



# Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa  
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July 2020, Volume 28

## WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

### July 2020

- 1 Wed -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama  
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭 \*Facebook Live  
\*Shingyō Kikan (Intensive Faith Practice Period till 7/31)
- 4 Sat -Happy Independence Day! Happy 244<sup>th</sup> Birthday USA!
- 5 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) Share Okage till 11. \*Facebook Live
- 11 Sat -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 12 Sun -Monthly Svc. for Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin (9 am)  
生神金光大神様 月例祭 Share Okage till 11 am  
\*Facebook Live
- 18 Sat -Church clean up (9:00 am)
- 19 Sun -Monthly Memorial Svc 月例霊祭 Share Okage till 11 am  
\*Facebook Live
- 25 Sat -Ehimemaru Memorial Clean-up (9 am)
- 26 Sun -Back to School Service (9 am) Share Okage till 11 am  
\*Facebook Live
- 31 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)



### August 2020

- 1 Sat -Monthly Service for Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama  
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭 \*Facebook Live
- 2 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) \*Facebook Live  
\*Rotary Hanashikai at Wahiawa 10:30 am. \*Lunch follows

## 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.

## BACK TO SCHOOL SERVICE

**Date:** Sunday, July 26, 2020

**Time:** 9:00 a.m.

**Place:** Konko Mission of Wahiawa

**Who:** For students and teachers

**Memo:** Please submit your back to school prayer forms to church before the service begins. Sensei will offer your forms and pray for your academic success for the whole year.



## Konko Daijin's teachings...

When someone takes your things, let him/her take them. Kami is watching. No one can take Kami away from you. You should not, however, let your blessings be taken away. Your divine blessings are taken away by something that exists in your heart. (GIII Jinkyukyogoroku 132)

Konko Daijin said, "When you practice faith in Kami, you will not fully receive divine blessings unless you practice your faith with diligence in everything you do." Therefore, those who practice faith should be very careful in all that they do. (GIII Jinkyukyogoroku 133)

**Editor's thoughts:** My parents were really strict to us about stealing. They always told us never to steal because Kami-Sama is watching us. Even if we may feel like we got away with it because no one was there to witness it, Kami-Sama sees everything. In Kami-Sama's eyes, whether we steal a penny or a hundred dollars, it doesn't matter. The heart to steal is the same. When we steal, we inherit the accumulated offenses of the person we stole from. This is a scary thing. There are many people that steal. The looting that happened during the recent protests were terrible. They too inherited accumulated offenses. But there is a way to be saved. We have to reform our hearts. Return what has been stolen, confess, apologize to the person you stole from and also apologize to Kami-Sama for holding the heart to steal. And we must vow never to do that again. Apologies without changed behavior is just manipulation.

## Congratulations Command Sergeant Major Jason Adkison



The 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion 25<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment Change of Responsibility Ceremony was held on June 16, 2020 at Weyand Field, Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. He will be leading approximately 600 soldiers. We are extremely proud of Command Sergeant Major Jason Adkison in this honorable position of high responsibility. We continue to pray for the safety, health and well-being of his family and all the soldiers and personnel of the military. Thank you very much for your service to our community and our country.

**Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2020**

- 8/2 Sun -Rotary Hanashikai at Wahiawa Church 10 :30 am
- 8/8 Sat -KMH Board Meeting @Honolulu Church 10:30am
- 8/23 Sun -Mem Svc for Late Rev. Masayuki Kodama at 9 am
- 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-29<sup>th</sup> Mochi Pounding at Wahiawa Church at 8 am

**Happy Birthday**

*To all the people born in  
The month of July  
Please continue to receive  
Infinite divine blessings from*



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



**Rev. Yasuhiro Yano  
Rev. Dr. Leon Webber  
Brent Abe  
Jordan Yamamoto**

**Rev. Megumi Yano  
Alan Katsura  
Neal Abe  
Clayton Matsuoka**

We were able to hold our first Birthday Sunday since the pandemic! The candles were blown out using Japanese paper fans! Thank you Clayton for baking this awesome lemon crunch cake from scratch. Wishing everyone a Happy Birthday!



*Happy Birthday!*



*Congratulations to Jason & Trisha Adkison on their 20<sup>th</sup> Year Wedding Anniversary! They got married on June 28, 2000. They renewed their wedding vows on Sunday, June 28, 2020! Wishing the Adkison Ohana years of happiness and great blessings!*



**Garage Sale was a great success!!! We raised over \$1K for the church, including generous donations! Thank you very much! We will hold another garage sale in November.**



*We were able to hold our Summer Garage Sale safely on June 13, 2020. There were clear skies and a great turn out of people who came by. Mahalo to all the people who helped and donated many goods.*

**Congratulations Sheri and Mia!! c/o 2020**



Sherilyn Matsuoka and Mia Sniffen, both graduated from Aiea High School this year. They are both dedicated karate students of Sensei Clayton. Wishing you two the best!

## Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

Happy July! We are officially past the halfway point of the year. We made it till this day safely, through divine blessings amidst daily unpredictability and the lingering pandemic.

I would like to share with you a skin condition that had been bothering me for the past 4 years. As some of you may know, I have been tormented with *dermatographic urticaria*. This is a skin condition that occurs in about 5% of the population. It has no known cause, nor no known cure. Dermatographic urticaria means “skin writing.” I could literally write or draw on my body with my nails and the parts that I write on will show up as a reddened, raised welt that became extremely itchy. The itchiness would then spread throughout my body. I would scratch myself so much non-stop, until I took a 10mg tablet of Zyrtec (cetirizine—a type of antihistamine). I had to take a tablet of Zyrtec daily because the itchiness would return in exactly 24 hours.

If I kept the itchiness uncontrolled, it began to feel like my brain started swelling and I can feel pressure building up from my skull and I wouldn't be able to think properly. This first started way back in 2016.

I was worried at first. I self-diagnosed myself by searching through the internet for information. It said this condition comes out in people in their mid-thirties. There was no cure and it could even last more than a decade. It's usually not a serious condition, but is said to drive people nuts because the itchiness can become unbearable at times. For some people, it may last a few years. For some, it may last a life time. In rare instances, dermatographic urticaria can be caused by a more serious underlying health condition like thyroid problems.

As with any kind of concerns I have, I mediate my prayers and concerns to Yano Sensei at the Toritsugi Mediation desk. I prayed about this many many times. What was frustrating for me was the fact that I needed to take medication every single day. And I am the person that does not like to rely on medications. I tried everything. I even tried going to a highly rated Chinese herbalist downtown to have him prescribe an herbal concoction of a brown powdered drink and these black bead herb pills—which I had to take 10 in one sitting. I completed the herbal regimen for about 10 days. Yet, nothing changed. I do not even know what was in them, but that just shows you how desperate I was in trying to have my skin condition cured.

I took *goshinmai* (sacred rice) and *omiki* (sacred sake) on numerous occasions and kept praying that things will get better. Kami-Sama was well aware of my situation. Taking omiki and goshinmai kept me in line with Kami-Sama. I relied on Kami-Sama with some help from Zyrtec and lived day to day.

I cut my sugar intake, and reduced the amount of processed foods. I changed the shower filter, and tried to choose more organic foods. Nothing seemed to have changed.

Just out of precaution, I went to see an allergist/dermatologist at the clinic. The doctor didn't even take a blood test. All he said was to start taking 20 mg of Zyrtec daily. That's 2 tablets! On the Zyrtec bottle, it says to take only one 10mg tablet a day. I tried it for a few days, but then my gut feelings told me that it was not being beneficial for me, so I went back to taking just one tablet daily.

I was questioning myself why I wasn't able to receive divine blessings for this. I thought to myself, if everything in this world is made of atoms and just pure energy, there certainly must be a way to cure this condition. I kept asking Kami-Sama for the root cause. Our Founder Konko Daijin mentioned in a teaching: “Even though you practice faith, if you think ‘I haven't received divine blessings yet,’ or that you are receiving divine blessings too slowly, you still do not know the importance of having a sincere heart. You pray to Kami, and after a week, you are still not cured. Then, you complain that you are not yet cured and that there are no divine blessings. So, you bear a grudge against Kami. Although you go to a doctor and take medicines for three to five years without being cured, you still go back to see him without complaining. Kami is to be pitied. (*Gorikai II Kunieda Sangoro 5-1,2*)

I was worried that I would live with daily hives for the rest of my life. I wasn't really blaming Kami-Sama, I knew the hives were coming out as an indicator that something in my body is not right. But I couldn't quite pinpoint what it was,

although I had some suspicions.

After year of hives, I wanted to test myself to see if my itchiness would be kept at bay with just a half a tablet (5mg). And sure enough, all I needed was a half tablet daily for a year. Then I got a pill cutter and tried ¼ of a tablet. At first it wasn't working. I needed the other half or the itchiness would not go away. But gradually, by body got used to taking just ¼ of a tablet. That went on for another year. Just last year 2019, I challenged myself to see if 1/8 of a tablet would work for a full 24 hours. And it did! 1/8 of a tablet is the size of this “o” on this paper. A teeny tiny piece did the trick. That's just 1.25mg! So I took that daily for about a year. Then just this year, my hives returned after 48 hours, instead of 24 hours. So I only needed to take my 1/8 tablet of Zyrtec every other day. But if I didn't take my Zyrtec after 48 hours, my hives would return throughout my body with full vengeance. Still, it was a great blessing I had received compared to 4 years ago when I needed a whole tablet!

From 2016 to 2020, I have had these hives. I kept searching for the answers. Looked through Google for testimonials of others who've had the same condition. I must have searched hundreds of times.

Finally, it dawned upon me earlier this year that the root cause had nothing to do with food intolerances or external factors. It was my own heart that brewed the poisons in my body that resulted in this excruciating nuisance condition. I was accumulating stress and negative feelings towards certain people in my life.

So I apologized to Kami-Sama for my own heart. I asked Kami-Sama to cleanse my heart and to not hold grudges towards people who have not been kind to me. But instead pray for them to receive blessings. I'll be honest with you, my great friend, **Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi** of San Diego Church used to always tell us in his sermons to pray even for the people we can't tolerate or people who have back-stabbed us. I couldn't. I just couldn't. Just thinking about those people in my life would stress me out and make my blood boil. But that was the heart that Kami-Sama wanted me to be mindful about. That is the heart that Kami-Sama wanted me to change.



So, it took this long, but this is the year I realized that I have to make an effort to change my heart and pray especially hard for the people who caused the most stress in my life. I asked Kami-Sama to help me to reform my heart—that I cannot save myself if I cannot pray for the well-being of everybody first.

If you think about it, Kami-Sama blesses every living thing unconditional blessings. Even the vilest people in the world receive divine blessings. Kami-Sama doesn't choose who should receive blessings and who should not. So, similarly, in order to have a heart of Kami-Sama, I realized that if I can only pray for people who have been nice to me, I am not reflecting the heart of Kami-Sama. If my heart does not agree with the heart of Kami-Sama, the powers of Kami-Sama would not make a full circuit, and blessings cannot be actualized. Realizing this made me so happy.

Then more dots began to connect. My heart needs to be in a state of prayer the whole day for blessings to be realized; not just when I face my household altar; not just when I go to the church. So, when I drive, I looked at all the other cars on the road and asked Kami-Sama to bless each and every one of the drivers to have a blessed day and arrive at their destinations safely. When I passed by stores and businesses, I pray that their business will continue to prosper and the employees will receive an abundance of blessings. When I arrive at work, I place my hands together and pray for my hospital to prosper and the patients and staff to have a good day. I began extending my thoughts even for the plants, trees, and animals that I'd pass by, that they too will have a nice day and be safe.

The more I did this, the happier I became. I felt my own heart purifying itself.

You might be wondering how I pray while driving since it might be dangerous. Many thoughts go through our heads while driving. So instead of holding unproductive thoughts and negative thoughts, I just change them to thoughts of wishing people and business well, as I drive by them.

Amazingly, June 13<sup>th</sup> was the last time I took an 1/8 of a tablet of Zyrtec. It has already been more than 17 days (6/30) and my hives were under control. I tried writing on my skin, and now, I do not get any more welts. Konko Daijin's teachings make so much sense when he says that divine blessings depends upon one's own heart—pray on this very day.

I am so grateful for this blessing that unfolded. Although my dermatographic urticaria was a really minor problem as compared to health conditions others may encounter—it was still considered a problem that I wished to be cured of. The itchiness felt like I was being bitten by a thousand mosquitos throughout my body.

Interestingly though, just as I thought my skin condition was cured, I went to work that evening (6/30) and I was assigned as the charge nurse for the evening. The shift was extremely busy

with numerous admissions. It was so busy, I did not get a dinner break and went home and ate past midnight. I was thankful that I made it home in one piece. But it was still a very stressful shift. That's when my hives started back up again. My legs became itchy, and the itchiness started to climb up towards my lower back. The itch was lasting long and got itchier by the minute. I hadn't touched the Zyrtec bottle in 17 days, but I finally had to take 1/8 of a tablet again and prayed before taking the medicine. Thankfully the itchiness stopped. As much as I do not like to

take medicines, when I have to, I pray to Kami-Sama before taking them. I'm thankful for the Zyrtec because without it, my itchiness would have driven me insane.

I want to thank my dermatographic urticaria too, because in the long run, it made me realize that my heart needs to be reformed—that stress and negative feelings were the primary cause of my condition. Thus, I felt like it was my teacher to become a better version of me. I'm still

learning. I'm not perfect, but I do wish do improve myself even a little more each day.

Konko Daijin said that the best way to show your gratitude to Kami-Sama is to never forget the blessings we received, and also to share the blessings with others who may be going through the same ordeal. In that way, people can be saved. Kami-Sama is happy when people can receive divine blessings. So, that was my great blessing for June. If you have a great blessing that you would like to share, feel free to let me know and we can publish it on our church newsletters.

June was also an amazing month for the Adkison Ohana. As pictured on the front page of this newsletter, as of June 16, 2020, **Jason Adkison** became the Command Sergeant Major of 3<sup>rd</sup> Battalion, 25<sup>th</sup> Aviation Regiment, 25<sup>th</sup> CAB. His passionate energy in empowering and leading the soldiers is sure to make a positive difference in his battalion. **Congratulations Jason!!** We are extremely proud of you, and will continue to pray for the health, safety and well-being of your family and all the people that you serve.

On June 28, 2020, **Jason** and **Trisha Adkison** celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> year Wedding Anniversary at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa by renewing wedding vows! **Congratulations Trisha and Jason!!** Exactly 20 years ago on June 28, 2000, they got married at our church. You can see their pictures on the 2<sup>nd</sup> page of the newsletter. We are very grateful that they have come back to the roots of their beginnings and have always kept the faith in their lives. We wish them continuous happiness and blessings throughout their lives as husband and wife.

Our Back to School Service will be held on Sunday, July 26 at 9:00 am. It's almost time to go back to school! Let's pray for a safe and blessed new school year for all teachers and students. Have a wonderful 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

*Sincerely, Edna*

