



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI. 96786
☎ & 📠 : (808) 621-6667 Cell: (808) 223-3448
✉ ednakazuko@hotmail.com URL: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/WahiawaMain.htm>



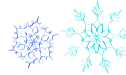
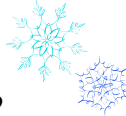
December 2011, Volume 19, No. 216



WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

December 2011

- 1 Thur -Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama Monthly Service**
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Overview of December schedule after svc.
-Rev. Todd Takahashi's joint study fellowship
@ the Honolulu Church (11 am) Lunch will follow
- 9 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity @WGH LTCF (10 am)
- 10 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 11 Sun -Ikigami Konko Daijin Sama Monthly Service (9 am)**
生神金光大神様 月例祭
-Watch "Tales of Toritsugi Mediation II" DVD(till 11 am)
- 15 Thu -Rev. Kawasaki from KIC will visit Wahiawa (9 am)
- 17 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 18 Sun -39th Memorial Svc. For the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am) Naorai Lunch will follow.**
- 22 Thu -Chorus group's end of the year party at Toma's Karaoke
(Meet first at HNL church @12 noon)
- 24 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 25 Sat -End of the Year Service (9 am) 越年祭**
-Christmas Day Holiday
- 26 Mon-Deadline for New Year's Mochi Orders
- 29 Thu -Preparations for mochitsuki—make bean jelly balls
(1 pm). Please bring apron, and hairnet.
- 30 Fri -Wahiawa Church Mochi Pounding (Preparations start
at 7:30 am) Pick up time is 3 pm-6 pm.
- 31 Sat -Preparation for New Year's Day Svc. New Year's Eve



January 2012

- 1 Sun -New Year's Day Service (9 am) 元日祭**
*Traditional New Year's Cuisine will be served
-HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

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.



Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 39th Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, December 18, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Service: Wahiawa Church

Let's honor, appreciate and remember the Founder of the Wahiawa Church by attending this important service in time and in person. Rev. Haruko Takahashi has laid down the foundations of this church. Her Mitama spirit continues to shower us with her love. All is invited. Naorai lunch will follow.



Konko Daijin says... "When you pray to the Parent Kami in the morning or at night, you should first apologize for your irreverences and then give thanks. Then, you should make a sincere request about any personal problems which exist in your daily life. You will receive divine blessings" (*Gorikai III, Jinkyukyogoroku 126*).

Editor's thoughts: Many people who pray to a deity do not realize that they need to apologize for their daily irreverences, which were committed knowingly and unknowingly. Through acknowledging our mistakes and misunderstandings, our blessings from within will be realized sooner.

New Year's Mochi Pounding

Date: Friday, December 30, 2011

Time: Prep @ 7:30 am. Pounding @ 8 am.

Memo: Big Help needed!! People to pound, fire-watch, cut the mochi, mochi shapers, and packers. Bring your family and friends©. Lunch provided to helpers. Please call 621-6667 if you can volunteer your time to help. Mahalo nui!!



Konko Daijin says... “Some people envy others’ blessings saying, ‘Other people can receive miraculous divine blessings, but for some reason my family cannot.’ These people are unable to receive divine blessings because of their limited faith. You should practice faith wholeheartedly thinking, ‘If others receive such divine blessings, there is no reason why we should not. It is just that our faith is not true enough.’ You can surely receive divine blessings with such a heart. It is strange when true faith does not reach Kami” (*Gorikai III, Jinkyukyogoroku 32*).



Editor’s thoughts: In my understanding, Kami makes no distinctions between big blessings and little blessings. So there is no request too large or too little to ask of Kami. If Kami has the power to make the Universe function, Kami has the power to make any request come true. Many times, however; people request to Kami like a genie in a bottle. They do not try to see things from Kami’s perspective. They ask and ask, but never show enough appreciation for the blessings they do receive. They also do not care to notice their wrongdoings. With the elements of appreciation and apology missing, it will be impossible to receive the kind of blessing we wish for. And another thing that is important is to single-heartedly trust and believe in one deity. Some people tend to get greedy, and so request the same thing to several deities—hoping that the blessings will come faster. Well, if we do that, the deities will get confused, and our wishes will not be granted all the more. Strive to have true faith in Kami. Your requests will surely be realized.



Image from: <http://poundhouse.up.seesaa.net>

Happy Birthday

*To all the people born in December
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from*

**Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama and
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama**

**Nicholas Furusho Kimberly Suwa
Aaliyah Perreira Delilah Perreira
Kiana Yamamoto Bruce Yamamoto**

Yano Sensei & Reiko Sensei's visit to Japan from 11/3-12/2011



Above (L-R): Headquarters Main Worship Hall, 90th Anniversary of Iwatani Church, Sensei delivering the sermon.



Above (L-R): Sensei and some of his family, Konko Church of Minamimuro in Mie Prefecture (Rev. Matsuda, Keiko and Sho), Konko Church of Maruko, Tokyo.

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Wow, it's already December! Let's take a moment to reflect upon our year in 2011. We received countless divine blessings from Tenchi Kane no Kami and lots of guidance from the Divine Spirit, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama. There were happy events and also tragedies this year. The biggest tragedy must have been the Earthquake and Tsunami that hit Japan on March 11, and the nuclear disaster that followed. It shocked the world. It reminds us that when all of our material wealth is wiped out, what's left is our faith. And if we don't even have that, we would not be able to overcome the shock. Our spirituality plays an extremely important role in crucial times.

On a happy note, our church was able to hold the very first Ohana Camp at Camp Erdman. With our theme being "ABCs of Konkokyo", we all had fun while learning some of the basics of Konkokyo. We will have one next year from June 23-24 (Sat to Sun). We already have our cabins booked. Make sure you attend. We will definitely have fun. I am sure you have your own good memories in 2011, too.

I will now talk about my experience watching the church while my parents were in Japan. I am glad that my parents are back from their trip! They went to attend the 90th Anniversary of the Konko Church of Iwatani in Hiroshima, Japan. They visited a total of 11 Konko Churches while there, including the Headquarters. I watched this church for just 10 days, and it was enough to make me realize what it feels like to be a sensei at the church full-time. I did go to work three days out of the 10 days. My scheduling happened to work out like that. It was a blessing because I had more days to watch the church than to go out to work.

I set my alarm to wake up early to offer the first serving of cooked rice to Kami-Sama and the Mitama Spirits. I also brewed a fresh cup of coffee and offered it in the Mitama altar, as the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi loved her morning cup of coffee. I did this every day for the 9 mornings till my parents returned back. I wrote in the *Gokinen-cho* (prayer log) as well. This is the first time I wrote on the official church *Gokinen-cho*—as Yano sensei is the one who always writes in it. It was amazing to see how many names he was praying for. Some do not even come to the church anymore, but he still prays for them every day. I did the daily prayers. The first day, I was praying, but I didn't think my prayers were reaching Kami-Sama very well. I sat in the chair in front of the main Kami and Mitama altar and

just prayed. I felt a bit empty-hearted. I did not know why. I think the shock of not having my parents around to do this *goyo* (Church help) made me feel that way. So when I went to the Mitama altar, I spoke out and said, "Takahashi Sensei, can you please put me in the same state of mind as when you were doing *goyo* at this church?"

The answer came to me the following morning as I prayed. I eliminated the chair, and instead, I put the *hizatsuki* (tatami floor mat) to sit on. When I began to pray, I was suddenly overwhelmed with a feeling of gratitude. An image of the main worship hall in Okayama, Japan popped up in my vision. BINGO! So THIS was the answer from Takahashi sensei. She prayed as if she was praying in the main worship hall! I thanked her Mitama spirit for that clear answer. And for the rest of the days, I was able to help out with the church with this mindset.

All days went by safely and my parents came home on the 12th of November. They brought back many great stories about their trip. They jumped from Tokyo to Hiroshima to Okayama to Fukuoka to Oita to Shikoku to Mie prefecture and back to Tokyo again in just 9 days (minus the day they arrived there). Everywhere they went, they were treated with the kindness and hospitality of our relatives and friends. I am happy that they came back safely. I feel ever more appreciative of the *goyo* they do at this church. A few may think that Sensei just sits around the house and does nothing. I learned just how busy and challenging it is to be a full-time Konko minister. I bet the average person would not be able to handle the workload.

I am counting down the days left till New Year's. Please come to attend Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 39th Memorial Service on Sunday, December 18 at 10 am. Come to our *mochitsuki* as well to help on December 30th. We are now collecting your mochi orders and my mom is thinking about how much pounds of mochi rice and *azuki* beans we may need this year. We need lots of manpower and woman power. From pounders, firewatchers, mochi shapers, and packers—your help will be greatly appreciated. Every year, we go through this Mochi Marathon, and are blessed with a successful turnout of helpers. We also have the End of the Year Service as well. See schedule for detailed events. Thank you for reading the newsletters this year. I am wishing you all the best in 2012. BTW, 2012 is the year of the Dragon! Bunny will go bye bye and come again in another 12 years.

Sincerely, Edna Yano

