



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa, HI. 96786
☎ & 📠 : (808) 621-6667 Editor's Cell: (808) 542-5129
✉ ednakazuko@hotmail.com URL: <http://konkomissionshawaii.org/WahiawaMain.htm>

January 2011, Volume 19, No. 205

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

January 2011

- 1 Sat -New Year's Day Svc. (9 am) *Osechi Ryori to follow.
- 2 Sun -No Sunday Service
- 4 Tue -Devotionals—Shingyo Kikan from 1/4 to 1/31
(Prayer times: 6 am, 9 am, 8 pm)
- 8 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 9 Sun -Monthly Svc. for the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin
(9 am) *Sunday School Yaki-mochi Party!!
- 14 Fri -Monthly volunteer activity @ Wahiawa Gen. Hospital
Long term care facility (10-10:45 am)
- 16 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Church Growth Awareness Mtg.
-Annual Schedule Planning, Share Okage stories
- 17 Mon-Holiday Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
- 23 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service (10 am)
-Wahiawa Church General Mtg. (Financial Report)
-Evaluation of Mochi pounding. Re-election of board of
directors. Lunch 12 noon and New Year's Party till
2:30 pm *Bring min. of \$3.00 grab-bag per person.
- 29 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
-Chorus practice @HNL Church (2-4 pm)
- 30 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Overview of February Schedule
-Gorikai Study Session (Till 11 am)



February 2011

- 1 Tue -Mon. Svc. for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama (7:30 pm)
- 6 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)

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.

Year of the Rabbit



The Beautiful view of Mt. Fuji from the airplane I flew in.

New Year's Party

- Date:** Sunday, January 23
- Time:** 10:00 a.m. Monthly Memorial Service
Lunch at noon and party till 2:30 p.m.
- Bring:** \$3.00 minimum grab-bag per person.

I hope you can make it to our New Year's Party. We will Play games, BINGO, exchange Grab-bags, draw the PICASSO Bunny, hit the piñata and eat Ozenzai. Bring your family and friends. Let's have fun.



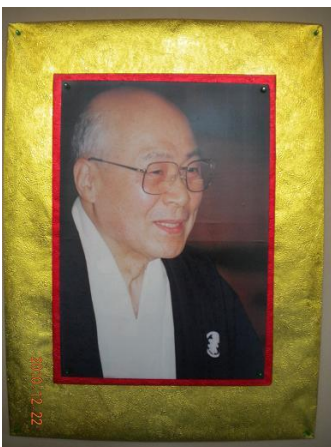
Konko Sama says...

“Since New Year's is to celebrate the whole year, it is truly auspicious. Angry people will be told not to be angry because it is New Year's. Live each day with the same happy heart you have on New Year's Day. When the sun sets, think that it's the last day of the year. It will make your life happy every day, and there will be no discord in your family. Live happily as if each day were New Year's Day.” (GI Kondo Fujimori 52)

What the editor thinks: We try to be extra careful with our words and actions on New Year's Day. We try not to get angry just on New Year's. But if we can be peaceful like this every day, just imagine how happy we can be every day. Let's try.

Editor's Appreciation Pilgrimage to Japan 2010

Since I received so many blessings yet again in the year 2010, I went to Japan to extend my appreciation, while also going to Amagi Church to attend the 15th Memorial Service for the 2nd Oyasensei. I went to Amagi Church (Fukuoka), Kokura Church, Gohonbu (Headquarters, Okayama), Iwatani Church, Fuchu Church, Geibi Church and Kegoya Church (Hiroshima).



Visitors from Japan 12-15-10

Mr. & Rev. Harumi Jiden (from the right) received the blessing of being able to visit the Wahiawa Church as they came to Hawaii on vacation. And they said they will definitely be back when they come to Hawaii again.



Wahiawa Church Mochi Marathon

Thank you Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama for blessing everyone with the health, safety and endurance. Thank you mochi pounders, fire-keepers, mochi turners, shapers, packers, spectators, people who brought all the onolicious food and people who purchased mochi. Mochi Marathon successfully held on December 30, 2010 ☺

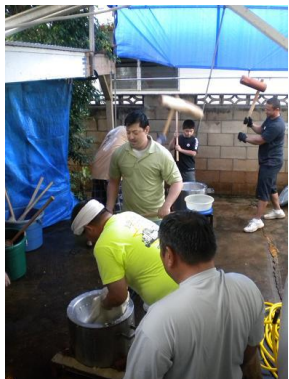


http://sweetgarden.img.jugem.jp/20061011_236921.jpg

Happy Birthday

To all the people born in January
Please continue to receive
Infinite divine blessings from
Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama and
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama

Bryce Adkison Trisha Adkison
Pat Toyofuku Yuriko Kanemitsu
Linda Webber Minako Yano



Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy New Year! It's such a blessing for me to be able to say this. We were able to live through the year 2010 safely to welcome this New Year. The days flew by so fast last year, I didn't even have to count down the days, and 2011 came. This year, not only do I have a personal New Year's Resolution, I had the members of our church create a New Year's Resolution for the church. I passed around a piece of paper during our New Year's Day service brunch. The children were the ones who were mainly interested in writing the New Year's resolution for our church. Read below:

- 1) More chance to perform hula in public and talk about the church during the performances.
- 2) Children's games (Maybe draws more families).
- 3) Have a place where to play games and more space.
- 4) Have parties.
- 5) Make the learning room bigger (Hiromae worship hall?)
- 6) Make a water fountain.
- 7) Have more events that people can gather.
- 8) Gorikai sacred scripture study sessions.
- 9) Make a gate by the parking lot so the rabbits can roam around in the yard freely. ☺
- 10) Church member testimonials once a month.

With these Church New Year's resolutions, let's pray that we can have them come true, and put in an extra effort to act towards the resolutions. I am sure all of you have your own special wishes that you would like fulfilled within this year. Please write your New Year's Resolution on the piece of paper that is attached to this newsletter.

First things first, we did a couple more things in December before we welcomed the New Year. I went to Japan from December 21-27 in attendance of the 15th Memorial Service of the Late Rev. Fumio Yasutake of the Konko Church of Amagi. Another purpose for this pilgrimage was to give thanks for all the blessings the church and I have been receiving up till now. I especially went to give thanks for being able to chair the KCNA/KMH Joint Conference in summer 2010.

When departing from Honolulu, I went together with Revs. Masahiko and Sugako Yoshino of the Konko Mission of Honolulu. They both required some assistance, with the wheelchairs and luggage. However, I feel like I was the one that was helped by them. Due to them requiring wheelchairs to move about, the porters at Honolulu International Airport and the airports in Japan treated Yoshino sensei and wife with top priority. And since I was tagging along, I was also treated the same as them. It was an honor to be able to go with them to Japan. I really felt that Kami-Sama had also come along with me on this appreciation pilgrimage.

Our plane arrived at Narita in only 7 hours and 40 minutes. It arrived 25 minutes ahead of schedule—even though we left Honolulu 45 minutes late. The 25 minutes of extra time was just enough time for me to rush over to the Rail Pass ticket counter to exchange my voucher for a rail pass to use in Japan. The ticket counter is usually very crowded, so the porters were amazed at how fast I was able to exchange my voucher—in just 3 minutes! Kami-Sama makes everything run so smoothly. We were in a rush because we had a connect flight to Fukuoka, which was only an hour and a half after we arrived in Narita. If it were not for those 25 minutes that the plane

arrived early, I probably would not have been able to get my rail pass as planned.

As we flew to Fukuoka from Narita, I saw a beautiful mountain with a perfect snow cap. I was certain it was Mt. Fuji and so I began snapping many pictures. Only a few minutes later did the pilot announce that it was indeed Mt. Fuji. It was the closest I have ever got to seeing it. I was so ecstatic. Our plane arrived safely in about two hours and a good friend of ours Kenji came to pick us up. He took me to the Konko Church of Amagi, and drove Yoshino sensei and his wife to their relative's house.

Being back in Amagi brought back the memories of when I was doing spiritual training up there 10 years ago. The words that came out of my mouth to the sensei at the Mediation seat was not "I made it here", but instead "I am home (*Tadaima*)". And the Rev. Tetsusaburo Kojima sitting at the seat said, "*Okaerinasai*." We happened to be in Gakuin together, too. It was so nice to see him again. I greeted everyone at the church, and they all welcomed me with big smiles and a lot of kindness—just like family.

Amagi was very cold. It was a good 6 degrees Celsius (42.8F) in the church corridors. Morning prayer was at 5 a.m. The kachi (wooden clappers) went off about 4:40 a.m. to wake everyone up. It felt really good to pray in unison with the rest of the sensei and the many church members who make it to the early morning prayer. It was the morning of the Memorial

Service 12/23/10. After the prayer, I had enough time to run up to the *Okutsuki* (Amagi Church's Columbarium) to greet the deceased ministers and members entombed there. The service began at 11 am. I would say about a thousand people were there—perhaps even more. I looked around the worship hall at the many people who had come from near and far, to revere and remember just one individual who made a huge impact on our lives in one way or another. It was pretty amazing. I kept thinking to myself how the Rev. Fumio Yasutake was able to gain so much divine virtue so that people would actually come back in this respectable manner.



