Malamalama

Konko Missions in Hawaii
NEWSLETTER



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The Konko Missions in Hawaii will fulfill Ikigami Konko Daijin's vision to embrace the world with the Konko Faith.

Congratulatory message from Konko Sama on the occasion of KMH's 100th anniversary, delivered on August 15, 2026

Congratulations on the 100th Anniversary of the Konko Missions in Hawaii.

It is truly a joy for me to be here with all of you today and to celebrate this important milestone together.

Whenever I travel outside Japan, I find myself appreciating even more deeply the teachings of Konko Daijin: "The whole world is Tenchi Kane No Kami's hiromae" and "Because Heaven and Earth are alive, all people are able to live."

Without the living workings of Heaven and Earth, there would be no water, no air, and no life. We live within the blessings of Heaven and Earth, which have continuously sustained all living things. This is the truth no matter where we are in the world.

Konko Daijin taught us that our Faith is a way of living together with Tenchi Kane No Kami. Through Faith, we come to realize that Kami and human beings exist in a relationship of mutual fulfillment.

Today, we celebrate one hundred years of practicing the Konko Faith in North America and Hawaii. Yet within those one hundred years were also difficult and painful times, including the Second World War. For North Americans and Japanese alike, and especially for Japanese immigrants and their children who cared deeply about both countries, the experiences of those years must have been beyond words.

Despite such experience of hardships. like a baton in a relay, our lives have been passed down from our ancestors. Similarly, our Faith has been passed on from generation to generation and the Way of Toritsugi Mediation through Ikigami Konko Daijin continues to be manifested today. For this, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude.

Supported by countless visible and invisible workings of Kami, this one-hundred-year history has become a precious treasure and a source of great gratitude for all of us.
Kami wishes for all people throughout the world to find happiness.

To be happy is to be able to live with a smile. When someone is struggling, human beings have the ability to reach out and help. We can care for each other and support one another.

As people who live within the blessings of Heaven and Earth, I believe it is important that we cherish the spirit of "living together" and "being saved together." Regardless of differences in nationality, race, or language, we are all receiving the blessings of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, it is my sincere prayer that we may help one another, live together in harmony, and contribute to bringing true peace and prosperity to the world, so that everyone may live with a smile on their face.

I believe that an important aspect of Faith is "to recognize the blessings we have received and to respond to those blessings with gratitude."

It is important for us to reflect upon the Divine Favor we have received up to this day and to consider how we may express our gratitude to Kami and to our ancestors.

One hundred years is not only the accumulation of blessings received thus far but also the foundation for the future.

As we offer our gratitude for all that has been received up to this point, may we continue, in each of our communities, to seek, practice, and share the Faith of Konko Daijin. Receiving Kami's blessings together let us move forward into the next century with gratitude, hope, and joy.

Once again, congratulations on this wonderful occasion.
Thank you very much.



Konko Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu!

Rev. Yasuhiro Yano, Konko Mission of Wahiawa

Good morning, everyone.

First of all, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the ministers, and all the members of the Konko Mission of Waipahu on the occasion of today's Ikigami Konko Daijin Autumn Grand Ceremony. It is truly a blessing for us to gather here today in good health and with grateful hearts as we celebrate this important Grand Ceremony in appreciation of the divine work of our Founder, Ikigami Konko Daijin. I would also like to sincerely thank Rev. Akinobu Yasutake for inviting me to share some of my thoughts about the practice of Konko faith.

Today, I would like to reflect upon a simple but deeply meaningful expression that has accompanied me throughout my years of missionary service:

On September 28, my wife, Reiko-sensei, and I celebrated the 49th anniversary of our service at the Konko Mission of Wahiawa. It is hard to believe that almost half a century has passed. We are deeply grateful that we have been able to continue serving Kami-Sama in good health, with harmonious relationships and the financial support necessary to sustain our church activities. These are blessings that we should never take for granted.

This past August, I was also blessed to attend two historic Centennial Anniversary Celebrations: the Konko Churches of North America Centennial, held at the Konko Church of San Francisco on August 12, and the Konko Missions in Hawaii Centennial, held at Koʻolau Ballrooms on August 15, 2026.

Both celebrations were filled with great joy and gratitude, and the presence of the Sixth Konko-Sama made these occasions especially memorable. In August 2000, the Fifth Spiritual Head of Konkokyo, the late Rev. Heiki Konko, attended the 100th Anniversary of the Independence of the Konkokyo Religious Organization in Hilo, Hawaii. On that occasion, he also visited each of our local churches. Such a visitation was unprecedented in the history of Konko Missions in Hawaii.

