



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

## 2017 KMH Faith Theme: *Omichibiki*

By Rev. Koichi Konko, KMH Center Director,  
Head Minister Konko Mission of Honolulu

Happy New Year! 2017 has begun. Let us continue to pray for each other and the world for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama and our happiness. Prayer is the first step toward a mutual relationship between Kami-Sama, Mitama spirits and people around us.

The theme of the KMH 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, held in September last year was *"Prosperity from Generation to Generation."* As our lives thrive, our ancestors and descendants will prosper. The following teaching explains how our lives thrive. *"You can give thanks to Kami by becoming one with the heart of Kami and by spreading this true Way of Faith by telling others about the blessings you have received. This will make Kami happy."* One of the ways to thank Kami-Sama is by introducing the Konko Faith to people in trouble and invite them to receive toritsugi mediation to be saved. This is *"Omichibiki."* A minister should be trusted as a toritsugi mediator by members so that members can guide people around them to toritsugi mediation with confidence. Konko ministers need to practice Konko Faith with an attitude as toritsugi mediators so that they can reveal the toritsugi mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin. Thus they convey the words of the Divine Parent of the Universe, not based on personal experience and knowledge, to seekers.



Revs. Koichi and Seiko  
Konko and their son  
Michio

Members and ministers need to learn and experience more toritsugi mediation as we expect more Omichibiki. The more people go to and seek toritsugi mediation, the more members and ministers can experience and practice receiving and performing toritsugi mediation.

We may change how we listen to sermons, and words during toritsugi mediation because we want to share them with people who are having troubles. We may feel hardships with family members, friends and people around us while they cannot reveal it for reasons. We may hear silent voices from people who need help. Therefore, we can pray for them and take them to toritsugi mediation.

We shall feel more blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama in our daily life. We shall strengthen our bond with Kami-Sama. We shall feel prayers from others, being saved because of toritsugi mediation, and virtues of Kami-Sama more and more as we think about Omichibiki in our mind.

Ministers and members can be good role models by having knowledge of Konko Faith, practicing the Konko Faith in our daily lives through attitude and behavior, and demonstrating a passion to save people around us through listening to and sharing teachings and blessings we received with them. Thus, people with troubles want

to experience toritsugi mediation.  
I believe we can develop our faith through praying for others and ourselves, learning teachings, putting them into practice and Omichibiki.  
We can make Kami-Sama happy as we advance our faith as well as helping people through Omichibiki.

I would like to share the 5<sup>th</sup> Konko-Sama's words excerpted from the interview for Konko Missions in Hawaii 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2006. It goes, "My sincere wish and dream is for all people, as many as

possible, to practice our founder's faith and to connect with Kami. It is my dream for the creation of the world where all mankind are saved."

We can pray for others for their happiness; we can encourage them to seek toritsugi mediation. They can connect with Kami-Sama and learn the founder's faith to practice for their happiness.

Omichibiki will be able to lead Konko churches to become more active churches where people in difficulties come, be saved, be raised through practicing the



## New Year's Resolutions: Reflecting on Reflections

By Rayna Tagalicod, Konko Mission of Honolulu



A Google search of new year's resolutions defines it as vowing to change an undesirable trait about oneself over the year. Personally, I find it difficult to reflect on my short-comings, admit my undesirable trait, and say it out loud to myself (let alone have it in writing for another person to read). However, I'm glad that my belief allows me the opportunity to create new year's resolution due to the same reasons why it makes me uncomfortable doing it.

Creating new year's resolutions is similar to a new outlook on life that I've recently gained over the past few years. I continue to learn about myself every day and a valuable lesson that I've come to realize is the importance of reflecting on my experiences, recognizing my feelings, and acknowledging my short-comings. This is in stark contrast to how I used to deal with my experiences when I was in my teens and twenties. Back then, I had a more stubborn attitude and it was much easier to ignore feelings and my contribution to the undesirable situation and blame everything else but myself. Now in my early thirties and with the help of a mentor, I've realized the importance of self-reflection and being honest with one's thoughts and feelings.

It was difficult at first when I started to engage in

this new way of thinking. This is because it was hard for me to recognize and admit my fault in situations. It is somewhat of a painful process but once I accepted my short-comings, the outcome has always been a life-changing experience. By embracing reflection, I learned so much about myself, learned to be ultra-aware of how my words/actions may impact others, and started forming the example I want to set for my kids. I want to raise my children to openly embrace their feelings and not be ashamed and hide what they're thinking/feeling. Reflecting and being outwardly expressive about your inner feelings is a critical step in learning about yourself and your experiences.

