



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

## Celebrating 90 Years in Hawaii

*On September 4, 2016, the Konko Missions in Hawaii celebrated their 90th Anniversary with a service and luncheon held at the Konko Mission of Honolulu. The guest speaker was Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki from the Konko Church of Shizuoka. Part 1 of his speech follows.*



"Why do you practice faith?" If you were asked this question, how would you answer it? Most responses might be: "to seek happiness" or "to receive divine blessings." However, this is not all; there is another reason. This reason is that Kami just as much desires us to be happy and fulfilled and wants us to receive blessings. Kami conveys this wish in the Divine Message sent to Founder on October 10, 1873: "They (ujiko or people) are to practice faith and receive divine blessings." It is

because of this wish, we are prompted to practice faith. We become happy and fulfilled as a result of the workings from practicing faith and receiving blessings as revealed in the Message.

Yet another question emerges. Why does Kami position us to practice faith? This is because if we do not practice faith, we human beings cannot help but live a life of hardship. Then how do we encounter hardship? Kami answers this question in the same 1873 Divine Message. The Message imparts four reasons: 1. "People are unaware of Kami's blessings," 2.

Kami's Divine Message sent to Founder on October 10, 1873 in its entirety is as follows: Though they live between Heaven and Earth, people are unaware of Kami's blessings. Shrines, temples, and homes stand on Kami's land. Unaware of this, people only examine the Days and Directions and commit irreverences to Kami and encounter hardships due to their accumulated offenses. They are to practice faith and receive divine blessings. Tenchi Kane No Kami has sent Ikigami Konko Daijin to the people to give blessings and teachings and to have them prosper forever. Kami is Kami because of people, and people are people because of Kami. Both continue to uphold each other. (Prayer Book, p. 72)

“Unaware of this” (meaning, people are unaware of Kami’s intentions or the reasons for the blessings), 3. “Commit irreverences to Kami,” and 4. “Accumulated offenses.”

Kami gave and nurtures our *inochi*, a continuous life that flows from our ancestors down to our descendants, but are we aware of this blessing? Kami allows us to dwell on his land, yet do we understand this truth and Kami’s benevolence? Unaware of this, we are convinced that we could live within our own powers and utilize our possessions and properties as we please. Our selfish and self-centered ways turn into irreverence to Kami, and it is this way of life that generates hardships. Moreover, the degree of our hardship deepens through accumulating offenses for many years and through many generations. The single way out of this cycle is to practice faith. This involves first recognizing this unhappy lifestyle we are leading and renewing ourselves by becoming aware of our blessings, understanding Kami’s intentions, and adopting a way of life that is centered on valuing Kami’s wish and workings. These approaches are concrete ways to practice faith.

I would like to give a story of a sixty-five year old gentleman, who I will refer to him as “Mr. A.” He came to the Shizuoka church for the first time guided by Kami’s wish for him to practice faith and receive blessings. It was Mr. A’s relative, who was a believer, that invited him to church. When his relative found out about his serious illness, he said, “Let’s go to the church and receive blessings.” During mediation, Mr. A spoke about being diagnosed with this illness and will undergo more tests, which will determine his surgery method. I responded by saying:

I thoroughly understood your situation. Let us first thank Kami for this early diagnosis. Let us then pray for the proper administration of your tests, a proper diagnosis based on the test results, and proper treatment and surgery. Above all, I will pray to Kami so that you would be in your best condition to undergo surgery.

Although I say Kami’s workings, it is the doctors that provide actual treatment of the disease. But since you are going through this experience, it is my hope that you to receive another type of treatment. This will be provided by Kami. I want to tell you something important about practicing faith,

so please listen carefully.

The kind of treatment that Kami provides heals our *inochi* (continuous life). Those who come to church regularly have heard me say this, but all of us – without exception – face adversity. I believe that living life is synonymous to encountering hardship. Though hardship varies, they include mental and physical illnesses, financial difficulties, and troubled relationships with friends and family members.



Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki

These problems cause us to distress and suffer, but phrased in another way, these difficult situations are like weeds growing from the ground. These weeds in the forms of illnesses, financial difficulties, and troubled relationships grow into our lives. When we encounter such problems, we all want to do something about it by cutting these weeds down. However, unless we remove the roots of the weeds, they grow back again.

Mr. A, perhaps this illness is a weed that grew into your life. The doctor is now going to mow your weeds. However, it will grow again if the roots remain unattended. The next set of weeds might reappear as an illness or perhaps it might be financial problems or difficult relationships with others. This is why we leave it to the doctors to mow your weeds or treat your illness, but I would like you to use this opportunity to pull out the root that causes these problems to emerge in the first place.

I am sure you felt a mixture of emotions when you were informed of your illness, such as surprise, anxiety, worry, and regret. I suspect you thought, “why me?” It is not strange to want to ask “why” when you gave your best your entire life, devoted yourself to your work, valued family, and did nothing to be ashamed of. It is completely natural to feel this way. But when you see this situation from the faith perspective, you will see that the reason is there. You will be able to see the root cause of your problems.

So what is this reason? You might have neglected your continuous life. I do not mean “continuous life” in a biological or living sense; please do not misunderstand this. This is why when I say you have neglected



your continuous life, I do not mean that you strained your physical self, or you had unhealthy habits such as excessive eating and drinking. This life I am referring to does not end when you die; this life is continuous and carries on well after your passing.

We inherit this continuous life from our parents. Not one person suddenly appeared into this world. No matter who you are, we are all born by succeeding our parents' lives. This is not only in the genetic sense, but our continuous life encompasses our parents' will and the life that they lived, as well as our ancestral history. Your parents too, succeed after their own parents' lives. This continuous stream of life eventually succeeds down to our children and grandchildren. Mr. A, please first understand that your life is interconnected in this way. Do you understand up to this point?

Mr. A nodded deeply. I continued on:

*...Look forward to Part 2 in the next issue*



*Konkokyo members from Japan and the US mainland joined us in appreciation and celebration of 90 years of perpetuating the Konko Faith in Hawaii.*





# Let's Deepen Our Faith and Pass Down the Teachings of Konkokyo to the Next Generation

By Reiko Motosue, Konko Mission of Honolulu

On September 4, 2016, the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Konko Missions in Hawaii was held at the Honolulu Church. At the same time of this event, a hurricane was fast approaching Hawaii and Koichi-sensei and our church members were very worried. We prayed very hard for the hurricane to spare our island. Finally, Kamisama responded to our prayers. On the day of the event, the sun shined and there was no rain! Thank you Kamisama! We love you!

Many people from Japan, Maui, Oahu, and the continental U.S., came to the Honolulu Church to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This momentous event went smoothly and all participants were happy and appreciative of the time together.

In 1926, Reverend Kokichi Katashima visited North America and Hawaii. He formed the Konkokyo Mamichi Kai in Seattle, Tacoma, Los Angeles, and Hawaii on September 5, 1926. Missionary work began in Honolulu in 1928 and the Konko Mission of Honolulu was established in 1929. Missionary work began in Hilo in 1929. Currently, there are 6 churches in Hawaii.

After learning the history of Konko mission, I became very humbled and have a deep appreciation and respect for the work of our church founders. Their dedication and passion inspire me, increasing my veneration for Konkosama's Toritsugi mediation.

I now feel a responsibility to pass down the teaching of Konkokyo to the next generation. My mother was a deep

believer in the Konko faith. Last year, my family and I had an amazing spiritual experience – we received letters from my mother who passed away 7-years ago. My sisters and their children in Japan also received letters. We were in shock and awe of having this connection and message from my mother's grave. The letters came from a time capsule the church buried in their yard 20-years ago. My mother and other church members wrote love letters to their families which were placed in the capsule. 20-years later, the minister dug up the capsule and sent these precious messages to the intended loved ones. In my letter, my mother told me it was my treasure to leave the Konko faith to my children. She told me that faith in Konko is worth more than any amount of assets so to pass it down to my children as she did for me.

After my experience, I feel more responsibility and determination in making my mother's wishes come true. I had not come to church for more than 15-years. I read two books – one from the 1<sup>st</sup> minister, Reverend Matsutaro Yasutake (Amagi Shodai); and the 2<sup>nd</sup> from Reverend Masayuki Kodama. While reading the two books, I was amazed to feel God and see human beings from God's eyes. For the first time in my life, I became aware of the blessings of Tenchi Kane No Kamisama. I was very moved.

I then came back to church. I was to do goyo and be useful to Tenchi Kane No Kami. Next year, I also want to visit Gohonbu. I really want to deepen my faith.



*The many talented members of KMH*

# Attending the Konko Missions in Hawaii 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

By Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki, Konko Church of Shizuoka

I attended the Konko Missions in Hawaii 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and was given the *goyo* of giving the sermon.

In that sermon, I repeatedly mentioned that "Kami-sama wants us all to "Practice faith and receive blessings".

Out of Kami-sama's wish, came the relationship between Kami-sama and the Founder, and thus the start of this religion. The Founder said that our desire to be saved in times of hardships that may happen to ourselves or our families is preceded by Kami's wish for us to be saved. It is because he understood Kami-sama's wish that people be saved, that the Founder began *Toritsugi* mediation to convey this to us all. It is through this *Toritsugi* work and Kami-sama's wish that we "Practice faith and receive blessings," that 90 years ago, through Kami-sama's guidance, Rev. Kokichi Katashima was brought here to share Kami-sama's wish with the people of Hawaii.

Thus, since the Founder, everyone who has received this way of life has been guided to this faith by Kami-sama's wish. We would not be able to follow this way of living without Kami-sama's wish. The Founder had to be saved by Kami-sama's wish to save people first of all or this way of faith would not have begun. And thus Rev. Katashima would not have come to Hawaii as he was guided by Kami-sama, and we would not be practicing this way of faith today in Hawaii.

We were all brought to this faith in different ways, whether that be an invitation to attend church from a friend, or marrying someone who is a believer, or your parents being believers. However, in that chance introduction to this faith, I feel there was also an inevitability or Kami-sama's guidance in that occurrence. Don't you also feel that Kami-sama's guidance had a part in your faith?

Actually, attending this 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration was confirmation for me that we all unmistakably feel Kami-sama's guidance whether we are conscious of it or not. This is what I felt after attending the Konko Missions in Hawaii 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. I felt this in the outpouring of happiness in the smiles of those in attendance, and the intensity of your eyes as you listened to my sermon. It was a ceremony that was overflowing with the happiness of understanding that "I am because of Kami-sama" and "I am saved thanks to Kami-sama."

Furthermore, I felt the weight and importance of the *goyo* of the ministers who came before us in sharing the Founder's way of faith, even if it meant working through language and cultural differences, and the prayers of the believers who worked together with the ministers to break down language and cultural barriers

and continued to seek Konko Daijin-sama's way of faith in Hawaii, together continued for 90 years.

After my sermon, during the question and answer session, the Rev. Sachiko Yasutake from the Konko Church of Amagi, talked about the hard work of the founding ministers of the Konko Missions in Hawaii. As I was listening to her speak, an image of the late head minister of the Konko Mission of Honolulu, Rev. Masahiko Yoshino appeared before me. I remembered Rev. Yoshino coming to the *okekkai* as he dragged his stiff legs to do *toritsugi* with me when I visited Honolulu church a while ago. The dedication to his *goyo* and to

Kami-sama showed through his presence and that image came flooding back to me as I listened to Rev. Yasutake talk. To Rev. Yoshino, coming to the *okekkai* and giving *otoritsugi* may have been an ordinary task and not that big of a deal. But, in faith there are many things that may seem small but are important, or seem miniscule but hold great meaning. As I remembered Rev. Yoshino's image, those small acts of faith practice by the ministers and believers that came before us, each of them put great importance on these small acts, I came to realize that it was the accumulation of all these small acts of faith practice over the past 90 years that brought us here today.

