

No. 189 MAY 2007

ORIGINS

*Hereafter, I shall arrange for the settling of matters within.
The mind of God is hastening it.*

Ofudesaki I:58



*Followers from Hawaii in Jiba
for Oyasama's Birthday Celebration (4/18)
Inner Courtyard*

Message from the Head of the Overseas Department

April 26, Tenrikyo 170

I would like to commend you for your daily contributions in your respective positions. The weather drastically changed from day of the Oyasama's Birth Celebration and with the refreshing breeze of spring, the April monthly service was performed with the Shinbashira as the core in the presence of many returning followers.

In his service prayer the Shinbashira vowed that during the upcoming All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day, all those who have been drawn to this path will participate and express the gratitude and joy in their hearts for the wonderful use of the bodies they have been lent through action. And that each will transform their mind of greed to a mind dedicated to helping one another, so that we can advance a step closer toward the Joyous Life.

Following the service, the sermon was given by the Bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Taiwan, Honbu-in Reverend Yoshiaki Mihama.

First, he touched on the teachings, "to save all humankind" taught at the beginning of the faith, and although the followers of Yamato were only aware of their own surroundings at the time, Oyasama was already focused on reaching the immense span of the entire world.

He went on to mention the important role of a Yoboku, who are the tools needed to attain the joyous life world. He stressed the importance for us to become useful tools to God the Parent, and furthermore, that it is important work for us to continue to nurture and increase the number of future Yoboku.

Finally, he utilized examples one by one from the many years he has been connected with the mission overseas, and spoke about the joy of walking the path of the faith. He then concluded by expressing his conviction to share those experiences of the joy of faith and gratitude with others, and that doing this, will be his way to the attainment of spiritual maturity.

There were over a thousand followers from overseas present for the April monthly service. The service prayer and sermon was simultaneously translated in 7 different languages: English, Pekinese, Korean, Portuguese, French, Spanish and Taiwanese.

Also today, the former head of the Overseas Department, Reverend Yoshikazu Terada, received sanction as the 14th Bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Korea.

Yoichiro Miyamori, Head of the Overseas Department

April Monthly Service Prayer

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

God the Parent, out of Your deep parental love for all Your children, You revealed Yourself to the world with Oyasama as Your living shrine. As You taught us the truth of all things, You revealed to us wonderful free and unlimited workings as You advance to allow us the blessing of world salvation. For this we are deeply grateful, and these boundless blessings are truly more than we can expect. As we focus our effort in repayment for the blessings we receive, we are striving diligently toward single-hearted salvation. This month on the 18th marks the auspicious day when Oyasama was born into this world 209 years ago. With joy and celebration in our hearts the April monthly service will be performed at this mission headquarters. The service performers will unite their hearts to perform the seated service and Teodori joyously in high spirits. We brothers and sisters of this Path have looked forward to this day and today, we are gathered here in prayer before You to sing the Mikagura-uta. As You watch us, we hope that You can be spirited as well.

On the 10th, in celebration of the birthday of the ever-living Oyasama, the Woman's Association united their hearts and conducted the Woman's Instruments Offertory Performance. Also this month, in anticipation of the Woman's Association Convention, approximately twenty are expected to return to Jiba. Furthermore, at the beginning of next month, the All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day will be held in various locations in Hawaii. We would like to participate in this event with the intention to express our gratitude for blessing us daily with healthy bodies.

When we consider the spirited attitude demonstrated by Oyasama despite the fifty long years of hardship endured, we cannot help but desire to strive head-on in our quest toward the Divine Model as instruments of Oyasama, in hopes to align our effort with the boundless blessings we receive.

May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity and as the people of the world striving to attain harmony by helping one another, we ask that You guide us toward reconstructing the world into a world of unlimited joy. Together with everyone present, I pray for these blessings.

Mission HQ (Dendocho) April Monthly Service Sermon

Reverend Faith Ito

(Tenrikyo Pukalani Mission Station)



Good Morning.

This month is an important month in Tenrikyo because of it being the birth month of our Foundress, Miki Nakayama, whom we refer to as Oyasama. If we can't make it to Ojiba for her birthday celebration, I believe attending the Dendocho service is the next best thing. So thank you for taking the time to be here today.

Mrs. Shigemi Nakao is doing the Japanese translation and I wish to thank her also.

Some of you may be wondering what I'm doing up here and I'm wondering the same. Bishop Hamada asked so I accepted the challenge. I wondered what I could say and as I looked at the list of the monthly speakers, I noticed that most, if not all, were raised in a church atmosphere. So I

decided to speak from the perspective of someone not raised in a Tenrikyo church. So I need to tell you a little about myself. I'm Faith Ito, the head of Pukalani Mission Station on Maui.

My parents became members of Tenrikyo Maui Church as adults when a neighbor told them about the religion when an aunt got sick. Although the church at that time was located an hour's drive from where we lived, my parents attended the monthly service regularly and as children, my siblings and I had to go also. We had no idea what was going on with the service since everything was in Japanese and we mostly played outside. As we got older, we didn't always go to the Tenrikyo church. I got actively involved with the neighborhood Buddhist church and even held leadership positions with that church. When my Christian friends invited me to their church, I went a few times out of curiosity to see what it was about.

