



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

*The 3<sup>rd</sup> Konko International Gathering was held on November 14 and 15, 2017. Believers from the US, Brazil, Korea, Hawaii and Japan gathered at Konko town to celebrate the foundation of the Konko faith. The Konkokyo establishment ceremony was held at the central worship hall on November 15. The Konko Missions in Hawaii held their faith enrichment program in Konko on November 13. They visited two of the Founder's disciple's churches and learned stories of the blessings the founding ministers experienced.*

## A Favorite Place

Karen Taniguchi, Konko Mission of Waipahu

There is something about Goreichi. Goreichi, the sacred grounds of Gohonbu, is still special, no matter how many times you go there. Its allure is like a favorite movie you see over and over again, with favorite scenes and sometimes the magic of seeing something not noticed before. Just being there renews feelings that needed to be refreshed and even reaffirmed. Then there is the magic, the discovery of a new encounter with people and special places.

First, there is the encounter with the grounds of Goreichi, an elegant arrangement: The huge gate welcoming visitors, the ancient and modern worship halls at the opposite end of the entrance, the cleansing area, the surrounding trees, even a fruiting persimmon tree, and the many stairs taking you up, making you look up, drawing you in. The centerpiece is the main worship hall, a modern building. The serene setting prepares the visitor for worship in this hall. Unlike the small home churches where most visitors come from, this hall is cavernous and quickly takes the worshipers to a very quiet place in their minds. Worshipers can be seen sitting "seiza" on the tatami floor, bent over in deep prayer, or waiting to have otoritsugi or mediation with Konko-Sama. Quiet fills the hall. In contrast to this quiet meditation is another level of meditation you experience as you listen to the sonorous voices of worshipers reciting prayers in unison.

Dwarfed by this modern worship hall, standing by its side, is the original, restored mediation hall. At first glance, it looks like an ordinary, old shrine. This is a sacred place. Participants to the international gathering had the unique opportunity to enter and pray within these sacred walls. We squeezed through the small doorway, removed our shoes at the inner entrance, and stepped up to the tatami floor, where we sat in hush. Sitting shoulder to shoulder, we leaned in to hear Reverend Kiyoji Konko speak. Two years ago, in a different, more informal ven-



Mako and Karen Taniguchi do  
otodoke with Rev. Kiyoji Konko

ue, he spoke on the power of prayer. His talk then, was casual and personal. It was at the same time entertaining and thoughtful. It was not too difficult for us to see the practical application of what he spoke on, that is, of doing daily prayers. This was a small step that we all could take toward our own spiritual growth. Here in this sacred hall however, his tone was quieter, as he spoke of Goreichi as a life giving, inexhaustible fountain. It is from this

fountain that two tributaries were born and began to spread, one being the individual churches throughout Japan and overseas, and the other, the countless families that receive its blessings. This fountain cannot be seen or felt, but its power is as real as a life giving fountain, sustaining life wherever it goes, continually reaching out. We are the recipients of its gifts. We, our families are branches of that fountain. His words made us think of the legacy we would leave behind to our families and descendants. Will we nurture and grow this fountain?

Reverend Kiyoji concluded his talk with a personal revelation. He said that he recently had a profound sense of his connection with the Universe that he hadn't felt before. He was pulling weeds when it happened. In the very ordinary moment of pulling up a weed, he became aware of its roots and the dirt clinging to it. He held it up to study it further and was suddenly struck by an epiphany. He felt a oneness with the Universe. In such an ordinary moment, he felt his connection, a spiritual relationship with Kami and the Universe. There at this very special place, this encounter with this teacher, his words and remarkable experience, is just another thing that will play over and over in our minds, like a favorite scene of a special movie.

There were other new encounters, too. We visited two churches, the Rokujoin and the Nishiachi churches, both with a deep connection to Konko Daijin's disciples. Again, the churches and their beautiful surroundings

called us in. We were warmly received by the sensei of both churches. After listening to their talks, one in a cozy little room in the inner sanctum of the church-residential sitting room, and the other, in the hiromae, we snacked on tasty sweets and drank coffee and hot tea, and talked. At the Rokujoin church, we asked many questions, expressed our opinions, all related to the talk we had just heard. At length the discussion changed from light to more serious. The building tension was quickly broken with laughter when someone commented that we were doing group otoritsugi. The discussions still carried on, still lively, serious and meaningful, spoken freely. The same kind of informal otoritsugi also took place at the Nishiachi church, quite incidentally. The impetus, again was the story we had just heard. Again a spirited discussion with questions and comments from the sensei and participants took place. This may have been Divine intervention, or maybe Koichi Sensei's when he planned the itinerary. It was memorable.

Another memorable sketch is our visit to the Konkō Seminary. We were given a tour of the school where sensei from the past and future are trained. The school itself is quite old, with evidence of impeccable upkeep, an essential part of the students' daily training. The wooden hallway floors were polished to a shine, partly from the passage of time and many young trainees walking through those corridors, but mostly due to the

care, over the decades, with constant wiping. Not with a mop, but a folded cloth held in both hands, students running up and down the corridor, bent over. There were no fancy white boards in the classroom where we gathered, only an old fashioned chalk board, student desks and a heater in the corner. You get the feeling that power point presentations were not given in these classrooms, but the doctrines of the faith are taught, honoring the past and the age old heritage, but with a foot firmly planted in the present. We sat in this classroom, where Reverend Horio Mitsutoshi, principal of the Seminary, greeted us. With self-effacing humor, he introduced himself, spoke of how he had prepared for this speech, in English. He was an instant hit. He shared stories about faith, many contemporary, and with a message we could take home with us. We heard that faith does not need to be taught only by words. It can be conveyed through our actions. This was another lesson to take with us, to replay in our minds and make real, with our actions.

I will continue to visit Goreichi, as long as I am able to. The program that Konkō International Center organizes is always thoughtful in its depth and breadth. The entire staff works hard to make our visit comfortable, memorable and very enjoyable. The sensei speakers enrich us with their stories. They refresh and renew our faith. I know that I will always discover something new, for there are always wonderful, rich encounters to be experienced there: The chance or arranged meeting of people and hearing their stories. It is Divine intervention.



In the Gohonbu Hiromae



Konko Church of Achi



"Group Otoritsugi"



# Talk by Reverend Mitsutoshi Horio

November 14, 2017

Hello everyone. Welcome to the sacred place of Konko and the Konkokyo seminary. My name is Mitsutoshi Horio and I am the school director. I was requested to speak to you about "How to pass on the faith to others." I only have 10 minutes to talk, so I would like to do my best to summarize what I want to tell you. I believe there are 2 ways of passing on faith.

One is to tell directly how wonderful the Konko beliefs are. The other is to have people first look at me, so I myself am an advertisement. To have others feel reassured and make a trusting relationship with them. Then I can pass on the faith or have the faith felt by them.

A predecessor's teaching

"Being thankful is the most important part and heart of the faith. No matter how much you pray, Kamisama will not look your way if you don't have a thankful heart. There is nothing inside the altar." Therefore, it makes a great difference, whether you have this thankfulness in yourself or not.

A senior reverend's story

This reverend couple always expressed their grateful and thankful feelings to Kamisama from the bottom of their hearts. One day their son told me, "I don't understand anything about the faith, but my parents were always giving thanks to Kamisama. If Kamisama is something that special and thankful, I wanted to learn about Kamisama and decided to come to Konkokyo seminary.

He made me realize that the Konko faith is not something that is just passed on, but it is something that can be felt also.



Rev. Horio

Yes, I would be happy to!

There is a fish market called Karato Ichiba Market in Shimonoseki fishing harbor in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Not only do fish wholesalers come, but many tourists visit and buy fresh sushi, sashimi, fugu miso soup and many other seafood every day. One day on my way home, I stopped by at the market after my trip from the Konko Headquarter's Grand Service. I went in a kaiten sushi (revolving sushi) restaurant

and the first thing that came to my attention were the words on the back of the workers' t-shirts. It said, "Yes, I would be happy to!"

When I asked, "Can I have a beer, please?" They answered, "Yes, I would be happy to!"

"Can you make me a toro sushi?" The chef answered, "Yes, I would be happy to!"

I might have been the restaurant's rule to reply in that way, but I was filled with happiness, pleasure, and felt refreshing and of course, the sushi was delicious.

The founder's teaching I consider important comes from the Konkokyo Kyoten, page 811, section 8.

"Konko-sama opened the way to a life of happiness for us, so do not spend your everyday life with an unhappy face. Just as we believe in the Principle Parent of the Universe, we too must have a heart as broad as the universe.

I would like to keep on being thankful for everything and have a faithful life with full of happiness. I believe that this feeling is the most important part of passing on the faith to others.

Kibitsu Shrine. The Founder visited this shrine during his *yaku doshi* (42nd birthday).



# English Translation of the Sermon by the Reverend Yoshinori Nishikawa, Chief Administrative Director

November 15, 2017

<Translator's notes: I type *Kami* when Rev. Nishikawa talks about our Divine Parent that lives and works in our respective bodies as the 'owner' of our bodies. When he refers to the Deity Him/Herself, I type the Divine Parent of the Universe, our Divine Parent or our Parent Deity.>

Welcome to today's ceremony! I am happy to celebrate this memorable day with all of you, ladies and gentlemen.

We were allowed to hold this ceremony with the Reverend Hiromichi Konko serving as the Chief Officiant through the wishful appointment by the Fifth Konko-*sama*, the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith. (Rev. Hiromichi Konko is the Director of the *Hiromae* or Worship Hall Department.)

My feelings of joy and appreciation are even more enriched with the knowledge that several Konko ministers from abroad served the ceremony as officiants.

As you know well, today, namely on November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1859, which is 158 years ago, the Founder received the *Rikkyo Shinden* or the Divine Call from our Divine Parent. The Founder soon made up his mind to serve the Divine Parent of the Universe by performing Sacred Mediation for worshippers. This is truly a memorable day for all of us, Konko believers.

In today's Main *Saishi* Prayer, there was a passage that reads, "By holding and worshipping this ceremony, we would like to express our sentiment of gratitude and celebration for the fact that November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1859, saw the beginning of the opening of the Way between our Divine Parent and People." It was anything but an easy decision for the Founder to make when the Parent Deity asked him to give up his farming career for the sake of serving the Deity. Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, made a brave and sincere decision to serve our Divine Parent nevertheless, for which we are deeply happy and grateful.

I, by the way, would like to ask you a question. Have you ever thought about your body, which our Divine Parent bestowed upon you at birth? When we practice faith, it is extremely important for us to know who we really are. I often ask myself, "Who on earth created me?" In search for the answer to this inquiry, I am allowed to recognize that no parts of my body were created for myself.

How was my body created? My parents relayed life to me when my mother conceived me. I was inside my mother's womb for about 10 months and 10 days, during which our Parent Deity made every necessary part of my body. Because of this truth, my body is in fact the body of our Parent Deity. And our Divine Parent uses my body (for important purposes).

Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, encountered various hardships during his lifetime. But he constantly directed his heart to our Divine Parent no matter how severe the problems were. The Founder lived his life day to day with

utmost sincerity towards our Parent Deity. By doing so, the Founder was awakened to the truth that *Kami* worked inside himself. The Founder later taught, "People can receive divine blessings if they pray single-heartedly, because *Kami* lives in their hearts. Practice faith in a living *kami*." (GIII: Konko Kyoso Gorikai, 5-1,2) With this teaching, the Founder taught us that the Divine Parent of the Universe gives all people *wakemitama* or divided *kami*/god. *Kami* is in each of our bodies and we are allowed to live day to day thanks to the workings of *Kami*.

We, the Konko believers, know that this is one of our Founder's teachings. We, however, may deny the presence of our Divine Parent when it comes to our daily lives. Unless we are aware of our Divine Parent's presence, we are apt to consider that whatever we do is our achievement. If I were unaware of the presence of our Parent Deity, I would feel, "I did this with my knowledge and ability. I took a lot of trouble and pain to get it done." If we do not change this kind of attitude and/or way of thinking, we are apt to ask for reward for "our" accomplishments. We are apt to demand words of praise and admiration from people around us. Or we may force someone to thank us for the things that "we did." If we do not reform the way we are, we are apt to get angry with people, blame and criticize them in our hearts.

On the other hand, if we consider that *Kami* inside us used our bodies so that we could serve our Divine Parent, we will voluntarily be grateful, saying "Thank you very much, our dear Divine Parent. Through the workings of Konko-*sama*'s Sacred Mediation, *Kami*, the Divine Parent of the Universe, kindly used me for *goyo* or selfless service. Thanks to this, I am seeing things that are much more than I initially expected. And I am surprised, excited and grateful with what I'm seeing now. Please do use me again. Thank you very much."

In this way, practicing faith means to be keenly conscious of the relationship between the Divine Parent of the Universe and one on a constant basis. We do not need to mind others. If we can truly put these things into practice, we will become able to feel this way when we come across those who appear to believe that everything they do is their own accomplishments:

"The person right in front of me says he got a certain task done totally on his own. But our Divine Parent, in fact, made all the arrangements and gave him means for him to get it done. Because he doesn't see these things, he maintains that it is his achievement. I'm sorry for this person and I know I need to apologize to our Parent Deity on behalf of him for the irreverence he is unknowingly committing."

What I mean by the relationship between our Divine Parent and one is that, first of all, human beings are allowed to be alive thanks to *Kami* working inside our respective bodies. It is possible because there is a relation

between our Parent Deity and us. And *Kami* inside us, which is often referred to as *kami*/god-like heart (*kamigokoro*) is completely the same Deity as the Divine Parent of the Universe that is infinitely vast and warmly embraces all of us.

If we understand this relationship, we will then realize well that we must train ourselves spiritually in order to help *Kami* inside us be pleased, relieved and satisfied with the way we are. If we ever could live our lives only through our own wisdom, talent and experiences, we would not need to hear some complicated stories as to why we should practice faith. However, once we realize that we are kept alive thanks to our Divine Parent, we can encourage ourselves to hear all these stories with concentration.

When we are ready to live, being clearly conscious of our relation with our Divine Parent, it is important for us to ask for and receive Sacred Mediation. What kind of expectations does our Parent Deity have for us? How should we live our lives in order to help our Divine Parent be fulfilled? In order for us to know and understand the answers to these questions, we first need to have our requests conveyed to our Divine Parent via the workings of Sacred Mediation.

Also in the Divine Call (*Rikkyo Shinden*), there are passages, "There are many people like yourself (referring to our Founder), who have sincere faith in *kamis*, but still have many problems. Help these people by performing toritsugi. This will help *Kami* and save people." As these messages show eloquently, the workings of Sacred Mediation are indispensable for the salvation of people in difficulties. This is an extremely important part of the Divine Call. Not only in those days but also today, to ask for and receive Sacred Mediation are basic things for those who practice faith in our Divine Parent to do in their daily faith lives.

If our faith gets elevated from a faith of "doing everything on one's own" to a faith that allows us to recognize that everything is possible through our Divine Parent's workings, which translates that if we become aware that *Kami* is constantly working in our respective bodies in an active way, we will perceive that our "inner eye" will get opened. This "inner eye" allows us to know that our Divine Parent is shouldering our burden called suffering with us no matter what sort of adversities we may face. And it also allows us to know that our Parent Deity is always living with each one of us. With this recognition, we will be awarded a heart to trust and thank our Divine Parent, and we will be allowed to live our lives with such a heart.

Even though we practice faith, we usually have this stubborn belief, "I took a lot of pain to finish this job. Because it was me, I was able to survive those pains and troubles the whole way through, and this is why this job was done." This kind of notions keeps us from totally trusting and depending upon our Divine Parent. If we totally count on our parents/children and/or our marriage partner, that is when our full trust in those people emerges. The point is that whether or not we can entrust everything regarding our respective lives to our Parent Deity by asking Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, for Sacred Mediation and saying to our Divine Parent, "Please use me just as You wish." Our Founder teaches us, "Depend on *Kami* and practice faith wholeheartedly. He will have everything go well." (GI: Ichimura Mitsugoro, 2-33-2) If we fully trust

our Divine Parent and ask our Parent Deity to take care of every single thing about our lives, our Divine Parent will guarantee our wellbeing and fulfillment.

Now I would like to share a story with you. This is a story about a teacher working in an elementary school. She was full of motivation to fulfill her duty as a schoolteacher. She was a teacher who had a firm resolution to teach, train, and if necessary, even discipline her little pupils as much as she could. And she kept this belief for a very long time. While she retained this determination firmly, she had a lot of difficulties in running her classroom and teaching her students.

One day, however, this schoolteacher was blessed with a change. She stopped trying to do all those tasks on her own. Instead, she began to ask Konko Daijin for Sacred Mediation and prayed to *Kami* dwelling and working in each child's body that *Kami* would develop each child's potential abilities and talent. Through days of her earnest prayers to our Divine Parent, this schoolteacher gradually came to see that *Kami* showed her the abilities and talent of each of her little pupils.

Here is one concrete episode. The young schoolteacher had her students read and memorize a story called "*Tanuki no Itoguruma*" or "A Raccoon Dog and a Spinning Wheel" in the Japanese class. It is a ten-page story from the Japanese textbook for first graders. The story, in short, is that one day, a raccoon dog was caught by a trap in the mountain. The wife of a woodcutter released the animal from the trap. The raccoon dog that had been saved by the lady often approached the woodcutter's house and observed the lady working on her spinning wheel. Woodcutters cannot do their work during winter, so the woodcutter and his wife left the mountain soon after winter arrived. During their absence in their house in the mountain, the raccoon dog entered it and worked on the spinning wheel, producing threads. A few months later, winter was replaced spring, and the woodcutter and his wife, the lady who had saved the raccoon dog, returned to their house in the mountain. They found out that there was a pile of threads in their home. The amount of the threads was equal to that of threads the lady would produce through one full year. The teacher thought that their little pupils should memorize the story by the end of the third semester, which meant the end of their first school year. If they could learn the story by heart by then, she would be satisfied, she thought. The children did their homework pretty diligently. They read the tale again and again and memorized the story rather soon. The words and pictures of the story began to be shown on the "screen" in their heads, and some kids even reported to her that the raccoon dog was moving around in their heads and said that reading was so much fun. Not only one or two but more than half of the children in her class said so, in fact. And most of the students had memorized the whole story before one month passed.

Here is another episode. Since late December last year, this lady schoolteacher has had her little pupils do jump rope in the P.E. class. Before she changed from one who tried to do things totally on her own to one who depended upon our Divine Parent and entrusted everything to our Parent Deity, five or six kids at most became "experts" in jump rope. This year, more than half of the children in her class are already jump-rope experts!

In this way, when this schoolteacher was trying to

teach her students on her own, she did not see any remarkable responses from them. On the other hand, since she began to entrust everything to our Divine Parent, she has been allowed to see “new buds, joyful buds and happy buds emerging in my students’ hearts,” according to her.

The elementary school recently had an open day or a parents’ visiting-to-school day, and the parents of her little pupils let her know that their children had begun to give them a cheerful “Yes!” whenever they asked their little sons or daughters to do something in their homes. Unlike in the past, the kids were recently much more willing to help their parents at home. They were evidently “upgraded,” the parents told the lady teacher happily, she says. Most parents had this sort of positive comments on their respective children.

In order for our Divine Parent to do wondrous workings on us and people around us, we must gratefully accept the workings of Konko-sama’s Sacred Mediation and develop our faith that will then allow us to ask our Parent Deity to look after all things related to us. Listening to this lady schoolteacher, I vividly learned that praying to our Divine Parent and working hard and praying to our Divine Parent and entrusting every single thing to our Divine Parent are two different things.

If we entrust everything to our Divine Parent, we can see our Divine Parent’s wondrous workings right in front of our eyes. The reason why it is possible is because *Kami*, our Divine Parent, works in our respective bodies. Why are we alive every day? Why can we play our respective roles in society every day? It is because *Kami* resides in each of our bodies and *Kami* works in us. In other words, *Kami* rules our bodies, and *Kami* inside our bodies is the owner of our bodies, who is the owner of our bodies. We need to convince ourselves that as long as we earnestly pray to our Divine Parent before doing something, we entrust everything to and serve our Parent Deity. After we finish doing something, we express our gratitude to our Divine Parent, who made it all possible. If we do these things not just once but as often as possible, we will be truly religious individuals.

To practice faith is to recognize the presence of *Kami* as the owner of our bodies, to be awakened to the truth that we are allowed to be alive by our Divine Parent and to entrust everything to our Parent Deity. This is where we should start, I believe.

I often see people who say, “I have lived my life diligently” and/or “I have worked very hard and built a new house for our family.” I, however, cannot but wonder how these people would react if our Divine Parent ever asked them, “OK, that’s how you feel. But why do you think you have ever been able to live your life diligently? Why do you think you have been able to build a new house? WHO has taken care of all these things and made sure that these things will be possible for you?” This kind of “I have accomplished all these things on my own” mentality is simply unacceptable for our Parent Deity. If they continue to keep this attitude, in which they say neither that it is because of our Divine Parent’s workings nor that it is because people around them helped them along the way, they will see a dead-end in their lives sooner or later. Their lives will be futile instead of fertile.

Because of this, it is important for us to always remind ourselves of the prayer, “Konko Daijin, our dear Founder,

please conduct Sacred Mediation for me. Please use me, please use my body in a way that the wish of our Divine Parent will be fulfilled.” We see people in our homes and in our workplaces. *Kami* is working in each of those people, just as *Kami* is working in each of us. Therefore, we should pray to *Kami* working in those people, “Please allow each of these people to have divine arrangements in everything they do, so that they will be fulfilled.” I would like each of you to become persons who embrace this sort of prayers.

To people who often work in the kitchen, I would like to encourage them to have a prayer that goes, “Please allow me to be thankful for each foodstuff, which arrives through the blessings of the Universe. And please allow me to do *goyo* (selfless service) of cooking in a way You will be satisfied with.” Your work to cook foods should be true to this very prayer. If you pray and cook this way, each family member who eats the cooked foods you have prepared will be given good buds; a bud of good health and a bud of a warm and caring heart for their parents, a bud of motivation to get along with their siblings, a bud of thankfulness for the people around them.

The Universe is alive, because our Divine Parent is alive. And the life of our Parent Deity is everywhere in this universe, and it blesses and nurtures everything, allowing all lifeforms to be alive. The Universe is so-called a macrocosm. Each of our bodies is so-called a microcosm. Not only in the Universe, the macrocosm, but also in the microcosm, each of our bodies, we can see *Kami*’s wondrous workings. We can witness *Kami*’s workings in various organs and parts of our respective bodies. These numerous workings of *Kami* in our bodies are right there, and this is why we can be like this. In order for us to fully recognize these important truths, we will absolutely need to ask for and receive Konko-sama’s Sacred Mediation. By receiving the workings of Sacred Mediation, we will be allowed to know the intentions and wishes of our Divine Parent. By receiving the workings of Sacred Mediation, we will come to fully realize that our Parent Deity uses our bodies (for good causes).

I am stressing the importance of receiving Sacred Mediation, because most of us, humans, are extremely insensitive to the facts that we are constantly given grand blessings of the Universe and that we have been loved and raised by our parents. On the other hand, most of us are awfully sensitive to someone who says something we don’t like and/or to someone who points out our faults. In such a case, we usually get terribly offended.

If we use this sensitive antenna in our bodies in order to seek the world of Konko Daijin’s faith, we can perceive and recognize the blessings that our Divine Parent gives us much more clearly than before, I believe.

A way of life, “Please use me in a way that You like, our Divine Parent,” is based upon a passage of the Divine Call from the Divine Parent of the Universe to the Founder. The passage reads, “Dispel all desires and assist Tenchi Kane No Kami.” Through the workings of Sacred Mediation, our Divine Parent will kindly show us our Parent Deity’s wonderful workings.

From today’s Commemorative Ceremony for *Konkokyo*’s Foundation on, I would like each of you to stop pursuing your own benefits and conveniences and instead to start to inquire our Divine Parent’s intentions and wishes and try to live up to the expectations of our

Parent Deity. I would like to encourage each of you to follow Konko Daijin's spiritual footsteps, because doing so will elevate your faith the next level, and that next will help

you become a person our Divine Parent wants you to be. When it is done, you will be awarded infinite blessings. Thank you very much.

## Goodbye 2017...

### Editor's Corner

2017 is coming to an end. As I look back on this year, it seemed to pass like a whirlwind. Coming off the end of a hectic 2016 with the Prime Minister's visit, it took me a while to really get going in 2017. I found myself struggling in a lot of ways. None of which I care to go into detail here, but just know it hasn't always been easy for me. I know many of you reading this have had your share of trials and tribulations throughout the year. Through my personal struggles, I have found myself turning even more to faith. A wonderful sensei has guided me to the importance of seeking regular mediation (*Toritsugi*). This has brought me countless blessings and a heightened awareness of the blessings I receive daily.

Something my mother has always taught me was that we are not alone. We cannot accomplish anything on our own. Kami-sama and the Mitama-sama are always by our side, guiding us through anything we may be experiencing. When I am reminded that whatever struggles I may have, I am not alone, Kami-sama is always there to guide me, I know I can overcome whatever life may throw at me.

I do not know what 2018 has in store for me, but I look forward to the year ahead. With a renewed faith and confidence in my ability to overcome challenges, I give thanks to the many good times and bad times in the past year and pledge to make 2018 the best year yet!

I'd like to thank you all for reading the Mala-malama. I'd also like to thank everyone who has contributed articles throughout the year. Without you, this newsletter would not be possible. Please continue to give freely and keep sending in your wonderful ideas and articles! I wish you all a safe and happy holiday season and prosperous new year!



## 2018 is the Year of the Dog

Were you born the year of the dog? (1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006, 2018)

Dog is the symbol of loyalty and honesty. People born in the year of the dog possess the best traits of human nature. They are honest, friendly, faithful, loyal, smart, straightforward, venerable and have a strong sense of responsibility. (Wikipedia)





# Konko Missions in Hawaii

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## 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](mailto: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](mailto:kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org).

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