



Wahiawa Konko Mission Children's Newsletter



Konko Mission of Wahiawa
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WAHIAWA KONKO MISSION MONTHLY SCHEDULE

September 2011

- 1 Thur -**Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama Monthly Svc. (7:30 pm)**
天地金乃神様 月例祭.
- 4 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Volunteer Activity at Wahiawa General Hospital
(10-10:45 am). Curry lunch will follow.
- 5 Mon -Labor Day Holiday
- 7 Wed -Study Group with Rev. Dr. Todd Takahashi @ KMH
Hawaii Center (8 pm)
- 9 Fri -Monthly Volunteer Activity at WGH (10-10:45 am)
- 10 Sat -Church clean up for monthly service (9 am)
- 11 Sun -**Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama Monthly Svc. (9:00 am)**
生神金光大神様 月例祭. Share Okage Stories
- 12 Fri -HCRP Meeting at PL Church (1:30 pm)
- 18 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am)
-Honolulu Church Autumn Memorial Service (10 am)
- 24 Sat -Church clean up (9 am)
-Chorus Practice @Honolulu Church (2-4 pm)
- 25 Sun -**Autumn Memorial Service (10 am) 秋季霊祭**
*Naorai lunch will follow the service
- 30 Fri -Church clean up for monthly service (9 am)

October 2011

- 1 Sat -**Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama Monthly Svc. (7:30 pm)**
天地金乃神様 月例祭
- 2 Sun -Sunday Service (9 am) Peace Cup Painting (after svc)
- 13 Thu -**Autumn Grand Service for Founder,
Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama (6:30 pm)**
生神金光大神様 御大祭 *Naorai Dinner will follow

Konko Daijin says...

In Konko Daijin's way of faith, you are saved not through chanting prayers, but through listening to the teachings. (*Gorikai III, Naiden 6-6*)

Editor's thoughts: It all makes sense, because there is a lot more to Konkokyo than just rituals; it's mainly about how we put the teachings into practice. Konkokyo is a way of life. As Rev. Yoshiaki Fukuda of the Konko Church of San Francisco said, "Your sincerity is reflected in everything you do; the way you look, walk, talk, and smile." The same can be applied with our faith. People can go to church every Sunday and talk about all the goodness of their religion, but if they have a bad attitude, get road rage, get upset over unsavory meals, and gossip about people—it is equal to telling lies to Kami. True faith is when your words and actions correlate to each other. A person of true faith is able to walk the talk—or at least put forth some effort to practice what they learned of their faith.

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.

Let's practice faith by being green—compost

Don't toss your leftovers and kitchen scraps in the garbage disposal. Put them in an airtight Tupperware or empty Coolwhip tub. Refrigerate as it could get smelly. Please apologize to the food you were unable to eat—as there are many people in the world who are starving to death every day. When your container of scraps get full, dig a hole in your back yard, place scraps there and cover with soil. The germs and worms will get to it, and they will reward you with nutrient rich, fertile soil. ♻️

Wahiawa General Hospital Volunteer Activity

Date: Sunday, September 4, 2011

Time: 9 a.m. Sunday Service. 10 a.m. volunteer
We will sing, dance and do balloon volleyball.



Lunch: Sensei's curry will be served after the activity. Please come out and join us!

Autumn Memorial Service

Date: Sunday, September 25, 2011

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Who: Open to the public. Everyone who has ancestors is welcome to attend this service. We must revere and remember the people who have died before us. In this way, we are maintaining the immortality of their spirit. They continue to do so much in their spiritual form. Naorai lunch will follow the service. *Please give new names of your deceased loved ones to sensei, so he can include them in the main prayer.



Wahiawa Konko Mission Annual Schedule at a Glance

10/9	Sun	-Honolulu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
10/13	Thur	-Wahiawa Church Autumn Grand Service (6:30 pm)
10/16	Sun	-Waipahu Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
11/6	Sun	-Wailuku Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
11/13	Sun	-Hilo Church Autumn Grand Service (11 am)
11/27	Sun	-14 th Mem. Svc. for the Late Rev. Kikue Kodama (9 am)
12/18	Sun	-39 th Mem. Svc. for Late Rev. Haruko Takahashi (10 am)
12/25	Sun	-End of the Year Service (9 am)
12/30	Fri	-Wahiawa Church Mochi Pounding (8 am)



Konko Sama said...

There is no particular way to worship Kami. Just be sincere, conscientious, honest, and sincerely single-hearted. Give thanks for being able to live from day to day and apologize for the irreverence, carelessness, and arrogance that you commit unknowingly. Then with sincerity, tell any personal requests that you may have to Kami. *(Gorikai II Fukushima Gibe'e 4-1, 2)*

On Sunday, August 6th four volunteers from the Konko Mission of Wahiawa participated in the Wahiawa Project C.L.E.A.N. Below is a letter of appreciation from the Honolulu Police Department. Thank you very much for taking your time to participate in this activity to beautify the community and take faith into action!



August 15, 2011

To:
Konko Mission of Wahiawa
ATTN: Edna Yano
207 Muliwai Avenue
Wahiawa, HI 96786

On behalf of Police Chief Louis Kcaloha, we would like to extend our extreme appreciation to the Konko Mission of Wahiawa members for their attendance and participation during our Wahiawa Project C.L.E.A.N.

Volunteers walked over five miles and covered main areas of Wahiawa Town and Whitmore Village. There were over 380 eager volunteers gathered for the sole purpose of creating a better environment for our families and businesses of Wahiawa.

The result was a collection of over 1,000 pounds of trash from the cleaning sites, and over 30 gallons of paint were used to cover various graffiti and paint job repairs.

The success of this project is due to community partnerships like yours.

Mahalo,

Honolulu Police Department – Wahiawa Police Station
330 North Kane St., Wahiawa, HI 96786
Community Policing Team – District 2
HPD2CPT@gmail.com
Sergeant Randall Gratz
Officers
Andrew Bonifacio
Anthony Shimizu
Chad Aoki
Chad Padilla
John Mau
Wendy Atabay
Tyson Chun



Happy Birthday

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



Founder, Konko Daijin (9/29/1814)

Rev. David Yano
Hope Morihara
Stacey Toma

Autumn Grand Ceremony for Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin 生神金光大神様 御大祭

Date: Thursday, October 13, 2011

Time: 6:30 p.m.

Who: Open to the public.

Dinner: Naorai fellowship dinner will follow the service.

Christmas to Christians is to Grand Ceremony to Konkokyo believers. It is that much of an important day. "When practicing faith, there are more blessings which cannot be seen than those which can be seen. The blessings you unknowingly receive number more than the blessings you knowingly receive. If you think about it, you will come to realize the many divine blessings that you have received. If you can do this, you are a true believer" *(Gorikai II Tsugawa Haruo 14)*. Let's acknowledge the daily wages that come from Kami-Sama. Mark your calendars and join us in celebrating the many joys of life.

Editor's Note

Dear Reader,

How have you been? Can you believe it's already September? My goodness, the days are flying by very fast these days. Is that one of the symptoms of getting older? I remember having to count down the days till New Year's and other wonderful holidays, but it comes before I am ready ☺. I'd say it's a good thing. I live every day in blessedness, good health, and happiness.

So, during a recent Sunday sermon, I asked the congregation simple questions about Kami, and as simple as they may seem, it was a challenge answering them. I think it's good to know a little more about Kami in the Konkokyo tradition. I added more questions than I did on Sunday, just for your reference.

1) **Do you believe in God/Kami?** If so, how do you prove that God exists? The Founder, Konko Daijin said that if we wanted to meet Kami, just step outside and take a look around you. The sky above is Kami and the ground below is Kami. We are living in the body of Kami as beloved children. The sun and the moon, the galaxies are all part of the body of Kami. Kami is everywhere, including our hearts—did you know that?

Everyone is bestowed the heart of Kami at the time of conception. Since we are the living creatures that were born between Heaven and Earth, we will naturally hold characteristics of the Heart of Kami.

2) **What is the Heart of Kami?** A heart of Kami is a heart of compassion, kindness, unconditional love, empathy and that feeling of wanting to help others. Even animals have the heart of Kami. Every year, during the summer, stray cats come in our yard to just hang out. I never fed them as they might cause a mess, and I also hated the fleas that they would bring with them. Every year I would get bitten by 50+ fleas. The lesions ended up like chickenpox on my legs. It was excruciating. But this year, my family tried something different when the cats came by our house. I fed them for the first time. I changed my attitude towards the cats. Instead of thinking that they are fleabags, I offered them water and cat food. The cats were very happy, and most interestingly, I haven't got bitten by one flea this summer! I believe the fleas also have a heart of Kami too! The cats also do not make much of a mess either. One mother cat always tests the food first before having her kittens eat what I offer them. She checks whether it is safe for her kittens to eat. Once she takes a couple bites, she calls her kittens and have them come to eat. After the kittens are full, the mother cat eats what's left over. I learned no such from these cats. Although many would say that it's just natural instincts, I believe this is the Heart of Kami.

3) **Is God/Kami a Man or a Woman?** The kids immediately responded, "Man!" Society teaches at a very young age that God is a Man. The real answer is, both. Kami is a couple. You cannot have a child with just a

man alone. The vast Heavens is our Father, and the Earth is our Mother. The living creatures, us included are the children that were born between Heaven and Earth. Earth alone cannot sustain itself. It needs the warmth of the sun and the rain that falls from the sky. Earth produces everything for us to live—just like mother's milk. Therefore, Kami is both male and female.

4) **How big is Kami?** As mentioned earlier, since Heaven and Earth is what make Kami, you can imagine how huge Kami-Sama is. There is no way to measure the largeness of the body of Kami. It's beyond light years.

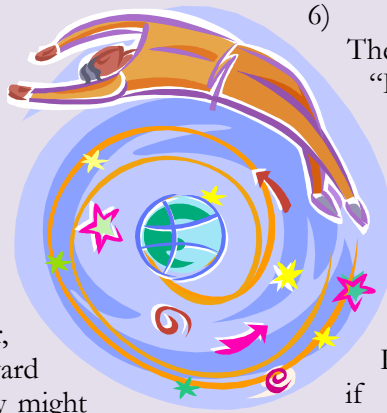
5) **Do you have to call Kami to receive help?** Yes! Although Kami is a Kami that is right here, right now, if you do not ask for help, you may not receive it. Just like if you live at home with your parents. You may be struggling with a difficult math problem (for example), but your mom and dad would not really come and help you if you don't ask for it. They just might assume that you know what you are doing. Konko Daijin said that Kami exists to receive requests, so why not ask your Divine Parent Kami for help when you need it? Kami will be happy to help you and you will feel happy you asked for the help.

6) **How do you call for God/Kami's help?**

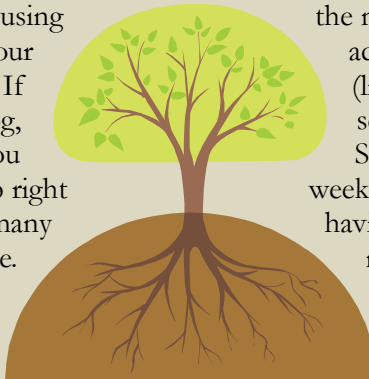
The Founder said, "Just say Konko Daijin" or "Konko Sama", for he will go wherever he is requested. Konko Sama became Kami's right hand man and gained the trust of Kami, therefore, calling Konko Sama is equivalent to calling Kami-Sama. Our God's full name is **Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama**, or Kami-Sama for short.

You can directly call on Tenchi Kane no Kami-Sama for help, but it's easier to get help if it was through the connections of our Founder, Konko Daijin. This is the chain of commands. Just like it exists in every culture, one has to have the right connections if he/she wants to speak to the higher authority. If you want your voice to be heard by the President of the USA, it requires many steps. It's almost impossible to call him just on your cell phone. But if you have the right connections, your entire process will be quick. Similarly, Konko-Sama is your direct connection to Kami-Sama. If you wish to bypass Konko-Sama and get direct help from Tenchi Kane no Kami, you just have to go through the hardships and tests from Kami like our Founder took to gain this level of trust from Kami-Sama.

7) **How can I figure out Kami's existence?** There is nothing to it actually. Just stop eating and stop breathing. Food is made and produced by the workings of Heaven and Earth. Food cannot be made without the sunlight, air, water, fertilizer, gravity, and care. We cannot put ingredients into a mixing bowl and make a ripe apple. We cannot talk to a little sapling and tell it to grow 10 feet tall in one day. Why do we get hungry in the first place? Something obviously wants you to live. What is that something? Water is also Mother Earth's precious



gift to living species—along with the other elements on the periodic table. Why does water exist in the first place? Not even the smartest person in the world can answer these basic questions. When we accidentally fall and scrape our knees, it bleeds. But does it bleed forever and ever? Unless you are a hemophiliac, that probably won't happen. It's a blessing. The white blood cells come to swallow any germs that came to invade the cut. The blood vessels near the cut tighten up a little as to not let out too much blood. Then platelets come to stop the bleeding. Then a very complicated process is involved in wound healing. Why does the body try to heal itself? Something wants our bodies to be in balance again and continue to live. When we are chased by a mad dog, why do we automatically try to either fight it, or run from it? This "flight or fight" response is hard-wired into our brains. We don't even need to be taught to run away. We automatically try to defend our lives in whatever way we can. Again, why? When we are faced with a fight or flight situation, the blood flow shuts off to some extent of our accessory organs. Instead, the blood collects to the vital organs like your heart and liver. You're not going to feel hungry. You will not feel like using the bathroom when you are frightened to your tail's end. It's all a protection mechanism. If your arms and legs are torn by that mad dog, your body will be prepared for it. And you will remain alive a little longer if you get help right away. Why do our bodies do that? So many amazing things happen that are unexplainable. From the micro level to the macro level. There can just be no way that we are living independently from some greater force out there. We have a connection—can you feel this connection?



8) **We are part of a bigger picture.** Cells in living creatures, as you may know are tiny living organisms. They eat, breathe, reproduce, have certain functions, and produce wastes. Cells are like tiny human beings. Do you think we live independently from the whole being/Kami? People may seem like they are living independently—without realizing how much they depend on the natural resources of Heaven and Earth, without realizing that many people extend support for one individual to live. Everything from a person's family, occupation, trusting friends and neighbors are all blessings. What happens when someone or an animal dies? Do the cells in the body continue to live? No. When the body dies, so does every cell in the body. It begins to liquefy and decompose itself into soil. We become soil! The bones may remain for a while, but eventually, it will break down into mineral rich soil! We are able to live because Heaven and Earth are alive and functioning properly. Can you imagine the mayhem that would happen if the Earth did not rotate for a day because it was tired? People would start jumping off high-rises, claiming that it's the end of the world! But really, how much have we been giving thanks to the

amazing blessings of Heaven and Earth we call Tenchi Kane no Kami? The seemingly mundane aspects of life—what will we ever do if things stopped going accordingly? Kami does not discriminate when it comes to these types of blessings. Everyone receives these blessings equally. Kami never takes a rest in providing blessings. If we did, we could not live, even for a second.

9) **How can we give thanks to the benevolent nature of Kami?** The most important thing is to be aware of Kami's existence. Next, we should share with others that are not yet aware of these blessings. And of course we need to take really good care of Heaven and Earth by reducing waste, recycling, and using resources sparingly. And whatever we did use, we need to replenish, so future generations can enjoy life, too. There is a comedian by the name Swami Beyondananda. He says, "We don't have to save the planet; just use it wisely." Exactly! By using it wisely, the planet will naturally save itself, just like how the body tries to heal itself from cuts and bruises. But if we abuse Kami's body beyond repair and replenishment, there really is nothing we can do. Another thing we can do is congregate at the church for the monthly appreciation services. I say this not to advertise services as fund collecting schemes (like some people unfortunately think), but the services are really a time dedicated to Kami-Sama to give thanks. We do this on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. We don't stop having these services because of a lack of members in the congregation. Kami continues to give us blessings, so we should continue to give thanks for them. The more frequent, the better.

There is far more to what Kami-Sama is all about, but I hope this further deepened your understanding of Kami, or at least sparked some interest in wanting to know more.

September is the month for the Autumn Memorial Service. For our church, it will be held on Sunday, September 25 at 10:00 a.m. There will be naorai lunch served after the service. Everyone has ancestors that must be worshipped. Let's not forget about them. Their physical form may no longer exist, but they are still alive in their spiritual form as Mitama Sama. Remembering our ancestors and periodically communicating with them is just like adding fertilizer to the roots of a tree. Any farmer would know that if you take good care of the roots, the tree above will naturally thrive. Although we cannot see the roots of a tree unless we dig it out, they are there deep in the soil, taking up vital nutrients and water to the tips of every leaf. Our roots are very important. Neglect the roots, and the tree will die. I highly encourage you to dedicate this date in reverence for the foundation of your very existence.

And a little early, but please also mark your calendars for the Autumn Grand Ceremony in appreciation of the Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin-Sama, which is on Thursday, October 13 from 6:30 p.m. Have a great September!

Aloha, Edna Yano