



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

April 2014

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭** 
- 5 Sat -Church clean up for Grand Ceremony (8 am)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 8 Tue -Rev. Rodney Yano & Ms. Fong Yip visit Hawaii for their friend's wedding (till April 14th)
- 13 Sun -Wahiawa Church Spring Grand Ceremony 天地金乃神様 御大祭 (11 am) *Naorai lunch follows**
***Sermon by Rev. Rodney Yano**
***Kibimai by Miss Ke'ala Takahashi**
- 14 Mon -HCRP meeting at Gedatsu Church (1:30 pm)
- 18 Fri -Volunteer Act. @Wahiawa Gen Hosp. LTCF (10:45 am)
- 20 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Waipahu Church Spring Grand Ceremony and 40th Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Santarō Sonoda Founder of Waipahu Church (11 am)
- 26 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
-Chorus practice @HNL Church (2-4 pm) 
- 27 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (9 am) 月例霊祭**
-Share Okage Stories (Till 11 am)
- 30 Wed -Church clean up (9 am)
-Rev. Rodney Yano & Ms. Fong Yip visit Hawaii for their Wedding (till May 7th)

May 2014

- 1 Thr -Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭**
- 3 Sat -Rev. Rodney Yano & Ms. Fong Yip's Wedding!
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage Stories (till 11 am)
-Wailuku Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)

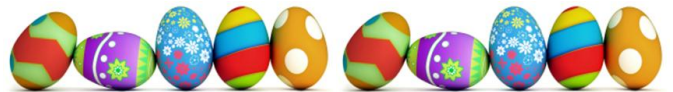
Konko Daijin says... Knowing the favor of Heaven, but not knowing the favor of Earth, is the same as knowing that you have a father, but not knowing you have a mother. If you do not build a solid foundation, everything will fall under. (G11 Ishida Tomosuke 2)

Editor's thoughts: God being a Man/Male is a common understanding held by many people. In the Konkokyo belief system, God/Kami has both male and female characteristics. There is the Yin and Yang. Fatherly Sky and Motherly Earth. Yes, our Kami is a couple and all living creatures including you and I am the precious children that live between the warm embrace of this couple. Just revering Heaven is not enough. We must be aware of the many blessings given to us by Earth, and revere her too.

Sunday School Oath


I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

Sincerity is the essence of my faith, and its basic principles are courtesy, kindness, and devotion in everything I do.



天地金乃神様 御大祭

Spring Grand Ceremony


- When:** Sunday, April 13, 2014 @ **11:00 a.m.**
Place: Konko Mission of Wahiawa
Who: All is welcome to attend.
Sermon: Rev. Rodney Takashi Yano
Kibimai: Miss Ke'ala Takahashi
Memo: Naorai fellowship lunch will follow 

The Spring Grand Ceremony is one of the two large services held on a bi-annual basis. We seek to acknowledge and revere the Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama—which is the ultimate energy source that sustains all life forms between Heaven and Earth. This includes the blessings of air, water, food, minerals and metals, bodily functions and life itself. Reserve this day for Kami. It's a very important day.



Mr. Bernie & Mrs. Emiko Tom, who are members of the San Francisco Church visited us on Sunday, March 16 and attended the Spring Memorial Service. It's always a joy to see them!

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2014

- 5/3 Sat -Rev. Rodney Yano & Ms. Fong Yip Wedding (11 am)
 5/4 Sun -Wailuku Church Spring Grand Service (11 am)
 5/11 Sun -Hilo Church Spring Grand Service (11 am)
 5/18 Sun -Rev. Masahiko Yoshino's 1-year Mem. Svc. @HNL (11am)
 5/23 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am)
 5/26 Mon -Memorial Day cemetery visitation
 6/6 Fri -KMH Minister's Gathering @HNL (till 6/7)
 6/7 Sat -Rev. Michio Ide's (Yukuhashi Kyokai) Presentation @HNL
 6/12 Thr -KMH Missionary Women's Society Mtg @HNL (till 6/13)
 6/21 Sat -4th Ohana Camp at Camp Erdman (till 6/22)
 6/27 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am)
 7/11 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am) 
 7/14 Sun -Back to School Service (9 am)
 7/13 Sun -Monthly Service and Back to School Service (9 am)
 7/20 Sun -KMH Volunteer Activity at Kuakini Hospital (9:30 am)
 8/15 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am)
 8/24 Sun -85th Anniversary Celebration of HNL Church and 41st Mem. Svc. Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama @HNL (11 am)
 9/7 Sun -WGH Bi-annual Church Visit (10 am)
 9/12 Fri -WGH Monthly Visit (10 am)
 9/14 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
 9/21 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
 9/28 Sun -Ikigami Konko Daijin Daisai Svc @Gohonbu, Japan
 9/29 Mon -200th Birthday of Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin
 10/4 Sat -Church clean up for Autumn Grand Service (8 am)
 10/5 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
 10/12 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
10/13 Mon-Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Service (6:30 pm)
 10/18 Sat -HCRP Atomic Bomb Exhibitions @Palolo Hongwanji Temple (Through 10/26)
 10/25 Sat -110th Ann. Celebration of Amagi Church (thru 10/26)
 10/26 Sun -22nd Annual HCRP Peace Prayer @ Palolo Hongwanji Temple (4 pm)
 11/2 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
 11/8 Sat -Church Mini Bazaar (10 am-1 pm)
 11/9 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
 11/23 Sun -Rev. Kikue Kodama's 17th Memorial Svc. @HNL (9 am)
 12/21 Sun -Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 42nd Memorial Svc. (10 am)
 12/28 Sun -End of the Year Service (9 am)
 12/30 Tue -Wahiawa Church Mochi Pounding (8 am)

