



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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May 2019, Volume 27, No. 305

WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

May 2019

- 1 Wed -**Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama**
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 5 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share Okage till 11 am
-Happy Boy's Day! (AKA: Children's Day)
-Wailuku Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
- 6 Mon -HCRP meeting at Palolo Hongwanji (1:30 pm)
- 10 Fri -Volunteer Act. @Wahiawa Gen Hosp. LTCF (10:45 am)
- 12 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) *Share okage stories till 11 am
*Share Okage till 11 am *Happy Mother's Day!
-Hilo Church Spring Grand Ceremony (11 am)
-Missionary Women's Society Seminar @Hilo Church
- 17 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 18 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting @HNL (10:30 am)
- 19 Sun -**Monthly Service for the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (9 am)** 生神金光大神月例祭
-Share Okage Stories till 11 am
- 24 Fri -Church clean-up (9 am)
- 25 Sat -Ehimemaru memorial clean-up (9 am)
-Chorus Practice @HNL (2-4 pm)
- 26 Sun -**Monthly Memorial Service (9 am)** 月例霊祭
- 27 Mon-Memorial Day – Visit Punchbowl Cemetery (8 am)
- 31 Fri -Church clean up (9 am)
-KMH Joint Conference Mtg@ HNL (5 pm)

June 2019

- 1 Sat -**Monthly Svc. for Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama**
(7:30 pm) 天地金乃神様 月例祭



Konko Daijin's teachings... Konko-Sama imparted, "If you practice faith in Kane No Kami-Sama, pray to have your major misfortunes turned in to minor ones. Also pray to have the minor misfortunes cleared away. Try and slowly pour a tub of water from on top of the roof. This is like a minor misfortune. Pouring it all at once is an example of a major misfortune. Practice faith, and like the water being poured out slowly, have major misfortunes turned into minor ones. Then your irreverences will be cleared away and you'll be blessed with prosperity." (GI Saito Sojiro 18)

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.



Most strongest in the family
Okage she's my mom
Thankful for her existence
Honored to be her daughter
Every day she prays for me
Reminds me what's important in life



90th Anniversary Celebration of Konko Mission of Honolulu

Date: Sat & Sun, August 24-25, 2019
Time: 8/24@2 pm 8/25@10:30 am
Place: Konko Mission of Honolulu
1728 Liliha Street, Honolulu, Hawaii
Please save the date! (^_^)



Konko Mission of Wahiawa 9th Summer Ohana Camp



(Sat-Sun) July 6-7, 2019 @ Camp HR Erdman

Our theme will be **ABC's of Konkokyo Part 9: Treating All with Respect.** \$20.00 for ages 19+, \$10 for 5-18, Free for 4 and under. Fee includes, all meals, snacks, activity fees, lodging. No refunds after 6/16.

Deadline: Sunday 6/16/19.

We hope you can join us ☺. Contact Edna for details: ednakazuko@hotmail.com or call (808) 223-3448. Forms are available. First 16 participants staying over will be accepted. Zippy's fundraiser tickets are available!

Konko Mission of Wahiawa Annual Schedule for 2019

- 6/14 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 6/30 Sun -Rotary Hanashikai Gathering at Wahiawa Church (10:30 am)
- 7/6 Sat -9th Ohana Camp at Camp HR Erdman (till 7/7)
- 7/12 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 7/14 Sun -KMH Volunteer Activity at Kuakini Hospital, 9:30 a.m.
- 7/21 Sun -Monthly Memorial Service/Back-to-School Service 9 a.m.
- 8/9 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 8/10 Sat -KMH Board Meeting at Honolulu Church, 10:30 a.m.
- 8/24 Sat -Hōtokusai Service for 90th Anniversary at Honolulu 2 p.m.
- 8/25 Sun -90th Anniversary of Honolulu Church, 10:30 a.m.
- 9/15 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service, 10 a.m.
- 9/20 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 9/22 Sun -Wahiawa Church Autumn Memorial Service, 10 a.m.**
- 10/6 Sun -Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service, 11 a.m.
- 10/12 Sat -Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Service, 6:30 p.m.**
- 10/13 Sun -Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service, 11 a.m.
- 10/20 Sun -26th HCRP Peace Prayer at Palolo Hongwanji 4 p.m.
- 10/25 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 10/26 Sat -115th Anniversary of Konko Church of Amagi, day 1
- 10/27 Sun -115th Anniversary of Konko Church of Amagi, day 2
- 11/3 Sun -90th Anniversary Celebration of Hilo Church, 11a.m.
- 11/8 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity, 10 a.m.
- 11/9 Sat -Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service, 11 a.m.
- 11/15 Fri -160th Anniversary of Konkokyo at Honbu Headquarters
- 11/23 Sat -KMH Board of Trustees Meeting, 10:30 a.m.
- 11/24 Sun -22nd Memorial Svc for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama, 9 a.m.
- 12/13 Fri -WGH monthly volunteer activity at 10 a.m.
- 12/22 Sun -47th Memorial Svc. Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi, 10 a.m.
- 12/26 Thr -Mochi pounding at Hilton Waikiki
- 12/27 Fri -Mochi pounding at Prince Waikiki
- 12/29 Sun -End of the Year Service 9 a.m.
- 12/30 Mon -28th Annual Mochi Pounding 8 a.m.



Happy Birthday

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

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

Rev. Sugako Yoshino
AdaRae Perreira
Linda Noguchi
Nathan Noguchi
Channon Pangorang



Rev. Reiko Yano
Tevin Makishima
Randy Furusho
Elmay Gombio

Rotary Hanashikai Gathering

Sunday, June 30, 2019 from 10:30 pm to 1:30 pm.
At Konko Mission of Wahiawa
(207 Muliwai Avenue, Wahiawa)

We will be reviving the Rotary Hanashikai again and we would like you to join us. Casual talk about the blessings you have received are the greatest indicators of faith. Share your passion with everyone. Lunch will be served. English and Japanese speaking is OK. Open to all ages. Non-members also welcome. Call 621-6667 for more info.



Konko Mission of Wahiawa Spring Grand Ceremony held on Saturday 4/13/19. Sermon: Rev. Edna Matsuoka (Associate Minister of Konko Mission of Wahiawa). We also celebrated Ms. Alyce Yamamoto's Birthday, and April Birthdays! Congratulations! Thank you all for helping and attending the Godaisai!

Editor's Note



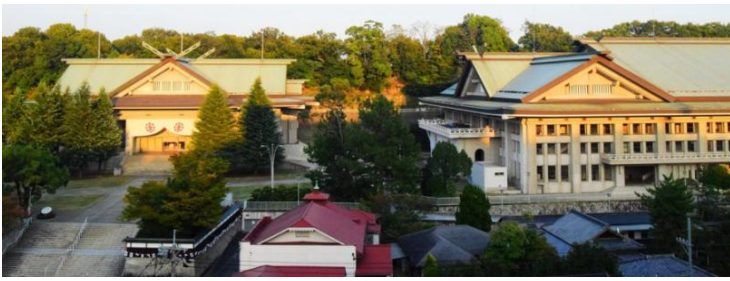
Dear Reader,

I hope this newsletter finds you in great health and good balance overall. I would like to share with you my recent sermon that I delivered at our church Grand Ceremony: Good evening, and thank you for coming to the Wahiawa Church Spring Grand Ceremony, where we have come to give thanks for the blessings of Heaven and Earth, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. In layman's terms, it's God. In Star War's it's called The FORCE. In scientific terminology, it's called The FIELD, and Mrs. Fusami Kudo calls it "SOMETHING GREAT." Today I want each of you to re-evaluate your faith. Am I practicing faith? I want each one of you to offer one thing to Kami-Sama, The Force, The Field, Something Great—whatever you call it. I want you to offer your sincerity. "Magokoro Wo Osonae Seyo." Offering your sincerity—What does it mean? How can you tell if you are offering true sincerity?

How can you tell if the faith that you have been practicing has been true all these years? Does it mean to offer more money to the church? That is not necessarily the case. There was an episode in the Gorikai that went like this: Konko-Daijin does not pray to receive monetary offerings. Since Konko Daijin is to save those in distress, he tells them. "Don't think about offerings. Come when you happen to have enough pocket money." Practice faith and when you have received divine blessings, offer things you want to give so that you will be **happy**." (Gorikai I Yamamoto Sadajiro 64-3). The key to that passage is, "HAPPY." If whatever you are giving to Kami-Sama is not making you happy, don't do it.

This is the picture of the Konkokyo Honbu Headquarters (see top of next page). One day as I was admiring the beauty of the architecture of the Headquarters, I was told by a Sensei that each copper roof tile cost 10,000 yen (\$100). So you can imagine \$100 bills all lined up over here. Each roof tile is about the size of a sheet of typing paper folded lengthwise.

(Continued on next page)



Can you see the tens of thousands of these tiles?...Unbelievable! The offering of people's sincere heart for the blessings they received built the ginormous Headquarters. Even this church was built and continues to be in existence through people's sincere offerings; not through compulsory donations. It's amazing. Next year we will celebrate our 80th Anniversary on Sunday, March 15, 2020. Mark your calendars so you can join us.

How much you offer to Kami-Sama is none of my business. It's between you and Kami-Sama. Some religions encourage you to offer your tithing. That's 10% of your paycheck. To some people, even that 10% can be difficult, especially as the cost of living in Hawaii is so high.

There are some other religious organizations that post the name and amount of money or church equipment people donated. However, doing this may lead to negative feelings for people who were not able to donate. It would also compare others. Like so and so offered more than him or her. Then it'll be like owning bragging rights. Kami-Sama dislikes when people compare who offered what and having people feel distressed. Also, knowing who donated what can lead to some unnecessary negative thoughts that cloud our hearts. Kami would be sad if such thing happened. So, in Konkokyo, we do not do that.

Being present at tonight's service is a sincere offering of your time to Kami-Sama. You had to plan ahead. Wear nicer clothes; use your gasoline and your time. Some people willingly came to participate in church clean ups and food prep. This is also considered a sincere offering to Kami-Sama. In whatever shape, form, skill or amount you decide to offer, offer your sincerity. If you have musical talent, make a song for Kami-Sama. If you have artistic talent, make a painting for Kami-Sama. That would be a great offering of appreciation. And who knows, maybe Kami-Sama will inspire you with a phenomenal idea.

Now, how in the world are you supposed to know if you are offering something in sincerity? I'll give you a hint...Konmari. Marie Kondo is the queen of decluttering. You will know if you are offering sincerity if it sparks joy. Do you feel, "Arigatai", "I'm thankful", "Thank you Kami-Sama for all that you bless me with." Or, "I can't thank you enough." If your act of coming to church, offering money, or helping out with church functions is not sparking any kind of joy or happiness for you, it's not a sincere offering to Kami-Sama. If you are also feeling regretful of how much you offered, it's not an offering of sincerity.



About 15 years ago, when I was still in college, I saved up money because I wanted to change the matting of the 3rd Konko-Sama's portrait (Large and small) since it was starting to look discolored. I went to Pictures Plus which used to be in Pearl Highlands. I thought that it wouldn't be too expensive since it's just a piece of thick colored/textured cardstock. But since it was custom sizing, and it was special cardstock, the matting cost about \$75.

I was a bit surprised at first, but I really wanted to change the matting as my sincere offering to Kami-Sama. So I went ahead with the order. The sales associate measured the dimensions accurately...Or so we thought. When she came up with the grand total, and just as I was about to swipe my card in their machine—the

entire store blacked out. That's right, even the credit card machine and computers. Everyone was surprised. The blackout lasted about 10 minutes. But in that time, I asked to see the dimensions she wrote down, versus the actual dimensions of the original matting. I noticed that the matting on the original matting was bottom heavy. The sales associate didn't realize it. She had thought that the top measurement was the same as the bottom. As soon as she revised and confirmed the measurements, the electricity came back. And I was able to scan my card to complete the purchase. This was no ordinary order. It was for the 3rd Konko-Sama (Late Rev. Setsutane Konko). This was no doubt the mysterious workings of Kami-Sama. When you really wish to do something for Kami-Sama, Kami-Sama accommodates. I was in complete awe. I will never forget this episode.

Today is Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama's Grand Service, where we come in appreciation of the source of life. No amount of money is enough to repay Kami-Sama for all the blessings we receive every single day. But your offering of sincerity will definitely be felt by Kami-Sama. Kami-Sama will warmly accept your sincerity, no matter what it is.

Konko Sama said, "People say that one candle offered by the poor is the same as a thousand offered by the rich. There are some people who cannot offer even one candle. Kami will accept anything, whether it is a candle or a stick of incense. If a whole stick of incense cannot be offered, half of it will do. Kami will accept it like a whole candle. If even incense cannot be offered, offer a spark by striking the flint. Kami will accept it like a candle. There are people who can receive blessings even from the ashes of the incense."

When I was little, like in the 2nd grade, I remember wrapping Christmas presents for my parents of things around the house, like an old tie that I never saw my dad ever wear. And as for my mom, I remember wrapping up a blouse that my mom always wore. That was my sincere offering to them for being great parents. They took care of me, cooked, cleaned, washed my laundry, made sure I was safe, and always extended their genuine kindness, care and prayers. I appreciate all they do for me even today. They don't expect anything from me. But for all they have done for me, I can't help wanting to give back to them. This is the feeling we must hold for Kami-Sama. Kami-Sama grants us tremendous divine blessings every day. All that we have and all that IS, are blessings from Kami-Sama. We may offer fruits and vegetables to Kami, although they came from Kami. It's like me giving a neck tie that my dad already has. But it's the thought, it's the sincerity that matters the most. And this is THE element that is accepted by Kami-Sama.

Our Parents are exactly like Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. *Ten* is our Father, and *Chi* is our Mother. We are the children of Kami-Sama, lovingly sandwiched between. We receive the blessings of the sunlight, the blessings of the earth, air, food, water, and all the elements on our earth to live in comfort. Even the smart phone people can't seem to live without these days and fancy cars that people drive were made from the materials provided by the Earth. How can we repay Kami-Sama for the 1,360 watts of solar energy that hits the earth per square meter? We pay for electricity, but not the energy from the sun.

But "the Sun is a given," you say. "The air we breathe is a given," you say. "I live my life as I wish," you say. "I am rich because I work hard," you say. The ignorance of humans not realizing that all these givens are actually divine blessings is what saddens Kami-Sama the most. That's likable to having your good friend always helping you out, and not even saying "Thank you." We need to realize that we can live because of Kami-Sama's blessings. We can work because of Kami-Sama's blessings. Everything is possible because of Kami-Sama's blessings.

Thank your eternal parents, Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama. Thank this universal energy that sustains all life. Thank Kami-Sama for your normal bodily functions. People do a whole lot of praying, but they don't always give thanks when they receive their blessing.

This is the important part. Complete the circle. Start in prayer, end in prayer and give thanks. This is the key to receiving continuous divine favor.

Going back to Konmari. How can we spark joy when we offer things, talent or time to Kami-Sama? Practice faith daily. Read the Konko teachings and put them to practice. Please utilize the Toritsugi mediation desk. It's there for a reason. Talk with sensei. He/she will listen to your problems or requests and pray for you, and even offer priceless guidance. It's like learning a new punch or block technique from your karate sensei. The church is open daily for everybody.

You can come to the church every single day, but if you are not mediating with the sensei, or even listening to the teachings, it's equal to going to the karate dojo and not moving a muscle. What you learn in the church will surely help you in your daily living.

I started Karate after meeting my husband because he also teaches. He's been doing karate for more than 30 years. His blocks come automatically. I like trying to scare him sometimes by hiding behind doors or walls. As soon as I try, he will block it. When you practice faith you will automatically know how to deal with problems.

People want blessings fast. But just like becoming a black belt, you can't achieve this rank overnight. It takes lots of dedication and regular practice. I read a quote one day by Bruce Lee and it went like this: "I fear not who practiced 10,000 kicks only once, but fear who practiced one kick 10,000 times." There are lots of Konko teachings, but if you can at least learn to master one of them, it will be your super power.

Practicing the Konko faith is like chewing a cube of dried bonito (Katsuo-bushi). For those who have never eaten a cube of that resin hard *katsuo-bushi* cube, you can use a slice of beef jerky to get the picture. You can't really taste much flavor the moment you pop it into your mouth. But with time and with some chewing, the *umami* will gradually come out and you will be able to appreciate its delicious flavor. Practice true faith for 3 years first, then 5 years and 10 years. You will be able to look back, and I guarantee, if your faith was really sincere, you can say, "Wow, these 10 years have been the greatest years of my life." You will notice a positive change in your heart. And like a ripple effect, if you spark joy within your own heart, it affects the people around you in a positive way. Your family, friends, and even your co-workers will notice it. This is practicing true faith.

I was watching a show on Japanese festivals during the New Year, on NHK World. It talked about the Hadaka Matsuri (Naked Festival). It's when the men in the village go naked—except for their family jewels, wearing a loin cloth (*fundoshi*). This is for New Year's where it's freezing and it's snowing. And they pour 3 large bucketfuls of ice cold water on to their body. One on the right shoulder, one on the left and one on top of their heads. A Caucasian man who was a host in the TV program also participated in the event. He changed into the fundoshi and in the sub zero temperatures, he went with the flow of the other men in fundoshi. This is their way of offering their sincerity to Kami-Sama for the blessings of a New Year. The head priest, who was a female, stated the significance of the Hadaka Matsuri. "People go to the shrines and temples on New Year's and throw a few coins in the offertory box, while all warm and cozy in their winter outfits, grab the rope to ring the bell, clap twice and they pray to Kami-Sama for 365 days worth of blessings! Are you kidding me!? Where is the sincerity in that? A year worth of blessings for a measly few cents, while wearing their warm winter coats?! How rude!?"

People could die of hypothermia (freezing to death) from being naked participating in the Hadaka Matsuri. But these men are single hearted in their intent. So such things don't happen. They participate with an "I don't even care if I died" kind of attitude. So they receive blessings. The Caucasian host for that NHK program was in awe at participating in the Matsuri. It was a life changing experience for him.

Konko Daijin never told his followers to strip naked and go out in subzero temperatures. However, he did give an example to Kondo Fujimori Sensei of a different kind of ascetic practice. Kondo sensei wanted to isolate himself deep into the mountains and survive only on nuts and leaves of trees. In response to this, Konko-Sama responded, "That is fine. However, Kondo-san, you need not trouble yourself by going to a mountain. Create a mountain in your heart, and do religious training there. Enter the mountain which you have created in your heart, then no matter if there are difficulties or unsavory meals from your wife, you will not complain."

You can make your workplace, your household, school, circle of friends your training arena to practice faith as well. Receive blessings of holding back the urge to complain, fight, argue, threaten or bully. Practice faith long enough and you will not even have to hold it in.

You will have a round heart, a heart of acceptance and care instead.

Do you know what the greatest thing you can offer to Kami-Sama is? It's helping others who are not aware of Kami-Sama's blessings become awakened. It's helping those who are suffering and guiding them to the Konko way of life, so they too can be happy and saved.

How do you define sincerity? That's something you have to decide for yourself. What I do is make sure I am off every 1st day of the month, so I can attend the Monthly Service at 7:30 pm at our church. I also request vacation on the two Godaisai days for our church every year, a year in advance, so I never miss them. I make sure that the first check I cut on my paycheck I receive is an offering to Kami-Sama in appreciation. And I make sure that when I wake up every morning, I go to the altar to give thanks for the new day, and before heading to bed, I give thanks for the day and pray for a great day tomorrow. I also mediate any problems I encounter at the Toritsugi Mediation desk and relieve myself of my spiritual wastes. And I feel good! It's that good feeling you experience when you go to the bathroom after holding it in for the longest time. I can truly say that my life is blessed. I'm not telling you to do the same, because this is what I do. You can offer your sincerity that sparks joy in your own way.

One thing's for sure. The amount of blessings we receive, reflect the amount of sincerity we forward to Kami-Sama. If Kami-Sama is just a fraction of your life, then the blessings you receive will just be a fraction of what it could have been. Okage, blessings means shadow. If you place something large in front of the sun, the shadow behind it will be large. If you place a toothpick in front of the sun, the shadow will be so small. Likewise, offering of your great sincerity will result in great blessings. I challenge you to test this theory. Make Kami-Sama a huge presence in your life. My mom always used to say, this church may be small, but the okage is huge—depending on how large Kami-Sama's presence is in your life. Don't treat Kami-Sama like a *Yabu-gami* or *Ko-gami* (a small powerless demi-god). Because that's the only kind of blessings you will receive with that kind of faith.

Let your faith and your sincere offering to Kami-Sama "Spark Joy." And practice the kind of faith in which you feel more and more grateful year after year. Offer your BIG Sincerity. That is true faith. Thank you for listening. (In this case—Thank you for reading).

July 6-7th is our 9th Summer Ohana Camp at Camp HR Erdman. We are very excited! The theme will be: **Treating All with Respect.** A very insightful workshop will be conducted by, **Rev. Dr. Todd**

Takahashi (*Resident Minister of Konko Church of San Diego*). Application forms are out now. Please submit all forms and payment by [Sun, June 16, 2019](#). Mark your calendars early. We hope you can join us! Also, a big Mahalo for helping to sell the Zippy's Chili tickets! We still have some left. Get yours today!! Have a fantastic month in May!

Aloha, Edna

