



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

## Organization for Kami to be Saved

The Vision Committee was formed in 2004 to think about the future of Konko faith in Hawaii. Upon the creation of the mission and vision statements, the committee changed its name to the Strategic Planning Committee in 2009, and began the implementation of these statements for a renewed start of the Konko Missions in Hawaii (KMH). After many discussions and tireless efforts of the committee members, the new KMH by-law will soon be finalized for KMH approval. In thinking about building and nurturing an organization that will please Kami, let us reflect on our Founder's teaching.

It was 1882, one year before the Founder's passing. The Rev. Norio Sato sought Mediation and asked permission to establish Konko Daijin's faith as an official religion. Konko Daijin replied, "As far as I'm concerned, the only thing that matters is saving people." Rev. Sato countered, "But they will not be saved." Konko Daijin then gave some thought to Rev. Sato's words.

Konkokyo was eventually established in 1900 due to the strong efforts of Rev. Sato and others. However, he kept the words of Konko Daijin, who devoted his entire lifetime to this faith in his heart, and these should also be in our hearts. Konko Daijin's primary concern was saving people.

Konko Daijin faced various challenges after receiving the Divine Call for Kami's realization in this world -- rumors of using evil spirits, license revocation by the new government, and disagreement for building a shrine. These experiences required great patience with Kami.

Konko Daijin was a person who was sent by Kami "to the people to give blessings and teachings and to have them prosper forever" (Oboe:21.21.6). He mediated with deep dedication and tenaciously

conveyed Kami's words. However, Kami at times gave strict words: "Those who ask for Konko Daijin's toritsugi mediation but go against Kami's teachings, will have their ties to Me severed" (Oboecho:21.21.2).

Konko Daijin moved Kami to say such words because he even prayed for those who were unaware of Kami's blessings. Kami and Konko Daijin faced a world where "The Way of the Universe is collapsing" (Oboecho:20.16.2) and "No one is aware of the blessings of Heaven and Earth which enable people to live" (Oboecho:26.22.3). Even in this situation, Kami desired people's salvation from suffering and requested Konko Daijin to mediate. Konko Daijin felt Kami's deep unconditional love and the enormous mission set before him.

In renewing the KMH organization, it is important for us to consciously instill and carry the heart of Konko Daijin. In June this year, Konkokyo Hawaii Center will organize the Faith Enrichment Study Session in Konko, Japan. The one-week program will involve daily Konko-sama's mediation, Oboegaki and Oboecho lectures by Rev. Hiroshi Takebe, Konkokyo Research Institute, among others to understand Konko Daijin's faith and for the development of each individual faith. (Y.O.)



*Members of the Strategic Planning Committee*

# Faith Enrichment Study Tour to Japan

The KMH invites you to join the first Faith Enrichment Study Session at Honbu. The aim of this study tour is to gain deeper understandings of our Founder's faith and provide opportunities for young ministers to learn from experienced local ministers. An important component of the tour is to receive daily Toritsugi mediation from Konko-sama for one week. We will also be attending the Konkokyo Independence Service, which will be held at the Service Hall on Sunday, June 12, 2011. The following is the study tour schedule and information.

## Schedule

### 6/9 (Thu)

- Leave Honolulu for Kansai International Airport

### 6/10 (Fri)

- Arrive at the Kansai International Airport
- Move to the hotel in Osaka by two rental cars

### 6/11 (Sat)

- Move to Konko by two rental cars
- *Otodoke* (Mediation of Konko-sama)
- KMH Young Ministers' Presentations
- Young believer's gathering
- Music Festival
- Lodging at Konko

### 6/12 (Sun)

- *Odemashi* (Processional)
- **Independence Service**
- *Ohike* (Recessional)
- Lodging at Konko

### 6/13 (Mon) ~ 6/16 (Thu)

- *Odemashi*
- Lecture by Rev. Hiroshi Takebe (Director of Konkokyo Research Institute)
- Visitation to Local Church (Ministers)
- Visitation to facilities & places (Believers)
- *Ohike*
- Evaluation Meeting
- Lodging at Konko

### 6/17 (Fri)

- *Odemashi*
- Move to Osaka
- Visitation to Konko Church of Nanba
- Leave Kansai International Airport for Honolulu



## Fees

Room and board at Konko and transportation between Kansai Airport and Konko are provided by KMH. Airfare subsidy is also available for Young Ministers.