It wasn't until I graduated high school and attended the Japanese Language Course at Tenri University that I started to learn about the Tenrikyo teachings. When I first went to Tenri, I couldn't even do the hand gestures of the seated service so really had no knowledge. After the Japanese Language course, I attended the

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spiritual development course and then the minister's qualification course, which at that time were only offered in Japanese. Through these courses, I learned the basics of the teachings.

When I returned from Japan, I went to college and got a teaching degree. It was in 1977 that my parents' place became Tenrikyo Pukalani Mission Station with my mother becoming the head. When my mother passed away, I was chosen to be the next head out of default. Neither of my brothers lived on Maui nor was anyone else there, so I inherited the job. Since I was an elementary school teacher, being a Tenrikyo minister was more in name only. I felt it was just a temporary thing until my brother retired and returned to Maui. I didn't attend the services at Dendocho or do anything to help there. Then in 1996 my daughter and I went to Tenri for the Children's Pilgrimage with the Dendocho group. I was asked by Rev. Kanegawa of Mid Pacific Mission Station if I could help do the laundry for the children. I got to know the other Hawaii ladies who were there and was asked to attend the Boys and Girls' Association Spring Camp at the Tenri Cultural Center. Thus I've been coming to Dendocho periodically and helping annually at the spring camp.

As I listened to the sermons by the Bishop, guest speakers, and other ministers and with my older brother asking me if I had read this or that Tenrikyo article or book, I decided I needed to stop reading only novels and to start reading the English

translations of the teachings instead. Unfortunately, there is a limited number of works that have been translated. I wish there were more variety because I am still lacking in knowledge about the teachings. Many times I have questions instead of answers. Some examples are:

If God revealed his teachings as he felt humans were ready to learn, should we learn about the Bible or Koran or teachings of the Buddha? Should we say we believe in Jesus Christ and his teachings? I also wonder if Jesus is the son of God would Tenrikyo get more attention if we refer to Miki Nakayama as the daughter of God?

As I listen to the Christian evangelists on TV, many times they would say we should do this and not that and quote the Bible. In Tenrikyo, you learn the teachings and you are left to make your own choice. Since God allows us to use our minds freely, we're not told you've got to do this or that. That may be good for some things but sometimes I just want the headquarters view on social issues like organ donation, homosexuality, and abortion. I may not agree with their view but at least I'll know the stance of our church leaders.

I once heard a lecture at the Church Headquarters in Tenri where the minister said it was okay to go to the Buddhist, Christian or any other church. He said to take the good points of those religions and to make it a part of your life as well as the teachings of Tenrikyo. He also said that attending church regularly didn't make one religious or a good person. It is the

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thinking and actions of that person that did. I thought at that time that finally someone said something that I wholly agreed with.

When people ask me what is Tenrikyo's teachings, I say that we believe in a God that is our creator and that we were created so God could see us live a joyous life. That joyous life does not mean happiness for oneself alone for that is not true happiness. True joy is when people around us are also happy and that we must help each other in order to be happy. That teaching comes from the Osashizu dated December 11, 1897. People agree that it's a good teaching but bringing them to the church is difficult. Those who've asked me usually attend church regularly and don't want to convert or even want to see a service when they find out it's in Japanese.

The different religions teach basically the same thing about how to live our life and not hurt others but to help them and that we need to be thankful for our blessings and that we can lean on a superior being when we are troubled. So what does Tenrikyo have to offer that's different? One is that we learn about the truth of origin in detail and that we were put here on earth to live a joyous life. We can also receive the grant of salvation to pray and help others and that "The human body is a thing lent, a thing borrowed, but the mind alone is yours." (Osashizu dated June 1, 1889) In Tenrikyo, our spirit never dies and we return our physical body to God and will be reborn again with a new body

lent from God.

So how can we get new members? It was amazing how the first missionaries were able to bring many into the religion. Looking at those times, many people were the first generation Japanese so they could understand the language and teachings and people struggled at that time and needed some belief. These days people are doing well and don't feel the need for religion or one that is in a language they can't understand. It seems like the ones that don't already have a strong religious belief or is in need of salvation from illness or other problems are the most likely candidates to bring to the church. In the Mikagura service song 12, verse 6, it says, "I never compel you to come forth, yet you will come along one after another." That means that there's no need to force anyone into Tenrikyo and that they will become a believer when they are ready. I guess that's why my parents never forced Tenrikyo on us and as a result, my late sister became a Christian missionary.

When they were little, my daughters also complained about going to church because they didn't understand what was going on and didn't always attend the monthly services with me. Then my mom got cancer and they saw how helpful and sincere our Tenrikyo church minister and family were. They asked if we were related and seemed surprised when I said no. They were still in elementary school but they realized how much the

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church did for our family and others. They stopped complaining and started attending church regularly and learned to play the instruments. More of the sermons and reading of the prayers being done in English also helped.