Konko Mission of Wahiawa 4th Summer Ohana Camp!!



Date: (Sat-Sun) June 21-22, 2014

Place: Camp HR Erdman (Mokuleia)

Our theme will be ABC's of Konkokyo Part 4. \$20.00 for ages 19+, \$10 for 5-18, Free for 4 and under. Fee includes, all meals, snacks, activity fees, lodging. **Deadline: Sunday 5/25/14.** Save the date. We hope you can join us ☺. Contact Edna Yano for details: ednakazuko@hotmail.com or call (808) 223-3448

Happy Birthday

To all the people born in
The month of April
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from
Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama &
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama



Kumiko Kaminaka

Donna Toyofuku

Jaeden Rego



Andrea Toyofuku

Alyce Yamamoto

Thank you very
Much for helping
With the church
Garage Sale! It was
A great success.
Funds raised will be
Used towards the
Summer Ohana
Camp (6/21 Sat-22 Sun)



Editor's Note



Dear Reader,

I look at the calendar, and I shriek in surprise that it's already April! It didn't seem so long ago that we had our church New Year's party. Godaisai season is here. Godaisai (aka: Grand Ceremony) is one of the largest church events. One is held in the Spring and the other is held in Autumn. The one that's coming up is the Spring Grand Ceremony. It will be held at our church on Sunday, April 13th at 11:00 am. This time, the 13th falls on a Sunday, so we will have the service in the morning, instead of the usual night-time service.

We will recognize and appreciate the Divine Parent of the Universe, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. *Ten* means Heaven/Sky. *Chi* means Earth/Ground. Heaven and Earth are non-discriminating properties of the Universe. They bless us with air to breathe, sunlight to light up the Earth, food to sustain our lives and the universal energy that keeps life going.

I would like to talk about my most painful experience of all time. This happened recently, on Thursday, March 13. Up until this point, my tolerance for pain was pretty high. I didn't understand what a pain level 10 of 10 would feel like, regardless of what the patients at the hospital report. Pain is very subjective—meaning, there is no way to feel another person's pain except for the person experiencing it. I could objectively look at a person and determine that they are in pain by looking at their grimacing and hearing their moaning. Anyway, getting to the point—my lower back gave way while I was working.

I walked the hallways to see if all my patients were ok. Then I found a finished dinner tray outside of the patient's room. And it was on the floor. No biggie. I've picked up dinner trays from the floor a dozen times before. I bent my knees grabbed the tray, and right as I was trying to lift it off the floor, I felt my disc slip. It felt like a pop and an ooze of warmth in my lower back region. The pain was so traumatic, I was almost fainting. I couldn't think straight. Any slight movement would bring about a shooting, stabbing pain. My co-workers who were watching me writhe in pain told me to go to the emergency room and headed out to get a wheelchair for me. But I told her, "No! I will NOT go to the ER!" Nurses make the worst patients. Someone got me a warm compress, and I slipped it in the back of my pants. It helped with the pain. I took deep breaths and sat in the chair for a while trying to figure out what happened. I was able to self-diagnose my back injury, so going to the ER wasn't really going to do me any good.