## Churches to visit

Konko Church of Otoshima  
Konko Church of Hayashima  
Konko Church of Hiroshima  
Konko Church of Fukuzaki  
Konko Church of Nanba

## Facilities and places to visit

Konkokyo Seminary  
Konkokyo Research Institute  
Konko Library  
Founder's Birth Place  
Kibitsu Shrine or Tomonotsu

For more information...

Please call

Konkokyo Hawaii Center  
(808) 536-9078

Apply now at your nearest  
church or at the Konkokyo  
Hawaii Center

Apply no later than  
3/31/2011 !

# A True and Sincere Faith

I would like to introduce an impressive story. This is a true story. An eight-year-old child died from cancer. He was only 6 years and 9 months old and a first grader when the cancer was found. The record of him fighting cancer was kept in his mother's diary, and it was published later into a book. I read the book. I cannot tell all in detail, but I would like to share what is written in the book. The title is "*mama de nakute yokattayo*," which means that it was good that it wasn't you, Mom.

The mother's name is Junko Morishita. She is a swimming school coach. So her son Shigenobu received swimming lessons since his primary school days. Naturally, he was a better swimmer than the other children when he became a first grader. He made an entry for the regional competition. He practiced every day.

At the competition, he did not perform well. His mother thought that he was not in good condition, and felt his disappointment since he did not get a good record. However, he started to have a headache, and then high fever. She immediately took him to the hospital. The doctor said, "It is a cold. I will prescribe him medicine for 3 days. Take these medicines, stay at home and rest." Upon hearing this, they were relieved. She gave him medicines, and his fever went down in two days. She said, "Maybe you can go to school tomorrow." However, in the morning of the third day, he had high fever again. "Strange," the mother thought. Then Shigenobu said,

"Mom, my foot hurts."

"Where?" the mother asked.

"My left thigh!" he said.

"Let me see." she said.

She took off his pajama and found a soft, ball-size bump on his left thigh. Can you imagine this bump? It is about the same size as a grapefruit. It was a half cut grapefruit size bump on his left thigh. She took him to the general hospital.

It was cancer. Normally, what would develop into a muscle, the cell grew cancerous. The origin was unknown, and he had only 3 months left to live. The mother was shocked: her young child had cancer that she has never heard of, the origin was unknown, there



Reverend Mitsutoshi Horio  
Hita Church

was no method of treatment, and only 3 months left.

The doctor said, "Let us do the treatment for the cancer. If the new medication works, he could live longer. But, please be ready because he could go at any time." He added, "It will be better not to tell this to your son."

A year's time had passed, when the doctor initially had said only 3 months.

The mother held Shigenobu's right hand and prayed. Shigenobu could not even open his eyes. His eyes were closed and his right hand was held by his mother. He could barely breathe and murmured, "It was good that it wasn't you, Mom. It was good that my favorite Mom did not go through this pain and not get eaten by cancer." At this moment of his death, a child thought of his mother. *It was good that it wasn't Mom. It was good that it was me.*

Hearing this, the mother said, "Shige-kun, you don't have to try hard any more. Have a rest. You did a good job. Thank you, I am proud of you. When you reborn, we will see you again." She held his hand tightly. Shige answered with a brief grip back to his mother and passed away.

What made an eight-year-old boy say such words at his death bed? His *wake-mitama*, or divided spirits that we receive from Kami was at work. Whether or not we realize it, we all have emotions and a heart to pity, care, love and comfort. We should focus on the workings of the divided spirit hereon.

We humans naturally possess Kami's spirit. Our Founder called this spirit, *Kami gokoro*, or Kami's heart and *honshin no tama* or *wake-mitama* as divided spirit. The divided spirit in our hearts guides us to a good, appropriate, and meaningful way of life.

When something went wrong or something wrong is about to occur, there are working which steer me back to the right direction. This is the workings of the divided spirits and Kami's heart.

There are times when I can feel Kami's presence in my heart. How do I come to know



this? Kami directs me back to the right way when I feel regretful of the things I said or done, i.e. *I should not have said such a thing. That was my mistake. She will be upset by hearing what I said. Mom must be angry with my words.* We sometimes experience these regrets or guilty conscience, don't we? This is Kami's spirit. When I feel this way, I apologize: *I am sorry. I was saying too much.* In this way, I am brought back to the right way.