It's been a very gradual process but more things are being translated or done in English so that should help in our understanding the teachings and in doing missionary work. Let's look forward to the day when the songs of the service can be done in English and maybe instead of wearing the "montsuki", which is the service attire now, we'll be able to wear something more comfortable and easy to put on.

An important thing that we can all

do as Tenrikyo followers is to follow the model of Oyasama. She's a hard act to follow because it is natural for us to think of ourselves first. Oyasama had the mind of God and kept a joyous mind even during hardships. When people look at Tenrikyo members, let them wonder why we are so joyous, helpful, and sincere so they will be curious and ask about our religion. This attitude starts with us, the church members, and as we spread it to our community and the world, we'll attain the world salvation and peace many are striving for.

In Ofudesaki Part II, verse 28 it says, "Devoting yourself to the way day by day, set your heart at peace, then a promising future will be yours."

Thank you for your attention.

May Monthly Service

May 20, 2007 (Sunday, 9:00 a.m.)

Sermon in English by Reverend Yoshio Shiiba

Japanese Interpretation by Rev. Motoko Iwata

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TO JIBA 2007

BGA HAWAII GROUP

July 18 (Wed) ~ July 30 (Mon)

We encourage you to invite your family and friends on this yearly event. This year, we are planning to have an optional tour. Details will be in coming issues. Mark your calendars and start your vacation savings!

**48th Annual WA General Meeting
50th Annual YMA General Meeting**

May 19, Saturday 9:30 a.m. Mission HQ

Program: Joint Service Performance (WA & YMA), General Meetings, Food Booths, Mini Bazaar

****FYI: (Hawaii) Dendocho will now be referred to as (Hawaii) Mission HQ****

ALL TENRIKYO HINOKISHIN DAY

Maui May 12 (Sat) 8:00 a.m. Makawao Veteran's Cemetery

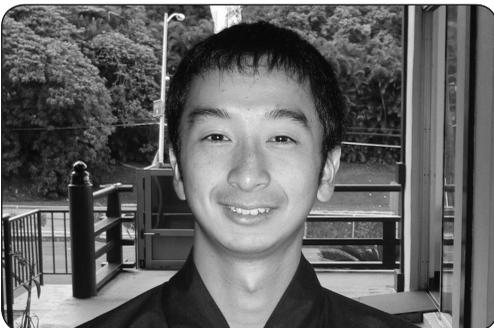
Hawai'i Island

Kohala May 19 (Sat) 10:00 a.m. Hapuna Beach

Kona May 26 (Sat) 11:00 a.m. Kona Memorial Park

Hilo May 27 (Sat) 8:30 a.m. Homelani Veteran's Cemetery

MISSION HQ (DENDOCHO) ANNOUNCEMENTS



From April 21, Hawaii Missionary House graduate, Kosuke Watanabe, (Yubari Grand Church, Hokkaido) became a live-in seinen for Hawaii Mission HQ. He will be serving for one year. He has been in Hawaii for three years.

ISLAND LIFE

Oyasama's Birthday BGA Activity



The annual Hawaii Boy's and Girl's Association Oyasama's Birthday Activity was held on Sunday, April 15, 2007 at the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii with 29 children and 28 adults in attendance. The celebration of Oyasama's 209th birthday began at 9am with the prayer service led by chair Rev. Owen Nakao and vice chair Rev. Setsuo Kakitani. This was followed by the BGA pledge and song led by BGA junior leader Eric and BGA member Kenny Miyauchi. Next, junior leaders Sara Saltman and Marika Higa narrated an illustrated power point slide presentation of Oyasama's story in the sanctuary using a video projector and 70-inch screen.

Members of the Hawaii Young Men's Association conducted lively games in the Mission Headquarters parking lot, followed by an egg hunt in the social hall organized by BGA staff Lynn Nagata and Daniel Akemoto. And of course, the activity was concluded with the singing of the Happy Birthday song with cake and ice cream for everyone!

WA Oyasama's Offertory Performance

On April 10th, Thursday, the Women's Association members gathered this year again to celebrate and honor Oyasama's 209th birthday, with a women's musical instruments offertory performance. Seventy members attended the performance, which consisted of the Yorozuyo & the Twelve Songs. After the performance, the members were treated to cake and treats that were offered to Oyasama during the performance.



WA Members performing



Oyasama Birthday Cake

Marukai Mochi Pounding



This year, the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii was invited to the Taste of Marukai Charity on April 12 to hold a Mochi Pounding demonstration. With fifteen members of the congregation, the mochi pounding was spiritedly exhibited in three sets drawing large crowds and serving about 300 pieces of an-mochi. About 600 guests attended the private gala and proceeds went to the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, Japanese Cultural Center, and Honolulu Junior Japanese Chamber of Commerce. The charity gala served Eurasian Tapas from Chef Hiroshi of Hiroshi, Unagi Dynamite in martini glasses from Gokujo Sushi, yakiniku beef, king crab, okonomiyaki, and sake tasting from Cherry Company, Nishimoto and others.

It was another great opportunity to spread the name of Tenrikyo as many people picked up the Mochi pounding brochure. Marukai's executive officers were very pleased as well and we hope to provide more demonstrations in the future.