Relating back to new year's resolutions, participating in this encourages me to not only reflect and admit my short-comings, but it requires me to put it in writing. Putting something in writing for me, makes it concrete and real. I feel more of a responsibility to work on something when it's in writing.

Thank you to Koichi Sensei and Malamalama for this opportunity to write this article. Writing this has been therapeutic in a sense because it allowed me the time and purpose to reflect on reflecting.

Happy new year to you all and wishing you a 2017 filled with love, joy, and good health!!

# Happy New Year 2017!!



# Celebrating 90 years in Hawaii

*On September 4, 2016, the Konko Missions in Hawaii celebrated our 90th Anniversary with a service and luncheon at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. The guest speaker was Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki from the Konko Church of Shizuoka. Part 2 of his speech follows.*

Mr. A nodded deeply. I continued on:

We are gifted with this continuous life, which is the foundation for all things. Yet since you were born, have you ever gave thought into this and regarded your life as precious? You may have paid attention to your health and lifestyle habits, but were you ever considerate of your continuous life? Not just in the sense of doing something nice for your parents, but have you appreciated your parents as the source of your continuous life? If your parents have already passed away, do you revere their mitama spirits?

It is no surprise that your life itself weakens by turning your attention away, not being thankful, and neglecting your continuous life. I used the example of weeds to represent our problems, but we could also say that our continuous life is also our roots or foundation. Should you neglect this root, it is only obvious that our leaves and branches from the soil up will get sick, buds will not grow, and flowers will not bloom. It might even wither to death. In the Konko Faith, our Founder taught us the Way of the Universe, and this is most certainly the Way of the Universe.

How about you, Mr. A? Have you ever been conscious of your continuous life? Have you valued it? There are believers who practice this faith that have never thought about their continuous life, and so perhaps it cannot be helped, let alone for nonbelievers, to have been unconcerned.

But the situation does not allow you to be unconcerned any longer. Mr. A, in addition to cutting your weeds that is your illness, I would like you to pull out the root that is the

cause of your problems. To remove this problematic root, I would like you to nurture your continuous life, which is also your root. What could we specifically do that would nurture our continuous life? I will tell you how, and so please listen carefully.

We must first express appreciation. When you wake in the morning, give thanks for this new day and new life. When you rest for the evening, give thanks for being able to carry out your day without any trouble.

This is the first step towards nurturing your continuous life.

What I would like you to think about is to whom should you give thanks to? I mentioned a moment ago that our continuous life is a gift. Mr. A, your life is also a gift. You were born from your mother's womb, but it was neither your mother nor father or your own volition that determined your gender. But someone made this decision. Who decided on your birthplace and country, or which household you were born into and from which parents? Who decided your date of birth? Whoever made these decisions gave you life, so please appreciate this being. If there

is a god or Buddha who you believe in, please direct your appreciation to them.

Mr. A, do you think you could do this?

Mr. A once again nodded deeply.

Then there is something else I would like you to do. That is to appreciate the things that support your continuous life. What are these things? These are food and water and human waste. Give thanks to what comes into and out of your body. When you eat and drink, thank the food itself and all the blessings that made this food and drink. When you go to the bathroom, give thanks to your waste for disposing unwanted substances from your body. Of course, please



Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki

direct your gratitude to the being who gave you life.

If you give thanks for your continuous life every morning and evening and appreciate the things that support it, your life will revitalize. By taking care of your continuous life and your root thrives, your trunk, branches, and leaves will also thrive. Please work on energizing your life before the surgery. If your continuous life is vigorous, it will be easier for the doctors to treat you, and your surgery will surely succeed. I will pray to Kami for your surgery's success, but moreover, I will pray for your continuous life to gain vigor.

There is one last important thing I want to share with you. A moment ago, I said to thank whom you thought gave you life. But what I am going to say is my personal wish. What I shared with you to this point is based on what the Founder of Konko Faith taught us. If you were convinced and thought, "That's so true. If that is the case, I will work on appreciating my life," this very act is practicing Konko Faith. If you decide to practice appreciating and nurturing your life, I ask to please direct your heart to the Kami of Konko Faith.

The Kami of the Konko Faith is called Tenchi Kane No Kami, who we regard as our parent and originator of our continuous lives. This is why I would like you to direct your heart to Tenchi Kane No Kami and give thanks for your life and all the workings and things that support it. What are your thoughts on this?

If you are able to do this and when you direct your heart to Kami, please recite the two names of Ikigami Konko Daijin and Tenchi Kane No Kami before expressing your appreciation. Ikigami Konko Daijin, our Founder's name as Kami, taught this way of Faith that appreciates life. Tenchi Kane No Kami, the name of our Kami, is the parent of our lives. An example might be, "Ikigami Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami, I was able to rise this morning. Thank you for this new life today." Through reciting these names, Mr. A, your heart will move directly toward Kami, and Kami will certainly be able to receive your appreciation. Do you think you might be able to do this?