I do have one memory of him that made a lasting impression. I was only about 13 years old. Rev. Fumio Yasutake came to Hawaii for the New Church building blessing of the Wailuku Church. By that time, he already had stage 4 lung cancer. He was very jaundiced and thin. Accompanied by his entourage of church members, he made that extra effort to fly over to Hawaii to bless this special occasion for Wailuku Church. An ordinary person would not even dare to take that challenge this individual did. He had to fly back to Japan a few days early because his condition worsened, and passed away just 4 months later. His prayer for the expansion of the Konko religion throughout Hawaii was so powerful; he supported the Hawaii diocese all the way. Thinking about all the memories we have of the Rev. Fumio Yasutake and his passion for the faith makes me cry, even if I only knew him till I was 13 years old.

Going back to the service, the Rev. Kiyoji Konko and Mrs. Yaeko Konko were special guests at the service, along with the head minister of the Konko Church of Kokura, the Rev. Matsuko Katsura. After the service, there was a reception in the Yayoi Kaikan (Church Social Hall), where everyone enjoyed a good conversation and delicious food.

Then on Christmas Eve, I prayed for snow. The next morning, I left for Kokura Church and the Headquarters with the Amagi Church pilgrimage group. We went to Kokura, where the Rev. Ryoko Katsura was sitting at the Mediation seat. I remember 9 years ago when I went to Kokura Church for a pilgrimage before returning to Hawaii. Rev. Ryoko Katsura stuck out her hands and said to me in a loud cheerful voice, "*Anata ni Power o agemasbo!* (I will give you power!)" I mentioned about this to the sensei when I went this time. Ryoko sensei remembered and stuck out her hands again and said, "Would you like another power recharge?" I was so happy, and shook her hands to receive her energy. As soon as I greeted her goodbye and stepped outside, it began to snow! Fluffy down-like feather snow fell. It was a wish come true, and one of the greatest Christmas presents from Kami-Sama.

We headed for the Headquarters in Okayama by Shinkansen. Konko-Sama was seated at the mediation seat. It was good to see him in person again. And as Konko believers, we are very fortunate to be able to meet the Spiritual Head at the headquarters. But you can't do that with the Pope or the President. The air was crisp and cool. I met some of my dear friends at the Headquarters, too. I also went to the Founder's tomb to greet and give my thanks for all the blessings I have been

receiving. The spiritual energy of the Headquarters serves as my power spot.

While I was in Konko town, I went to the little stores that I used to frequent when I was in Gakuin (Seminary). I reminisced the past, and it gave me a really good feeling inside.

As I returned back to the Headquarters, my uncle, Rev. Seijiro and aunt Keiko Inagaki of Iwatani Church were there, waiting for me. They have come all the way from Hiroshima to pick me up. We talked all the way through, recapping with current events and how everyone was doing. Going to the Iwatani Church is a must for me. They

make me feel at home, and it is always a joy to go there.

While in Hiroshima, my uncle took me to the Konko Church of Fuchū. This is the church where I was assigned to for about 10 days during the apprenticeship period during Gakuin seminary days. I had many memories there. One of those 10 days I was there during my Gakuin days, I could have almost died of carbon monoxide poisoning from the wood factory that was burning a couple meters away from the church, while I was sleeping. It was a critical moment in my history. I am glad to be alive. Going to the Fuchū Church every time I visit Japan, serves as a reminder for me to never forget the favors of Kami for saving my life.

After spending just a day at Iwatani Church, I headed out to a church of a friend of mine's in Kure, called Kegoya Church (12/26). It was a newly built church. The Revs. Takahiro & Taemi Uematsu just got married on the 19th of December. Rev. Takahiro is also a good friend and Gakuin classmate of my brother, Rev. Rodney. They invited me to come over to their church. It was such an honor and a privilege. Kure is a naval town, where submarines and battleships are docked. It was really different from what my eyes are already used to seeing. The day that I came was their monthly service, and I had just made it to Kure in time. Revs. Takahiro and Taemi were so kind in showing me around the town of Kure and even took me to a submarine museum. Then we still had a little time, so they took me to YouMe Town and Daiso (my favorite 100 Yen store). And then we headed to the church to prepare for the monthly service.

The church members welcomed me like family. We ate a delicious hot pot and had two superlicious Christmas cakes—one was vanilla and the other was chocolate, with monster sized strawberries that topped it off. After the party was over, the sensei, one of the church members and I went into town to see the Christmas lights that were still there. It was



beautiful. Sensei snapped many pictures to make the best of every minute I was there with them.