HAWAII MISSIONARY HOUSE 15TH OPENING CEREMONY

On April 4, Wednesday, the 15th Hawaii Missionary House Opening Ceremony was held at Mission HQ. The new missionary, Mr. Naritaka Shimizu, age 28, from Kagoshima Grand Church, will do salvation work for one year in Hawaii. We welcome him with warm aloha. It had been three years since the last opening ceremony, so we are happy to have Mr. Shimizu.



New missionary Mr. Naritaka Shimizu



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

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

CANNED FOOD DRIVE FOR THE INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN SERVICES

The Hui O Wahine Ohana, Women's Association English group began a can food drive for the Institute for Human Services in April 2004. The month of April was chosen to coincide with Oyasama's birthday. This is just one way, to keep the teachings of Oyasama in our hearts by actually implementing it with action. With the Divine Model of Oyasama's deep parental heart within our minds, the Hui O Wahine Ohana, collected 3 car loads of can food, cereal, non-perishable foods, shampoo, which were generously donated by the members of the congregation. The English group members also made over 200 egg sandwich lunch bags for the shelter that provides meals for the homeless in downtown.

The shelter is a non-profit organization and is always in need of donations. There are two shelters. One facility for the women and families that can accommodate shower and sleeping quarters for 150 people including up to 60 children. Another facility is for the

men and it accommodates 250 men. Meals are provided every day, between 6,300 meals to 7,000 meals a week. Not only does the shelter provide sleeping quarters and meals, it also coordinates health and dental needs of the homeless with service groups and medical centers.

In addition to the can food drive that began in 2004, the Hui also began collecting toys for the children that come to the shelter. In December, many toys, x-mas gift wrapping paper and clothes were donated by the congregation. The following year, school supply collection drive was held in June, bringing much joy and appreciation by the Institute for Human Services.

By spreading our name to the community in this small way, it is our hope that the people of Hawai'i will come to know of this wonderful teaching in time.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to the many people who brought donations in April and for other drives too for the people in need.

Warm Mahalo to all!



NEW BABY BOYS ON BOARD!



ROBERT AKIHIRO FORBES

BORN: MARCH 12, 2007 6 LBS 8 OZ, 19 IN.
IN TENRI, NARA, JAPAN
PARENTS: ROY & YAEKO FORBES
(MYODO GRAND CHURCH)
CONGRATULATIONS!



LUKE YOSHIMITSU TABATA

BORN: APRIL 29, 2007 7 LBS 6OZ, 19 IN.
PARENTS: JEFF & SHANON (NAKAO) TABATA
(NET HAWAII MISSION STATION/
AMIJIMA BRANCH CHURCH)
CONGRATULATIONS!

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Matthew Matsuoka (Hawaii Central Church/Higashichuo Grand Church) and Tracy Ito (Westside Church/Meikyō Grand Church) were married on April 7 (Sat) in Los Angeles, California. Congratulations to the happy couple!



Kristl Ito (Maui Church/Honjima Grand Church) married Spencer Lau on April 8 (Sun) at the Tenri Cultural Center. With both of them being on the Origins newsletter staff, we would like to acknowledge their efforts each month. Mahalo and congratulations on your marriage!



Koteki Kenshukai

(Fife and Drum Corps Staff Training
Course in Jiba)

By Jason Miyauchi

Hey everybody!! I was given the opportunity by the BGA committee and Aloha Band to attend the Koteki Kenshukai from March 24th to the 27th. Before I go in to detail about my experience in Jiba, I would like to thank the BGA committee and Aloha Band staff for allowing me to have a meaningful and wonderful experience. I set out to Japan on March 19th to Tokyo. I stayed at my daikyokai, Asakusa Grand Church for a few days to attend the March monthly service and Spring Memorial service. During my stay there I was given the opportunity to have two private lessons with the successor of Jirin Branch Church, Mr. Tanaka teaching me more on how to play the *ryuteki* for gagaku. Mr. Tanaka is an alumnus of the Tenri University Gagakubu and also an alumnus of Senshuka, where he also played the *ryuteki*. He is an excellent and talented musician and I was very grateful to have been given lessons by him.

On the morning of the 23rd, I went to Tenri. From the morning of the 24th, the orientation for the Koteki Kenshukai began at 9am. The opening speech was given by a few ministers, but the most important speech was given by the chairman of Shonenkai (BGA), representing the Shinbashira, Rev. Takahashi. He mentioned many times about the vision of the 2nd Shinbashira quoting, "In 50 years' time, this association will have matured to the point where 15-year-old members will take active roles in promoting



Jason on the left with Mr. Sugita

the association activities.” Rev. Takahashi also mentioned that all Shonenkai and Koteki members should keep in mind and implement, to teach and show the children and everybody the joy of the teachings. Not just to teach it and have them perfect in whatever they do, but to teach and show the joy of the teachings and have everybody share in that joy.

After the opening ceremony, we all headed out to Dining Hall No. 1 to have lunch. After all the 500+ participants of the Koteki kenshukai had lunch, it was straight to long hours of practice. But before practice actually started, we had about 30 minutes of break time. That is when I found out that I was not the only person from overseas. There were two people from the Philippines that was attending training course that I knew of. I made friends with them and they have invited me to come to the Philippines one day to visit them and help them with their Koteki Band. In the Philippines, they still do not have a Koteki Band, but it brought joy to my heart knowing that there are young adults overseas still out there that want to establish a Koteki Band and work hard for

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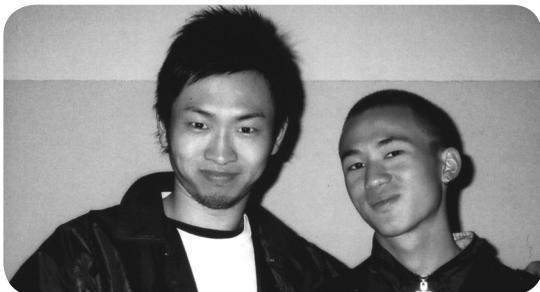
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it to grow and expand. After we talked, we headed to our classes. We were all separated in to sections according to what part we were there at the training course for and also by level and age group.

There were many groups and we took up a lot of classrooms at the Tenri University and the Tenri High School. There are three levels, the Sho-kyuu, which is the beginner level, Chuu-kyuu, which is the intermediate level, and the Jyo-kyu, which is the advanced level. Then there are also three age groups, the A group, for high school graduates and older, the B group, for high school students, and the C group for junior high school students. The two Filipino students were placed in the A Group, Sho-kyuu level for fife. In that class, you learn how to first play the fife then the music. I was placed in the B group, Jyo-kyu level for the Fife. In that class, we did not learn how to play fife music at all. Everything taught in that class, was for us to teach the music to others. We learned how to deal with different problems the fife players encounter and how to enhance the music. It was a very learning experience, but also challenging too. Everybody in our class was extremely talented. But the reason

they were so talented was not because they took band. The reason I believe they were so good, was because they loved Koteki and wanted to keep achieving a higher level of music so they could teach others and help raise children in Koteki. I was one of only two students there that are actually taking band in high school. The rest are in sports or other activities. Majority of the class may not be taking band in school, but because of their love for Koteki, and thought of wanting to become better not for themselves but to teach and help others in their respective Koteki bands, they played at a very high level.

I learned many things about the playing and teaching the fife that I could not have learned anywhere else, but that was not what made my experience in the Koteki Kenshukai so meaningful. I had the pleasure and privilege to meet many great people and make friends with them. That is what made the experience so meaningful. Starting off, our teacher for the advanced level course, Mr. Sugita is from the Honshiba Stars Koteki Band. Honshiba Stars Koteki Band is under the Honryuu Branch Church, which is under Honshiba Grand Church, which is very very famous for their Koteki band. He was attending one of the universities in Japan with music major, but dropped out to focus more on the teachings than his own education, and became a Honbu Koteki Staff. Then I met two students from the Osaka Group. They are always talking and are very open-minded. They were the first two people to make friends with. They play at levels un-imaginable for their age, especially knowing that they do not take



Jason with Mr. Chatani

band in school. Then there was the one other student that was in a high school band, but not just any high school band, but the Tenri High School Band.

Later on, I realized two of the student's happi coats. They were from Aimachi Branch Church. They are from two different mission stations under Aimachi, but they are so very alike. They both have energy in them and kept the class wide-awake. They are both extremely skilled and talented, but they were always very humble. On the last day, for the last half-hour of practice, we had a discussion on the different problems we have in our own respective Koteki bands. The main common problem we had was dealing with members in our bands not being able to attend practice because of the different activities they are involved in. We went around expressing concerns and ideas to help with the problem, until our teacher asked one of the students from one of the Aimachi mission stations located in Fukui-ken. Our teacher asked how their band deals with the problem and he answered diligently, "We do not have that problem." Everybody in the classroom was shocked and impressed. He said that for every practice and every activity dealing with church and Koteki, everybody shows up 100%, perfect attendance, each and every time. Including the teacher, we all asked why this is possible for their Koteki. It came down to, that the members in their Koteki band, and the parents of those members and everybody there understands how important Koteki is. Because they know that it is very important, everybody always shows up. It is very difficult for everybody to show up to every practice, but for Aimachi, it is not a

problem.

The last person I met during my time there was the world's 7th best drummer, Mr. Chatani, the son of Izumi Grand Church's head minister. I was very extremely lucky to have not only met him, but to have private practice sessions with him as well. Mr. Chatani teaches the advanced drummer group, and although I knew how important it was for me to take the advanced fife group, I really wanted to be in his class. Mr. Chatani is an extremely talented young musician. He always had so much to teach me and we played certain warm-ups together and it was just incredible. Two or three years ago, he was part of a mainland international drum-corps. You need to be a highly talented musician to be a part of it. He was a member of the drum-corps called Madison Scouts. They are one of the top drum-corps on the mainland. He could still be in the drum-corps but he decided to put the teachings first, just like Mr. Sugita, and to really put it to use and teach people how to play the drums in church and everywhere. Mr. Chatani is a very humble person but always filled with energy. I had the privilege to meet him and I hope to be able to have more private lessons and jamming sessions with him when I return to Jiba in future trips.

I met many people during the training course, but what filled me with joy was something that I could not have experienced so much of, anywhere else. That was, that everybody there at the Koteki Kenshukai, was there because they wanted to, they were there because they loved and enjoyed Koteki, and because they wanted to be able

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to teach and show the love and joy of Koteki to others at their respective grand church, branch church, mission station, and mission headquarters' Koteki bands.

After the Koteki Kenshukai was completed successfully in high spirits, my trip was not yet over. I had two more things to do in the last 3 days of my trip. One was to get my first two besseki lectures. The 2nd thing that brought so much joy in to my heart and would put joy in anybody's heart was the Tenrikyo Student's Association (TSA) Spring event. I was able to attend it with my daikyokai and make many friends. There were different events and depending on your church or mission station, it could last anywhere from two days to as many days as the church needs it to be, but I assume no more than 5 days. But the event where everybody from every church and mission station meets, happens all in one day. On the morning of the 28th, everybody in TSA sat on the benches between the Main sanctuary and Oyasama's Sanctuary. There was a ceremony and after a very long speech given by the Shinbashira, and then we sang two TSA songs together. Then we headed to our own tsumeshos, and have our own activities. For us, we had a lunch activity making monja and yakiniku. Then we had hinokishin for the annual night time event. Different groups and churches are in charge of different things. Osaka group had some type of food, our grand church had tonjiru, another church had takoyaki, and etc. Finally at 8:30pm, everybody met up at the stage area. We sang songs and everybody was just in extreme high spirits. The finale had so

many beautiful fireworks. After everything was over, we cleaned up and headed back to our tsumesho. The next morning on the 29th, the day I returned to Hawaii, we had a speech by our daikyokaicho, Rev. Yasuo Miyauchi, and then those who wanted to listen to a besseki lecture went off. My two cousins and I along with four others went to go listen to the besseki lectures. We had Rev. Mihama and there was no possible way anybody could have slept. He was a very energetic speaker and if you were caught dozing off or sitting with a bad posture, he would yell at you and correct you. He was a great speaker and we all learned from him.

I finished the trip with listening to my 2nd besseki lecture by Rev. Mihama and left for Hawaii on March 29, 2007. It was the best trip I have had yet. I learned things about the teachings and about myself, but most of all, enduring the many private lessons and long hours of practice and lectures, I have made friends that I will never forget and will have a place in my heart. Everybody in Jiba is so kind and energetic. Everybody has their faults, especially I but from our mistakes, I have learned many valuable things that I will always remember throughout my life. I encourage others to attend the Koteki-Kenshukai and the TSA Spring event next year. These two events will make you love and understand the teachings of Tenrikyo and also let you experience many things to endure the obstacles in life, but it also awards you with many friends that you will never forget and remember. Thank you very much again to the BGA committee, Aloha Band Staff, and many others that have supported me on this trip.

In Loving Memory



Mr. Moses Matsunobu

Mr. Moses K. Matsunobu was born on October 29, 1928 to Fudezo and Miyo Matsunobu. He was born in Moiliili and lived there until he got married. He attended Kuhio Elementary, Washington Intermediate, and McKinley High School, graduating in 1946. After high school, he worked as a mason for about a year and then started working as a special delivery mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service.

He married Jean M. Hashimoto on March 22, 1951 and they had two daughters, Debbie and Becky. They also have four grandchildren.

When his children were young, he had a severe skin problem due to stress from work. This was when he turned to God and started to attend North Honolulu Church, because Jean's parents were members there. Rev. Kaneki Honda prayed for him and he was able to receive blessings of recovery. He never took sick leave after that, and because he accumulated one year of sick leave, he was credited with 42 years of service.

Mr. Matsunobu went through many illnesses, including prostate cancer, bleeding ulcers, and stroke, but because he always engaged in hinokishin with his wife at church, he was blessed with a good life.

He attended the 27th Spiritual Development Course at Hawaii Mission Headquarters in 1995. He returned to Jiba many times and even after suffering a stroke in 2000, he returned three times to Jiba so he was very fortunate.

Mr. Matsunobu was hospitalized in early April for five days because he caught a severe cold but was able to recover and went to do hinokishin with his wife on April 18. However, on the morning of April 19 at 2 a.m., he suffered a stroke and because of bleeding in the brain, the doctors could not save him. Mr. Matsunobu passed away on April 20, 2007. *(Excerpted from a speech written by his two grandsons, Sean and Dustin.) The funeral service was held on May 5 (Sat) at Hosoi Garden Mortuary.*

In Loving Memory



Reverend William (Bill) Yoshioka

Head minister of Vineyard Church/
Shuto Grand Church

Life History

June 6, 1930 Born as the second son of Jirobei and Ryu Yoshioka

July 23, 1961 Received *Sazuke* (Divine Grant) and graduated from Shuyoka (Three-month Spiritual Development Course in Jiba)

November 3, 1961 Married Setsu Nakamura (Takayasu)

1962 Began living in Taiheiyo church as husband and wife

April 22, 1965 Established Vineyard Church

March 20, 1978 Appointed as a board of director of Hawaii Dendocho (Mission HQ)

Rev. Yoshioka was recovering since last year from illness, however, he passed away for rebirth on April 19 at his church.