The past 90 years were possible because of Kami-sama's wish for each of us to "Practice faith and receive blessings." These 90 years were also about each minister and believer taking this wish and putting it into actual faith practice on their own, and it may be small, but it's important. For example, going to church, praying, workshops, or guiding others. This could be seen as the ongoing work of "Man exists because of Kami."

I returned to Japan having experienced joy in witnessing a 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary in which "Man exists because of Kami" and "Kami exists because of Man" became the vertical thread and horizontal thread and were woven together.

Thank you very much Kami-sama, Mitama-sama who have gone before us, and everyone at KMH.





Rev. Yomisu Oya, Head Minister of the Konko Church of Sacramento, attended the KMH 90th Anniversary and was asked to give an overview of the Konko Missions in Hawaii in the last 10 years as the former KMH Center Director. Here is the article he wrote for the September issue of his church's newsletter, "さくらめんと Newsletter."

## Overview of KMH for past 10 years

The Konko Missions in Hawaii celebrated 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on September 4. Yomisu Oya was asked to present an overview of the Konko Missions in Hawaii. The followings are what he delivered at the service.

While I looked back into Konko Missions in Hawaii (KMH) for the past 10 years, fond memories in Hawaii filled my heart – tireless work creating new by-laws, star gazing with young adults, sharing our thoughts during Faith Enrichment Programs, and unexpected events during the Japan trip.

In 2000, the head ministers in Hawaii made a crucial and bold decision with Honbu. Hawaii Center was established 1) to promote Konko faith in English, 2) to stimulate and strengthen ministers' and believers' faiths, 3) to keep Konko faith which complement Hawaiian trends, and 4) to be responsive to the wishes of believers in Hawaii. Rev. Yoshitsugu Fukushima, the first Director of Hawaii Center, and his successors from Japan introduced Konko faith in English. They gave us an opportunity to reconsider how we could establish Ikigami Konko Daijin's Faith in Hawaii.

In 2009, I was appointed as the Director. It was the 150<sup>th</sup> year since our Founder received the Divine Call. Commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, the head ministers' seminar was held at Konko, Japan. The head ministers from all over the world – Brazil, Paraguay, Korea, Canada and the United States – gathered at the Main Worship Hall and received Konko-Sama's Mediation. Having heard what Konko-Sama said, Rev. Mitsutoshi Sato, the Chief Administrative Minister of Konkokyo, came to me and said, "Konko-Sama did not say 'Kami-to-hito,' but 'Kami-hito,' didn't he?" "Kami-hito-no-michi," the way of Kami-Hito, was a new expression from Konko-Sama.

The relationship between Kami and humanity made Konko faith unique. Our Founder's faith made it possible for Kami to work closely for human. Our Founder expressed this relationship as "aiyo-kakeyo," mutual interdependence or mutual fulfillment. By omitting the word "to" which is "and" between "Kami" and "Hito" (human), Konko-Sama expressed the ultimate state of Kami and people as an entity. Rev. Norio Sato wrote,

"The Founder deepened his faith and finally became one with Kami so that the words spoken by Ikigami Konko Daijin were the words of Kami." (GIII: Naiden: 6-5) This became our ultimate goal. Kami thinks, and we act simultaneously. We practiced faith during the committee meeting. Whether we were a minister or not, we tried to say and listen to Kami's words. Having almost bimonthly meetings, the by-laws were amended.

In 2012, under the newly adopted by-laws, we started



Young Adult Gathering and the KMH Faith Enrichment Meeting at Honbu, Japan. In 2013, we attended the Grand Ceremony commemorating 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Founder's passing. In 2014, we celebrated the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of our Founder at Konko, Japan. In 2015, we attended the first Konkokyo International Celebration. We visited Konko, Japan every year. The days at Konko started with Konko-Sama's prayer and mediation. This event was very special. We learned a lot from various ministers in Japan.