I went to the locker room and took out a Goshinmai sacred rice packet and ate the rice and said a little prayer. I rubbed my back and massaged it while talking to it. I said "Thank you. You've been good to me. I should have done more for you. I'm sorry I don't pay much attention to you dear back. I love you." I was thankfully able to finish up my work till the shift was over. It was also a blessing that I was already scheduled to be off for the next three days. I was able to drive home safely.

When I arrived home, my mom happened to still be awake. She was folding the clothes on the sofa and watching earlier recorded news. I immediately told her what had happened at work that evening. The thing I should have done was go straight to the Hiromae (the worship hall) to give thanks and pray. Instead, I made Kami-Sama wait—so things only got worse.

I talked and talked to my mom. There is a pink ottoman in the living room which I sat on for a few minutes. Then, I thought that I should try and bend my back the opposite way to stretch out my back and try to re-insert the spinal disc which felt like it became herniated. It felt great for about ten minutes. I faced the ceiling and continued to talk to my mom and she listened.

Suddenly, the shooting, shocking pain jolted my lower back like a 100,000 volts of electricity. I was pretty much paralyzed. I remained plopped on the ottoman in this awkward position and shrieking in pain, "AHHHH!!!" Any slight movement in either direction would aggravate the pain further. I experienced for the first time the 10 out of 10 pain intensity. I was crying because it was so painful, and I was also laughing because I was in such a pitiful position. It was like a comedy. While only profanity came out of my mouth, the words "Konko-Sama" came out of my mom's mouth. She reminded me, "Kazuko, Kazuko, where is Konko-Sama? You must say Konko-Sama instead." Knowing that she is right, I could barely utter those words, as it was much pain relieving to say the profane words instead.

My mom forcefully grabbed my arms and propped me upright. The pain was so unbearable, that I could not walk. I plopped myself on the ottoman with my face down this time. I had to stay in the position for an hour. Any slight movement was not happening. My mom then got some *omiki* sacred rice wine and Goshinmai sacred rice paper. She saturated the inner paper and placed it on my back like a Salonpas transdermal patch. The coolness of the *omiki* was quite soothing. Then she massaged my back, applied a wet hot towel on my back and kept praying for me.

I was even thinking to myself, "This is probably the last night I was able to work. This is probably the last night I was able to drive my car. This is probably the last time I could ever walk." I was so scared that I would never again be able to walk. That's when I was seriously considering going to the ER and receive at least some strong pain medication. But I did not. I already know what they are going to do to me if I did go. I wanted zero medical interventions done to me. I chose only the holistic approach for my back pain.

Still plopped on the ottoman, I was determined to at least get to the bathroom and crawl my way to my bed to get some sleep. It was near 2:00 am already. My mom was still awake with me, being my best support. I was slowly able to get up on the chair. However, I still could not walk. I kept praying. Then I asked my mom if we had a cane. Amazingly, we had one. It was the quad cane that didn't get sold at the Garage sale we had just a few days ago. It was still outside. My mom went to get it and handed it to me. I was laughing because I couldn't believe the level of disability I was experiencing at that moment. All this time I have been able to freely walk, run, stretch, bend, twist and turn. However, this time, I couldn't do any of that! It's like I was suddenly disabled without warning. I knew it wasn't nerve injury because my feet still had sensation. It was more like a stretched-more-than-necessary back muscle injury.

Then a message that my brother said to me suddenly came to light. "Life is precious. Life is unpredictable." It never made more sense than that day. I would have never known that something like that was going to happen that day. Accidents happen without warning. It really made me feel the

value of having things go smoothly each and every day. It's true. We wake up. We go to school, to work, to play. We come back without incident and carry on with our lives. But this is the thing we take for granted most days of the year. Accidents don't happen very often. If anything, they happen only a few times a year. It makes me question, "What enables 90% of our days to go so smoothly?" If even one little blood vessel in our brains pop, we would get a stroke, and it would leave us disabled. How is it possible that tens of thousands of motorists drive their cars on the freeway every day, but majority of the people arrive safely at their destinations? It's just mind blowing to think about these things.

The Founder, Konko Daijin mentioned that many people may know the name and cause of illnesses, but not many people know the cause of receiving divine blessings. It would be more interesting to find out how most of everything tends to go smoothly in our daily living. What is the cause of us being healthy practically 90% of the days of the year?

Anyways, going back to my back pain—I was able to very slowly get up using the quad cane that my mom brought up for me. My mom also supported me on my left side. I was able to go to the bathroom!! YAAAY!! I was so happy and grateful. The simple things in life! After I went to use the restroom, my mom was waiting for me and wondered if I was going to head straight to bed, or if I was going to go to the Hiromae (Church) to give thanks and then go to sleep. I was determined to walk all the way to the Hiromae to give my thanks for that day. If I had the strength to get to the restroom, I had enough strength to get to the Hiromae.

