible story with Rev. Yomisu Oya while rooming with him at the KCNA-KMH Joint Conference held in July.*



never want to see go off when flying). It read in red "OIL PRESS." If you are a pilot, you know any warning light in red usually on that panel is a bad day. Simultaneously I retarded the Power Lever to prevent further damage and feathered the propeller, prayed, and crapped myself, called Seattle Center ATC, disengaged the auto pilot, and started to turn away from the mountains. While I was thinking to myself oh no...I immediately pushed those negative thoughts away because I knew to have those thoughts was already self-defeating.

While calling ARC I started to turn towards the valley in Oregon. Remembering all my training and verifying with the checklist. I Declared an Emergency and let Air Traffic Control know I had an oil pressure issue. I asked to divert to Mulino Oregon Airport. Air Traffic Control offered me a grass strip about 5 nautical miles away that was only about 1500 feet long. I replied negative. I need a much longer runway to be able to stop without Beta-Reverse thrust. So ATC responded back that Salem was 3 nautical miles closer than Mulino was. So while I was in the slow turn to Mulino to the north I just rolled out of a heading towards the northwest looking directly into the sun.

At this moment I was very methodical to not lose altitude in the turn because you lose your vertical component of lift and become less aerodynamic. At the same time ATC told me to descend and maintain one five thousand. I responded to ATC that I could descend but not maintain. ATC asked if I had a complete failure I responded "AFFIRMATIVE." When the failure first occurred, I was 44.6 nautical miles away from the Salem Airport. In normal statute miles that is over 50 miles away. The sun was directly in my eyes and I could not see well outside at all. I had to rely on my instrumentation and hand fly at the same time. Also I had no idea if I could make the airport or not.

With my medic up front listening to all the information going on, he obviously knew we had a problem. With also the site of the turbo propeller spinning slowly down. I asked him to let the nurse know in the back while I was doing the math to see if it was possible ..... The nurse started to grab blankets in the back with pillows to surrounding her head and body. The medic meanwhile was trying to call dispatch to inform them of the pending emer-

gency on the company radio to inform them what was going on. I am really glad to this day that I can do math on the fly.....

While figuring my descent rate over distance and maintaining my best glide speed as well, I was descending 600-800 feet per minute and noticed a slight quartering tail wind to assist us as well that appeared. We were now about 25 miles out. I went through the checklist again and did necessary items. Now about twelve thousand feet smoke started to blow out the tight side engine exhaust.

The medic was pointing at the smoke going over the wing, then he started to notice smoke was starting to enter the cockpit through the ventilation system.

This was not good because usually if you have fire you need to go fast and descend very quickly to extinguish the flames. Which meant that you cannot maintain your best glide speed. I had all ignition systems off and verified no fuel was going to the engine. The condition lever was on cutoff and I turned the igniter's off as well. I also prayed that nothing else would go wrong. All this time to think about what was going on with the aircraft was a bit overwhelming or taxing at that precise moment in time. Air Traffic Control Seattle Center advised me to change frequency to Salem Tower. About 20 miles out the Salem Tower asked me which runway I would be using. I responded back that I was a little busy and would let him know as soon as I could. I needed to brief the airport now! Smoke was entering the cockpit quicker now like a wisp of smoke entering the cockpit. I had to De-pressurize the aircraft so I dumped the cabin pressure by opening the bleed air.

All of our ears popped it hurt a bit, the pressure difference hurt my left temple by my sinus cavity causing instant pain. Now I know when I initially turned towards Salem there are a lot of farms and tulip fields by Salem. So if I could not make the airport I would land in a field. At 20 Nautical miles it is very unnerving a surreal feeling seeing the turbo prop completely still in front of the aircraft.

I looked over to the medic and talked to him a bit to let him know the seriousness of the situation. He fully understood I also told him we only have one shot at this and we gave each other knuckle bumps. At this time I could make out

Salem so I immediately told the tower I needed runway 31. The airport was closed down for me and two Blackhawk helicopters were hovering by in case needed.

The tower responded the airport was mine. Cleared to land. The medic let me know if I needed his help or not. I replied it is ok, let the nurse know what is going on. At 5 nautical miles out I started to put landing gear down because I knew I could make it now. I came in slightly high to the airport to make sure my gear would come down and to have a little bit more altitude if I needed it... All I needed was for the gear to fail as well.

