

No. 197 JANUARY 2008

# ORIGINS

*Of the five, keep two at home.  
God will take charge of the other three.*

*Ofudesaki I:68*



***HAPPY NEW YEAR!***

(From left) Terri Miyamoto (YWC Chair), Mrs. Masayo Hamada (WA Chair), Bishop Michihito Hamada, Rev. Owen Nakao (BGA Head), & Daniel Suzuki (YMA Chair)

## **Message from the Head of the Overseas Department December 26, Tenrikyo 170**

Today we were blessed with such warm and gentle weather uncommon to that of December, and with winter break having had begun, many families with children returned to Jiba for the final monthly service for the 170th year of Tenrikyo which was joyously performed in high spirits with the Shinbashira as the core.

In the service prayer, the Shinbashira reflected on the programs which commenced throughout this entire year which included the newly implemented Oyasato Head Minister's Training Program, the Head Minister's Street Speech Day which was added to the already established All Tenrikyo Nioigake Day and the Successor's Seminar which began at the end of August. All programs were held successfully, with the Successor's Seminar completing its 17th seminar. Furthermore, considering the intention of the Parent who hastens to reconstruct the minds of all those in the world, he expressed our resolve to further spread this path of sincerity which will settle all matters throughout the entire world, and also expressed his gratitude for the fervent parental heart and collectively asked for continued guidance and blessings in the new year.

Following the service, Honbu-in Reverend Hiroaki Yamazawa gave the sermon.

Rev. Yamazawa spoke about the significance of the enshrinement of God the Parent and Oyasama at our churches, emphasizing its similarity to that of the Residence. He talked about Izo Ihuri's experiences while living at the Residence, and also referring to the Anecdotes of Oyasama; he gave examples of how a model church should be, and the way in which the people living there as well as those who frequent the church should follow the path.

He continued on to talk about the significance of the Proof Amulet and how the significance of the Red cloth represents maintaining a bright heart. That is, to have a heart which brightens the spirit of those around them, and he further emphasized that the amulet reminds us that we must cultivate a heart that aids in the salvation of others.

He ended his sermon encouraging everyone to heighten each other's spirits so that we may wholeheartedly follow the path to the Joyous Life.

As the year is coming to end, the Administrative Headquarters will close from tomorrow. I would like to express my deep gratitude for the various ways in which you have applied your dedication toward world salvation throughout the year and let us vow to further advance our efforts as we greet the coming of the new year.

Thank you very much!

Yoichiro Miyamori, Head of the Overseas Department

## **Greetings from Bishop Hamada**

Happy New Year!

Thank you very much for your support of all the Mission HQ activities during the previous year. Thanks to all of your efforts, everything was a success.

From last year, we have taken the first step toward further spiritual maturity, as it was the first year towards the 130<sup>th</sup> year of Oyasama. I'm sure that all of you have made resolutions to become closer to the mind of God and have made many efforts to do so thus far.

God the Parent's desire for the children of the world to help one another and live in harmony has been unchanging since the time of the creation of human beings. However, there are many people suffering from illness and troubles in our society today. If we look for the origin of that suffering, we may find the various causes and reasons for it. Yet, can it be said that the common thread of these people who are suffering is the mistaken use of the mind? Confusion and disorder may arise when our way of thinking is separate from God. Things start falling into place when we keep the mind of God the Parent as the basis of our thinking, in other words, following as close as possible to the Truth of Heaven in our thinking and actions.

God the Parent is always praying for our happiness. Therefore, it is extremely important that we have a deep understanding of the mind of God the Parent. Let us become closer to the mind of God. In order for us to do this, we would like to begin study sessions of the Teachings and Scriptures. I earnestly hope that especially those who will become the cores of their church and mission stations will participate.

Let us encourage ourselves so that we may continue our spiritual growth even a little more than last year, as we strive in our efforts for single-hearted salvation.

## **Greetings from Mrs. Masayo Hamada, Women's Association Chair**

Happy New Year!

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks for all of your support in making the Women's Association activities and hinokishin possible last year. With this year being the second significant year towards the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Association, let each one of us understand and keep our slogan in our hearts as well as participate in spreading the teachings and doing salvation work in our respectful positions.

Let us also keep in mind our privileged ability to give birth and nurture, our warmth and our ability in joining and connecting in our hearts and let us strive to become model women in the way we use our minds and in our actions. I humbly ask for your support again this year.

