



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

August 2017

- 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 (9 am)
- 6 Sun -Monthly Svc. Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama
(9:00 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭 *Share Okage (till 11 am)
- 7 Mon -HCRP meeting at Wahiawa Church (11:30 am)
- 11 Fri -Revs. Yasuhiro & Reiko Yano pilgrimage to Japan (till 19th)
- 12 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Mtg @HNL Church (10:30 am)
- 13 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage (till 11 am)
- 18 Fri -HOLIDAY! Hawaii Statehood
- 19 Sat -Church clean-up (2 pm)
- 20 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service 月例霊祭 (9 am)
-44th Memorial Svc for Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama at
HNL Church (9am)
- 25 Fri -Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa Gen. Hospital LTCF
(10-10:45 am)
- 26 Sat -Shintoku Academy Session 1 at Honolulu Church
(9 am-3 pm) *Lunch and snacks included. Please register.
-Chorus practice at Honolulu Church (2-4 pm)
-Ehimemaru Mikan tree maintenance (9 am)
- 27 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage stories (till 11 am)
- 31 Thu -Church clean-up (9 am)

September 2017

- 1 Fri -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 4 Mon -Oahu Chorus Group 20th Anniversary at HNL Church
Sing Your Heart Out Karaoke Fest (10 am-2 pm) *Potluck
- 16 Sat -Community Clean-up at Kaka'ako Waterfront Park
(10 am-11:30 am) *Sponsored by HCRP

Konko Daijin says... People living between heaven and earth are Kami's children. If your body has pain or illness, it is difficult to work. Pray for physical well-being, diligence in your work, rich grain harvests, and for your horses and cows. Pray with sincerity for everything. (*GIII Konko Kyoso Gorikai 51*)

Editor's thoughts: In the modern era, the same teaching can be re-written as: People living between heaven and earth are Kami's children. If your body has pain or illness, it is difficult to function. Pray for physical well-being, diligence in your work, financial stability, and good human relationships and for the health of your pet dogs and cats. Pray with sincerity for everything. Konko Daijin never taught us to get rid of our desires. He just taught us to pray with a sincere heart anytime, anywhere and for anything.

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.



Shintoku Academy

Date: Saturday, August 26, 2017

Time: 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

Place: Konko Mission of Honolulu
(1728 Liliha St. Honolulu, HI)

*Sponsored by the AKD (Apostles of Konko Daijin)

What: SA is an educational program that utilizes experiential learning to help believers learn more about Konkokyo and help to develop their faith. As the name describes, Shintoku Academy's goal is to help students learn how to receive Shintoku (Divine Virtue). There are three levels. Each of the levels are designed around the level of believer: Kyūshinja (Newly introduced), Shinto (Lay member), and Kyōto (Convert).

Why: At present, there is no educational program in the Hawai'i Diocese, not anywhere else that basis its educational foundation off of adragogical principles, with a focus on spiritual formation of the believer. Furthermore, this program gives ministers training on how to conduct classes and create curriculum that offers both experiential learning and significant learning experiences.

Fee: \$10.00 fee includes learning material, snacks and lunch (No refunds after 8/19)

Contact: If you have any concerns, please call Rev. Todd Takahashi at 772-1910. Also, if you need transportation, let us know. (First 15 participants will be accepted. Priority will go to new members, high school students, and recent high school graduates).

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2017

- 9/15 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10:00 a.m.
- 9/17 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 9/24 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service, 10:00 a.m.
- 10/8 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service, 11:00 a.m.
- 10/13 Fri -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Service, 6:30 p.m.
- 10/15 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service, 11:00 a.m.
- 10/20 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10:00 a.m.
- 10/22 Sun -24th Annual HCRP Peace Prayer, Gedatsu Church, 4 pm
- 10/29 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service, 11:00 a.m.
- 11/5 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service, 11:00 a.m.
- 11/17 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10:00 a.m.
- 11/25 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
- 11/26 Sun -20th Memorial Svc for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama, 11am
- 12/8 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10:00 a.m.
- 12/24 Sun -45th Year Memorial Service for the late Rev. Haruko Takahashi, 10:00 a.m.
- 12/30 Sat -26th Annual Mochi Pounding

Annual KMH Oahu Volunteer Activity at Kuakini Medical Center Auditorium 7/16/17



Clayton and Rev. Edna Matsuoka Celebrate 1-year Anniversary with family and friends on July 16, 2017



Due to a large volume of goods donated to the church by members and friends, the church held an Impromptu Fundraiser Garage Sale on Saturday, July 29, 2017. Mahalo to the many people who donated items and helped out with the function. It was a great success!



Happy Birthday

To all the people born in the month of August!
Please continue to receive Infinite divine blessings from Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

- Colette Abe
- Renee Yano
- Masumi Furusho
- Tamiko Yamamoto
- Vinh Mitsuyuki Vo-Hiromasa

Clayton and Rev. Edna Matsuoka visit Tokyo, Japan



Rev. Motoo Tanaka and his family of Osaki Church warmly welcomed us.



Rev. Hata and the Tokyo Church Sunday congregation welcomed us with warm smiles.



Amagi Church Dōgama Article

By Nicholas Furusho (Age 17)



Nicholas Furusho, who is the 1st son of Mr. & Mrs. Randy and Masumi Furusho, went to the Konko Church of Amagi in Fukuoka, Japan. He went for spiritual training for about two months, straight out of graduating from high school. He left for Amagi Church on May 27 and returned safely on Wednesday, August 1, 2017.

