



Simply and Peacefully

The Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremony will be held at each church between the months of October and November. During the service, we express our appreciation to Ikigami Konko Daijin. At the same time, we could refresh our faith aiming for the 150th Anniversary for Konkokyo on November 15. Many teachings are available and we could learn from these teachings. However, knowing the teachings and executing the teachings are a different matter. The faith sometimes could not be truly understood by a logical explanation. Then how could we practice faith?

A little after our Founder received the divine call and started Toritsugi mediation, one of the disciples who had received blessings and started practicing faith came to visit our Founder. The following story is what he experienced and thought at that time:



"I hardly match the Founder no matter how hard I do ascetic practices. He is a kami and I am a man. I cannot be like him." I brooded over and went to the Founder's Hiromae with the intention of quitting faith secretly. It was a cold winter day. On that day, the Founder never talked about faith. He just had a small talk with me until mid night.

He said, "It became very cold. Let's warm ourselves with a *kotatsu*." (a low, wooden [table](#) frame covered by a heavy [blanket](#), upon which a tabletop sits. Underneath is a [heat](#) source – a

[charcoal](#) heater is placed in the pit's floor)

Being invited to the next room, we found his wife dozing by the *kotatsu*. The *kotatsu* was cold. He woke her up several times and asked her to make a fire. But she could not get up. Then he said, "Look at her. She must be tired and could not get up. Let's go back to the Kami's place." Coming back to the Hiromae, he brought two tangerines from the altar, gave one to me and said, "We get cold, and let's get colder incidentally." Then we continued to talk until the next morning.

I thought, "He is also a human being. He became a kami because of his strong patience. If I were he, I would have hit her. I could be a kami if I practiced faith 100 times more than him." I was encouraged and gladly went home. ("Konko Daijin" pg.301)

The Founder did not give any teaching. He simply practiced faith in his daily behavior. He never complained to his wife. However the disciple learned "patience" from the Founder's way of life – not blaming or hurting others but accepting any situation, and living a peaceful and plain life. In this way, Konko faith reaches from person to person naturally. Therefore, it is essential for us to live our lives peacefully.

Let us practice faith 1000 times more than our Founder for Ikigami Konko Daijin to be born in Hawaii. (Yomisu Oya)

Wish you were there at the Ohana Camp

Day One

Wanda Tamashiro
Waipahu

I wish you could have been at the Ohana Camp on Sept. 5 and 6 at Camp Mokuleia. The beauty of the North Shore, with parachutists descending right before your eyes; seven honu (turtle) feeling safe enough to come close to shore; colorful kite surfers sailing out into the blue ocean; a rainbow gracing the side of North Shore mountain, all made you feel you're so lucky you made the trek out to the Ohana Camp. As we walked along the shore, we enjoyed all of these unexpected occurrences as some members of our group picked up litter to help protect our environment.

With these surprises in mind, can you guess the theme of our camp? If you said "appreciation" or "conservation" you would not be wrong. However, the answer was more inclusive—it was "consideration," particularly for each other, but also for our physical setting too. When John and I first drove out to Wahiawa to start the camp

Schedule at the Konko church there, Roy and Edna Sensei first introduced the theme. He said that we were supposed to catch people in acts of courtesy and helpfulness in order to record the information for a prize at the end of the camp. He also

said that most probably Reiko Sensei would win, and we laughed at the seemingly random remark, but he may have been correct because, just as we were about to embark on our journey to Mokuleia, she offered us cold delicious water. Her husband proclaimed the precious substance to be very good and characteristic of Wahiawa. We laughed then and often after that because it was the first of many such acts of kindness naturally performed by Konko members, but also coincidentally, in keeping with the theme.

Driving for about thirty minutes to Mokuleia we arrived there, then unloaded the vehicles, and began to prepare ourselves for the ensuing activities. First on the schedule, we enjoyed a lunch of fried chicken wings and thick French fries and a nutritious salad, a fairly good meal by camp standards. Then each person played a

game to introduce himself by creating a weird or clever hand-body movement while shouting out his name. Then everyone in the circle repeated, in order, the gestures and names of the individuals seated to his right. It was a hilarious icebreaker, but thank goodness we had to remember only nine comical "signatures". After lunch we organized into two teams to make our group flag using colored ink on a sheet of paper, a fun activity that helped us parade the theme and apply it to daily life. The flag for group one displayed a heart symbolizing consideration located in the center with each person outlining the fingers and palms of one hand around it. On these figures, the members wrote how they wanted to express their affection for people in their lives. It was a collaboration of very enthusiastic leaders including John and I, Edna, Oya, and Reiko Sensei in group one as well as Alvin, Roy, and Koichi Sensei and Kazuko Ogino in group two. (Kazuko was a college graduate from Japan staying at the Honolulu church for three months). After these events, we were better equipped materially and socially for the casual walk along the seashore.