This year, we were blessed once again with another historic visitation. The Sixth Konko-Sama, Rev. Hiromichi Konko, accompanied by his wife, Rev. Nobuko Konko, three of their children, and an entourage from Gohonbu Headquarters in Japan, attended both Centennial celebrations in San Francisco and Honolulu. Because Konko-Sama does not ordinarily travel to visit churches in Japan or overseas, his presence was an extraordinary blessing.

During these visits, I witnessed several unforgettable moments. One such experience took place in San Francisco. My son, Rev. Rodney Yano, simply asked Konko-Sama whether he might be willing to visit Rev. Masato Kawahatsu, who was receiving hospice care. To our surprise, Konko-Sama graciously agreed.

The day before, several of us had visited Rev. Kawahatsu. He appeared extremely weak, and we felt that he was approaching the final stage of his earthly life. When Rodney accompanied Konko-Sama to visit him, he later described how deeply moving

and sorrowful the encounter had been.

However, when we visited Rev. Kawahatsu again the following day, something remarkable had happened. He was sitting up in bed, and his appearance and condition seemed noticeably improved. I cannot fully explain what happened, but witnessing this change left a lasting impression upon me. It was one of the unexpected blessings that came about through Konko-Sama's presence.

Another unforgettable experience occurred at Wahiawa Church. When we first learned that Konko-Sama would be attending the Centennial celebrations, we were also informed that he planned to visit three local churches on Oahu: Honolulu, Waipahu, and Wahiawa. These visits were intended to be discreet and were not publicly announced.

Following the Centennial celebration, we received instructions from Headquarters concerning the manner in which Konko-Sama would visit each church. We were informed that Konko-Sama would approach the Toritsugi Mediation Desk and that the local minister should be seated at the desk to receive him. This arrangement was unprecedented in the history of Konkokyo, and I must admit that I was quite surprised.

When Konko-Sama arrived at Wahiawa Church, he entered the Hiromae and proceeded directly to the Toritsugi Mediation Desk, accompanied by his wife. I was seated on the mediator's side of the desk, prepared to receive him.

Then, to my complete surprise, Konko-Sama himself sat down on the seeker's side of the desk.

Just imagine that for a moment. The Sixth Spiritual Head of our entire Konkokyo religious organization was sitting before me, not as someone receiving special recognition or honor, but in the same place where any ordinary believer would sit when seeking Toritsugi Mediation. I had never imagined that such a moment would occur during my years of missionary service.

Konko-Sama then greeted me with the words: “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”

He proceeded to share his message concerning his visitation. I simply listened and received his words. I then placed a packet of Goshinmai into the holder that Konko-Sama had placed upon the Toritsugi Mediation Desk. I did not say anything further.

For this very special occasion, I had also prepared tamagushi, sacred branches, for both Konko-Sama and his wife to offer. To be sitting at the Toritsugi Mediation Desk and receiving Konko-Sama himself as a seeker was something I could never have imagined. It was truly one of the most extraordinary and inconceivable moments of my nearly fifty years of missionary service.

Ever since that memorable encounter, I have continued to reflect upon its deeper meaning.

What was Konko-Sama trying to convey through his actions?

As I reflected upon this experience, I was reminded of the Fourth Konko-Sama, Rev. Kagamitaro Konko. The Fourth Konko-Sama often referred to himself simply as a believer. Although he served as *Kyōshu*, the Spiritual Head of the entire Konkokyo religious organization, he considered himself, first and foremost, a believer of the Konko faith.

If my memory serves me correctly, he taught that there should be no fundamental distinction between ministers and lay believers in our relationship with Kami-Sama. Regardless of our position or responsibilities, we are all believers. This understanding helped me appreciate the profound humility expressed through the Sixth Konko-Sama's actions at the Toritsugi Mediation Desk.

I was also reminded of something Rev. Hiromichi Konko himself shared about the expression, “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”

In the July 2026 issue of *Face to Faith*, published by the Konkokyo International Center, he explained that when he says, “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu” he is not referring to any one particular individual. Rather, many people come to his mind: Ikigami Konko Daijin, Tenchi Kane No Kami, his ancestors, numerous Mitama spirits, successive Konko-Samas and their wives, everyone around him, and everything that takes care of him.