Mr. A with great reassurance answered, "Yes."

Thank you for your understanding. Please appreciate and nurture your continuous life. I will also pray to Kami for your life's salvation. Let us now pray together before the altar to Kami.

This is how Mr. A encountered Kami and renewed his way of life by appreciating his continuous life. The day of his surgery came and ended in success. What is important here – more than the success of his surgery – is that Mr. A became connected to Kami, directed his heart to Kami, and practiced faith. He changed from being unaware of blessings, from being unaware of Kami's intentions, and from committing irreverence to Kami, to a person who appreciates Kami's intentions and workings. In short, Mr. A accepted and responded to Kami's desire for him to practice faith and receive divine blessings.

This service today celebrates the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Konko Faith in Hawaii. For your salvation today, Kami sent Rev. Katashima to Hawaii ninety years ago with the wish – practice faith and receive divine blessings. The purpose of today's service is to understand and appreciate that over the long span of ninety years, Kami's wish has been passed on to each and every one of you. Another purpose is to renew our prayer so that we could further lead a way of life that appreciates our continuous life, like Mr. A. If your life thrives, those whose lives are connected to you – your ancestors, children, and grandchildren – will surely prosper.

There are many people around us who are unaware of Kami's wish – practice faith and receive divine blessings. This service today is the starting point for us to convey this wish to others. I end with hope that this 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary service will serve as an opportunity for personal transformation – from being a person who Kami wishes upon into becoming a person who delivers Kami's wish to others.



# Konko Mission Women's Group Gathering

Chie Kawahara, Midori Haus

On January 29, 2017 the Konko Missions Women's Group gathered for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. The guest speaker, Chie Kawahara, whose parents are devoted members of the Konko Mission of Waipahu, shared with us her journey in creating "Midori Haus," the transformation of a 90-year-old house into an ultra energy efficient home. She connected the process of making an energy efficient home to showing thanks for the natural resources we all receive in our daily lives from Kami-sama. Look forward to a complete transcript of her talk, "Practicing Receiving: Ways in Which We Receive Nature's Gifts" in a future issue of the Malamalama. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about "Midori Haus" and ways to improve your home's energy efficiency, please go to the website:

[midorihaus.com](http://midorihaus.com) for more information.



Chie  
Kawahara



Volunteers for the Hidden Water Footprint Activity

## Power of Gratitude ~How I survived terminal cancer~ Presentation by Mrs. Fusami Kudo

Mrs. Kudo will share her inspirational story of survival through her battle with terminal cancer the transformation that took place in her heart that brought her from utter despair to gratitude. Please invite your friends and family to join us!

**April 22, 2017 (Saturday)**

**1:30PM~4:30PM**

Speech in Japanese with  
English interpretation  
Q&A Session and  
Refreshments to follow

**April 23, 2017 (Sunday)**

**9:30AM Interview**

**11:30AM Refreshments**

**Free and Open to the public!**  
**All donations will go to the UH Cancer Center.**  
**We'll see you at the Konko Mission of Honolulu!**

**“Pray for your good health. Strengthen your body. Good health is the basis of everything.”**

*III Shinkun 2-16, 17*

### **Editor's Corner**

2017 is already a quarter of the way gone! This editor would like to sincerely apologize for the delay in getting this first issue of the Malamalama for 2017 out. After a challenging end to 2016 with new experiences at work at the Japanese Consulate including the visit of Prime Minister Abe in December and personal health concerns, I have been slowly learning to take care of myself in order to be able to fulfill my duties in all aspects of my life.

The overwhelming message of 2017 so far has been good health. With my own struggles in taking control of my health, to family members and friends receiving divine blessings in their own lives concerning their health, I find myself being more conscious of the blessings we all receive through our daily bodily functions.

More than ever I have come to understand the meaning of the above teaching. Good health truly is the basis of everything. Without good health, we cannot do anything. Health is such a fragile thing. It's something many of us who have been blessed with good health take for granted. I am grateful that Kami-sama is showing me through these recent challenges

that I should not forget to give thanks for this body and everything that sustains this life I am blessed with.

Personally, I am looking forward to the upcoming visit by Mrs. Fusami Kudo in April. I am excited to hear about her journey and how she was able to overcome a diagnosis of terminal cancer and having only one month to live. She changed her heart to have gratitude. Having gratitude sparked her miraculous recovery. She is cancer-free and thriving today through the power of gratitude.