The *Mitama-utsushi* (transfer of the memory of one who has passed away) was held on the night of April 19. The funeral service was held on May 1st at Hosoi Garden Mortuary, with officiant, Rev. Clyde Mikuni and assistants, Rev. David Kawasaki and Rev. Eric Takata. Many followers and friends gathered to celebrate his life.

A PARTING MESSAGE FROM REV. YOSHINOBU NAKAO

Bill's parents had been devout followers prior to the establishment of Taiheiyo Church, in the 1920s, being on the board of directors of their church. Ever since he was a young boy, Bill watched his parents being so devoted that he took on their faith, and in 1961, entered the Japanese Language course at Tenri University. During his studies, Bill was afflicted with an illness, spinal caries, and had to be hospitalized with the tuberculosis patients at Ikoi-no-ie Branch Hospital located in Bessho-cho (town).

He fought a long illness but in the end overcame pain and suffering, and with counsels from different reverends at Mission Headquarters and being cared for by doctors and nurses, Bill was blessed to recover enough so that he could be discharged.

At the time, (his future wife) Setsu Nakamura, was doing hinokishin as a nurse at the same hospital. She did her absolute best to care for him so that he would be saved.

In 1965, he received instruction from the head minister of Taiheiyo Church and became the second head minister of Vineyard Church. Bill and his wife concentrated solely on salvation work.

In 1982, they decided to settle their church at 903 Alder St. in Makiki, remodeled their home and performed the installation service. Bill later said that the installation service was his biggest joy. As in the Mikagura-uta, (Song IV, Verse 2) "Settle the minds of the two of you in one accord! Then any and everything shall be realized," as when husband and wife help and support one another; and as in the teaching (Song XI, Verse 2) "Husband and wife working together in hinokishin; This is the first seed of everything," the fact that they were not thwarted by hardship and they enthusiastically followed Oyasama's Divine Model, I am filled with deep respect for them.

In 1994, Wife Setsu passed away for rebirth from liver and kidney disease at the age of 62. I believe that losing his beloved life partner, with whom he shared many hardships, must have been such a huge shock for Bill.

However, last autumn, even after overcoming this knot and boldly engaging in salvation work and hinokishin, without wasting any free time, stomach cancer was discovered. He had his stomach surgically removed, but was able to receive blessings of recovery to return to Jiba and attend the Spring Grand Service this year on January 26.

Unfortunately, the cancer might have started to spread around March, because he began to recuperate at home. With the attentive care he was receiving from his siblings and church followers, he never complained about any pain, even though he may have been feeling it at times, and would always be smiling and expressing his gratitude and appreciation.

Then on April 19, a little after 3:00 p.m., just as the tide recedes (on the beach), Bill passed away for rebirth, surrounded by his siblings.

Bill left us this thought from when he was alive: "After the first head minister passed away for rebirth, I have only tried to save others, forgetting greed, no matter how little. My day of rest and relaxation is cleaning around the perimeters of the church and neighborhood. As in doing the service to sweep away the dust of our minds, I feel that I am doing the same when I am cleaning. Let us forgive others, experience the joy of helping others, and find joy in any situation."

Bill consistently, earnestly and diligently followed in Oyasama's footsteps, served for 42 years as a church head minister, and lived for 76 years. I believe that the footprints he will leave behind as a pioneer of the path in Hawaii, will be shining forever.

I pray, please, at least for a while, be at rest by Oyasama's side.

Tid Bits

Associations' Reports



BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please be advised that Sunday School at Mission Headquarters, other than the Mission Headquarters' monthly service day, starts at 10 am.

OYASAMA BIRTHDAY ACTIVITY

The annual Oyasama Birthday activity was held on Sunday, April 15th to wish Oyasama a Happy 209th Birthday. The program included: a prayer service, a power point illustrated storytelling of Oyasama's life, games, an egg hunt, and birthday snack. Thank you to all who did hinokishin to make the event possible!

OVERNIGHT STAY AT CHURCH

In implementing the goals of the Boys and Girls Association Headquarters, we are encouraging each church to conduct an overnight stay, or a half or full-day activity at least once a year. Further information to follow.

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE

This year's Children's Pilgrimage will be

from July 18-30. The Aloha Band will participate in the Offertory Performance and the Oyasato Parade. Those participating in the BGA Hinokishin Corps will receive \$300 airfare assistance. Rates and optional tour information will be forthcoming. We will distribute subtitled Children's Pilgrimage promotional DVD's to all BGA active churches. DVD's for individuals and mission stations will be available upon request.



YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

MONTHLY MEETING

This month's monthly meeting will be held on Wed. May 9th from 7:30 pm at Rainbow Hale. We will be finalizing items for the upcoming general meeting.