Good, the gear came down 3 in the green. All the lights illuminated that means the gear is down. I did not want to manually lower the gear as well. I lowered the flaps and did a forward slip to make the runway in on time. Noticing the Blackhawks on either side of me.

To this day I will promise you that landing was one of the best soft field landings that I ever did. I rolled on the runway using my inertia and rolled off the runway to the taxiway. After we stopped I did the after landing securing

checklist shutting the plane down. The entire event from engine failure to landing took just 11 minutes.

The awesome crew and I departed the aircraft and hugged off the plane. Fire Trucks came to the plane to see if there was a fire and to verify that no parts had come off the aircraft. The fireman verified the runway was cleared with no objects on the runway. I now had to make A LOT of phone calls.

It has taken a few years but now I can talk about what happened freely. Lawsuits and stuff are not my expertise I can only tell you what happened. What happened was quite, in my opinion, a blessing. According to the operation handbook I was only supposed to glide 26 nautical miles... The question I will ask you is how did I almost double that??? It is not possible? Or is it?

I truly believe that I would not be here today without the many, many prayers and many blessings that my family and I have received. Because logically that is the only way that we could have survived. Thank you so much.

## Editor's Corner

A space where the editor can share inspirational stories and informational tidbits

As I sit and contemplate what to write for this issue's blurb, I recall the emotional reaction I had to what Kawai-sensei said to us during the Young Adult Workshop held before the FEM on June 27, 2015. As he explained Konkokyo's uniqueness in its ability to accept all humans as beloved children of Kami, and its acceptance of each and every individual's entire being, good and bad, I found myself suddenly overcome by emotion. You see, I had been struggling with my self-identity and had been questioning whether I was really a good person or not. If I was such a "good person," why do I hurt those closest to me? I had been going through a rough patch with a very near and dear friend that left me doubting my own heart. At the time I was having a very difficult time accepting my actions that resulted in my hurting this friend. Though my actions were not intentional, it had ended up hurting her and left her doubting our friendship.

Just as I was wallowing in all this self-doubt, we held this workshop and we received many blessings and divine arrangements to have an incredible speaker like Rev. Shinkichi Kawai. This was definitely Kami-sama's answer to my prayers. Kami-sama sent a message through Rev. Kawai to remind me that I too was a beloved child of Kami and that Kami accepted all of me, for all my faults and downfalls. Hearing these words saved me. Not only did it help me to begin the process of getting out of that dark place in my mind, but it also helped me reaffirm what a wonderful and all-embracing

religion Konkokyo is.

Rev. Kawai shared with us a story of a Nichiren Buddhist monk who received *Toritsugi* mediation from a Konkokyo minister. The Konkokyo minister was able to help this Nichiren Buddhist monk while respecting and accepting the fact that he was a Nichiren Buddhist monk. In other words, he was not trying to convert this monk in to Konkokyo first and then help him. This kind of exchange is almost unheard of in other religions. Usually, the basis of saving people in other religions is set in first converting them. Since this is not the focus in Konkokyo, we are able to help all people, in all walks of life, across the entire world. Isn't that an amazing thing?!

Rev. Kawai also explained that *Toritsugi* mediation differs from person to person because Konkokyo accepts each individual for who they are and recognizes that each life is unique. Therefore every person's path will be different. It's this broadness and universality that makes Konkokyo truly a worldwide religion. It's core teachings can be applied to every culture across the globe.

After the workshop, I believe many of the Young Adults in attendance walked away with a renewed sense of appreciation for Konkokyo. I know I was grateful for the reminder of what makes this religion so inspiring and wonderful.



## Autumn Grand Service Schedule 2015



Konko Mission of Honolulu  
Konko Mission of Waipahu  
Konko Mission of Wahiawa  
Konko Mission of Wailuku  
Konko Mission of Hilo

October 4	@11AM
October 11	@11AM
October 13	@6:30PM
October 25	@11AM
November 8	@11AM



### **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@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net).

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

Thank you!

### **Suggestions Welcome!!**

If you have any ideas or suggestions for future articles, please feel free to let us know! We are always looking for new inspiration. Please share!

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To: