



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

December 2012

- 1 Sat -**Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama**
天地金乃神様 月例祭 (7:30 pm)
- 2 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am). Share Okage stories. Overview
Dec. schedule. Watch Konko Daijin Anime till 11 am.
- 8 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
-KMH Minister's Workshop @Hilo Hattie (10 am-3:30 p)
- 9 Sun -**Monthly Svc for Founder, Ikigami Konko**
Daijin-Sama (9 am) 生神金光大神様 月例祭
-Share Okage (till 11 am)
KMH Minister's Workshop Day 2 @Hilo Hattie
(10 am-3:15 pm)
- 14 Fri -KMH MWSS 1-day prep mtg @ HNL Church (9:30 am)
- 15 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 16 Sun -**40th Memorial Svc. for the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi**
(10:00 am) *Naorai Lunch will follow.
- 18 Tue -Chorus Group end of year party @Toma's (10:30 am)
*Meet at HNL Church for final prayer of the year.
- 19 Wed -Todd sensei's faith study session @Center (6:30 pm)
- 22 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 23 Sun -**End of the Year Service (9 am)** 越年祭
- 25 Tue -Merry Christmas!
- 27 Thu -Rev. Rodney Yano will be back (till 1/13/13)
- 28 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity @WGHLTCF (10-10-45 am)
- 29 Sat -Preparation for Mochitsuki—Rolling *anko* (1 pm)
- 30 Sun -Mochi Pounding! (Morning prep 7:30 a.m. Begin
pounding 8:30 am; finish time goal 4:30 pm)
- 31 Mon -New Year's Eve



January 2013

- 1 Tue -**New Year's Day Service (9 am)** 元日祭
*Traditional New Year's cuisine will be prepared.
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am). Share Okage stories

New Year's Mochi Pounding

Date: Sunday, December 30, 2012
Time: Prep @ 7:30 am. Pounding @ 8:30am.
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 in advance!!



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.

Mr. Dragon, see you in 12 years.
2013 will be the Year of the Snake



Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi's 40th Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, December 16, 2012
Time: 10:00 a.m.
Service: Wahiawa Church
Sermon: Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi
Dance: Ke'ala and Austin Takahashi

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. Let's celebrate this 40th Memorial. All is invited. Naorai lunch will follow.

Konko Daijin said... Practice faith and accumulate virtue. Prudence is most important for those who have received virtue from Kami. Even when you are always prudent, you will lose that virtue if you have a complaining heart at the time of your death. For those who have practiced faith and received virtue, everyday prudence is important. Modesty at the time of death, as well is exceptionally important. At the time of death, be sure not to lose your virtue.
(Gorikai III Yoshimoto Kichiyoe 1-4,5)

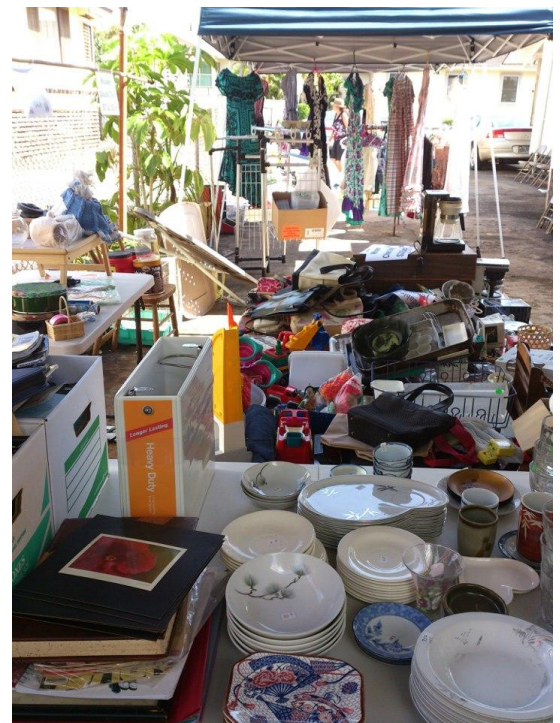
The Konko Mission of Wahiawa held a Church Mini Bazaar on Saturday, November 3, 2012 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Thank you for your help in making this fundraiser a big success!



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



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

December...It is one of the most wonderful times of the year, because it means all the other months that came before, had passed by safely and we can look forward to counting down the days left till the New Year.

Just recently, I talked my dad into get a Facebook account. Facebook is an internet social media site, designed to keep in touch with friends all over the world. I encouraged it to him knowing it would be a meaningful and useful tool in expansion of the Konko faith, as well as an excellent communication tool to seek ideas and insights from other Konkokyo believers and senseis around the world. Now I see my dad on Facebook at least once a day.

As my dad went on Facebook recently, he came across a very interesting article written by the sensei at the Negai No Miya (Aka: Konko Church of Momoyama). The Rev. Inoue, read an inspirational book entitled, 「なぜ儲かる会社には神棚があるのか」 in English that would be “Why Do Thriving Businesses Have a Kami-Dana (Shrine/Altar)?” The author of the book is Mr. Nobuhiro Kubodera. It is written in Japanese.

According to the book, there was actual research done on the relevance of having a Kami-dana (Shrine/Altar) in the business structure, versus business that does not have Kami-dana. It was found that a **whopping 85% of businesses that go bankrupt in Japan did not have a Kami-dana in their business building.**

In Japan, depending on certain banks, the bank representative goes to the location of the business before lending money. They also look to see if there is a Kami-dana in their business structure—since it has been statistically proven that successful businesses have Kami-danas.

Why then does having a Kami-dana in the business make business so successful? According to the book:

- 1) It creates a power-spot within their business structure.
- 2) Having a Kami-dana acknowledges to the employees that the main boss is Kami-Sama; not the physical CEO or business owner. It makes the human boss a little humbler, because there is a boss above him/her.
- 3) Having a Kami-dana in the business makes the employees consciously aware that they are being watched by the Ultimate being, so they do not do suspicious business.
- 4) Having a Kami-dana creates a positive work

environment. When times get rough, they have a firm conviction that things will work out in Kami's favor. Happy employees get happy customers.

- 5) Having a Kami-dana makes the CEO consciously aware that they were able to start and continue to run the business in the blessedness of Kami-Sama, instead of their own limited powers. So there is little room for arrogance. But there is plenty of appreciation. Appreciation fuels better business.

- 6) People who have a Kami-dana in their business tend to be more honest, and trustworthy. Making for an excellent candidate to receive bank loans.

- 7) Companies that do a quick morning prayer facing the Kami-Dana give energy to the employees. And they are ready to face a brand new day with positive expectations.



I noticed that almost every single Chinese restaurant in Hawaii I went to had an altar that

worshipped some deity. Have you noticed, too? When I go to restaurants and stores, I always look to see if they have an altar. I also noticed that businesses that do have altars are in good standing. When I go to people's houses, I try to identify the power spot in their houses. Mostly every thriving household has an altar, Butsudan or an area of the house where sacred items are placed—whether it is ashes of a loved one, or a cross on the wall.

For us Konkokyoites, I look for the Tenchi Kakitsuke, an Omuro/Oyashiro (Shrine) or the Goshinmai in their house. These sacred items symbolize the individual's spirituality and connectedness to the unseen.

The Founder, Konko Daijin has a teaching that pertains to this topic, “Since you say you will start a business, Kami will watch without helping. If you have a heart that would like to be allowed to start a business, Kami will support you.” (Gorikai I Shimamura Hachitaro 40). There is a huge difference in starting a business with the help of Kami-Sama, versus, trying to do so with your own power. The land that the business stands on is the body of Kami. The resources that are used are all blessings of Kami.

There is not a single element in a business that is not a blessing from Kami. Because Kami-Sama is almighty and the blessings from Kami are inexhaustible, if you ask permission to Kami-Sama to be able to start a business, Kami will back you up 100%. It's the



humble and appreciative heart that will carry businesses to succession. It's acknowledgement of the roots of our blessings. That's why it is important to have a Kami-dana in our homes as well. If we install a Kami-dana in our home, we need to maintain it and use it as a means to focus our heart to Kami-Sama. This in turn will help build an invisible shrine in your own heart and our focus will be with Kami-Sama wherever we go.



In linking this topic, I would like to share with you an interesting episode that happened just recently. My mom and I went to a nearby craft fair. My mom searched through a pile of used bags and bought a black one for \$2.00. Upon returning home, my mom offered the bag as well as everything she purchased at the craft fair to our church altar, in acknowledgement that Kami-Sama's blessings enabled us to buy things. Afterwards, as my mom was admiring the bag that she

bought, she noticed that one of the zipped pockets contained something hard, so she looked inside. Lo and behold—she found a stash of cash! Not \$10...but \$401.00. Being the honest and sincere mom, she went back to the craft fair to return all the cash that she found in the bag. The man in charge of the white elephant goods was shocked with his jaws dropped! It was funny how there were many bags there, but my mom happened to choose the one with the cash in it. The people at the craft fair did not know who the money belonged to. But the money was returned.

I was so thankful to Kami-Sama and prayed what a wonderful and honest person my mom is. The typical person may have pocketed the money and think it was their lucky day. They may use it to purchase Christmas presents and etc. What would you do? I saw this as a test from Kami-Sama. To keep the money, or not to keep? Finding the large amount of cash was not the blessing my mom received in this instance; her blessing was having the thought of wanting to return the money. For her, it wasn't an option of whether to keep the money; it was automatic for her to return it. I believe she developed this thought through her many years of faith practice. It was something to be truly grateful about.

If the same thing happened to me, I would return the money as well, although I would partially think "I wish I could have this money!" From an ethical standpoint, returning it would be the appropriate thing to do. If I pocketed the money, the guilt would live on forever. I also believe that the heart of dishonesty and greed will help us accumulate spiritual debt and spiritual offenses—which are invisible to the eye. If we steal \$1, we will suffer a \$100

penalty. If we steal \$100, we will suffer a \$1,000 penalty. People may think that they gained something by stealing or pocketing money that does not belong to them. But they will end up suffering from penalties that are 10X greater than what was taken. That's because the laws of the Universe does not allow it. The penalty may not come back in the shape of losing cash, per say—it could be damaging in the form of having to pay unnecessary bills and suffering damage in different forms. Kami-Sama cannot be deceived. So as long as we live between heaven and earth, our actions are reflected between two mirrors and the outcome is magnified ten-fold.

The opposite can also be said. If we do well and are honest and sincere, those acts are reflected between the two mirrors of heaven and earth. Blessings will be returned ten-fold as well. I am so thankful for people who can be so honest and selfless. Trust and divine virtue cannot be bought with money. It may take decades upon decades to gain virtue, but it can also disappear in the blink of an eye if we are not careful in our actions.

A heart of sincerity is something that is developed through the practice of faith. By focusing our heart to Kami-Sama in any given situation, we will be given the light to make the right decisions in the best interest of Kami-Sama.

This year passed by so quickly. I am sure you all have at least one very important and memorable thing that happened for you this year. For me, it is the blessing of being engaged. I will be getting married next year in May, to a wonderful man named Kelly, who I met at my workplace a couple years ago 😊.

December is a very busy month for the church. Please, by all means attend the 40th Memorial Service for the Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi on Sunday, December 16th at 10 a.m. She laid the foundations of this beautiful church. Let's give our utmost thanks by being present for this very important service. We will also hold our End of the Year Service on Sunday, December 23rd at 9:00 a.m. This is another important service to give thanks for 2012 and pray for a great year in 2013. Join us for our church Mochitsuki!! It will be on Sunday, December 30th. Pounding begins around 8:30 a.m. Mochi pick up is from 3 p.m. Come as a family to enjoy this ancient tradition of pounding mochi!! My brother, Rodney sensei will be back from December 27th and stay till the 3rd of January. I can't wait! This is the first time in a long time that he will be back for New Year's. He will be there for the Mochitsuki, too. Thank you all for a fabulous year in 2012. Let's bid farewell to our Dragon friend for 2012. Next year will be the Year of the Snake! Wishing you Happy Holidays and many blessings in the New Year!

Sincerely, Edna Pano