After returning from the beach, Edna Sensei persuaded John and me to decorate peace cups apart from the other campers because we told them that we would not be staying for the activity tomorrow. When I saw Edna's example, I was very impressed so I felt encouraged to make one. John and I puzzled over our designs

to motivate or inspire efforts toward world peace because we had heard it was to be fired for a conference of different churches in Hawaii. My design said "World Peace begins with Consideration for others." My creation and John's will be returned to us sometime later as wonderful mementos of our experiences at Mokuleia.

We finished our peace cups in time to participate in two activities that sensitized us to the presence of other groups at Mokuleia. We walked over to the dining hall to eat pinacbit, pancit, and chocolate pudding while sharing the facility with a Chinese Christian church. Although it was a very noisy evening, we ate a tasty meal and headed for the lively campfire. As we roasted marshmallows and made s'mores we attracted the children from a nearby tent. Our leaders told them to ask their parents for permission to join us and they



eagerly returned with bamboo skewers and marshmallows. However, we decided to make it for them to avoid any accidents. This was a typical Konko gesture consistent with our theme. Also, we sang and prayed as we sat around the burning logs sharing okage banashi and obake banashi as well as obaka banashi. It was so intimate and wonderful out there looking up at the starry night sky. That's why I wish more of you could have experienced it as we did only for that one day.

When we started out on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. we were not sure about what was ahead of us. We were told only nine people had signed up so we thought, maybe we should go and support our church. But it was one of the best camps we had ever attended; it was congenial and fun; and we seniors didn't have to sleep over. It made me think that even if Konko gatherings are not well attended, it doesn't mean that we cannot have a successful event. So I really hope the leaders will plan a similar outdoor program for the future and publicize more of the details next time. I highly recommend going. It was worth it to be around young senseis and other good Konko members. So next time go!

Day Two

Kazuko Ogino
Amagi / Honolulu

The cool weather woke me up at 6 a.m.— one hour earlier than the schedule. I could hear nothing but the sound of wave. It was so quiet and made me happy from the very beginning of the day. Before the 8 o'clock breakfast, we had the Morning Prayer lead by our group, and I was appointed to lead the prayer along with a mini sermon. I had nothing in my mind. I only said, "*tanoshimi masho!*" (Let's enjoy today.) This is how I always start a day. I overheard "Too short!" But I was saved by Roy's saying, "It is an address, right? It is okay." Thank you Roy-sensei. After eating breakfast, we did the "peace mug" activity at our cabin. We designed and painted our own mugs. Even the talkative members really concentrated on making their mugs during this time. It was so quiet. No conversation, but I felt that it is good to have a quiet time. Finishing the first mug, I painted the second one. I am looking forward to having these mugs returned to me after the firing. After this activity, we had free time until noon. After lunch, we wrote about this camp, cleaned up our cabin that we stayed in, and packed up our belongings. After the Closing Prayer, we shared our thoughts about "consideration," and left the campsite.

I knew that it was going to be a short camp, but I felt that this overnight camp was really short. However, during this short period of time, I saw, heard and felt many new things. They are so valuable and made me feel that I was allowed to live.

"Consideration" was the theme of this camp. When we naturally do something for others, it will be a very considerate act for others. During the camp, I felt more consideration from others than what I did for others. So the important thing would be realizing and appreciating others' consideration and appreciating for what we received.

2009 Ohana Camp

Hi everyone. We held a Ohana Camp at Camp Mokuleia on Sep 5, 6.

It was very good. The schedule ran smoothly. Everybody really enjoyed themselves even though there were only 9 people on the first day.



Alvin Yasutake
Wailuku

On the first day seeing how considerate everyone was made me feel that if everyone is considerate everyday, Kami will be happy. Doing the free talk at the camp fire was a great way to open up how everybody had received okage. I hope to see more people attend next year's Ohana Camp.

Proof



Koichi Konko
Honolulu

We try to have "consideration" through this camp. It helps us to realize, awaken and find consideration of other people. We are able to have a great camp based on consideration. I felt we just proved that consideration

was the essence to having a great relationship with Kami-Sama, our campers and others through every single event.

The Other Foot

All too often I have caused so many bad feelings without realizing. During this camp we had bad neighbors. Loud party, children playing loud music, smoke from their BBQ, etc. kept me from getting a good nights rest. I was given the chance to see what its like being on the receiving side; the shoe was on the other foot.



Roy Yasutake
Wailuku

From here on I will practice thinking of others, placing others before me and increasing my personal list of consideration for others.

Faith Enrichment with Dr. Yasuhara



The Faith Enrichment Meeting was held in August 23 from 11:00 to 1:30 at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. The purpose of this meeting was to have a follow-up discussion with Dr. Eri Yasuhara, who presented her speech for Konko Mission of Honolulu's 80th Anniversary. About 30 people attended this event. The discussions were based on participants asking questions or commenting based on the Dr. Yasuhara's speech, "*Tenchi Kakitsuke* Refresh". Dr. Yasuhara also explained about "The Konko Faith: Our Creed", a project she also participated along with the retranslation of *Tenchi Kakitsuke*.

Dr. Yasuhara also shared her past experiences. Dr. Eri Yasuhara is currently a member of the Konko Church of Gardena. Her family was a devoted member of the church and attended regular services. However, because many of her friends were Catholics, Dr. Yasuhara also wanted to practice Catholicism as well. Her family members were opposed to this idea. Finally, Dr. Yasuhara decided to talk to the late Reverend Fukuda about her decision. Surprisingly, Reverend Fukuda said to her, "I understand. It is okay to practice Catholicism if you like." This response shocked Dr. Yasuhara, and she then realized that Konko faith shows respect with other religions.

One of the participants asked about the relationship of Ikigami Konko Daijin and Tenchi Kane No Kami. Before the current *Tenchi Kakitsuke* was retranslated, *Tenchi Kakitsuke* was written as "Through Ikigami Konko Daijin, To Tenchi Kane no Kami." Tenchi Kane No Kami is the Divine Parent of the Universe, or the deity, while Ikigami Konko Daijin is the Divine Mediator. Some people believe they pray to the Divine Mediator instead of the Divine Parent of the Universe. There was also an opinion of

The Konko Faith: Our Creed

**We believe in Tenchi Kane No Kami,
the Divine Parent of the Universe.**

**Our Founder, Konko Daijin,
embraced Kami's revelations and, as Divine Mediator,
answered the Call to Eternal Mediation.**

**Our continuing goal,
From moment to moment,
is to realize Kami within each of us.**

**We are fulfilled through Kami,
Kami is fulfilled through us.
The happiness of everyone
is Kami's greatest wish.**

**We give thanks for Kami's blessings –
mysterious, wondrous, and mundane.
Blessings begin with our own hearts,
hearts filled with harmony and joy.**

**We pray wholeheartedly to Kami,
today and every day,
trusting Kami as our loving Parent,
finding peace of mind.**

**We live our Faith in service
to Kami, each other, and our world –
nurturing and nurtured, mutually fulfilled.**

**We revere those who have gone before us,
spirits one with Kami, caring for us eternally.**

**We respect and appreciate other paths
taken by humanity toward spiritual fulfillment.**

"becoming the Divine Mediator" while praying to the Divine Parent of the Universe. In either case, both the Divine Parent and the Divine Mediator place an important aspect while praying.

Dr. Yasuhara introduced "The Konko Faith: Our Creed", which was written to help explain Konkokyo to non-believers.

This creed was created only as a guideline to help explain the Konko faith, and anyone can explain the Konko faith differently from the creed if they preferred. Dr. Yasuhara explains each paragraph as the following:



- The first paragraph shows the name of the deity of Konko faith.
- The second paragraph gives a brief history of the Konko faith.
- The third paragraph explains the goal of Konko faith.
- A participant commented that she did not like the word “mundane” to explain “everyday common things.” However, after hearing that Dr. Yasuhara wanted to use the word “quotidian” instead, “mundane” seemed more understandable to the broader public.
- The sixth paragraph includes *The Divine Reminder* (Tenchi Kakistuke)
- The seventh paragraph describes the Konko faith as comforting and gives service to society.
- The eighth paragraph includes the Konko faith showing respect for spirits, or Mitama.
- The last paragraph explains the Konko faith as a

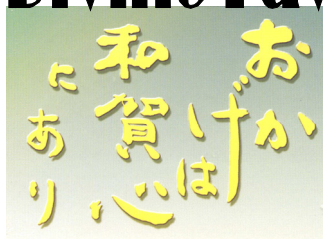
tolerant religion, showing respect for all other religions and people.

Overall, this Faith Enrichment Meeting gave a relaxing, casual atmosphere, where many people spoke about their thoughts and experience freely. Unlike the previous speech, the participants were able to interact more with Dr. Yasuhara and even shared their own experiences with the Konko faith as well.

Dr. Yasuhara mentioned that it took 2,000 years to change Christianity into the way it is today. Konko faith has only been around for 150 years, and it has room for improvements. For Konko faith to survive in countries other than Japan, Konko faith should eventually stop being only Japanese.

We hope that this Faith Enrichment Meeting was an informative and enjoyable experience, which will help in the continuation of practicing faith. (Editor)

"Divine Favor Depends Upon Your Own Heart"



Date: 10/ 3/2009 (Sat)

Time: 8:00-10:00 p.m.

Channel: KIKU TV



The Story of Konkokyo will be on TV!

Watch the awe inspiring movie about the life of our Founder, Konko Daijin, and an introduction to Konkokyo following it on KIKU TV.

Please share this wonderful opportunity with your friends as well as your family! Don't miss it!

Celebrate: the Passion, the Revival, and the Faith



Grace Kodama
Honolulu

The Konko Mission of Honolulu Corporation Board of Directors, designated Revs. Koichi Konko and Todd Takahashi to be co-chairpersons of our 80th Anniversary Celebration to be held on August 2009.

The first meeting began in early August 2007 with Chairpersons and appointed members of the 80th Anniversary Steering Committee. Subsequently, sub-committees were established. The 80th Committee's major undertaking began.

The Honolulu Church's commemorative celebrations of the 50th (1979), 60th (1989), and 70th (1999) took place in the past and then faded. Rev. Todd and I, an 80th committee member, with great concern pondered over these questions, "What can we do to truly make this 80th year (2009) a spiritually significant one? Should we look into our church's Charter and By-laws to see if improvements can be made on them to make our church flourish and be more viable?"

With Rev. Todd's strong support and encouragement, I studied the church's corporation documents in great detail from around January 2009 and could gradually see the significance of each section, later on, with the Director of Konkokyo Hawaii Center, Rev. Yomisu Oya's assistance more clarity and understanding evolved.

Fortunately, Konko Mission of Honolulu Corporation, Board of Directors, got into the same spirit of investigating our legal documents, too. A special committee consisting of Rev. Koichi, Paula Higuchi and Ronald Yamanaka took over the project of looking into the matter of updating the By-laws which was last worked on in November 1954. On May 31, 2009 the document, needing very little changes, was

presented to our members. However, the special committee's efforts, I'm sure, was appreciated by everyone.

For me, the experience of working on this project, independently, made me see how we can resolve a very significant legal problem for our organization, and I'm deeply grateful. Also, during the preparatory stages of our church's celebration these projects took place. Under the wonderful leadership of Rev. Koichi and Rev. Todd a first-of-its-kind Konko Mission of Honolulu Prayer Book Supplement (1st edition) was produced and a very comprehensive 80th Anniversary Celebration booklet was published. The steering Committee and sub-committee members gave them outstanding support in these projects. Also their great spirit of giving and sharing was evident at the Dole Cannery Ballroom, "Celebrate: the Passion, the Revival, and the Faith" event on August 22nd and at Konko Mission of Honolulu, "Appreciation of the Faith: A Day of Remembrance" affair on August 23rd.

On August 30th, the 80th Committee had an evaluation session of these special occasions. Positive and negative feedback from ministers and members of Hawaii, mainland, and Japan, as well as ourselves, were reviewed.

Though they were problems and inadequacies in our planning which we acknowledged, I truly believe that everyone did their very, very best to express their appreciation to the Divine parent of the Universe, our Divine mediator and the Mitama-Spirits through their efforts. What more could one ask for, and I shed tears of joy and gratitude that came from my heart. However, the members of our group and I must not forget that all positive outcomes and blessings in every area, also, came from the Toritsugi Mediation of Honbu-Hiromae's Konko-Sama, Kokura Church, Amagi Church, Honolulu Church as well as other churches.

Konko Mission of Honolulu

The Konko Mission of Honolulu 80th Anniversary Conference was held on August 22, 2009 at the Dole Cannery Ballroom. We called it an "Anniversary Conference" because we would like to have this to move forward to the future so that the church and members could prosper.

There were many people who participated in the Anniversary Conference not only from Oahu, but also from neighboring islands, California, Japan, and Korea. Approximately 190 people celebrated the 80th Anniversary of the Konko Mission of Honolulu.

The Anniversary Service was held first at the Dole Cannery. There were 15 officiates. The Head officiate, Reverend Michiyoshi Yasutake from the Parent Church, Konko Church of Amagi, offered the main Saishi Prayer in the service. He mentioned the brief history of the Konko Mission of Honolulu. He also appreciated the blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kami and the commitment of the founding ministers, Reverend Masayuki and Kikue Kodama. He prayed for the future of the Church to Tenchi Kane No Kami in the end. Representatives of the congregation from Japan, Korea, California, neighboring islands and the Konko Mission of Honolulu offered the Tamagushi.

After the formal service, we welcomed a guest speaker, Dr. Eri Yasuhara from Konko Church of Gardena. She is a perfect bilingual who can speak, read, and write both English and Japanese. She was an important member of the refresh project of the Tenchi Kakitsuke. She had shared what she learned through the creation of the refreshed translation of the Tenchi Kakitsuke.

After having enjoyed the skit related to the theme, Reverend David Yano, Ms. Minnie Fujita, Mr. Arthur Isaki, and Mr. Scott Kilousky shared their testimony.

We were able to hear about Konkokyo from different perspectives because of the differences in gender, age, and background.

We concluded the Anniversary Celebration at around 3:30 p.m. It may have been a long day, but it was a very meaningful day. I said, "This is the ending, but this is also the beginning for our 90th Anniversary. I am really looking forward to the next 10 years," in the closing remarks. We learned a lot through this commemoration. Sharing what we learned from others is the next step for us. We will have a life based on faith.

The next day, the Hotoku Memorial Service was held at the Konko Mission of Honolulu Worship Hall at 2 p.m. The appreciation service for Mitama spirits related to the Konko Mission of Honolulu including Reverend Masayuki and Kikue Kodama, his spiritual mentor, Reverend Matsutaro Yasutake (the Founding minister of the Konko Church of Amagi) and his wife Shike, Reverend Fumio Yasutake (the 2nd Head minister), Reverends Matsuhei and Mitsu Katsura (the Founding ministers of Konko Church of Kokura) and all members of the Konko Mission of Honolulu. Some shared stories of their family members, who were the founding members, over light refreshment on the 2nd floor after the service. Two ministers from Japan also spoke about their memories of the Reverend Masayuki Kodama.

I was very happy that many people came and supported this commemoration. It was a divine blessing for me. I believe we could prove that this was a very valuable Anniversary Conference for the next 10 years. We will be very passionate, revive our faith life and deepen our understanding of the Konko faith. (Koichi Konko)

Konko Mission of Hilo

August 16, the Kangakusai Service was held. 11 youngsters from pre-school to a UH sophomore attended with their families. Refreshments followed the service.



Preparations continue for **the celebration of the 80th Anniversary** of the founding of the Konko Mission of Hilo. Reverend Yoshifusa Nishida began missionary work in Hilo in 1929. Under his guidance, assisted by his wife, Rev. Fuji Nishida, the Konko Way of Life was established and flourished. Today, the Konko Mission of Hilo continues its growth and development under the guidance of Reverends Makio and Yoshie Nagai.

We invite one and all to join us in our celebration on November 1, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. (Jeri Greenhouse)

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).

Upcoming Events and Services

Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremony

Oct. 11 Konko Mission of Honolulu

Oct. 13 Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Oct. 18 Konko Mission of Waipahu

Nov. 1 Konko Mission of Hilo (80th Anniversary)

Nov. 8 Konko Mission of Wailuku

150th Anniversary of Konkokyo

Nov. 14 - 16 Faith Enrichment at Konkokyo Honbu

Nov. 15 150th Anniversary Service

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