

No. 187 MARCH 2007

ORIGINS

*Finally this time, a trustworthy place of worship
has begun to appear. Be convinced of it!*

Ofudesaki I:56



*SHIGETO GRAND CHURCH GAGAKU ENSEMBLE
SHIGETO GAYOKAI
ALA MOANA CENTER STAGE 2/28*

Message from the Head of the Overseas Department
February 26, Tenrikyo 170

I would like to commend you for your daily effort in your respective positions.

This year is considered a record-breaking warm winter and days which bring to mind the joyous spring season, have continued. On such a warm day, the February monthly service was joyously performed in unison with the Shinbashira as the core.

In his prayer, the Shinbashira mentioned that even now, 170 years since the teachings were revealed, the state of the world is still focused on self-centered thoughts, and he vowed that we would strive daily to make the Divine Model of Oyasama our standard way of life, and that our churches will apply their effort in administering the Sazuke and perform the service with perfection, befitting a place which represents the Jiba. And as a place that exemplifies the joyous life, he vowed that we would more than adequately strive to fulfill our responsibility to make our churches a place that can bring comfort to people.

Following the service, Honbu-in Reverend Sumiharu Ueda gave the sermon.

First he talked about the true meaning behind the revelation of our faith from the stand point of the 170th year of the teachings, and that the reason God the Parent created humankind was from the 'desire to see humankind live the joyous life.' On top of that from the Instruction Two he mentioned that "by saving people through teaching the origin is the essence of salvation on this path," and reading all the verses in the 2nd and 14th parts of the Ofudesaki that mentions the origin, he emphasized the importance of completely understanding the meaning of the origin in an easy to comprehend manner.

Continuing on, he reflected on the words of the Shinbashira during the Autumn Grand Service last year, urging us to further emphasize the mind of salvation cultivated during a crisis and to apply our effort toward missionary work as the core of our church activities. He further urged our churches to align their effort with the Jiba and become exemplary models of salvation in our communities as we advance toward the next milestone to come. He also read from a special publication of the Michi-No-Tomo dedicated to church activities which talked about the changes in mindset experienced by head ministers and members who diligently performed the Sazuke at their monthly services and about churches whose effort in spreading the name of God and promoting activities in their communities brought about increased trust from their surrounding neighborhoods. Using these two churches as examples, he talked about churches that are applying their effort in becoming exemplary models of salvation in their communities.

He also talked about the Seminar for Head Ministers and the Successors Seminars to be held this year and urged our participation to further our spiritual growth.

Lastly, he urged us to spiritedly strive toward the next milestone in a manner that will bring joy to God the Parent.

Next month marks the transition period within the church headquarters. Transitions within the departments of the Overseas Department will occur from March 15th. During this time of new beginnings, I would like to cooperate with each other in close communication.

Yoichiro Miyamori, Head of the Tenrikyo Overseas Department

February Monthly Service Prayer

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, who resides in this shrine, I, (Michihito Hamada, bishop of the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii) pray with reverence.

As we live in this world taught to us as the bosom of God the Parent, we constantly receive Your over-flowing grace and blessings, which grants us the free use of our bodies as we advance toward the realization of the joyous life world. These boundless blessings are truly more than we can accept. We deeply express our gratitude for Your grace, as we proceed in high spirits toward the path of sincerity, which we are shown through the Divine Model of Oyasama.

Today is the day we are granted to conduct the February monthly service at this mission headquarters. The service performers will unite their hearts to perform the seated service and Teodori joyously in high spirits. Today, as you view the brothers and sisters of the path who have looked forward to this day singing the songs of the service in unison with hearts filled with gratitude for Your parental love, we hope that You can be spirited as well.

Yesterday the Seminar for Chairwomen of Branch Chapters was held and honored with the presence and lecture by Mrs. Hiroko Murata, the representative from the Headquarters of the Women's Association, to encourage further the spiritual growth of chapter heads. Also, on the 19th, the three Associations will carry out a joint effort hinokishin at the Tenri Cultural Center so that it will be used to its fullest and through those activities spread the teachings.

We vow to exert our effort for those who are troubled and worried that they have nowhere to turn to, and we vow to imbed in our hearts, the joy of following unwaveringly, the path of sincerity for generations to come. We further resolve to devote ourselves in the effort of single-hearted salvation by planting seeds that will enable the realization of the Joyous Life.

May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that you guide us toward reconstructing the world where we can spend our days living in harmony by helping one another.

Together with everyone present, I pray for these blessings.

Dendocho February Monthly Service Sermon
Reverend Ronald Yama
(Tenrikyo Kalihi Church)



This year I will be 72 years old. How did I get this old so fast? Seems like yesterday that I was young, just married and embarking on a new life.

Today I would like to talk about how grateful I am to have God the Parent bless me with good living day to day.