He also shared that he naturally calls out “Konko-Sama!” even when his child stumbles over a stone. He has been trained to call upon Konko-Sama in times of emergency, and he expresses his gratitude every day.

These words made a deep impression upon me. They helped me understand that “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu” is not simply an expression of appreciation toward one particular person. It is an acknowledgment of the countless visible and invisible blessings that sustain our lives.

Reflecting upon this teaching, I began to understand more deeply the significance of Konko-Sama's visitation. By sitting on the

seeker's side of the Toritsugi Mediation Desk, he demonstrated through his own actions that he, too, is a believer who receives the blessings of Kami-Sama through Toritsugi. At the same time, I felt that his actions expressed deep respect and appreciation for the ministers who have faithfully served Kami-Sama at their respective churches.

This understanding became even more meaningful as I reflected upon the one-hundred-year history of our Konko faith communities in North America and Hawaii.

The organized development of our faith communities was greatly influenced by the visitation of Rev. Kōkichi Katashima from Japan in 1926. During his travels, he learned that two Konkokyo faith communities had already been established in Seattle. Following his visitation, the Seattle Konkokyo Mamichi Kai was organized, and similar groups developed in Tacoma, Los Angeles, and Hawaii. These early Mamichi Kai organizations eventually grew into the Konko faith communities we know today.

Their continued existence was made possible through the sincere efforts, prayers, and sacrifices of generations of ministers and believers. For one hundred years, our faith communities have continued to express their gratitude through both words and actions: “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”

As I reflect upon our own experience at Wahiawa Church, I realize that my wife and I have been expressing these very words through our daily services for nearly half a century. Our daily service to Kami-Sama, which we call *goyo*, begins from the moment we wake up in the morning.

We prepare the cooked rice offering for Kami-Sama, clean and care for the church, serve at the Toritsugi Mediation Desk, and recite our daily prayers. We visit our parent church, the Konko Mission of Honolulu, whenever church services are held. We prepare and distribute church newsletters, along with letters of appreciation to Amagi Church in Japan and to Konko-Sama at Gohonbu Headquarters. We also participate in church functions, pilgrimages to Gohonbu, and other activities that support the development of our faith.

These may appear to be ordinary duties that we perform day after day. However, when I reflect upon their deeper meaning, I realize that each of these activities is an expression of our gratitude to Kami-Sama.

Through our daily goyo, we are continually saying: “Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”

And I believe this applies not only to ministers but to every one of us who practices the Konko faith.

When you come to church to worship, when you participate in goyo, when you make offerings to Kami-Sama, or when you help someone experiencing difficulties, you are expressing your gratitude. Even when we do not speak the words aloud, our sincere actions can become our way of saying:
“Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”

After nearly half a century of serving Kami-Sama, I have come to one simple conclusion:
Live as a Konko believer under any circumstances.

Whether we experience happiness or sorrow, good health or illness, success or disappointment, we should strive to live each day as sincere believers of the Konko faith. Our faith should not be something that we practice only when we come to church or attend a special ceremony. Rather, it should become a natural part of our everyday lives, reflected in the way we think, speak, treat others, and respond to life's blessings and challenges.

The continued existence of our local faith communities depends upon believers who sincerely live their faith. The work of our churches cannot be sustained by ministers alone. Our churches continue because there are believers who practice the teachings of our Founder and carry the faith forward from one generation to the next.

As we commemorate one hundred years of organized Konkokyo propagation in North America and Hawaii, my hope for the future is simple. I wish to see our Konko faith communities continue to grow and flourish, not merely in the number of churches or believers, but in the sincerity of those who truly live the faith. I hope that our children, grandchildren, and future generations will continue to recognize Kami-Sama's blessings and discover the joy of practicing the Konko faith.

The Sixth Konko-Sama's unexpected visit to the Toritsugi Mediation Desk reminded me that regardless of our position, title, or years of service, we are all believers standing before Kami-Sama. We are all sustained by divine blessings, and we all have something for which to be grateful.

As we celebrate today's Autumn Grand Ceremony, may we renew our commitment to living as sincere Konko believers. And may the spirit of gratitude that has sustained our faith for the past one hundred years continue

for another one hundred years and beyond. Above all, may we always be able to express, naturally and sincerely, from the depths of our hearts:

“Konko-Sama, Arigatou Gozaimasu.”
Thank you very much.