Early the next morning, we had the morning prayer and afterwards, I went to the war memorial that is situated on a hill, overlooking the Kegoya Church. Over 400 war dead are remembered there. I felt the spiritual energy and connectedness with the spirits of the deceased. I had always kept in contact with the Kegoya Church for several years, and it was always a prayer of mine to be able to visit there in person, and also go to the war memorial. And to have it all come true at that moment felt so special. Kami-Sama makes every prayer come true.

Just one day at the Kegoya Church, and it was already time for me to go home to Hawaii. It was a speedy Japan trip, but I think it was as productive as ever, and I received so many blessings that it couldn't be loaded even on a ship or an airplane. I traveled from Hiroshima to Tokyo. It took me a good 6 hours to reach Narita, via Shinkansen. This was my first time flying from Narita, as I was only used to flying to and from Kansai Int. Airport. However, through this trip, I was able to gain a little more confidence in traveling physically solo. As long as I have Kami-Sama come along with me for any trip, I am safe.

I arrived back in Hawaii on the 27th. Whew, what a trip! Everywhere I went; people have been extending their help and kindness, and I really want to thank them all.

I was able to go to Japan through being blessed in many aspects. I was looking for a plane ticket since August of this year; however, the travel agencies got hold of the tickets first, and the cheapest roundtrip tickets were between \$2,500-4,000. I prayed to Kami and wrote a letter explaining why I want to go to this trip and how much money I will need for it. I also prayed that I was healthy, and that everything else went smoothly. Just one month before my anticipated trip, a reasonably priced plane ticket came up and I purchased it on the spot. Actually, my job as an RN never could have come at the most perfect timing. I was able to work many hours to earn more than what I needed for this trip. I was also able to get the whole week off from work. My prayers were answered to the very details. This trip was awesome beyond expectation.

So, how is it that prayers are answered by Kami-Sama? Simple; all we have to do is put complete trust in the workings of Kami-Sama, and envision that what you prayed for is already coming true. And whatever the outcome of our prayer—even if we may not be too happy with the results, we must not complain, but accept it as a blessing.

I did not even know that I was going to go to Japan in the year 2010, but once I decided that I wanted to go, the prayer started there, and Kami-Sama just facilitated it to work out well. My friend, Rev. Uematsu of Kegoya Church

mentioned that I was able to go to Japan because Kami-Sama had wished for me to go too, before I even wished for it. It was a prayer from Kami-Sama—so it guarantee comes true.

It's a refreshing perspective. I am so blessed to know all these wonderful people in my life.

Anyways, for some people, it may sound downright crazy to spend all that money to go to Japan just for an appreciation pilgrimage. Sure, the money could have been spent towards paying back my school loans in big lumps. I probably could have bought a nice LED flat screen TV. But when I think of my indebtedness to Kami-Sama for my blessings, I could not think of any other way to give my thanks than to make that pilgrimage. My trip was priceless.

So, that was my story. Now, about our mochitsuki that was held on December 30th—aka: Mochi Marathon! The mochitsuki began hectic at first. The first 15 pound batch of steaming mochi rice toppled over so I had to go and buy more mochi rice. Then when we were transferring the cooked mochi to the mortar, and another good 5 pounds of the rice fell on the ground! *Mottainai!!* The rice was returned back to the earth and the germs and worms were having their heyday. It was also raining that morning, but, the sun came out and it turned out to be a wonderful day. The mochi pounded mochi came out so smooth and soft. I am so thankful for the many people who came to help with this mochitsuki. It's a challenge every year, since we cannot predict who would be able to help. Several people who come to the mochitsuki regularly could not make it this year, but then we had about a dozen newcomers and first-timers that stayed from the beginning to the end. I cannot explain the phenomenon behind this, how we have just enough help so that the mochitsuki is able to be carried out smoothly. I can only say it was the grace and love of Kami-Sama who wanted to make it possible again this year. Thank you Kami-Sama! Thank you to all the pounders, firewatchers,

mochi-shapers, mochi packers, spectators, and mochi lovers. We did it again!

This year is the Year of the Rabbit. I happen to have 4 lucky pet bunnies at my house! According to the Chinese zodiac horoscope, Rabbit people are: Cuddly, warm and affectionate, just like the attributes of the Rabbit. They are mysterious and a great party-giver and host. The Rabbit enjoys being at the center of attention once in a while. The Rabbit is occasionally over cautious. The Rabbit is also one of the luckiest signs in the Chinese Astrology chart (<http://www.moonslipper.com/chinese.html>).

My parents were both born in the year of the Rabbit. No matter what zodiac year you were born in, I am wishing you a wonderful and productive year. Thank you for reading till the very end.

Aloha, Edna Yano