Thirty years ago I never even thought about how lucky I was to be alive and healthy and enjoying each day with my family. Being alive and healthy and having a nice family was taken for granted. Fortunately, the years went by without any problems or bad incidents. I was never in any serious accidents or had any bad injury or major illness requiring special doctor's care or long hospitalization. Each day went by practically without any concerns or regards for tomorrow.

At age 33 I succeeded my father and became the second head minister of Kalihi Church. Not knowing what the future had for me, I wholeheartedly participated in church work as diligently as I did my profession as a civil engineer and for over thirty years I continued working while running a church. I used to be known as the engineer-bonsan. I didn't mind that at all and I considered it to be one way to spread the fragrance or "Nioigake", although I never converted anyone to become a church member. Most of the church members were members from my father's time. And new yobokus were either from my family and relatives or children of church members. Having two jobs kept me constantly busy almost every day of the week .

Concerning church work, I was never the "door to door Nioigake" type. Instead my nioigake was talking to or praying for friends and business associates who got sick or hospitalized or got injured and needed counseling. Although my schedule was tight I decided that every month on the 26th I take a day off to attend Yohaishiki at Dendocho, which I continue to the present day. Of course I made sure I worked overtime to make up for the time I took off

February Monthly Service Sermon

to attend Yohaishiki because I was paid by salary and didn't want to take advantage of the engineering company, even if the owner of the company said it was not necessary. While attending college, I worked part-time as a junior engineer and after college I was given a full time position as a civil engineer. The owner of the company offered to pay for my tuition but I declined saying that it was better if I paid it by myself. I worked diligently and passed the exam to get my license as a professional engineer. For many years the company personnel were only the owner, his wife and myself. But as the company grew and prospered they made me a vice president and gave me shares in the company, for which I was very grateful and pledged to support the company as long as possible. I finally retired after working over 40 years. I was very grateful for being able to work for so long with no major physical, social, or financial problems although I had to hurdle many hardships. I believe that it was possible due to God's blessings. In Song IX verse two, we sing "Second, Against any hardship I will protect you; so lean closely on the mind of God". I believe that by leaning on the mind of God I was able to overcome the hardship of working, while at the same time running a church. I am also very thankful for the support and understanding I received from my church members and family. While working I didn't have much time to spare but I was happy to be able to assist Dendocho in many

of its planning, construction and repair work. I still remember drawing a simple plan for the first Dendocho bazaar sales booth, doing survey work for the Culture Center and Dendocho, consolidation of the Culture Center property into one lot, participating in preparing studies for its master plan and countless other work. To my dismay, many of the proposed plans for the Culture Center were just shelved, due to lack of funds. Maybe making full use of the Culture Center will be with the next generation. But each day was a challenge and enjoyable.

Now, forty years later and retired, each day is precious and I try to make it enjoyable and fulfilling. Every night I pray that tomorrow will be another precious day and hope that there will be many healthy years ahead for me. Every morning when I wake up I thank God that I have another day to live and enjoy.

There are some fruit trees in my yard. I have two large mango trees and an avocado tree. Every year I savored the time when I can pick the ripe fruits, give them to my friends, relatives and church members and see their happy faces. Ten years ago, climbing the fruit trees was no problem. But now it is different. Looking down even from ten feet above seems more like I was twenty feet high. Two and a half years ago I fell down from a ladder from about eight feet up while trimming the avocado tree. Luckily I fell on dirt instead of on bricks that were there

February Monthly Service Sermon

a few days before. I had blacked-out for a while and don't remember how I drove to Dendocho, prayed for help and drove back home. I was blessed by suffering only a sore back and not being able to walk for a few days. There were no fractures in my spine. Doctor Andrew Matsukawa gave me therapy to get back to normal. Now I realize how reckless I was when I picked mangos from about twenty feet high and think about what could have happened.

The following happened about eight years ago. My house is two storied and my son's bedroom is just above our kitchen. One day, I realized that ground termites damaged a major part of the walls and structural members of the kitchen. It was in imminent danger of the second floor collapsing if the damage wasn't repaired immediately. The repair work was estimated to cost about \$35,000.00. I called several banks for a loan but was politely refused. The reason was that I did not have any income to repay the loan. My retirement account funds were insufficient to cover the cost so I was desperate and didn't know what to do. I couldn't wait too long either. Then I got God's blessing again, just a few days later, knowing of my dilemma someone called me and asked me if I knew about a special kind of mortgage called the reverse mortgage for senior citizens 62 years and older. I was 64 and my wife was 62 so we qualified. After a short one hour session, the reverse mortgage company's representative

explained clearly and convinced me to accept. The reverse mortgage allows me to borrow a large sum of money without having to make monthly payments. We can live in the house for as long as my wife and I lived. Should we both pass away, our heirs can pay back the mortgage and keep the house or sell it and receive the net proceeds. This was the only way for me to pay for the repair work. Also, if the second floor collapsed, the whole house would be affected and the repair cost would be tenfold. The kitchen was repaired and I could rest assured that the house was back to being safe and livable. I feel that this was also a blessing from God the Parent for the many years of fervently following the teachings.

Presently, I have a lot of physical problems. My knees are hurting and sitting down on the floor (seiza) is not possible. In my case, the cartilage between the bones is adequate but the ligament cannot stretch enough. Luckily, I still can walk or sit or bend down. The orthopedic surgeon informed me that there is no need to have surgery and the knees should heal in time. After receiving the Sazuke from Bishop Hamada, I was informed that I should make more trips to the Jiba, since leg problem may signify "hakobi (lack of) or not going often enough". Jiba is the place where we are saved. When I mentioned my financing is limited, he suggested coming more often to Dendocho instead. Dendocho is a place representing Jiba. Like an old car,

February Monthly Service Sermon

all kinds of problems started to appear. I am slowly losing my hair and pretty soon I might be completely bald. Last year in January, when I was in Jiba, someone offered me his cap and said I needed it more than he did. I was surprised but just said "ThankYou". My eyesight is getting bad and need glasses to read. My hearing is not too good either and is hurting my conversation with others. Some day I need to see a specialist and get hearing aids so that I won't give dumb answers because I didn't hear correctly. I was told that loss of hearing is the symptom of talking too much. Like saying things that others do not want to hear. So I believe that God takes away your hearing to keep you quiet or think and say the right things. Maybe I should be listening more than talking. Recently when I ask for something my wife says that she already told me. This is another problem of being forgetful. One day when we went for dinner, I couldn't chew on the meat because I forgot to put on my partial dentures. Sometimes after

meeting an old acquaintance, I spend hours trying to remember the name of that person. Sometimes I cannot sleep until I remember. Many times I forget where I left things. But with all of these physical problems, I am still grateful that they are minor. I can live with these problems. When I look around, there are many who are in worse condition than I am. So I should not feel sorry for myself. Even if you have bad causation I believe God accepts the sincere efforts made to follow the teachings and makes life livable and tolerable. Thus when I look back, the thirty six years I spent as a Tenrikyo minister is truly a blessing. Oyasama and God the Parent kept me out of trouble all these years and made me realize how great following the teachings and diligently performing the morning and evening and monthly services were.

This year is the first year in preparation for Oyasama's 130th Anniversary and I look forward to being able to attend the service in 2016.

March Monthly Service

March 18, 2007 (Sunday, 9:00 a.m.)

Sermon in Japanese by Reverend Tadamasa Nishimura

English Interpretation by Reverend Setsuo Kakitani

Encounters with Salvation



**by Ann Nakao Yasuda (Net Hawaii/
Amijima)**

The last of five children to Tadayoshi and Hisako Nakao, Ann Yasuda, 38, reflects on how her late father's nurturing gave her faith. Her father passed away for rebirth fourteen years ago.

My father always encouraged me to explore different religious teachings and also sent me to private schools where I became familiar with Christian doctrine. But I was somehow drawn to Tenrikyo. My decision to follow in the Tenrikyo path was not a sudden realization but a gradual process. My father was an atheist prior to meeting my mother and since she didn't push or pressure him about Tenrikyo, he gradually adopted the faith through his own self-realization. My father had an interest in science and we would discuss how the theory of evolution and the Tenrikyo Truth of Creation were very similar. Although,

my father had a lot of influence on me, I feel grateful that he left the decision of faith up to me. My father has since passed for rebirth and my mother is the present head of Net Hawaii Mission Station.

In 1986 my father took the whole family to Jiba during the year of Oyasama's 100th Anniversary and eight of us, including my siblings, their spouses and my aunt, went to Besseki lectures and received our Sazuke. This was the beginning of my life as a Yoboku and many blessings to come.

I was in a car accident when I was about 26 years old. Someone made a sudden left in front of me and I couldn't stop in time. About a year later, I started having severe back pains and was unable to walk. This spinal injury required sudden decision for surgery. I had a second surgery eight years later when I re-injured my back. It just so happened that during the time of both surgeries my mother was in Jiba where she was able pray for me at the Foundress' Sanctuary.

I believe it was due to my family's strong faith: my mother's prayers, my brother Steven's daily ministering of the Sazuke and my family's prayers supported me through the two surgeries and my recover from my back injury. I certainly don't feel as if I did anything special to receive such a blessing. However, I did learn wholeheartedly how important it was to lean on God the Parent for strength.

When I attend the monthly service I sometimes become overwhelmed with emotion because a certain verse would have a special meaning to me at different times in my life. The verses haven't changed and yet a particular teaching would be revealed to me and I feel a special closeness to God. It is like listening to the Besseki Lectures, you appreciate different parts of the teachings each time you listen.