Rev. Hiroshi Takebe introduced stories about the Founder. We learned the foundation of Konko faith from the Founder's life through his earlier challenges, blessings, and revelations.

Rev. Naofumi Inoue shared his faith during the hardship after East Japan Earthquake. He mentioned that Tenchi is alive. Therefore, we have earthquake and tsunami. He always has a word, "daijobu" (we are fine) in his heart, and he practices faith with people in Tohoku region.

Rev. Yoshitsugu Fukushima introduced one of the disciples who received and followed *toritsugi*. He stated that all believers could be a mediator if they have a compassionate heart for those who suffer.

Rev. Kiyoji Konko emphasized a sincere prayer. He shared the blessings he received in his daily life.

We visited many places in Japan, mostly related to our Founder. We stood at the same spot where our Founder visited. We saw the same scenery that our Founder saw.

At the 3<sup>rd</sup> Faith Enrichment Meeting in Konko, we had Konko-Sama at our party. At that time with a deep and low voice, he started to sing. He did not sing, "Begin the Beguine." He sang "Edelweiss."

Edelweiss, Edelweiss Every morning you greet me Small and white, clean and bright.

You look happy to meet me Blossom of snow may you bloom and grow Bloom and grow forever Edelweiss, Edelweiss Bless my homeland forever.

His song expressed more than the words. "Welcome here from Hawaii. I am glad to see you."

Let us receive blessings. Let us embrace the world with this way of faith. Let us serve together for the Way of KAMI-HITO in each individual life.

# Prayer

*Sermon given by Rev. Roy Yasutake for the Autumn Grand Service at the Konko Mission of Honolulu and Konko Mission of Waipahu*

## *Note:*

*A while back I was asked to speak on the subject of prayer at a Young Adult Gathering and ever since I find myself continuing to think on this subject.*

*This article will be a review to many but hopefully you will think about your own prayer differently with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of your prayer as we continue to try emulating the Founder's faith practice.*

Prayer is one of those things one does automatically as a part of faith practice. We pray every day, we pray at church, we pray at home. Some of us pray even at restaurants as we remind ourselves to give thanks for the blessings of food, drink and being able to eat and receive nourishment.

The kind of prayer I want to focus on is not the "mini" prayers we do throughout the day or even the service prayers but your personal prayer that you do on your own time, those times when you sit and spend some quality time talking to Kami Sama.

First off, I have a question for you; to what proportions do you express gratitude, apologize and make requests, in your prayers?

We have all offered prayers of thanks. At times when we realize we have done wrong, we offer a prayer of apology. And, we have all made prayers of request.

My great grandfather, Reverend Matsutaro Yasutake taught that prayer should be 60% gratitude, 30% apology and 10% request.

The largest proportion of prayer should be in about expressing gratitude for the divine blessings. Do you think you express gratitude often enough? Are your prayers mostly about "Thank you Kami Sama for the blessings"?

I feel that in order express true gratitude, one must know what to give thanks for. One needs to identify and acknowledge one's blessings in order to begin expressing gratitude. Saying thank you without feeling thankful is just wasted breath. No one here says thank you without meaning it. Saying thank you out of habit without truly being thankful is a bit like lying in my book, and enough lying happens every day as it is.

You've never lied? Not at all? You've never given a compliment even if it wasn't deserved? You've never lied to protect someone's feelings?

These are white lies, not meant to harm and often doing much good.

This sermon isn't about scolding you for lying; it really is a personal matter of where you draw the line for white lies meant to encourage someone, and outright, bald faced lies. The kind that local parents would stuff chili peppah into your mouth for.

To get back on topic, practice identifying the blessings you receive so that you can put more feeling into your prayers of thanksgiving to Kami Sama. I'm sure the Founder



went to great lengths to identify and acknowledge as many blessings as he could. Expressing gratitude then become much more powerful.

Do you apologize to Kami Sama for irreverences, for not being able to fully trust in Kami Sama? For mistakes and misunderstandings. Even if you can't quite bring yourself to apologize to someone you may have wronged, you MUST apologize to Kami. Practicing doing so will also make it easier when interacting with other people. At least, that has been my experience.

Apologizing means that you must first be honest. This is an act of opening your heart and for many people, is a tricky thing at best. If you cannot open your heart to Kami, it will be closed to everyone. The practice of apologizing in prayer is essential for a well-rounded individual.

By this point in your faith development you know what I mean by irreverences, yes? Every time we do anything, chances are we are committing irreverences because we forget to express thanks or just took things for granted.

What kinds of things do we take for granted? Being able to get up out of bed is taken for granted by many people. Being alive, living day to day... When we are in good health we usually take things for granted.

How about just using the toilet? If you've ever had problems going, you know better than most what a blessing being able to go in the first place is. It doesn't even have to be a physical reason. Sometimes we can't be near a bathroom when we really need to use one. I'll bet that everyone here knows how to do the 544 shuffle. You know 5 as in go, 4, 4 as in shishi. Those times when you were shopping or in a meeting or class and you have to go but can't right now. The 544 shuffle usually starts when you are at the door but have to wait. (dance)

Most of us know that being able to expel waste is a blessing but have you ever thought of what a blessing it was to be able to even USE a bathroom? It's just one of those things we take for granted until the dancing starts. In this way we commit countless irreverences by being ignorant of blessings, by not even having noticed a blessing. Many are pretty minor, when you gotta go, you gotta go but others are more serious. Take the time be-

fore you sleep to reflect on your day and ask yourself how many times might I have not noticed and thus failed to give thanks for a blessing?

For every mistake, irreverence, act of selfishness, times we ignored Kami Sama, etc. we should express apology in prayer. No one alive can claim to not have a single thing to apologize to Kami Sama for.

Even the Founder, when faced with a serious illness that the experts gave up on looked inward to identify what he must have done wrong to anger Kami Sama. He wondered what irreverence he might have caused and instead of blaming Kami, APOLOGIZED and thus received even greater blessings.

Therefore apology is a very important part of prayer too.

I don't think anyone needs advice on asking for help from Kami Sama but let me share a teaching regarding making requests. This is from a desk calendar put out by the Konko church of Tamamizu.

When you make a request to Kami Sama you are also promising that you will do your best too.

Now some of us have done this a time or two. We pray to Kami Sama for help then leave it all to Kami thinking everything will work out. Do you really think it is okay to ask for help then not put in any other effort?

That would be like asking friends to help you move something then sitting down with a cold drink as they sweat moving your stuff.

What the heck?! How would you feel if you were one of the friends? If you saw this happening would you be like "Say, that's pretty slick." Or would you shake your head at the lazy (expletive).

Now imagine how this would make Kami Sama feel. If you were Kami Sama would you happily give blessings to someone like that? If one of your children (or grandchildren) asked for help, then didn't do anything to help themselves wouldn't you think twice the next you were asked?

Kami Sama isn't like us. Kami Sama is always helping even when we don't ask. This is a plain truth. Think about it and you will probably realize that at certain times it seemed like

things went really smoothly even though you didn't pray for help. EVERYONE has had an experience like this. The difference is that as Konkoko believers we should recognize them as Kami's assistance and express gratitude. Thinking that it was just a lucky day or maybe you are just that good, is an irreverence. We are taught to know better.

Because Kami Sama is always helping things go as well as they do, we remind ourselves to express thanks for the blessings we receive. Offer an apology for the times when you forgot to say thank you then ask Kami Sama to help you and your efforts will produce much better results. We are supposed to know this, acknowledge the blessings for what they are and express gratitude. Otherwise there will be that much more to apologize for later.