How much can gratitude change your life? Konkokyo teaches the importance of giving thanks for all the blessings that we receive. This includes a body that may be sick at the moment. Edna-sensei of Wahiawa church preaches the importance of giving thanks to our bodies. Our bodies work hard for us every single day, 24 hours a day, but how often do we really stop and appreciate what it does for us everyday? When was the last time you gave thanks to your body? When was the last time you gave thanks to Kami-sama for that body? Food for thought in 2017.

## **Congratulations on 40 Years of Dedication to the Aisen Chiryō Doin and Aisen Shiatsu School!**



Rev. Yomisu Oya,  
Konko Church of  
Sacramento



Fumihiko and Elaine Indei



Revs. Akinobu (left) and Tetsuro (right) Yasutake of the Konko Mission of Waipahu performed a service in gratitude for 40 years



With Gov. and Mrs. Ariyoshi



Indei-sensei and Elaine thanking those in attendance.

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## 2017 KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII CALENDAR

### MEETINGS & ACTIVITIES

#### General Meeting

02/18 (Sat) 13:30 – 16:00

#### Board of Trustees Meetings

01/21 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

05/20 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

08/12 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

12/02 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

#### Young Adult Gatherings

06/10-12; 2 other dates TBD

#### Faith Enrichment Program

Hawaii Gatherings

04/22 (Sat) & 4/23 (Sun) Mrs. Kudo

06/03 (Sat) 13:30 – 15:00

10/21 (Sat) 13:30 – 15:00

Honbu Pilgrimage

11/10 (Fri) – 11/16 (Thu)

#### Kauai Gatherings

2 dates TBD

#### Head Ministers' Meeting

12/04 (Mon)

#### Ministers' Gatherings

03/04 (Sat) 9:30 – 12:00

05/27 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

09/09 (Sat) 10:30 – 15:00

#### Missionary Women's Group Meeting

06/07 (Wed) Waipahu Church

#### Community Activities

05/29 (Mon) 8:00 Memorial Day

07/01 (Sat) 13:00 CPR

07/16 (Sun) 9:30 Kuakini Medical Center

10/22 (Sun) 16:00 HCRP Peace Prayer

#### Konko Founder's Movie on KIKU TV

TBD

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

#### Konko Mission Women's Group

01/29 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu Church

#### Wahiawa Mission Family Camp

06/17 – 06/18 (Sat – Sun)

#### KCNA

08/11 – 08/13 (Fri – Sun) KCNA Conference

Camp Crestview, Corbett OR

### SERVICES & GRAND CEREMONIES

#### Spring Memorial Services

03/19 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

Hilo

Waipahu

Wailuku

03/26 (Sun) 10:00 Wahiawa

#### Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremonies

04/09 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

04/13 (Thu) 18:30 Wahiawa

04/16 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu

05/07 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

05/14 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

#### Autumn Memorial Services

09/17 (Sun) 10:00 Honolulu

09/24 (Sun) 10:00 Hilo

Waipahu

Wahiawa

Wailuku

#### Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremonies

10/08 (Sun) 11:00 Honolulu

10/13 (Fri) 18:30 Wahiawa

10/15 (Sun) 11:00 Waipahu

10/29 (Sun) 11:00 Hilo

11/05 (Sun) 11:00 Wailuku

#### Memorial Services

01/15 (Sun) Rev Shoichi Okuno 20 Yrs

01/22 (Sun) 10:00 Rev Fuji Nishida 25 Yrs

11/05 (Sun) 11:00 Rev Kiyotaka Yasutake 25 Yrs

11/26 (Sun) 11:00 Rev Kikue Kodama 20 Yrs

12/24 (Sun) 10:00 Rev Haruko Takahashi 45 Yrs





# Konko Missions in Hawaii

Malamalama Editor: Aimee Yasutake

1728 Liliha Street, Honolulu, HI 96817

Phone: (808) 536-9078 E-mail: [kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org](mailto:kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org)

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

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

To:

## KMH Mission Statement

The Konko Missions in Hawaii addresses the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith through a better understanding of the life and teachings of Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Toritsugi (Divine-Mediation).

“Malamalama” is now available through e-mail!

For our devoted readers who would like to receive the “Malamalama” electronically, please let us know at [kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org](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).

## **KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII**

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

HILO 58 Huapala Lane, Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: (808) 935-3239

WAIPAHU 94-106 Mokukaua St., Waipahu, HI 96797  
Phone: (808) 677-3716  
Use same # for Fax.  
E-mail: [Ytetsu1@outlook.jp](mailto:Ytetsu1@outlook.jp)

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 Mokuhaui 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(415) 851-9722 Fax: (604)-876-4326

E-mail: [kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org](mailto:kcnaoffice@konkofaith.org)

Website: <http://www.konkofaith.org/>