In the brief period he was there, we are sure that Nicholas has received many blessings and unique experiences. Below is an article in the Amagi Church Dōgama publication that Nicholas wrote while still in training at the church. The Dōgama is a compilation of stories and thoughts written by the resident ministers, current and past spiritual trainees at Amagi Church. Dōgama means “Same rice pot”—meaning they have all eaten from the same pot of rice. Aka: Amagi Church Ohana. All of the Yano children (Revs. David, Rodney and Edna) have gone to Amagi Church for spiritual training upon graduating from high school.

A little over a month ago has passed since my coming to the Konko Church of Amagi and it has definitely lived up to its name. Back home in Hawaii, the ministers have always spoke highly of the strictness and rigor of the spiritual training at Amagi Church, and quite ironically I believe that it has been a very big Okage (blessing) to have been able to take part in this training, despite the challenges I have faced getting used to the things they have me do. There were times where I had to push myself to learn new things, and do things that I didn't feel comfortable doing, and grasp concepts that were explained in words beyond my Japanese language skills. But it would be a lie to say that it has been extremely difficult, because the support I have received from the community here has been absolutely

amazing.

I have come to the understanding that something that has made me successful in my training until now has been the people. Being able to take bits and pieces from the unique range of personalities of the sensei's and church members have all contributed to my growth as a person during my time here. I could never ask for anything better than the way things are now.

Coming to Amagi Church has also made me realize the importance of having a reason. I found it

motivating to see that everyone here serves a purpose, and they all have their own reasons to help the church. For example, I recently asked **Tabé Sensei** what his motivation is to work

every day, and his response was that he reminds himself that it is all for something greater in the future, as the work done here at the church creates the foundation of the relationship between Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama and us. His answer

strengthened my resolve to serve a purpose in the future of this world and showed me the importance of facing your heart towards Kami Sama at all times.

I believe I have received a countless number

of blessings up until this point in my life and my stay here has changed the way I see this faith. I'm glad that I came to Amagi Church and I look forward to the future of my relationship with this church.



Nicholas with Revs. Michiyoshi & Sachiko Yasutake of Konko Church of Amagi. Picture taken at the Konkokyo Honbu Headquarters during the Konkokyo Independence Ceremony



The beautiful premises of Konko Church of Amagi



A familiar scenery of rice paddies in the town of Amagi

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health, happiness and overall well being.

A year has already passed since Clayton and I got married last year (7/16/16). It sure did fly by fast. I believe in the saying "Time flies when you're having fun." Yes, with the right person. I am so thankful for having met such an amazing man in my life. I wish to continue to cherish this blessing.

It's back to school time!! I am sure students and teachers alike are anxious, yet excited about the new school year. But of course, there are probably many who wish summer break went on for a bit longer.

Education is very important. There are infinite things to learn in this world. Learning never stops, no matter how old we get. We can become whatever we want to be in the future, if we have the determination to keep going forward. When failure is the driving force to do better next time—this is the kind of attitude that will get us far.

Angela Lee Duckworth, a well known teacher that became a psychologist did a study on what causes people to excel. You would think that IQ or talent would be the cause for success, but that was not necessarily the case when studies were done in the military, spelling bees, classrooms and companies.

*Angela says **grit** is the separating factor. She defines grit as "passion and perseverance for very long-term goals". Contrary to popular belief, grit has a more significant correlation to high school graduation rates than things like family income and social status do. So now you know you do not need to be some inherently intelligent individual to succeed in life, but how do you form grit? (Gilbert, 2017)*

My mom always told me, "When you decide on something, don't be wishy washy. Never flake appointments or gatherings if you said you are going. Have the determination like that of a turtle biting someone's finger and never letting go." Those words of wisdom have supported me all these years.

Now that we kinda know that grit is an important factor to success, there are a few others factors that students need to gain in order to really succeed in the real world such as socio-emotional intelligence (Self awareness, self management, social awareness and relationship management), critical thinking skills, kindness, empathy, collaboration and problem solving skills. Jobs that require less thinking are going to be replaced in the future with robots, machines and artificial intelligence.

Back in the old days, it was important to be brain smart. People who were strong in math and language skills were considered the cream of the crop. But that is being outdated.

Based on a 2013 study done by researchers of Oxford University, they predicted that by the year 2025, almost 65% of jobs will become automated in Las Vegas. In Hawaii, 55% of jobs will be lost due to automation.

That's a good thing and a bad thing. It's a double edged sword. Companies would no longer need to hire humans to do simple tasks like computing, data entry, and some manual work. They will save money and the human resource department won't have to deal with human factors. However, people who can only do data entry, computing and manual labor are going to be out of a job because they will be replaced with a machine.

Employers are seeking future employees who have good people skills and critical thinking skills. It is still important to be book smart; don't get me wrong, but only having knowledge won't get you far.

In recent years, more and more schools are starting to introduce mindfulness meditation to their students. Such concept never existed in schools before. But through this exercise, even rowdy classrooms could be calmed

down and it also stimulates effective learning.

I watched a documentary on a private school in Switzerland some time ago. The elementary teacher has the students practice mindfulness meditation twice a day. There was a class bully that caused much trouble. And it turns out that his father was quick tempered and argumentative in the family. Soon after learning about mindfulness meditation, the boy calmed down and became a good student. He even went home to lecture to his father about it and told him to try what he does in school. The father also became calm, and the household became peaceful. Developing ones heart, mind and spirit are important.

No matter what job you are aiming for, or what job you already have, do your best at it. Think to yourself that "I am the greatest _____ in the world, thanks to Konko Sama and Kami-Sama! It's that positive mentality that will yield positive results. Because our life is fully sustained by the blessings of Heaven and Earth, if we give credit to Kami-Sama for our achievements, we will naturally climb the rungs to success. In blessedness we are alive. In blessedness we can go to school to be educated. I am wishing all students and teachers an amazing school year.