YMA JOINT GENERAL MEETING

Please make plans to join us for the annual YMA general meeting. This year's general meeting will be held jointly with the Women's Association and Young Women's Club on Saturday May 19th from 9:30 am at Dendocho. The event includes the service, faith experience speeches, and a food bazaar. Food bazaar items include yakisoba, barbeque chicken, barbeque steak, shave ice, bubble drinks, zenzai, udon, massage, and games. Most items are 50 cents.



YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

GENERAL MEETING

Please make plans to join us at the joint Women's Association and Young Men's Association general meeting on May 19th at 9:30am at Mission Headquarters. We are still looking for service performers and for volunteers to sell items in the shave ice and zenzai booth. Please contact your YWC representative.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

We are looking for volunteers to assist at the Special Olympics Summer Games on May 26th and 27th. If you are interested, please contact Terri Miyamoto.



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The koi are flying in the breezing May sky. Let us also try to be flexible and energetic in our daily lives.

For this year's General Meeting, we will be performing the Service together with YMA and YWC, and in addition, we will have a food bazaar and games during lunch. We invite all of you to come and participate in this significant event.

NUUANU HALE VISITATION

May 12 (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

MONTHLY MEETING

May 14 (Mon)
Meeting 9:00 a.m.
General Meeting Practice 10:15 a.m.

WOMEN'S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PRACTICE

May 15 (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

TCC HINOKISHIN

May Hinokishin Cancelled

HUI O WAHINE OHANA

May Meeting Cancelled

WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

May 26 (Sat) 7:30 p.m.

BAZAAR HINOKISHIN

Please join the Bazaar Hinokishin every Wednesday at the West House from 9 am to 12 noon.

GENERAL MEETING JOINT SERVICE PRACTICE

Thursday, May 17th
7:00 p.m.
Mission Headquarters



The Hungry Reporter

Ms. Iris Saito again prepared an awesome salad for the monthly service at my church last month and gave the okay for me to share this recipe with you. Strawberries were not even in season, and yet they were so sweet! Iris always takes special care to prepare healthy foods and this one meets all the standards of a healthy eater.

She notes that one should feel free to add ingredients that reflects the cooks flare! If my memory serves me correctly, Iris forgot to add the almonds and cheese. Regardless it still tasted great!! Spicy or sweet or whatever your preference, it will surely serve as a table pleaser!! I know you will enjoy this!

Strawberry & Romaine Salad

Dressing:

1/2 cup olive oil
5-6 Tbsp sugar
1/4 cup red wine vinegar
1/4 tsp salt
1/4 tsp paprika
1/8 tsp ground white pepper
1 small clove garlic, crushed

Combine above and shake vigorously to blend in a bottle.

NOTE: I substitute grapeseed oil for the olive oil and I use 4 Tbsp brown sugar.

Salad:

1 head Romaine lettuce
1 head butter lettuce
1 pint strawberries, sliced
1 cup Monterey Jack cheese, coarsely grated
1/2 cup walnut pieces, toasted

Cut the lettuce into 1/4 inch strips. Lightly toss salad with dressing first before adding grated cheese, sliced almonds, and strawberries.
Enjoy!

NOTE: I usually just use Romaine lettuce, grated Parmesan cheese, and sliced almonds.

May 2007

2nd Wed	WA - Bazaar Hinokishin (Every Wednesday)	TCC	9:00 a.m.
5th Sat	All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day	Honolulu Zoo	9:00 a.m.
6th Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
8th Tue	Missionary House Monthly Service	TCC	10:00 a.m.
12th Sat	Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
13th Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
14th Mon	WA - Monthly Meeting	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
15th Tue	WA - Instrument Practice	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
16th Wed	YMA - Monthly Meeting	RH	7:30 p.m.
17th Thu	BGA - Staff Meeting	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
	WA/YMA/YWC Service Practice	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
19th Sat	WA/YMA/YWC General Meeting	Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
20th Sun	Dendocho Monthly Service	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
	Aloha Band Practice	Mission HQ	1:00 p.m.
26th Sat	Monthly Yohaishiki	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
	Women's Support Network	Mission HQ	7:30 p.m.
27th Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.

June 2007

2nd Sat	Missionary House Monthly Service	TCC	10:00 a.m.
3rd Sun	BGA - Sunday School	Mission HQ	10:00 a.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 Mission HQ Online: <http://www.tenrikyo-hawaii.com/news>

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**38th Annual
Spiritual Development Course
at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii**

June 17 (Sun) ~ July 14 (Sat) 2007

Registration begins at 2:00 p.m.

The course will cover *The Doctrine of Tenrikyo* (Basic teachings of Tenrikyo), *The Life of Oyasama* (The life of the Foundress of Tenrikyo), Hinokishin (Showing appreciation to God the Parent for daily blessings through action), Lectures on the teachings, Service practice (Learning how to perform the Service for universal salvation), etc.

Open to anyone 17 years and above.

Applications will be accepted until **June 10 (Mon)**.

For further inquiries, please contact Hawaii Mission HQ