One of my biggest blessings was my husband Tracy's acceptance of the Tenrikyo faith. It was a gradual process for him, too. He attended the monthly services at Net Hawaii and was interested in the doctrine as interpreted by my mother through me. Everything made sense to him and he applied the teachings in coping with everyday problems. Last March, in the year of Oyasama's 120th Anniversary, he made his first return trip to Jiba with my mother, two of my brothers, Albert and Steven, their spouses (Mary and Shigemi), children and me. He really became convinced of this faith. He said when he observed the morning service at the main Sanctuary, he was simply amazed and felt overwhelmed with emotion upon hearing the strong and joyful voices of followers singing in unison. Now he understands

the words, "welcome home" when people are greeted upon "returning" to Jiba. He now says he wants to return home to Jiba. He even has a screen saver photo of the Cherry Blossoms and the main Sanctuary on his computer.

During this past pilgrimage in March, my niece's husband, Wade, my other niece's fiancé, Jeff and my husband attended the Besseki lectures. My nieces (whom are Yoboku's) and I were fortunate to be able to attend Besseki again to review the teachings and all of us spent many happy moments discussing the lecture at the coffee vending machines. Tracy and Wade had the opportunity to receive the Truth of Sazuke during this trip.

Through my faith, I believe that no matter what happens we must lean on God to help us through. We cannot see what God has planned for us and misfortunes are merely guidance for us to grow from the experience. I trust and believe in the teaching, "buds grow from knots."

I want to thank my late father and my mother for their faith and nurturing. They always impressed upon me to have faith and pray for "God to make a disaster into a small misfortune and a small misfortune into no misfortune at all."

***2007 SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE
AT DENDOCHO (SHUYOKAI)***

JUNE 17 - JULY 14, 2007

Please contact Dendocho for further information

Young Faith Expressions

For the past year, Hitomi Fukuda has been serving as part of the Dendocho Kitchen Staff. Before she leaves for Japan, we asked her to share her experience in Hawaii. Thanks, Hitomi!



Hello! My name is Hitomi Fukuda. For about one year, I've been helping in the kitchen at Dendocho. It was one of the best experiences in my life, because I learned how to cook from the kitchen staff. They are so nice! We always talk and laugh while we are cooking in the kitchen. We always laugh and cry too much. Actually, I didn't like to cook before. But now, I take pleasure in cooking thanks to the

funny kitchen ladies.

During this past year, I received much guidance from God through some illnesses. And through these, I started to think about Tenrikyo teachings more than before. When I realized some of my habits and temperament, I was kind of sad. But Oyasama said, "Change your habits and temperament." So I'm trying to do that right now.

Here at Dendocho, the service is a part of my life. We do the service every morning and every evening together. But after I get back to Japan, it's all up to myself. So I will try to keep doing the service every morning and every evening, perhaps even three times a day. I think it's my first step to changing my habits and temperament. I will try my best.

I'm so glad to come to Hawaii in the year of the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama. I learned many things here. Thank you very much for all of your kindness. I LOVE HAWAII. Aloha & Mahalo!



Weekly Sunday School
Every Sunday at Dendocho
10:00 a.m. ~ 11:00 a.m.

Aloha Band Practice
Every 3rd Sunday
1:00 p.m. ~ 4 p.m. at Dendocho

ISLAND LIFE

Women's Association Chapter Chairwomen Seminar



The Seminar for Chairwomen of Branch Chapters was held on Saturday, February 25, 2007. This event, under the direction of the Women's Association of Church Headquarters, was held with an attendance of seventeen Japanese speaking and eight English speaking chapter heads. From church headquarters, Mrs. Hiroko Murata, staff of the Women's Association came to present the lecture for this event.

The seminar began at 9:30 a.m. beginning with a lecture from Mrs. Murata followed by faith experience speeches from Mrs. Ann Mikuni, chapter head of Taiheiyo Church and Mrs. Lynn Honda, chapter head of North Honolulu Church. Then a video presentation created for this semi-

nar titled, "Day by Day, Step by Step" was viewed by the chapter heads. The afternoon was spent in small discussion groups with topics from administering the sazuke, how to receive blessings, and so forth, thus broadening their horizons as foundations of the path.



Mrs. Hiroko Murata

What Do You Think?

Q: How do you use Tenrikyo in your life everyday?



Reverend Masatoshi Shamoto (73)

"I watch what people do everyday and think to myself 'What would Oyasama think about it?' Someone once asked the Second Shimbashira, 'What is Tenrikyo?' and he replied 'Look at me.' With these words in mind, I try to be an exemplary person. I try everyday to become that type of person."



Setsumi Saltman (49)

"My main thing is to always put God the Parent in the center of our world. God's blessings allow us to live everyday. So I try to live as joyously as possible. When there are conflicts I look at it as God giving me the opportunity to develop myself."