KCNA Youth Camp 2026 in Toronto

Mr. Michio Konko, Konko Mission of Honolulu

Today, I want to write about. Before the conference even started, our flight was actually delayed. It wasn't too much of a deal however, and gave me much more time to pack all of my things I needed, which I am always thankful for. After we took our train to the airport, we went through several flights that in total amounted to 11 hours, in which I slept through 2 hours of it.



During my time in the conference, I did many activities. My favorites being biking around the island, and Saturday Night Live. Before I went biking, I went on a boat together with the rest of the Youth Campers. They gave us mints that I personally didn't really like, but the aftertaste was pretty good.



Afterwards, we ate some pizza, and and went on the bike, although it was way larger than what I expected, and was reminiscent of a car, which is probably why they got Max, one of the Youth Campers staff, to drive it. We split into three groups, and we raced each other. We followed the path around the island, and we managed to get first place, although we may have mislead the other team by U-turning.



Saturday Night Live was pretty fun to practice, I had the role of one of the demons, and had to learn a simple dance, and had five lines in total. The role was simple but still fun to practice, and I think that my favorite part to rehearse was when we (pretended) to throw and trash some clothes for our role. Though I'm not actually sure what I looked like while performing, since I didn't look at any footage from Saturday Night Live, I like to think that I was the best on there, (I totally didn't fumble one of the lines.)

Overall, this was a great experience and I hope something like this happens next year.

A Day of Blessings

Ms. Aimee Yasutake, Konko Mission of Wailuku

This article was translated into Japanese for the Konko Shimbun

On August 15, 2026, the Konko Missions in Hawaii celebrated their 100th Anniversary at the Koolau Ballrooms in Kaneohe on the Windward side of Oahu, with the theme: 100 Years of Faith: Continuing to Serve Kami and the People of Hawaii.

The venue was chosen with visions of welcoming guests from across the state as well as the mainland and Japan with majestic views of the Koolau mountain range, blue skies and turquoise oceans to showcase Hawaii's natural beauty. However, Kami Sama sent us a test…a test of our faiths. First came the closure of the main road to the venue…the shortest route to the ballrooms was cut off for repairs after being washed out by a storm that hit the area. We had to ask everyone to tack on an additional 20 minute drive through a detour to access the venue.

And then came the tropical storm warning. A large scale tropical storm which was later upgraded to a category 1 hurricane was headed to the islands…destined to make land fall and deliver impacts to much of the state on the very weekend of the celebration. The committee weighed our options…do we cancel the event all together…which would mean tossing aside all the hours of planning and preparation that was already spent, not to mention the financial commitments to the venue, and the fact that we were welcoming Konko Sama. If we just gave up, all would be lost. But could we really ask people to risk their safety just to attend? What was the right thing to do? After much contemplation and prayer, we decided to carry on with the event. Even if it meant just a fraction of the attendance we had planned for.

I woke up that morning to overcast skies and the occasional gust of wind, still milder than what was forecast. There was even a peek of blue sky! I checked the weather app…the storm was stalling just south of the Big Island, which meant maybe, just maybe, the weather would hold up long enough for our event! On the way to the venue we saw a few fallen branches on the road. I said an extra prayer to please get everyone safely.

To be able to celebrate 100 years is in itself a blessing beyond measure. When I think about the sacrifices and hardships those who came before us had to endure to keep the faith going and keep churches open through the darkest of times in our history, I am left in awe of Kami Sama's power and love for us.









Orei Sanpai Pilgrimage

December 8-16, 2026

Join us on a pilgrimage to the Konkokyo Headquarters in Okayama and Sone Church in Hyogo Pref. to give thanks for our many blessings, including KMH's 100th anniversary. Contact your local church for more details.



















Konko Missions in Hawaii

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KMH Mission Statement

The Konko Missions in Hawaii addresses the spiritual needs of the people of Hawaii by promoting the Konko faith through a better understanding of the life and teachings of Konko Daijin, and through the practice of Toritsugi (Divine-Mediation).

"Malamalama" is now available through email!

For our devoted readers who would like to receive the "Malamalama" electronically, please let us know at kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org

For our readers who would still prefer a hard (paper) copy, please do not hesitate and let us know.

Thank you!

We welcome any and all article contributions! If you have an interesting story of faith, inspiration or have any ideas or suggestions for material you'd like to see in future issues of the Malamalama, we are all ears! Please contact us at kmhcenter@konkomissionshawaii.org

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