

Konko Mission of Honolulu

2026 CHURCH SCHEDULE REMINDER

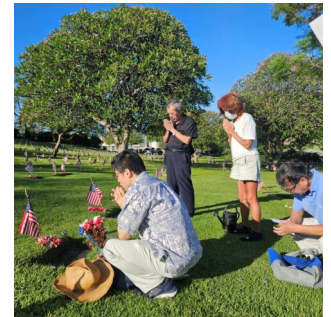


May

MAY	Spring Grand Service –Wailuku 5/3, Hilo 5/17	
3	Sunday Service	
10	Monthly Service – Shintokai Meeting	
17	Sunday Service – Church Goyo	
24	Monthly Service, Monthly Memorial Service & Rev. Masahiko Yoshino Annual Memorial Service	
30	Sunday Service	Church Clean-up

Memorial Day Visiting Gravesite of Punchbowl:

Each year on Memorial Day, members of Konkō Missions in Hawai'i gather to pray at the graves of over 30 Konkōkyō members interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (Punchbowl). This year's visitation will take place on May 25. We invite you to join us; please meet at the Konkō Mission of Honolulu at 7:00 a.m. The visit typically lasts about two hours. For your comfort, please bring drinking water, a hat, and sunscreen.



April Sermon Summaries:

Sermon Summary: The Two Pillars of Nurturing

At the Spring Grand Service of the Konko Mission of Honolulu, Rev. Yoki Sekiguchi shared a profound and personal reflection on the concept of nurturing (mentoring). As he enters his second year as the head minister of the Hilo Church, Rev. Sekiguchi revisited the Konko Church Rules, specifically Article 127, which mandates that a church must carry out activities of salvation, nurturing, outreach, and service.

Admitting that the word "nurturing" did not initially "click" with him due to his own perceived lack of experience in raising others, Rev. Sekiguchi used the occasion of the Grand Service to explore what it means to nurture from the perspective of a parent—mirroring the heart of Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama.

The Dual Nature of Love: Maternity and Paternity

Rev. Sekiguchi proposed that true nurturing is built upon two essential elements: Maternity and Paternity. While we often focus on the gentle, all-encompassing love of the Divine, he argued that nurturing only becomes complete when both aspects are present.

Maternity (Gentle Love): This is the love that forgives and embraces everything regardless of the circumstances. Rev. Sekiguchi recalled his grandmother, who symbolized this warmth and kindness. This "maternal" love is the foundation of our world and our faith, providing the security we need to feel loved by Kami.

Paternity (Tough Love): Paternity involves protecting, educating, and—most importantly—encouraging independence. It often wears a "mask of strictness." Rev. Sekiguchi noted that in an era of individualism, many people become overly dependent on maternal love, struggling to face the hardships of society. He suggested that "paternal" love is the necessary "strong medicine" that prepares a person to "leave the nest" and survive the "savannah" of the real world.

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Personal Lessons in "Strong Medicine"

To illustrate the power of paternal nurturing, Rev. Sekiguchi shared two pivotal stories from his own life:

The "Strong Medicine" of Rev. Kunito: Early in his training on the Big Island, Rev. Sekiguchi's mentor, Rev. Kunito, forced him onto the road to drive 30 minutes to a hotel—despite the fact that he barely had a license and had only practiced in parking lots. Rev. Kunito called this "strong medicine," insisting that without risk and courage, there is no growth. This moment of "tough love" became a cornerstone of Rev. Sekiguchi's independence.

The Silent Tears of a Grandfather: Rev. Sekiguchi recalled leaving Japan in 2014. His grandfather, a strict and quiet man, saw him off at the station with tears in his eyes but said almost nothing. Years later, Rev. Sekiguchi realized those were tears of "paternal compassion"—the heart of a parent who knows their child will face hardships but allows them to go anyway, hoping they have the strength to survive.

Nurturing as Pure Love

Rev. Sekiguchi concluded that nurturing is not merely being "nice." In fact, he argued that many people today remain silent when they see someone doing wrong because they fear being disliked or taking responsibility. He challenged the congregation to recognize that true religious love sometimes requires the courage to speak up, take risks, and play the "bad role" if it means helping someone grow.

"Nurturing is pure love. It has two sides: a mother's gentle love that embraces everything, and a father's strict love that encourages independence for the long term."

By embodying both the gentle embrace and the firm guidance of Tenchi Kane No Kami-Sama, we can truly help one another find salvation and strength. Rev. Sekiguchi pledged to move forward in his ministry by combining his grandfather's long-term vision, Rev. Kunito's courage to take risks, and the fundamental patience of Kami's heart.

[YouTube: Spring Grand Service April 5, 2026 - Konko Mission of Honolulu](#)

Finding the Secret to a Long, Blessed Life

Introduction: A Life of 103 Years

In his recent sermon, Rev. Koichi shared a deeply personal and inspiring story centered around his grandmother, who celebrated her 103rd birthday on March 30th. Surrounded by five children, four grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren, she remains a pillar of health and vitality. Despite facing significant hardships—losing her husband at age 53 and her eldest son (Rev. Koichi's father) 14 years ago, as well as caring for her 75-year-old son with Down syndrome—she lives without medication and maintains an active lifestyle.

Rev. Koichi reflected on her longevity by referencing *The Voice of the Universe*, Page 90 (III Konkyo Kyogoroku 280):

"People, who are able to live because of the blessings of Kami, should work for Kami everyday. The daily work that you do is your faith training. Therefore, if you work with a thankful heart, you can receive great blessings everyday."

The Power of Routine and Gratitude

During her birthday celebration at a local restaurant, Rev. Koichi's grandmother addressed the family with a simple yet profound message. She attributed her health to never dwelling on painful memories, choosing instead to focus on the joy of the present.

Her secret lies in her daily routine. Every morning at 6:00 a.m., she walks to the Hiromae (Main Worship Hall) of the Konkokyo Headquarters to participate in morning prayers (Gokinen). Following this, she visits the Okutsuki (grave) of the Founder, and successive Konko-sama. This ritual is not just physical exercise; it is a spiritual "cleansing" that refreshes her heart.

She views her life's purpose as seeing her family—the "Makoto-no-ie" (House of Sincerity)—prosper. To her, "prospering" does not mean accumulating wealth, but rather being of service to the Konko Faith and society, just as her husband and son did before her.

"It's Just My Daily Work"

When asked how she maintains such energy at 103, she often humbly replies, "I don't do anything special." She doesn't rely on supplements or intense exercise. Instead, she maintains a disciplined life: eating regular meals (Japanese breakfast, or bread, and yogurt), getting enough sleep, and walking about 30 minutes daily through mountain paths to complete her prayers.

She treats her faith and her daily walks like "work" or a job that must be done. This sense of duty, performed with a thankful heart, transforms her daily tasks into a "faith training" that sustains her physical body.

The Art of "Setting Things Aside"

One of the most impactful parts of the sermon was Rev. Koichi's discussion on how his grandmother handles suffering. We all face pain, resentment, or sadness, and it is natural to let these feelings grow until they consume us, making us feel gloomy.

Rev. Koichi's sister-in-law once asked her exactly how she avoids thinking about the painful things. Her grandmother clarified: "It is not that I don't think about them. Painful and difficult things certainly exist. However, I choose to set them aside for a moment."

Rev. Koichi explained that dwelling on resentment is a "waste of the heart" and a "waste of life." By consciously choosing to recall happy memories and beautiful moments instead of "spending" her heart's energy on grievances, she maintains her internal peace. She teaches us that as we approach the end of our journey, it is better to finish life with a heart full of gratitude than one filled with bitterness.

Conclusion: Living with "Lucky Man" Faith

Rev. Koichi concluded by highlighting the importance of humility and acceptance. His grandmother lives with a strong sense of security, feeling protected by Kami. Rev. Koichi humorously compared this to a character called "Lucky Man"—no matter how strong the enemy, he wins through sheer luck. In faith, "luck" is the realization that we are always being watched over.

The secret to happiness shared in this sermon is twofold:

Avoid the "Waste of the Heart": Do not fixate on complaints or old wounds. Acknowledge them, but set them aside to make room for gratitude.

Acceptance: Be humble and accept things as they are.

As a role model in her community, Rev. Koichi's grandmother reminds us that our lives are sustained by the blessings of Kami. Whether we are young or old, every day is an opportunity to perform our "daily work" with a thankful heart, ensuring that we live our lives to the fullest without wasting the precious time we have been given.

[YouTube: Sunday Service April 19, 2026 - Konko Mission of Honolulu](#)

Living Through the Heart of Faith

Introduction: The Power of the Heart

We all desire a life that is easier to live, more enjoyable, and filled with the toughness to withstand any challenge. The foundation of such a life lies within a single principle found in *Voice of the Universe* (Page 35, No. 108): **"Whether you save or kill yourself depends upon your own heart."**

This teaching reminds us that the outcome of any event in our lives is determined not by the event itself, but by how we receive it—either through our fleeting emotions or through the lens of faith. Consider a simple example: when a parent scolds us, we might feel resentful and think, "I'm being yelled at!" In that state, there is no room for growth. However, if a mentor scolds us and we receive it

with a heart of gratitude, thinking, "They are teaching me," we find joy and an opportunity to evolve.

When we view problems, difficult people, or unexpected situations as things "sent by Kami-sama", our perspective shifts. Instead of stopping at "Why is this happening to me?"—a question that leads only to sadness and stress—we can view it as "training in faith." By engaging with our struggles through faith, we accumulate virtue and pave a path toward a happy future.

Body: Lessons from the Delivery Route

In a story titled "In the Spring Light," we find a powerful example of this transformation. A man ran a small retail shop selling handmade tableware and everyday items. Because his goods were popular as gifts, he often personally delivered them to local customers. To him, delivery was merely a post-sale chore.

Being naturally inclined toward laziness, he often complained. If it was too hot, too cold, or raining, he would head out reluctantly. If a customer wasn't home, he grumbled; if an address was wrong, he became furious. His mood was a slave to the attitudes of his customers. If someone was unfriendly or yelled, "Just leave it there!" because they were busy watching a losing sports game or a gripping TV drama, he felt deeply frustrated, thinking, "Don't they know how much trouble I went through to bring this?"

Though he was already a practitioner of Konkokyo, he realized his faith was self-centered. He recalled the Founder's teaching: "**You are very patient, but you are only suppressing your anger. This will damage your spirits. What you are doing is not enough. You must go a step further by not getting angry at all. It will be like medicine for your body.**" (*Voice of the Universe* 260).

He began to apologize to Kami-sama for his obstinate and short-tempered nature. He realized he had been viewing the world only through his own convenience. He decided to change. He began to consider the customer's perspective. Instead of just saying words, he truly felt, "I'm sorry to disturb you while you're busy," and "Thank you." When issues arose, instead of making excuses, his first thought became, "I must apologize for the inconvenience."

This shift changed his entire business. He began to feel genuine gratitude for customers who chose his shop out of so many others. Even on days when sales were low, he felt thankful for the customers who did come. This gratitude soon spilled over into his personal life. He began to see that his very life was sustained by the food he ate and the warmth of his bedding. He realized that humans live between Heaven and Earth—with Heaven as our Father and Earth as our Mother—receiving endless blessings.

He understood that discontent stems from a self-centered heart. By consciously practicing gratitude, he found a sense of peace. He started every morning by saying, "**I am given life today. Thank you.**" This simple act made his entire day vibrant.

Conclusion: Embracing the "Tests" of Life

In *Voice of the Universe* (Page 81, No. 251), it says: "**The more fervent your faith, the more you will be tested. Having such tests is having divine blessings.**"

The man in the story changed because he wanted a better life. He chose to focus on blessings rather than blame. It is natural to complain, but faith helps us notice the care we have already received. When we encounter a "test," we should not stop or turn back. If we give up on the path to a happy future, we may disappoint the Divine Parent who is rooting for our growth.

Rev. Kametaro Nakayama, a Konko minister who lost both hands and a leg in a train accident, once said: "**Struggle earnestly, live truthfully, love your destiny, and make the most of it.**" To live truthfully is to understand that both you and I are beloved children of Kami-sama, sustained by the same Divine Grace. Let us continue our training in faith so that when problems arise, we can be tough enough to overcome them. By living together with Kami-sama, we can truly enjoy a happy and fulfilled life.

[YouTube: Monthly Service April 26, 2026 - Konko Mission of Honolulu](#)