These three components of prayer are connected. The proper balance, and that will be different for each of us, is important. Gratitude, apology and request must be a part of every prayer.

Practice these proportions in your own prayer.

Practice identifying blessings so that you can acknowledge them and express proper thanks for them. Acknowledge that you commit irreverences everyday be it towards Kami Sama or other people, it will happen and so apology is every bit as important. Daily self-reflection in order to identify one's faults and shortcomings is an important part of faith practice because without it we could not acknowledge our irreverences or apologize for them. Finally, when you do make request, remember to do your best and have Kami take care of the rest. Do not just pray and think, "Okay, it's all on Kami now and forget about it." And remind yourself to pray before any endeavor. Prayer should be your first effort and not a last resort.

In our daily faith practice let us strive to practice good prayer as exemplified by Ikigami Konko Daijin.

Mahalo nui loa





## Editor's Corner

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

The KMH Young Adult Gathering was held in Hauula on Oahu's northeast shore on October 14-16, 2016. The theme of the gathering was "Trust in Kami." As always, Roger Kiyomura put together some thought provoking discussion topics and activities that stimulated conversation about our faith and our views on Konkokyo in our lives. This year's gathering gave us an opportunity to reflect on times in each of our lives that required us to really rely on Kami-sama. Rev. Koichi gave us some insight into what the Founder did in situations that would test anyone's faith in Kami-sama. The biggest take away I got from the weekend was when times are so difficult and seem so bleak, we have but to turn our hearts to Kami-sama and really have faith that everything happens for a reason and serves a purpose in our lives. Though there are some situations in life that are really difficult to make sense of, having faith in Kami-sama does help to bring some peace and comfort in times of trauma and tragedy.

'Tis the season for thanksgiving. I hope you all enjoyed time with your families and friends during the Thanksgiving holiday. As Konkokyo believers, giving thanks is not a foreign concept. We are taught to always be grateful for all we are blessed with in life. Sometimes though, I find I need a reminder or two.

Recently, I have received many reminders of reasons to be thankful. Most recently, I have had a couple of health concerns pop up. I am guilty of never really taking the time to take care of myself like I should. I think this is common among women, but I think we tend to push our own concerns to the side and occupy our thoughts and

energy with the well-being of our loved ones. For years, I prided myself on being so healthy that I didn't need to see a doctor. In fact, I did not have a Primary Care Physician until very recently. I was having some issues that led me to see an OBGYN.....not the most fun experience, but necessary. During my visit, the doctor ran a myriad of tests since I had not been to a doctor in over a decade. She discovered that I had a couple of serious health issues that needed to be taken care of immediately.

No more avoiding the doctor, I needed to be under the care of doctors to help me resolve these health issues that lay dormant in me for who knows how long. I was basically a ticking time bomb and am very lucky that I didn't end up in the hospital in a really dangerous situation. I thank Kami-sama that I had been in good health until now. Also, I thank Kami-sama for leading me to the OBGYN, who ultimately saved my life (a sentiment my PCP repeated at my first visit with her).

This experience helped me realize how much I've neglected my health until now and how blessed I am to have this brought to my attention before getting too out of hand. I am now paying more attention to my well-being and hopefully will have these issues under control before long. Kami-sama never fails to show us ways to live our best life. If we will pay attention and turn our hearts to Kami-sama in good times and bad, Kami-sama will show us the many ways in which we are blessed. Let us remember to turn our hearts to Kami-sama and continue to give thanks for the many blessings we receive.



*Rev. Koichi Konko, Cynthia Matsumoto, Rayna Tagalicod, Roger Kiyomura, Taiyo Kanemitsu, Scott Kilousky, and Jeremy Tagalicod at Laie Point during the YAG*

# Konko Missions in Hawaii

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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 MOVED!**

The Konko Missions in Hawaii Center office has moved to the 2nd floor of the Konko Mission of Honolulu  
And we have a new e-mail address:  
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## **KONKO MISSIONS IN HAWAII**

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