



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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August 2020, Volume 28

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

August 2020 (All services will be captured on Facebook Live)

- 1 Sat -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Sun -Back to School Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
-KMH Rotary Hanashikai Gathering cancelled
- 8 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 9 Sun -Monthly Svc for Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9 am)
生神金光大神様 月例祭 *Share Okage till 11 am
- 15 Sat -Ehimemaru Mem. Svc. Performed by Rev. Yano (10 am)
*At Kakaako Waterfront Park (By Ehimekenjinkai)
- 16 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
- 20 Thr -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 21 Fri -Statehood Day (August 21, 1959) State Holiday
-Garage sale preparations (10 am) *Light lunch after
- 22 Sat -Garage Sale (9 am to 2 pm)
- 23 Sun -Monthly Mem Svc. (9 am) 月例霊祭 Share Okage till 11 am
-Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama Mem.Svc. (9 am) @Honolulu Chr.
- 29 Sat -Ehimemaru Mikan tree maintenance (9 am)
-KMH Board of Trustees Meeting (10:30 am)
- 30 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
- 31 Mon -Church clean-up (9 am)



September 2020 (All services will be captured on Facebook Live)

- 1 Tue -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
- 7 Mon -KMH Missionary Women's Society Seminar (10:30 am)
At Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Konko Daijin says: There is nothing more irreverent than to waste food. It takes a long time to prepare the food before it can be eaten. Why is it that people work hard? They work hard so that they will be able to feed themselves without anxiety. Nevertheless, they waste or throw away food. That means they are wasting Kami's blessings and people's hard work. You should look around you. Are there any healthy people who waste food? No one who wastes food succeeds in society. They all have to leave their occupations because of their wastefulness.

Editor's thoughts: I was taught from a very young age not to waste food because all food is provided by the blessings of Kami-Sama and people's hard work. I was also taught that there are millions of people in the world that die from starvation. Around 821,000,000 people in the world do not have enough of the food they need to live an active healthy life (mercy Corps.org). Living in the United States, we live in abundance of resources. We live as if there will never be a food shortage. That's a very irreverent way to live, because we are living in ignorance of people's hard work and the divine blessings that enable us to eat food. Living so extravagantly that we are constantly wasting food will come back to haunt us in ways we could never imagine—like being unable to eat due to health problems. It is important to always keep in mind to say "Itadakimasu" or "Thank you for this food" before eating any food or beverage. This simple acknowledgement and appreciation is one way to practice faith.

Sunday School Oath

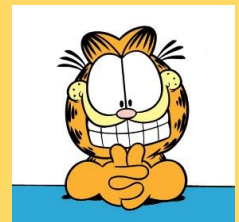
I will advance my faith through understanding the Founder's teachings and will strive to become a more useful person to society.

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

Garage Sale!!

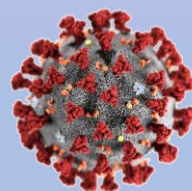
**Sat. 8/22/20
9am-2pm**

**Many thanks for the
Numerous donations of
Items. Proceeds will go
to the Konko Mission of
Wahiawa Educational Fund**



Back to School Service was rescheduled to Sun, August 2 at 9 am due to the hurricane

The Rotary Hanashikai Gathering has been cancelled due to the increasing COVID-19 cases in the State of Hawaii



Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2020

9/7 Mon -Missionary Women's Society Mtg. at Wahiawa Church
 9/13 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service at 10 am
9/20 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service at 10am
 9/26 Sat -HCRP Interfaith Kakaako Waterfront cleanup at 10 am
 10/4 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
 10/11 Sun-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
10/13 Tue-Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Service @6:30 pm
 11/1 Sun -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
 11/8 Sun -Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service at 11 am
 11/21 Sat -KMH Board Meeting @Honolulu Church at 10:30 am
 11/29 Sun-Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama 9 am
 12/7 Mon -KMH Head Ministers Meeting
 12/20 Sun-48th Mem Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi 10 am
 12/27 Sun-End of Year Service at 9 am
 12/30 Wed-29th Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church at 8 am



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
 Masumi Furusho
 Renee Yano
 Tamiko Yamamoto
 Vinh Mitsuyuki Vo-Hiromasa



Autumn Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, September 20, 2020 at 10:00 am

Let us remember the very people who laid the foundations of our existence. We are here because of our ancestors. We must give thanks for this truth and honor their Mitama Spirit. Your presence at the service is important for the continual salvation of your deceased loved ones. If you wish to have your deceased loved ones remembered, please register their names to Yano Sensei by Thursday, September 17. He will be reciting their names during the memorial service.

Pandemic project: Bean to Bar Chocolate

I always wanted to make a bar of real chocolate using the cacao pods that grew in our church yard. I finally got to do this!! I watched the YouTube "emmymadeinJapan chocolate" for the instructions. So much work is involved in this handmade project. The end product is phenomenal!



Gojinmon Chocolate using home-made silicone mold



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

I hope this newsletter finds you in great health and overall wellbeing. "For all you wonderful teachers and students, I hope you had a fun-filled and safe summer break" is the usual greeting I write for the August newsletter every year. It's amazing how much things have changed in half a year's time due to the pandemic. Did you still have a fun-filled and safe summer break? I hope so. Many summer events for the church had to be cancelled, like our Summer Ohana Camp, the Joint Conference with the North American Konko Churches. My husband, Clayton and I were also scheduled to fly out to Japan in June to take 2 of Clayton's karate students as a high school graduation trip. We did many fundraising, got them their passports, we got our plane tickets booked and various things planned out. We were really excited to take them to Japan, but unfortunately had to cancel. We never knew this was coming in 2020. But it's definitely a year that we will never forget.