I would like to share another example. This is a story of my church members – 86 year old grandma and her 24 year old grand daughter.

Grandma takes a bath at 7:30 pm and goes to bed at 8:30 p.m. Her grand daughter, Natsu comes home after her work, has dinner, and watches TV. She usually takes a shower past 11:00 pm and goes to bed around 12 midnight.

One day in May, she took a shower around 11:00 pm after her grandma bathed earlier as usual. She shampooed her hair and washed her body. She was about to step out but felt a bit chilly and so she decided to soak in the bath tub to warm up. (A Japanese bath tub is much deeper to allow the whole body to soak. It is common for a family to use the same water in the bath tub, and the water is heated again after it gets cold in time.)

Natsu put her left foot into the bath tub and screamed. It was extremely hot. Grandma forgot to turn off the boiler's switch, and the water temperature was 195 F after 3 hours of continuous heating. The hot water burned her foot. Hearing her scream, her father and mother came to find Natsu's foot turning red. Her grandpa also came and learned that grandma forgot to turn off the boiler switch. Grandpa went to grandma and said, "Wake up! What you did made Natsu burn her left foot." Grandma was so surprised to hear her dearest grand daughter was hurt because of her. Immediately, she brought sacred sake and sacred rice and said to her son and his wife, "You both should rest because you have work tomorrow."

She iced the grand daughter's leg and kept apologizing, "I am so sorry. It was my fault. I am so sorry." Natsu said, "Grandma, it's not your fault.

The boiler switch was broken. Do not worry. I will be fine."

The next day, the grandma came to visit our church and expressed her appreciation and made a request. She said that if her grand daughter had blamed her, she cannot live her life. Her grand daughter could have said, "Grandma, look what you have done cannot go to work tomorrow. If the scar from the burn remains, what

should I do? I am not married yet."

However, her grand daughter cared about her by saying, "It is not your fault, grandma. The boiler switch was broken. Do not worry." The next morning, her grand daughter went to work wearing a shoe on one foot and a sandal on the other. Grandma expressed her appreciation and made a request for her grand daughter's cure. In the evening, the grand daughter came to our church after work. I was wondering what she would say. I thought that she could blame her grandma, but rather, she said, "Please relay my appreciation to Kami."

I asked, "You were burned, weren't you?"

She replied, "Yes, but it was only my left foot."

"Yes, you are right! It was only your left foot, if you think that way. It was good."

"Had I poured the hot water over my body, it would have been my entire body."

"You are right. It was good. It was only your left foot. I will relay your appreciation to Kami."

Her recovery was so quick that even her doctor was surprised. No scar had remained. Her caring heart to her grandma was the workings of *wake-mitama*, or Kami's spirit. She probably thought that if she blamed her grandma, grandma will be sad and disappointed. Therefore, she said, "No, it is not grandma's fault. The switch was broken." I am sure that the spirit of Kami within her heart was at work.



Having a heart to pity and want to do something is what we call “Kami is born” in our faith, and a person who help saving others is called “Ikigami,” as stated in *Shinposhahikkei*. Feeling pity and wanting to do something is the moment when Kami is born within us and the divine spirit starts working. If you act and actualize based on that, you will be Ikigami. It is very important to practice faith by receiving the workings of the divine spirit.

There is one thing which prevents the workings of the divine spirit in one’s heart. That is a self-centered way of life. If we think only about ourselves and do not care for others, our gift of the divine heart weakens and disappears. It is like a cloud over the *wake-mitama* in our heart. Then, ill-natured feelings grow within one’s heart – beginning to want to see other people in trouble and want to do something bad. They commit a crime and end up in jail. Can they be saved? Yes, they can!

I made a visit to a jail as a minister. I saw many people being saved. All I had to do was to polish their divine spirit a little. Only one part will do. Then they began to shine beautifully on their own.

How do we polish them? Using soap? No. It is by “a heart to appreciate everything that is caring.” I think that this is the only way. The 4<sup>th</sup> Konko-Sama said on thinking about practicing this way of faith: “A heart to appreciate everything that is caring” could polish our heart no matter how dirty it may be. I know a criminal who changed his heart by learning these words. Even though we know that we should have the working of the divine spirit, it is hard to realize this on our own. As I discussed before, Kami allows us to do everything. We do not even have power to train ourselves or to practice faith on our own. Some may say that they practice faith. When they say such a thing, they feel that they can do this. However, they forget and lose passion and become easy going. Therefore, it is important to rely on Kami

and never forget that we are being allowed by Kami.

