



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

Seeking the True Way



held in Pacific Grove, California in 1965. This event is considered to be the genesis of the present day Conference, as the seminar was the first gathering for younger people to have a better understanding of the Konko Faith in English. This year's Conference theme was "Spiritual Investment," and looking back at the Conferences of the past 50 years, it has indeed been a huge spiritual investment for the future generation.

On August 13, 2010, the sounds of the newly revised English Tenchi Kakitsuke reverberated across the North Shore. One hundred and twenty-two people gathered together from Canada, East Coast, West Coast, Japan, and our beautiful Hawaiian Islands to attend the KCNA-KMH Joint Conference at the YMCA Camp Erdman in Waialua, Oahu. Blessed with beautiful weather and great nature, the two-nights and three-days became a very memorable event for those who attended. The Joint Conference began in 1980, and it has been alternatively hosted by KCNA and KMH every 5 years. This was the seventh Conference and was held at the very same location as the first Joint Conference.

A book of photos published commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Konko Faith in America shows that the first Konko Youth Organization Seminar was

held in Pacific Grove, California in 1965. This event is considered to be the genesis of the present day Conference, as the seminar was the first gathering for younger people to have a better understanding of the Konko Faith in English. This year's Conference theme was "Spiritual Investment," and looking back at the Conferences of the past 50 years, it has indeed been a huge spiritual investment for the future generation. The Conferences were continued because of the believers' strong desire and motivation to pass this faith on to the next generation. Heated discussion into the night is a common Conference scene. The Tenchi Kakitsuke's revision is an example of this – it started at a late night free discussion time during the Conference.

People share their thoughts at the Conference to seek and find true faith. The presentation, "A True and Sincere Faith" delivered by Rev. Mitsutoshi Horio of the Konko Church of Hita, Japan on the first day caught the attention of motivated believers when he introduced the teaching: "The aim of faith is not giving requests. Being trusted by Kami is the aim of faith. The blessings are the result of that." This surely gave an insight to think about what the true Konko Faith is.

On the second day, Rev. Todd Takahashi, the second speaker of the Conference made a presentation focused on what Mediation could do for us to understand *Tenchi-no dori*, or Universal Law. Rev. Takahashi explained that the Universal Law is the eyes of God with no discrimination. He introduced three Universal Laws – Law of God’s Love, Law of Makoto (truth/sincerity), and Law of Intent. Rev. Takahashi also defined that Mediation is the place for humans in search for salvation to offer their problems, sorrows, joys, appreciations, and apologies to the Principle Parent of the Universe. Having shared his personal experience, he emphasized the importance of receiving Mediation even if it was a difficult time to do so. He said, “When we are honest and truthful to Kami-Sama and when we are honest and truthful with our ministers, in return, God reveals more and more truth to us. That truth is God’s favor to us.” Rev. Takahashi concluded his presentation by encouraging everyone to practice the absolute faith and receive God’s virtue and trust.

On the last day, everyone wrote their own spiritual investment plan and a letter to themselves. The letter will be kept by the 2010 Conference Committee and will be delivered to each person at the next Joint Conference in 2015.

Looking back in history, small gathering of believers started up the Konko Faith in North America and the Islands of Hawaii. There are records dating from the mid 1910s describing various meetings held by Konkokyo believers in Seattle and Tacoma, Washington. Rev. Katashima, the President of the Konko Young People’s Federation in Japan made an official visit to survey the missionary situation in the Pacific Coast and Hawaii in 1926. At that time, *Mamichikai* (True Way Society) was formed in Seattle, Tacoma, Los Angeles, and Honolulu. As it was named 84 years ago, we would like to realize and actualize the True Way by seeking, receiving, and actualizing Mediation. (Y.O)

A True and Sincere Faith

Rev. Mitsutoshi Horio
Konko Church of Hita

Good afternoon.

Thank you for inviting me to the KCNA-KMH Joint Conference. I am (Reverend) Mitsutoshi Horio, of the Konko Church of Hita in Oita prefecture, Japan.

Rev. Masahiko Yoshino is my mother’s younger brother. Therefore Rev. Masahiko and Rev. Sugako are my uncle and aunt. I want to speak in English, but I am not good at English. Please allow me to speak in Japanese.

It is a great pleasure for us to have an opportunity to practice Konko Daijin’s way of faith. The first head minister of Hita Church is my grandfather. He said, “The faith is alive. It grows.” Our Founder said, “If you practice faith, you will feel grateful year after year.”

As our faiths grow, we feel grateful year after year. To have our faiths grow, it is important to hear the teachings as many times as possible since our Founder said, “Konko Daijin’s Way does not save by our chanting of prayers. It saves when you listen to the teachings.”

I hope my speech will be helpful in your faith growth.

We identify ourselves as Konkokyo believers. However, when we talk about how we are practicing faith in our daily lives, each of us is different even if we pray to the same Tenchi Kane No Kami and receive the same teachings of our Founder Konko Daijin. My major concern for practicing faith is “*makoto-no shinjin*,” true and sincere faith. I always think about what a true and sincere faith is.

I would like to introduce a typical case when I think about true faith:

There is a Japanese Railway Station in Hita City where I am serving for Kami-Sama. In front of Hita station, there are metered parking lots. The first 15 minutes are free, but it charges 200 yen after 15 minutes. When 15 minutes passes, a stopper comes up so that you cannot get out without paying.

A believer of our church parked her car thinking that it would only take a few minutes. Of course she locked the doors, and left. A few minutes later, she came back to her car and found the door lock was broken. She left her bag on the passenger seat in the car that day. Unfortunately her bank card, personal seal and money that she collected for her community were in her bag. All of them were gone.

She immediately reported the incident to the police and went to her bank to close her account. Then she visited our church to receive mediation. She came to the mediation place, deeply bowed her head as usual and said, “Sensei, today I made someone commit a crime. It was my fault. My handbag was

stolen. I should have hidden my handbag, but I put it on the seat. Anyone could see my handbag from outside. It was my carelessness. Please convey my apology to Kami-Sama.”

She also said, “I think Kami-Sama made arrangements so that a bigger misfortune did not occur. Please offer my appreciation to Kami-Sama for me.”

What do you think about her saying? I thought that it was good. I said, “You are right. If you had put your handbag somewhere people could not see, or brought it with you, everything would have been fine. But, you left your handbag where everyone could see. It seemed to be asking to be taken. It was your carelessness. I will apologize to Kami-Sama.

And as you told me, it could be Kami-Sama’s arrangement to prevent a bigger misfortune from happening. You might have had a major misfortune such as an accident. It was only your handbag. It could be Kami-Sama’s arrangement. I will offer my appreciation to Kami-Sama about it.”

“Thank you.” She said and left. I prayed to Kami-Sama as we discussed.

Two days later, I overheard the conversation between her and her friend outside of our church. Her loud voice reached me inside the church. It sounded different from the way she talked two days ago. It was like this:

“Guess what! My handbag was stolen. I was so mad. So I went to the police station and complained, ‘It happened because you weren’t patrolling more carefully. My handbag was stolen! You should do more patrolling! We pay taxes to pay for your salaries! Do your work more!’”

Two days before, the person who said, “Thank you. Please apologize for my carelessness. And please offer my gratitude for the arrangement.” was saying, “I was so mad.” I could not believe what I heard. I was shocked and so surprised. Where is the person who came two days ago?

The minister at the mediation place will be pleased if I say it this way. He will be sad if I say it that way. She knows. She has practiced faith for over 30 years. She is not a new believer who has practiced

only one or two years.

One of the Founder’s teachings came to mind. “Do not say something nice if you do not sincerely believe it.”

“Those who practice faith should have a sincere faith.”

This could be it, I thought. This made me think how could this have happened. She did not know what true faith is. That means she was never taught. No one taught her. The person who was supposed to teach her is the head minister. That is me. I was ashamed. If I did not teach her, it is natural that she could not understand. It was not the believer’s fault. It was me who did not truly understand that. That was why I could not teach her. Since this incident,

my theme became to practice “a true and sincere faith.”

Practicing faith and doing faith seem like two different things. It looks like we are practicing faith if we come to church, clap our hands together, and bow our heads. I think it appears as if we are practicing faith. However, it is quite different from seeing, thinking and acting in our daily lives based on faith.

The 3rd Konko-Sama said, “The true faith is *jitsui*, *teinei* and *shojiki*.”

The words “*jitsui*,” “*teinei*,” and “*shojiki*” can be found in a Japanese dictionary. They could be translated into English and we know the meaning of them. However, what does it mean when we say that the true faith is *jitsui*, *teinei* and *shojiki*.” I wanted to have the answer.

I found the answer in the newly published book “Konko Daijin.” *Jitsui* is good thoughts with a sincere and thoughtful heart. *Teinei* is doing a good deed with a conscientious and kind heart. And *Shojiki* is honest, so being honest all the time. This is what the 3rd Konko-Sama taught.

The Konko Church of Amagi is the parent church of Hita Church, and I know many of you have heard the teachings of Amagi Church. The first head minister of Amagi Church said, “The aim of faith is not to request.”

When I read this teaching, I was surprised. He said that the aim of the faith is not to request. I made



my requests from morning to night. I requested anything. However, if I read it carefully, it does not say that we must not make a request.

If the aim of faith is not to make requests, then what is the aim? He said,

“Being trusted by Kami is the aim of faith.”

“The blessings are the result of that.”

If we have a faith that is trusted by Kami-Sama, the blessings will be bestowed upon us even if we say that we don’t need it. The result of faith is the blessings. I think that here is the key of a “True Faith.”

Let us be *jitsui*, *teinei* and *shojiki*. The aim of faith is not to make requests. Being trusted by Kami is the aim. These qualities are what I am seeking to do in my daily life.

Our Founder also taught,
“In this faith you are saved not by chanting prayers, but by listening to the teachings.”

Therefore, it is important to have teachings, listen to sermons and receive mediation as much as possible and be awakened, enlightened, reform and practice. I think that there is no other way to achieve a true faith.

It is important to receive, practice and express the true way. However, it is easy to say but hard to do.

There are several teachings from the Founder. Let me take Onishi Hide’s teaching for example. “Receiving nice things, no matter what they are, makes people happy. Give, and you will receive virtue. When giving, do not keep the nicer item for yourself. Even when giving an apron, keep the lesser one and give the better one.” (G2:Onishi:7)

It is hard to do. Could you do this? If I had two things, I would give the lesser thing away. I would want to keep the better one. I know in my head that I should give the good one to others, and keep the lesser one for myself. But it is hard to do.

I have another teaching. This one is extreme. It is Kondo Fujimori’s teaching.

“When those practicing faith are hit on the head, they should think, ‘My head doesn’t hurt, but how about your hand?’ And if they are urinated on the head, they should think warm rain is falling.” (G1:Kondo:61)

If someone were to hit my head, I wouldn’t be able to say, “I am fine, but is your hand ok?” And if someone were to urinate on my head, I cannot say, “Oh, it’s warm rain.” But, it is written as a teaching. Konkokyo literally means teachings of Konko. Konko believers are people who believe in Konko Daijin’s teaching.

I think that I am a believer, but I cannot do as Konko Daijin taught. If I were hit, I would be mad. I don’t think I would be able to keep our Founder’s teachings. If so, is it the end? Am I not worthy? The answer is

“No.” If it is the end, no one can practice faith. Don’t you think so?

However, a senior minister once said, “It is Kami-Sama that allows

you to practice faith and training.” We think that we practice faith. We think that we have to practice faith. We don’t have that power. We cannot do even one teaching. Kami allows us to do faith and training. Then what can we do?

We should say, “Please Kami-Sama.” We should pray, “Please let us practice faith.” Depend on Kami, then Kami will support us. I am focusing on this point.

It is Kami’s divided spirit, or Kami’s heart. Our Founder described it by using three different terms – “*wakemitama*” divided spirit, “*kami gokoro*” kami’s heart, and “*honshin no tama*” gem in one’s heart. I think that all three of these are the same. That divided spirit from Kami starts working. By receiving Kami-Sama’s support, Kami-Sama allows us to practice faith. I am looking at this point. (To be continued)



Eat! Pray! Laugh! My 32 nights and 34 days in Hawaii



Rev. Harue Ochi

Konkokyo International Center

The laulau, the lomi lomi salmon, the haupia is ONO! During my stay I was introduced to local eateries, by the locals, and as a result have become enamored with Hawaii's food! I also ate poke salad, an-pan and dim sum. I also ate Liliha bakery's coco puffs. The plate lunches in Kailua and Matsumoto shave ice were also delicious.

Since I am only mentioning eating you may be thinking, "What on earth were you doing?" However, I was able to eat those delicious foods because there was someone to take me there. If I had never met these people I would have never had such valuable experiences. I was also blessed with good timing. We had the time to go, the restaurant (or stand) was open for business, we didn't get caught in an accident and we were able to enjoy good conversation while eating.

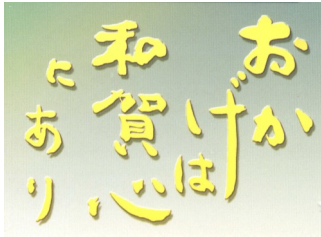
Through these experiences I realized that even such normal, everyday activities are possible due to Kami sama's support. Kami arranges our schedules and guides people to me. I was able to feel this support and was also able to feel gratitude for these divine blessings. I believe I was able to realize these things because of my faith practice. Through this faith I was able to meet many people, have many experiences and feel gratitude for these arrangements. I think having faith makes life more enjoyable and interesting.

Through my experiences (stay) in Hawaii, I have once again seen the depth of faith and that through faith in Kami-Sama, I can broaden my horizons. To all of the people and things in Hawaii, thank you very much.

Mahalo!



"Divine Favor Depends Upon Your Own Heart"



Date: 10/ 2/2010(Sat)

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

Channel: **KIKU TV**



The Story of Konkokyo will be on TV!

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

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

Sermons at the Conference



Rev. Masanori Takeuchi
Konko Church of Chicago

65 years ago the terrible war which began in these lovely islands, ended in the equally lovely islands of our heritage. Throughout today and tomorrow let us pray that we may contribute to the prosperity and safety of these two great countries we love so deeply; and peace for all people throughout the world.

It has been a long-cherished dream of my life to contribute to the creation of true, world peace. During my university days I joined radical student movements to try and bring peace and justice to our society and the world. I struggled to find the way to unite two ways to bring peace and justice to the world. One way is to fight together with people against any suppression and discrimination and to try to reform the world for the people. The other way is to have faith of total acceptance. I had to learn that acceptance of even the

suppressed or isolated situation of people was also necessary for the nourishment of the heart. My heart was torn as I continued to struggle between those two ways of living.

Since then I have sought a more perfect answer to all my questionings. Finally Kami led me to find the proper way to human fulfillment. I found it in one of our Founder's teachings.

To my great surprise Konko Daijin spoke of this splendid way over 100 years ago. He taught us, "If people lose their belief in the teaching, 'On this very day pray with a single heart. Divine blessings are within your grateful and caring heart in harmony and joy, or your own peaceful and joyful heart,' the world will be in turmoil. The glory of Kami will be gone."

In other words, when people believe through daily practice every moment, the truth of, 'On this very day pray with a single heart,' Divine blessings are within your own peaceful and joyful heart. This is the essence of the Divine Reminder, and by faithfully pursuing this path, the glory of Kami will appear and true world peace will be attained.

Kami's workings or appearance of Kami's glory definitely need to be the foundation in order to accomplish peace and justice throughout the world. When the entire human family is deeply committed to the peaceful and joyful heart of the world and that through Kami's glory human happiness and true world peace will become a reality.

Therefore I have been practicing this faith to develop peace and joy in my heart through everything that happens in my life to become a good example for the entire human family. No matter what happens and no matter how difficult it might be I will do my best to continue to deepen the peace and joy in my heart until it becomes unbreakable... just like that of Kami. This way I hope I can be of real service to both Kami and humanity in Chicago... and beyond. Thank you!



Rev. Reiko Yano
Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Good evening everyone! Thank you very much for attending this joint conference from near and far as North America and Japan. This year marks the 7th Joint Conference between KCNA and KMH, with the very first one beginning at this facility (Camp Erdman) 30 years ago. I feel very grateful that we can all gather again like this.

As we just listened to the Rev. Mitsutoshi Horio's keynote speech in Japanese, I was very impressed and glad that even the English listeners were able to listen in and grasp the message that he had to offer. This was of course possible through the English explanation done by Ms. Aimee Yasutake and the power point presentation that has been prepared.

I am familiar with Horio sensei because I used to attend the Konko Church of Hirao, which is Masayo sensei's (Horio sensei's wife) father's church. Her father, the Rev. Masato Yoshino always said in his speech, "Say Konko-Sama first, even if you fall down. Say 'Ouch!' later."

I know it's difficult to practice all of the teachings of Konkokyo, but there is one that I have been able to do, and that is to say, "Konko-Sama!" This name comes out automatically, anytime and anywhere, even while watching TV or when I'm having a nightmare. Konko-Sama stated in his teaching, "After my physical form disappears, I Konko Daijin will go wherever I am asked." There is another teaching that states, "In time of an emergency, you need not say, 'Tenchi Kane No Kami!' Just say, 'Konko Daijin, please help me,' and you will receive divine blessings." I truly believe this teaching, and have been saved because of it on countless occasions.

The 4th Spiritual Head (Rev. Kagamitaro Konko) has always been saying "Konko-Sama, Konko-Sama" in his daily life. When Rev. Takao Kishii showed his album for the new church building of Toronto Church, the 4th Konko-Sama opened the album and said "Konko-Sama, Konko-Sama" as he turned each page. When I heard this story, I was overwhelmed with awe.

Kami-Sama always showers us with divine blessings. If we always have our spiritual antennas out, we would be better able to feel and catch divine blessings. One definite way is to always have our hearts facing Kami-Sama and by saying out loud the divine name, "Konko-Sama." Let us receive divine blessings through this conference. Thank you very much.



Rev. Mayumi Yasutake
Konko Mission of Waipahu

Good morning. It is good to see you here at this Morning Prayer Service. I hope you had a good rest last night, after a day of learning, thinking, and sharing your faith.

Every morning when I awake, I give thanks to Kami-Sama for the gift of life. However I know a person who expresses a deeper gratitude to Kami-Sama. He is my father. He was saved from death 40 years ago.

My father, who lives in Japan, almost died of a heart attack 40 years ago. His memory of this near death episode is like a scene from a movie. He saw a very bright light in a dark, tunnel like place. He heard his deceased mother calling his name, commanding him to open his eyes.

My father was not a sincere Konkokyo believer at that time. But his father and aunt were. He believes that Kami-Sama saved him through their virtue and their strong faith. This was truly a wonderful thing.

If we practice faith, we save not only ourselves, but also others. In our faith, the merit that we earn has the power to be carried on for generations. The merit that we earn by this practice of faith can be called a "spiritual investment." It was this spiritual investment, as well as that of his ancestors, that saved my father, and allowed him to come back from near death.

After this event, my father became a very sincere Konkokyo member. Today, he goes to church everyday, to give thanks to Kami-Sama, before going to work. After work, he again stops by the church to give thanks to Kami-Sama for the day that he has had. He truly believes that he was saved by Kami-Sama so that he could do goyo for Kami-Sama. As he does goyo, his spiritual investment grows and multiplies, and my mother, brother, family, friends and mitama spirits all benefit from it.

We don't need to go through a near death situation to discover Kami's infinite presence in our lives. We can find Kami's presence if we recognize all the blessings that surround us, and show appreciation for them. On this second day of this conference, let us open our eyes, tune in our ears, minds and hearts, and find Kami in our lives. Once we find Kami, make Kami-Sama become a part of our lives. When we do so, we begin to make the right decisions, say the right things, and do what is good for us and for others.

What do we need to do, to practice the kind of faith that becomes a spiritual investment? There are three steps we can take:

- 1) Find Kami in our lives
- 2) Make Kami a part of our lives
- 3) Express Kami in our lives.

I would like to leave these thoughts with you as you learn more today, about how to enrich your life and lives of your loved ones through your spiritual investment. Have a fun and profitable day.

KMH Mission Statement

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

Upcoming Events and Services

Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremony

Oct. 10 Konko Mission of Honolulu

Oct. 13 Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Oct. 17 Konko Mission of Waipahu

Oct. 31 Konko Mission of Wailuku

Nov. 7 Konko Mission of Hilo

Kauai Gathering

Nov. 21 10:00 am

at Wong's Chinese Restaurant in Hanapepe

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