Our Hawaiian Islands were really in for a close call when Hurricane Douglas was heading our way. Although it was a category 1 hurricane, it was still equipped with winds strong enough to destroy roofs and property. Which is exactly what I was afraid of. We just got our church reroofed near the end of last year, so I was hoping and praying very hard that our old church structure and roofing will be intact. I was wishfully praying that the hurricane will just not come to Hawaii.

The last hurricane to make landfall was Hurricane Iniki, which happened on September 11, 1992. That monster was a category 4 hurricane that did much damage especially to the island of Kauai. Even then, I was scared that our roof was going to fly off. But thankfully it didn't. The front part of the church was originally military housing, which was present before WW2. It was converted into a church. So yes, this church structure is very old; yet amazingly strong.

This church has withstood 2 major hurricanes in the past. Hurricane Iwa and Iniki. I am sure there were hurricanes that the church experienced during Rev. Haruko Takahashi's times. When I was watching the morning news that Sunday when the Hurricane Douglas was expected to hit the islands, it said the people that should head to the shelters are people who live in homes built before 1995, single walled construction, and old plantation style homes. I was like, hey, our church fits the description of all 3! But for some reason, I wasn't too worried and felt like we will be ok for this one.

I am amazed and grateful that this structure has lasted this long. I also agree that it is thanks to the regular maintenance that Yano Sensei has been doing, like patching up large termite holes and repairing rot wood and such.

As with anything, maintenance is important for anything to last long. This goes for our car, our shoes, our clothes, our relationships as well, and importantly our faith.

Speaking of our church surviving this long, we have had many close calls for fires in the kitchen. Like the stove left on or oil heating up too much and it'd catch fire.

Just recently, our old coil top stove had an arching incident, where a bright white light came out of one of the large heating elements. Knowing about its dangers from viewing explosive episodes on YouTube, I was worried that this was a precursor to something more dangerous happening. My dad suggested that it was time to get a new stove since it was having other issues as well regardless of having it fixed by a specialist. So, my dad went ahead and chose one of those glass top ranges. I warned my dad that he will get frustrated because they take a while to heat things up. But nonetheless, he wanted that

range and it was purchased.

It arrived the next day! It was beautiful and fancy. But sure enough, my dad was frustrated at how slow it is to boil water and such. It was so slow and scratch-prone, he put a portable gas burner on top of the glass cooking top just to cook with the clay pot.

Recently, I was cooking Yakisoba to take to work. I was going to use the Chinese wok on the glass cooktop, but my dad said that the wok cannot be used on that stove. So he brought over the portable gas stove again to put on the glass cook top. So I was sautéing the vegetables for my yakisoba on the left side of the stove using the gas burner, and my dad was also boiling a big pot of water for the soba noodles on the right side using the electric stove top. Neither of us were paying attention to the fact that the butane canister on the right side of the portable gas stove was heating up quickly by the burner on the right side that was boiling water! (see picture diagram)

I suddenly got a rush of adrenaline out of nowhere and a sudden sense of imminent danger. Something told me "ABUNAI!! Dangerous!!" My dad shouted, "What?!" And I quickly said, "the butane canister is gonna explode!!" So I immediately turned off my gas burner and my dad turned off the electric stove. And he carefully carried the gas burner away into the dining room and took the butane canister out of the portable gas stove. The butane canister was very hot. It was only a matter of seconds and the canister would have exploded in our faces. We were so scared at what could have happened. I am sure that Kami-Sama and someone's Mitama spirit was watching out for us and warned me in the nick of time.

Still with the adrenaline rush, I went to the *hiromae* (church hall) to give thanks to Kami-Sama for that close call.

I told my mom about this incident, and she replies, "You know, our life has been a series of close calls. It's just that Kami-Sama saves us each time and has major misfortunes turn into minor ones. So we always have to live with Kami-Sama in our hearts and be thankful to have come safely to this day."

Since I needed to go to work that afternoon, we were heading back home. My husband poked my arm and said, "Um, *Gokinen* (Pray)." Every time we arrive in Wahiawa safely, we go straight to the *hiromae* to give thanks for our safe arrival and pray for a good day. And when we head out, we go to the *hiromae* to do a brief prayer to give thanks and pray we will arrive safely at our destination and the rest of the day goes smoothly. Well, earlier, I thought that I already went to the *hiromae* to give thanks so I thought I didn't have to. But Clayton was like, "That *gokinen* was a 'thank you Kami-Sama for saving my life, *gokinen*.' But this is a 'I'm heading out, so thank you' *gokinen* which is different." Clayton definitely encourages me in my spiritual journey, and has lately been on top of faith more than me it seems (^_^). So I am very grateful.

And it's true, life has been about experiencing all these close calls, yet Kami-Sama has really shown us divine protection and guidance. A person without faith usually says "Oh man, I was lucky!" Or that was "just a coincidence." A person with faith would say, "Oh man, that was an Okage (divine blessing) for sure." Or "Kami-Sama turned a major misfortune into a minor one." Life doesn't always go as we plan. Sometimes we have detours. But it's all ok. With Kami-Sama as your GPS navigator, you will never be lost, and a way will always open before you to receive divine blessings.

As the Covid-19 counts are increasing in 3 digit surges lately, it is our prayer that you will be safe and healthy. And amidst the chaos, let's still practice to appreciate this moment.

Aloha, Edna