Strangely, because I thought of giving my thanks, Kami-Sama seemed to have given me a boost of help. The moment I decided to go the Hiromae, I began to tippy toe. I don't know why, but tippy toeing really helped with the back pain. I still needed the cane, but it helped so much that I was able to go to the Hiromae in half the time it took me to get to the restroom. This was quite a blessing. My mom accompanied me and also gave thanks to Kami-Sama.

There really is no knowing when one is going to be disabled. I was just so thankful that I was even able to walk again. After I finished my prayer, I tippy toed to my room and went to sleep. My back was still extremely painful. It was very difficult to sleep that night. I could not even turn myself in bed. I lied in the same position for the entire night. The next morning, the heels of my feet were numb, and so was my tailbone. Now I truly understand why it is so important to turn immobile patients every 2 hours. It will prevent pressure ulcers! I still had to use the cane till mid-morning on the second day. I said to my mom, "This is so pitiful and shameful!" Then my mom said to me, "What are you talking about! Give thanks for the cane that you are able to use to support you." She was right. I never respected a cane more than that time.

Through this personal experience, I have become even more awakened. I was able to experience what elderly people go through when they have to take their time and take small steps with the cane. Kami-Sama really gave me a lesson, though. There is a back story to all this, as to why it may have happened. This is an unusual occurrence for me. In my case, when unusual occurrences happen, it's a sign from Kami-Sama.

I didn't mail out the usual Spring Memorial Service postcards to remind our church members to attend the very important service in honor and remembrance of their beloved

ancestors. The spirits of the deceased were not very happy with me. I became lazy this time. I did not send out the post card reminders. I felt a bit guilty, but then I felt it was too late to send anyways, so I didn't. This incident happened to me on the same day that I felt guilty for not having sent out those cards.

It may not mean anything to anyone else, but to me, this was a clear reminder for me to be consistent with my goyo towards Kami-Sama. Which means, I mustn't get lax in my ministerial tasks. Revering our deceased ancestors and friends during the memorial service is something that these spirits look forward to. They wish to meet their loved ones in person. If even one more person was able to make it to the service, the reminders would have served its purpose, and the Mitama spirits would have been delighted. I made people lose the opportunity to attend. It was my personal and regretful error.

My mom was also aware that I did not send the postcard reminders this spring. She also wondered that the back injury might be a sign from Kami-Sama. We thought the same exact thing. And as soon as I went to the Hiromae to apologize, my back pain was cut in half. I didn't need my cane anymore. And in 4 days, my pain was 95% gone. It has been over 2 weeks now. My pain is 99% gone. I only have a slight reminder pain, which I have to be careful. I can go to work without using any workers comp. I was able to receive divine blessings. I will never forget this most painful day. I was surprised my back pain healed to this extent in only a few days. Usually back pains last more than a month. But that was before I knew about talking to my body and giving thanks from my head down to my toes. It really worked.

When I am being inconsistent with my ministerial tasks, Kami-Sama reminds me to straighten up a little and puts me back on focus. I appreciate these reminders, although I prefer not to have the painful kind. It goes to prove how much I am being cared for. As strict as it may seem, the blessings that I do receive are remarkable. With that being said, there is really no messing around to test if there is an existence of a Divine out there. I have full conviction with all the experiences I have had till now.



This month will be a very busy and exciting month. Three of the churches on Oahu will be conducting their Spring Grand Ceremony (Honolulu, Wahiawa and Waipahu). A great childhood friend will be getting married to the love of his life a day before our Grand Ceremony. Many visitors will be coming in to Oahu at the end of April to celebrate my brother, Rev. Rodney Yano's and Ms. Fong Yip's wedding, which will be held on May 3rd. My big brother is getting married!! ^_^ I'm so happy for this most cute couple. They perfectly complement each other. Back then, when we were little kids, we used to daydream what kind of person we would marry in when we grow up. The day has come for my brother. It's a very auspicious occasion. More news to follow in the upcoming newsletters.

The 4th Summer Ohana Camp is nearing as well. This year it will be held again at Camp HR Erdman from Saturday, June 21 thru Sunday, June 22, 2014. We have reserved two cabins. Our theme will be ABS's of Konkokyo Part 4. We hope you can join us! Please contact me for more information. Wishing you a wonderful month in April!

Aloha, Edna Yano