Rev. Masao Takahashi taught, “Teachings are not for restraining our way of life. They are like mirrors to reflect our hearts. Using the teachings as a mirror, we realize our mistakes or shortcomings, and pray to Kami. We may at times lack faith, but we can pray to allow us to be a person that follows faith.

This way of faith allows anyone to be saved in any difficulties.”

Because of the shortcoming of our faith, we cannot do even if we were told to do this or that. Don’t you think so? I understand this, but it is hard to do. However, I can pray, “please let me be such a person,” “please allow me to think and conduct in a way that

I was taught,” or “please make me think in this way.” If we start with such prayers, anyone facing any difficulties can easily be saved. This is what Rev. Takahashi said, and I strongly agree with him.

**Our Founder said, “Practice true faith with devotion.” (G3:Jinkyu:201)**

We are always receiving prayers to practice faith and receive blessings. Because we receive Kami’s prayer, we are here right now. How blessed and awe-inspiring faith it is! We never asked Kami for prayers, yet Kami prays for us. We will most definitely be saved with this Kami. If we practice faith by reforming our heart, we are saved. This relationship with Kami was started by our Founder 151 years ago. Nothing has changed. Tenchi Kane No Kami and our Founder never changed. It is only us that changed. The blessings will be lost if the receiver is not good. So let us become “good” receivers of the divine blessings and practice true faith to serve as good example for others to pass on to generations to come.

**(This speech was given at the 2010 KCNA-KMH Conference.)**





# Revitalizing our Faith through Going Back to the Original Story



and share these faith stories. As Konko believers, he noted, that it is very important to bring back our energy by recalling the very moment when the first reverends of our churches changed their way of life and started practicing faith. In addition to the ongoing outreach programs using the

The Ministers' Gathering was held on December 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. Seventeen ministers attended this gathering and shared their thoughts after watching the two video presentations. The first video was a speech given by Rev. Mitsutoshi Sato, Chief Administrative Officer of Konkoko Headquarters at the Faith Enrichment Meeting for ministers abroad. The second video was a speech given by Rev. Mitsutoshi Horio of the Konko Church of Hita at this year's KCNA-KMH Joint Conference.

Rev. Sato was appointed as Chief Administrative Officer for his second term at Honbu Headquarters in September 2010. In his speech, Rev. Sato strongly stated that the reinforcement of *kekai* mediation and the actualization of salvation are the most important and challenging issues for the present administration. He explained the current difficult situation that each local church is facing. To bring back the energy to ministers, they published a book of true faith stories last year entitled, *Toritsugi ni Ikiru* (Live in Mediation).

"The core matter is seeking true faith so that it becomes the energy to develop future propagation," he stated, "Faith story that changed the way of life should be the foundation of our organization. The technical matter comes second. The people and mediators learn and grow from these faith stories, and propagation in turn develops."

Rev. Sato suggested each church to recollect

media, Rev. Sato emphasized creating programs to spread this faith with the active involvement of local churches. He described his efforts in establishing "*kyodan no fukyo*," an outreach program involving local churches, such as opening up the line of communication for more positive and productive exchanges between the administrative office and local churches.

Moreover, Rev. Sato noted that the administrative office seeks ways to help strengthen or revitalize mediation at each local church, including the recollection of ministers' faith stories. He wants to see many people receive blessings and for Kami and people to be mutually fulfilled through mediation. For this, he stated that we must improve *kekai* mediation and educate ministers.

Rev. Sato analyzed that the society of the present is self-centered, and many people tend to seek only for their own benefits. He pointed out that this influences our activities and weakens our mediations that have the dynamism of fulfilling Kami and people at the same time.

To overcome this situation, he mentioned that several themes come to his mind, yet he focused on the teachings on selfish desire as the first step. He shared the teachings with the ministers as an indispensable requirement for them.

Rev. Sato also reminded the importance of the election of our *Kyoshu*, our Principal Mediator, to be held in March 2011.



**Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato**

Unlike regular elections, one cannot nominate oneself. Based on the majority of votes from head ministers, the Chief Administrative Officer requests the person with the most votes to be *Kyoshu*. Rev. Sato explained the history of Konkokyo after its establishment in 1900, and mentioned that Konkokyo has maintained its religious authority of *Kyoshu* even after the introduction of new democracy in Japan after World War II. He added that the election is an opportunity for us to remind ourselves who our religious authority is, and expressed his hopes for the utmost sincerity and prayer of all head ministers.

Lastly, Rev. Sato explained that the Mediation of the Founder's Hiromae is the origin of the support and power to develop our Konko organization and local churches, including those in overseas. He concluded that he wishes to serve, together with the ministers all around the world, for the revitalization of our religion with the Mediation of Honbu Hiromae serving as the center of our faith. (Y.O)

## ***Konkokyo Kauai Gathering Held!***



Wong's Restaurant in Hanapepe, Kauai was the happy site of a faith gathering held this past November 21<sup>st</sup>. Rev. Setsuko Okuno, Head Minister of the Konko Mission of Hanapepe, Rev. Yomisu Oya, and I joined. Kami-sama blessed each and every one of us. Seven loyal members of the Hanapepe Church came together at Wong's for the gathering.

As you may know, the church in Hanapepe closed its doors back in 1994. But our faith in Kauai has not dimmed, dried out, or rubbed away like old paint. We've kept it bright in its glow; it still shines.

Feeling good and energized, we began the faith gathering. We together recited Kami Prayer, Adoration

Prayer, and Tenchi Kakitsuke using the new prayer book.

Rev. Setsuko Okuno greeted, "I'm so very thankful to Kami-sama for giving me this opportunity to meet with you all again. This is truly something special. We have gone through many hardships up to now, but it's all because the gift of life has been bestowed upon us. We run into problems as long as we live. But Konko Daijin teaches us that the divine favor depends on our own joyous, peaceful, and harmonious heart. Hardships can be blessings in disguise as long as we keep practicing faith."

Picking up her cup, she continued, "It is important for us to see the cup half full, not half empty. So let's appreciate our gift of life and our faith in Kami-sama, and express joy from our hearts, no matter what difficulties we come across!" Rev. Setsuko's greeting was inspirational!

We had lunch over friendly and good conversation.

The members of the Kauai church are located widely around, so we paid visits to those who were unable to make it that day. All believers we encountered in Kauai were still very bright and their heart and minds facing toward Kami-sama.

We hope to hold another gathering in Kauai with Rev. Setsuko Okuno and members next April. (K. K)



### 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).

## 2011 KMH Activity Plan

1. Faith Enrichment Study Session at Honbu
2. Faith Enrichment Meeting
3. Ministers' Gathering
4. Kauai Gathering
5. Strategic Planning Committee
6. Support for Volunteer Activity
7. Konkokyo Movie on TV
8. The Publishing of our newsletter *Malamalama*

### **KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII**

HONOLULU 1728 Liliha St., Honolulu, HI 96817  
Phone: (808) 533-7173  
Fax: (808) 521-7423  
E-mail: [Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:Konko-Honolulu@hawaii.rr.com)

HILO 58 Huapala Lane, Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-3239  
Use same # for Fax.

WAIPAHU 94-106 Mokukaua St., Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone: (808) 677-3716  
Use same # for Fax.  
E-mail: [konko.waipahu@gmail.com](mailto:konko.waipahu@gmail.com)

WAHIAWA 207 Muliwai Ave., Wahiawa, HI 96786  
Phone: (808) 621-6667  
Use same # for Fax.  
E-mail: [konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com](mailto:konko-wahiawa@hotmail.com)

WAILUKU 2267 Mokuahau Rd., Wailuku, HI 96793  
Phone: (808) 244-4738  
Use same # for Fax.

HANAPEPE c/o Rev. Setsuko Okuno  
1544 Molehu Dr., Honolulu, HI 96818  
Phone: (808) 423-7707

### **KONKO CHURCHES OF NORTH AMERICA**

Administrative Office  
1911 Bush St. #4A  
San Francisco, CA 94115  
Phone: 1(800)719-5262 Fax: (604)-876-4326  
E-mail: [kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org](mailto:kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org)  
Website: <http://www.konkofaith.org/>

## Konko Missions in Hawaii

Malamalama Editor: Kei Kunito

1744 Liliha Street, Suite 304, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone/Fax: (808) 536-9078 E-mail: [kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:kmhcenter@hawaiiantel.net)

Website: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/>

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

Radio KNUI AM900 at 6:20 p.m., every 2nd Sunday

To:







