

Fore  
word**Seeking the True Meaning of "People Be Saved"**

by Rev. Shinichi Hashimoto Director of the Financial Affairs Department

"Konko Daijin who responded by saying, 'You are not the first to try to seek official recognition. However, such recognition or documentation of the basic principles does not matter to me because it is of utmost importance that people be saved.'"

"Norio Sato then emphasized, 'That may be so, but I am afraid this faith may not continue after your death unless the principles of your faith are documented.'"

We can read this episode in a book, "Konko Daijin," a biography of our Founder. This dialogue between Konko Daijin and Mr. Norio Sato is said to have become one of the driving forces to generate a motivation to organize Konkokyo as a religious body.

Already during the Founder's lifetime, it was very difficult for Konko Daijin's faith to be officially approved by the government as a legal religious organization. Propagating the Founder's faith without fear and hesitation was quite challenging accordingly. The Founder and his Direct Disciples had an unbelievably hard time. Two years after Konko Daijin's passing, namely in 1885, Konkokyo established "Shinto Konko Kyokai" or "Konko Church of Shinto." Konko Church of Shinto received an official approval for propagation from the government as a church which belonged to Shinto Affairs Bureau

(later renamed as Shinto Headquarters). This, however, meant that Konko Church of Shinto would be constantly under a strong influence of Shinto Headquarters, and this meant that we couldn't quote our Founder's teachings just as they were. This severe circumstance fostered a strong yearning/desire for independence among the ministers and lay believers of the Konko Faith. And in the year 1900, Konkokyo finally became independent.

Even after the independence, we were still in a difficult situation. For instance, we couldn't openly define/stipulate the name of our Deity until 1946, one year after the end of World War II. It was because of the religious policies of the Japanese government before the end of the war.

The year 1946 saw another big turnaround for the Konko Faith. From 1900 to 1946 (from Konkokyo's independence to one year after the end of WWII), the Konkokyo Organization was run under the system of Kancho, a position the government in those days installed onto religious bodies in order to monitor them through this position, Kancho. At one time, Konkokyo stipulated that their Kancho was a position of heredity. In 1941, this regulation was amended and Kancho was now a position appointed via an election. And in 1946, the position Kancho was abolished and a new

position of Kyoshu or Konkokyo's Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator was newly installed. This year marks the 80th anniversary since the installment of Kyoshu.

On February 17th, 2026, we had a Kyoshu Election (we have this election every five years, since one term of Kyoshu is five years). The incumbent Konko-sama, the Rev. Hiromichi Konko, received the largest number of votes from the voters, Head Ministers of local Konko churches. The Chief Official of Kyoshu Election is served by the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith, and he sought an official acceptance of the election result by the Rev. Hiromichi Konko. The Rev. Konko sincerely recognized the outcome and accepted the request of the entire Konko community immediately on the Election Day. In this way, the Rev. Hiromichi Konko officially entered his second five-year term as Kyoshu Konko-sama. We are truly grateful for this.

The current Sixth Konko-sama said the following things on New Year's Day this year when his lively voice was aired on the radio program, "Time of Konkokyo."

"By nature, people have capability to give a hand to someone that is in trouble. It is my firm belief that humans are humans because they get to help others."

What has been sought and what have been our underlying principles since a motivation to organize Konkokyo as a religious body arose?

No matter what kind of situations we may find ourselves in, the Konkokyo Organization's unwavering path to seek how to "save people in need" has been firmly established throughout its history. This purpose of the Konko Faith and our efforts will never change from now on, and this is something we should never change.

We will soon hold the Commemorative Ceremony for Konkokyo's Independence and the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama. We would like to look back on the historical path of the Konkokyo Organization. We also would like to strive for contributing to the realization of Kami's wish, "People be saved," receiving Konko-sama's Sacred Mediation more than ever. We should do so because Konko-sama holds this important position within the Organization's structure.

## The Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith and the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama to Be Held

Let us Thank our Seniors and Speak to the People around us about the Faith of our Founder

The Konkokyo Headquarters will hold the Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith and the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama at the Konkokyo Headquarters' Grand Ceremony Hall on June 14, 2026 at 13:30.

In this article, we would like to publish 2 items: our wishes for the June Ceremony this time and "On the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama".



### ◆ The Purpose of this Commemorative Ceremony ◆



The Konko Faith (Konkokyo) became independent as a religious organization in 1900. We hold the Commemorative Ceremony for the Independence of the Konko Faith in order to

give thanks to our numerous seniors for their ardent desires and earnest endeavors dedicated to the independence of Konkokyo. We hold this annual ceremony also because we would like to pray to our Parent Kami for the Konko Faith to become even more prosperous from now.

Since our Founder, Konko Daijin, began to perform Sacred Mediation for people in need, he taught those who came over to seek his Toritsugi about the importance of their understanding and sharing the heart of our



Parent Kami and expressing Kami's heart in their daily lives. Some of those people volunteered to become Toritsugi Mediators, which led to the birth of Konko Daijin's hiromaes (worship halls) here and there in Japan. Konko Daijin's faith spread in this way.

However, those who had overthrown the Edo Shogunate and established a new (Meiji) government implemented a religious policy of making Shinto the state religion of Japan. Because of this policy, Konkokyo at the time was unable to spread its teachings in their true form. Some of Konko Daijin's worshippers worried about him and tried to seek government's official approval by renaming the deity they believed in. In a way,



Konko Daijin felt like giving them words of praise for their earnest efforts, but to him, the Principle Parent of the Universe and His wish were far more important. Konko Daijin, therefore, said to them with a firm attitude, "I do not know for other deities, but our Kami is different." With his resolute attitude, Konko Daijin prevented this Faith from becoming distorted from its true essence.

Witnessing the Founder's unyielding attitude, the Direct Disciples of Konko Daijin and their younger comrades soon embraced an ardent desire of "We must not make our Kami a passing fad. No matter what price we may have to pay, we must accurately tell



Konko Daijin's faith to people of future generations."

In 1885, two years after the Founder's passing, the congregation of Konko Daijin's faith was able to get an official approval for propagation as Konko Church of Shinto which belonged to the "Headquarters of Shinto." This was a big step forward but everybody knew that it wasn't enough yet. Some Konkokyo ministers (and maybe several lay believers also) at that time did their very best. They, for example, collected the teachings of Konko Daijin and cultivated promising human resources by opening Shinto Konko Kyokai Gakumon-sho or Academy of Konko Church of Shinto (an institution to train ministerial candidates).

The purpose of these efforts was to establish a structure that allowed them to function as a religious organization. Their earnest diligence was finally rewarded in 1900, when Konkokyo became independent of Shinto.

Even after the independence, the Konko Faith, as a religious organization, faced various restrictions. After the democratization of Japan following the end of World War II, Konkokyo finally got to propagate Konko Daijin's faith to the public openly and freely. Now that we could do this as a religious organization which wishes to promote a situation where both Kami and people are mutually fulfilled. More than ever, we now were able to identify ourselves as Konko believers, regarding each other as those who worshipped the same deity and respect the same founder.

Since then, we, the Konkokyo Organization, has constantly been trying to express/present Konko Daijin's teachings that are embroidered with our Founder's sincere and warm heart/wish to society. We have been working on this at the Organization level, the local church



level and the level of each believer's daily faith life. We have also tried hard to strengthen our organization's structure. These

efforts by many, many people throughout the years have brought us here today.

Let us hold this commemorative ceremony by expressing our deep appreciation to our Founder and his successors, the successive Konko-samas who have all devoted themselves to the realization of Ikigami Konko Daijin's Sacred Mediation and also to many of our seniors who did their very best for Konkokyo's independence, let alone to the Principle Parent of the Universe (Tenchi Kane No Kami). Let us accept that seeking, showing and telling Konko Daijin's faith to people around us is our mission more than ever. And let us also strengthen our respective faith and enrich our respective faith life so that we can make ourselves more useful for the realization of "world peace and the fulfillment of all humanity."

During the ceremony, we will commend ministers with 40-year service to our Parent Kami as Toritsugi Mediators. We will also officially appoint Gakuin Seminary graduates Konkokyo ministers. 40 ministers will be commended this time, and all of them have contributed to the spread of the Konko Faith for many, many years. And 19 people will be newly ordained as Konko ministers. Including these people, I sincerely pray that all of us will be allowed to usefully contribute to the realization of Kami's wish and let people around us know the joy of (practicing) faith (in our Parent Kami).



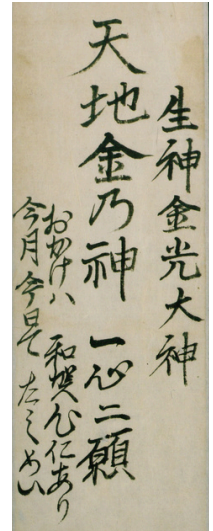
◆ On the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama ◆



On March 26th, 2026, (the current Sixth) Konko-sama completed his (first) five-year term as Konkokyo's Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator. On the following 27th, Konko-sama entered the next term after accepting the request of the entire congregation of the Konko Faith. The Rev. Hiromichi Konko continues to unify Konkokyo, perform Ikigami Konko Daijin's Sacred Mediation for worshippers and preserve the Founder's (blood) lineage as

Konko-sama. It is our utmost pleasure that we can hold the Inauguration Ceremony for Konko-sama on the very day when we hold the Commemorative Ceremony for Konkokyo's Independence.

Our Founder, Konko Daijin, received the Divine Call in 1859. Kami asked the Founder to give up his profession as a farmer and devote himself to performing Toritsugi Mediation for people in need. Since then, Konko Daijin conducted Sacred Mediation for his worshippers for 24 years until he returned to our Parent Kami in 1883. During these (more than) two decades, Konko Daijin faced various hardships in his propagating efforts, yet he always considered the fulfillment of each person in need the most important thing. Living up to Kami's expectations, the Founder literally devoted himself to performing Ikigami Konko Daijin's Sacred Mediation, through which he showed/



expressed and transmitted Kami's wish, "Let the world know vividly the state/situation where both Kami and people are mutually fulfilled."

Since the passing of Konko Daijin, society changed dramatically. And Konko Shijin-sama performed Sacred Mediation for 10 years, Konko Setsutane-sama did so for 70 years, Konko Kagamitaro-sama did so for 28 years, Konko Heiki-sama did so for 30 years BEFORE the current Sixth Konko-sama did so for 5 years as his first ever (five-year) term as Konko-sama. Each Konko-sama has conducted Toritsugi Mediation just as the Founder did. And they have all done that at the Central Worship and Mediation Hall of the Konkokyo Headquarters. We are deeply thankful for this.

Today, the Konkokyo Organization puts forward its basic policy, "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." The Organization is implementing various activities, praying that each one of us, people of the Konkokyo community, realizes Kami's blessings and

tells/shows the joy of having faith in Kami to people around us and people of future generations.

As the Rev. Hiromichi Konko enters his second (five-year) term as our Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator, I hope and pray that we will receive Konko-sama's Sacred Mediation with a refreshed mind. I want us to do so, because Konko-sama constantly prays to our Parent Kami for "world peace and the salvation of all people." Let us thank our Konko-sama for his sincere, selfless goyo. And let us work hard so that our faith life from now will evolve more than ever.