Lincoln Okada (23)

"It has become the way I am. It has become common sense for me everyday."



Kenny Miyauchi (8)

"Whenever my parents go out and me and my brothers are alone, I do the dishes for my family, because they always care about me. I'm thankful for my parents because they love me."

BGA Leadership Camp & New Year's Party

The annual Hawaii Boys and Girls Association Leadership Camp, was held on January 27 & 28, highlighting the New Year's Hinokishin and Barbeque picnic on Sunday, the 28th. Twelve leaders attended three individual workshops titled: Communication, Teamwork, and Interpersonal Relations, focusing on those aspects of leadership. The leaders were then able to apply those leadership skills in planning and conducting the games during the Barbeque picnic held the following day.

A record 100 participants gathered for the Hinokishin and Barbeque Picnic at Moili'ili Stadium Park. YMA members

came early to haul the equipment to set up a canopy and barbeque. BGA chairman Owen Nakao said, "We were blessed with really good weather and we give thanks to all who pitched in to make it such a successful event! I can't think of another event in Hawaii that focuses on children doing hinokishin. We are 'imprinting' images of community service, helping each other, teamwork, and 'transmitting' feelings of gratitude, sincerity, and faith on the minds of the children while they are young. We are laying a strong foundation of faith for the future path in Hawaii. I would like to ask the whole congregation to join us in this endeavor especially in the coming Spring Camp and Children's Summer Pilgrimage!"

New Hawaii Kai Mission Station

On February 5th, Hawaii Kai Mission Station (Hawaii Central Church) held its opening ceremony. Led by mission station head Mei Inouye, the ceremony was attended by many members of the local congregation, as well as guests from overseas. In total, over forty people attended the ceremony, including Higashichuo Grand Church Head Minister Hiroaki Kashiwagi & his wife, as well as Bishop Michihito Hamada & his wife. Congratulations to both Hawaii Kai Mission Station and Hawaii Central Church! Best of luck in your efforts to to spread salvation.



HAWAII KAI MISSION STATION
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HONOLULU, HI 96825
TELEPHONE: 808-394-6120

Tenri Cultural Center Hinokishin Day



Fathers & Sons helped to clean-up and beautify the Tenri Cultural Center

On February 19, Monday, the WA, YMA, BGA, Tenri Judo Club, Tenri Bunko and Japanese Saturday School members joined together to beautify the Tenri Cultural Center (TCC). About 150 members took part in the clean-up of the area. Said missionary Kosuke Watanabe, "I usually have to clean this area by myself and it will take several weeks to finish. But with the help of everyone we were able to finish this to perfection in only 2 hours." With the collective efforts of everyone, TCC is now looking better than ever. Thank you to everyone who participated and looking forward to seeing you at the next hinokishin!



Taking part in hinokishin



Saturday School students wipe the windows clean



Lunch courtesy of the Women's Association

Follow Miss Kokan Seminar

Members of the Young Women's Club gathered at Dendocho on February 24th to participate in the annual Follow Miss Kokan Seminar. After joyously performing the seated service and Yorozuyo together, the members listened attentively to a speech by Rev. Lynn So. In her speech, Rev. So explained some of the sacrifices that Miss Kokan made in order to serve Oyasama and God the Parent. She also reminded us to be thankful for the blessings we receive everyday and to not take anything for granted. Rev. So further emphasized the need to take care of Mother Earth by recycling – even if it is something as simple as re-using your plastic fork, or one bottle or can. Also during the morning session, the members harmoniously practiced the women's instruments with assistance from the Women's Association.



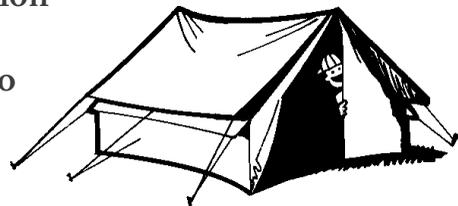
After enjoying a delicious lunch at Tai Tan Church, Rev. Owen Nakao led the members in the hand dance practice. We were reminded to keep our fingers together and settle our minds as we danced the Truth. Also in the afternoon, the YWC members had a faith discussion where they could ask various questions.

The next day, the members participated in the Tai Tan Church monthly service. After joyously performing the service, the members held a farewell party to celebrate and thank the two young women helping at Dendocho.

Boys and Girls Association Upcoming Activities

32nd Annual Boys and Girls Association
General Meeting
March 24 (Sat) 10 a.m. at Dendocho

BGA Spring Camp
March 24 (Sat) ~ March 26 (Mon)
assemble at Dendocho



ISLAND LIFE

Hawai'i Island Women's Association Oyasama Birthday Offertory Performance

On February 24, Saturday, with unusually beautiful sunny weather, the 8th Hawai'i Island Oyasama Birthday Offertory Performance was held at Kakaako Church in Hilo. All together, 43 members from Hawaii Dendocho, Kona, and other parts of the island participated. The Service was divided into four sections and was performed harmoniously and

in unison. After reciting the Slogan for Spiritual Maturity, the Guidelines for Association Activities and the resolution of the Hawaii Women's Association in Japanese and English, Mrs. Masayo Hamada, chairperson of Hawaii Women's Association, presented her speech. An enjoyable luncheon followed the formal portion.

Shigeto Grand Church Gagaku Ensemble Shigeto Gayokai

The Hawaii Gagaku Kenkyukai, headed by Rev. Masatoshi Shamoto, was pleased to welcome sixteen members, of the Shigeto Gayokai, a gagaku ensemble group, headed by Rev. Teruhito Sakamoto from Shigeto Grand Church in Kochi, Shikoku, Japan. They performed at the Ala Moana Center Stage and also at the Moon Viewing Concert on Feb. 28 at the University of Hawaii Orvis Auditorium with the Hawaii ensemble. It was the first time in the history of Hawaii that gagaku was performed at the Ala Moana Center Stage. The pieces performed varied from dances with singing to instrumentals. Gagaku, which in Japanese literally means "elegant music" was introduced to Japan in the 8th century. Gagaku is the oldest and continuously performed music in the world, which has been performed for over 1,300 years and carefully preserved

and handed down to present day as music of the Japanese Imperial Court.

The Shigeto group arrived on February 26 and departed March 1. Among the group members was a Japanese confectionary chef, Mr. Takeshi Kitahara, who generously brought 100 pieces of sweets, which was distributed to the audience after the Moon Viewing concert.



Members of the Shigeto Gayokai



**In Memory of the Late
Reverend Masaru Mitakara
Head of Leeward Mission Station**

Rev. Masaru Mitakara, head of Leeward Mission Station and serving on the board of directors of Aloha Church, passed away for rebirth at his residence on February 11. He was 92 years old. Services were held on February 24 at Mililani Mortuary, with Rev. David Kawasaki of Aloha Church as officiant. Many family and friends, as well as Tenrikyo followers attended to offer their condolences.

Personal History

11/13/1924 Born as the eldest son to parents Eikichi and Yanagi Mitakara

1943 Married Matsuno Ueno.

Daughters: Karen and Carol, Son: Roy

1974 Wife, Matsuno, established Leeward Mission Station. Rev. Mitakara later became the second head minister

Rev. Mitakara was very gentle and quiet probably as a result of growing up with three older sisters. He and his wife had opposing personalities, however they were married for 63 years together. When he was 27 years of age, he was assigned to be in the army but was released because of heart disease. In later years, he received blessings from illness such as stomach cancer and heart disease.



**In Memory of the Late Reverend Jane Imoto
Head of Ho‘olokahi Mission Station**

Rev. Jane Imoto, head of Ho‘olokahi Mission Station, passed away for rebirth on Feb. 14 at her residence. Services were held on Feb. 25 at Nu‘uanu Memorial Park, with Rev. Colin Saito of Honolulu Church as officiant. Many family members, friends, and followers of the faith gathered to offer their condolences.

Personal History

3/15/1930 Born as the youngest daughter of seven children to Saisuke and Noboyo Nishihama
1946 Graduated from McKinley High School as well as Kapiolani Community College. After working at Kaimuki Hardware and Hosoi Mortuary, she dedicated 20 years to Komatsuya Travel Agency as an accountant.

11/8/1952 Married George Imoto.

Daughter: Janyce, Son: Gerry

12/1973 Completed the Spiritual Development Course

1/1/1996 Established Ho‘olokahi Mission Station
Fell ill at the end of 2006 but was able to function on a normal basis

2/11/2007 Performed the musical instruments at the Honolulu Church Monthly Service

2/13/2007 Returned home on the bus after a doctor’s appointment by herself and went to bed after dinner, where she remained until the following morning.

During the funeral service, in his closing message representing the family, Mr. Ken Johnson mentioned that “Aunty Jane” was always very devout to her faith, sharing *kamisama* with her children and relatives.

DENDOCHO ANNOUNCEMENTS

Spring Memorial Service
March 27, Tuesday 10:00 a.m. at Dendocho

The following anniversaries will be observed at this coming Memorial Service:

10th anniversary	Rev. Masae Ideta, former head of Hauiki Mission Station
20th anniversary	Rev. Shichi Yoda, former head of Ala Moana Mission Station
30th anniversary	Rev. Ayano Hisao, second head of Maui Church
50th anniversary	Mrs.. Ei Seto, wife of the first head minister of Oahu Church
50th anniversary	Mrs. Yoshie Nakajima, wife of the first head minister of Wailuku Church

April Monthly Service

April 14 , 2007 (Saturday, 9:00 a.m.)

NEW BEGINNINGS WORKSHOP



Date: March 17, 2007 Saturday

Time: 1:00 p.m.

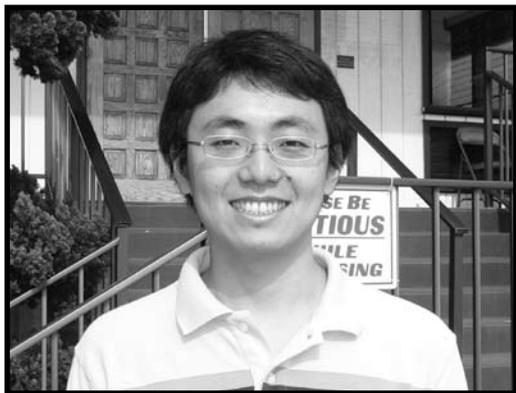
Place: Dendocho Worship Hall

Speaker: Rev. Colin Saito
of Honolulu Church

Workshop is open to everyone

Reflections on the *Tenrikyo Hawaii Dendocho 50th Anniversary*

Currently a graduate student at Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan, Mr. Norihito Takahashi is researching the history of Tenrikyo in Hawaii. We asked him to write a reflection upon reading the *Tenrikyo Hawaii Dendocho 50th Anniversary Booklet*. He has already traveled here numerous times for his research.



By Norihito Takahashi
Graduate Student of Hitotsubashi
University in Tokyo, Japan

While reading the *Tenrikyo Hawaii Dendocho 50th Anniversary Booklet*, which was published last year, I became not only overwhelmed but quickly drawn into what was written in those pages. That is because the publication itself, not only spans over 1000 pages in two volumes but also contains the “history lived” by the Tenrikyo followers in Hawaii. The “50th Anniversary” edition is not just a record of timely events but has written many episodes that occurred to the people here, and is a masterpiece that is, as written, “the blood that flows through history.” It continues to captivate the reader overflowing with

charisma. It is not difficult to imagine the long years of dedication and effort that was put into the compilation of this massive piece of work.

Currently researching the history of Tenrikyo in Hawaii, I have looked through the “History of Tenrikyo Hawaii Mission,” published in 1957, many times, however, comparing it to the current “50th Anniversary” edition, I can see that it is written with much more care and significance to the experiences of the followers. Moreover, in the “History of Churches” volume, it is written in great detail the personal histories and anecdotes of missionaries and those who came after, who established each church. We may also learn how the Tenrikyo faith took root among the people of Hawaii, being a land in a foreign country, and how it has succeeded up until now.

The “50th Anniversary” edition is first-rate research material for not only people connected to the Tenrikyo faith, but also for researchers, like myself, and it will be an important asset for the future. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for giving me this valuable opportunity, being outside of the faith, to write this reflection. Thank you very much.

Tid Bits

Associations' Reports



BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL TIME CHANGE!

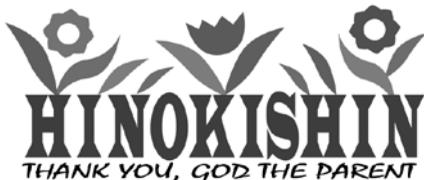
Effective March 4, Sunday School will be from 10am-12noon, instead of 9am-11:30am, except for Dendocho Monthly Service Day.

There will be no Sunday School on March 25 due to the Spring Camp. Children ages 5 and above are eligible to attend Sunday School by themselves. Under 5 must be accompanied by an adult. Please contact Janyce Imoto at 381-6034 for more information. Transportation available upon request.

GENERAL MEETING & SPRING CAMP

The 32nd Annual General Meeting and Spring Camp will be held on March 24-26, 2007 (Sat-Mon) with the General Meeting to be held on March 24 at 10am at Dendocho.

Please see related article for more information.



YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETING

There will be no meeting in March.

BGA SPRING CAMP

Volunteers are needed at the BGA Spring Camp from March 24-26th, as well as beforehand with set up.

Please contact Owen Nakao at 734-1449 to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

FOLLOW MISS KOKAN SEMINAR

Thank you to everyone that joined us at the Follow Miss Kokan Seminar on February 24th and 25th. We learned many things to help deepen our faith and had fun at the same time.

BGA SPRING CAMP

Volunteers are needed at the BGA Spring Camp from March 24-26th. Assisting at the General Meeting, supervising the children, and helping in the kitchen are just a few of the areas where help is needed. Please contact Owen Nakao at 734-1449 to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your assistance!



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Spring is here again! Spring means the Boys & Girls Association General Meeting and Spring Camp. As women of the path we have an important duty to nurture the children of the path. Let's take this opportunity to exert ourselves in hinokishin to this main event of the Boys & Girls Association of Hawaii! All types of hinokishin is greatly appreciated!

NUUANU HALE VISITATION

March 10 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY MEETING

March 12 (Mon)

Meeting 9:00 a.m.
Anecdotes of Oyasama 10:15 a.m.
Lecture from Bishop 11:15 a.m.

WOMEN'S INSTRUMENTS PRACTICE

March 13 (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

HINOKISHIN

Cherry Blossom Mochi Pounding
March 10 (Sat) 1st pounding 1:45 p.m.

TCC Hinokishin

March 17 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.

HUI O WAHINE OHANA

March 17 (Sat) 7:30 p.m.

WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

March 25 (Sun).

Please come to TCC to join in the BGA camp fire.

BAZAAR HINOKISHIN

Beginning March 7, there will be Hinokishin every Wednesday and Thursday at the West House from 9 am to 12 noon.

OYASAMA'S BIRTHDAY OFFERTORY PERFORMANCE

April 10 (Tue) 7:00 p.m.
Please wear your happi and white socks.
A \$3 donation is requested.

April 3 (Tue) 9:00 a.m.
Offertory performance practice





The Hungry Reporter

Not knowing exactly what to share this month, I browsed through the Food Network website and found this great recipe in the slow cooking section. This is an original shared by Paula Deen. Perfect for either the working person or someone who has a lot of time to spend cooking. You could either use a slow cooker if you don't have the time, or slow cook it over the stove if you do. Children and even adults love the flavor of tacos so I'm sure everyone

will enjoy this soup version. My taste buds are starting to salivate even as I type this. Enjoy!!

Paula Deen's Taco Soup

Ingredients

Ground Beef	2 lbs
Diced Onions	2 cups
Pinto Beans	2-15 1/2 oz cans
Kidney Beans	1-15 1/2 oz can
Whole Kernel Corn	1-15 1/4 oz can
Mexican Style stewed tomatos	1-14 1/2 oz can
Diced Tomatos	1-14 1/2 oz can
Tomatos with Chile	1-14 1/2 oz can
Diced Green Chile	2-4 1/2 oz cans
Black Olives (slices & drained)	1-4.6 oz can
Green Olives	1/2 cup
Green Chiles sliced	1/2 cup
Taco Seasoning Mix	1-1 1/4 oz pkg
Ranch Salad Dressing	1 oz

Garnish

Corn Chips
Sour Cream
Grated Cheese
Chopped Green Onions
Picled Jalapenos

Directions

Brown the ground beef and onions in a large skillet; drain the excess fat, then transfer the browned beef and onions to a large slow cooker or a stockpot. Add the beans,, corn, tomatoes, green chiles, black olives, green olives, taco seasoning and ranch dressing mix and cook in a slow cooker on low for 6 to 8 hours or simmer over low heat for about 1 hour in a pot on the stove. To serve, place a few corn chips in each bowl and serve soup over them. Top with sour cream, cheese, green onions and jalapenos.

March 2007

3rd Sat	Missionary House Monthly Service	TCC	10:00 a.m.
4th Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Dendocho	10:00 a.m.
7th Wed	WA - Bazaar Hinokishin (Every Wednesday & Thursday)	TCC	9:00 a.m.
10th Sat	WA - Nuuanu Hale Visitation		9:30 a.m.
	Cherry Blossom Mochi Pounding		1:45 p.m.
11th Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Dendocho	10:00 a.m.
12th Mon	WA - Monthly Meeting	Dendocho	9:00 a.m.
13th Tue	WA - Musical Instruments Practice	Dendocho	9:00 a.m.
15th Thu	BGA - Staff Meeting	Dendocho	7:00 p.m.
17th Sat	TCC Hinokishin	TCC	9:00 a.m.
18th Sun	Dendocho Monthly Service	Dendocho	9:00 a.m.
	Aloha Band Practice	Dendocho	1:00 p.m.
24-26th	BGA - Spring Camp	TCC	
26th Mon	Monthly Yohaishiki	Dendocho	9:00 a.m.

April 2007

3rd Tue	Oyasama Offertory Practice	Dendocho	9:00 a.m.
7th Sat	Missionary House Monthly Service	TCC	10:00 a.m.
10th Tue	Oyasama Offertory Performance	Dendocho	7:00 p.m.

WA = Women's Association
BGA = Boys & Girls Association
YMA = Young Men's Association
YWC = Young Women's Club

TSA = Tenrikyo Student Association
RH = Rainbow Hale
WSN = Women's Support Network
TCC = Tenri Cultural Center

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Hawaii Dendocho Online: <http://www.tenrikyo-hawaii.com/news>

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Women's Association Hui O Wahine Ohana
CANNED FOOD DRIVE

We will welcome any canned food, rice, candy, etc.
Please bring your contributions by *April 14, Sunday*,
Dendocho Monthly Service day.
We kindly ask for your support and donations.