### **Slogan for Spiritual Maturity**

*Let's follow the Divine Model and become the foundation for the Joyous Life*

### **Guidelines for Association Activities**

In anticipation of our association's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary:

*Let's inquire into the origin and become the foundation for our families and churches.*

- 1) Let's put our hearts into performing the Service.*
- 2) Let's sprinkle the fragrance and strive to save others.*

## **Greetings from Owen Nakao, Boys & Girls Association Chair**

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the BGA staff and friends of BGA for your sincere and unwavering efforts in support of the Hawaii Boy's and Girl's Association throughout this past year despite your busy schedules. Due to your support, we have seen an increase in participation and improved quality of all our activities. Over 100 people attended the annual New Year park cleanup and BBQ picnic at Stadium Park. 70 kids enjoyed the Spring Camp, 115 people attended the General Meeting and 58 people attended Oyasama's Birthday Activity. I believe that this is a result of the dedicated efforts of many, many people that we are able to reach our goals.

On behalf of the BGA staff, I ask for your continued support in this New Year, the 171<sup>st</sup> year of Tenrikyo. And to those who are "on the sidelines" please join us in our vision to be the "organization of choice for our children's spiritual, social, and community awareness and development, and to build a joyous world!"

Aloha and Mahalo!

### **Greetings from Terri Miyamoto, Young Women's Club Chair**

Aloha all,

Thank you all for making 2007 a successful year for the Young Women's Club. Your participation and hinokishin for our activities were greatly appreciated.

The new activity for the past year included a garage sale to raise money for the convention we had in November. We were successful in raising about \$600. As we plan for the next convention in 2010, we will continue to have fundraising efforts to help offset the cost of the trip to Jiba.

Please show your support and participate in our many activities like our monthly mini-bazaar and tea service during the monthly services. Our first major activity of the new year will be the Kokan Seminar in February.

We would like to express our gratitude to Bishop & Mrs. Hamada, Rev. Lynn So as our advisor, and to all the supportive Women's Association members. It is truly through their parental heart and guidance that we are able to function as a club.

As we head into the new year, Cheryl Horikawa your secretary, Louise Inafuku your treasurer and I humbly ask all of you for your continued support as we work toward a successful 2008.

I wish you and your family all the best for a happy and healthy New Year.

### **Greetings from Daniel Suzuki, Young Men's Assosiation Chair**

Happy Holidays Everyone,

I'd like to start by thanking God for blessing me with an opportunity to mature spiritually as the president of the Young Men's Association (YMA). This year has presented me with a variety of challenges to take on with my family, work, friends, church, and other volunteer positions. I've always prided myself on being frank and honest with my feelings when I talk to others. That being said, I've constantly struggled with the thought of quitting as the president of the YMA for this initial year. My reasons varied from not spending enough time caring for my 5 month old baby daughter, 3 year old son, and beautiful wife. I also worried about maintaining my house, yard, chores, buying groceries, etc. My job takes up a lot of my time and so does my hospital volunteer position on the weekends. I was overwhelmed with balancing family, work, church, volunteering at the hospital, and friends. However, everytime I seriously considered quitting the YMA I received divine guidance through God encouraging me to continue, extra support from my wonderful family(wife, brother, Mom, Dad, Ramos, and Evelyn), and YMA members. I've learned to appreciate being the YMA president even though there continue to be many challenges. Seeing the dedication and commitment of the YMA members through our activities strengthens my own resolve to dedicate myself whole-heartedly to the path. Thank you all for making this beautiful faith stronger and brighter by dedicating your time and energy everyday. I sincerely wish all the Tenrikyo members a happy holiday season!

## *December 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.*

*God the Parent, although inadequate to your expectations, we are applying our daily effort toward world salvation, and as we go through each day receiving your boundless parental love and over-flowing grace and blessings, we have come to this day which we are granted to conduct the December monthly service, the final monthly service of the year. As we reflect on this year, it was a year that began our new path toward the next milestone as we strived to align our minds with Your intention and further our spiritual growth by applying our effort toward sprinkling the fragrance of the teachings and salvation work. Thankfully, You have allowed for the monthly activities, and the activities of each association to commence smoothly without mishap, which is more than we can ever expect to receive. As we express our gratitude for the many blessing we have received throughout the year, the service performers unite their hearts to perform the seated service and Teodori joyously in high spirits.*

*Today we are honored with the presence of the Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs, Reverend Masahiko Iburi and the chief of the North America Oceania section of the Overseas Department, Reverend Takaharu Ichise who have come to join us all the way from Jiba. 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.*

*As Yoboku we are constantly shown the intense condition of the times, and we cannot help but think of the parental heart that hastens the reformed minds of all people in the world. We would like to begin with reforming our own minds and from here on as well, we would like to further apply our vigorous effort in widening the path of this sincere teaching.*

*We again express our gratitude for this year and ask for your continued blessings for the coming year. Together with everyone present, I humbly pray, may it be so.*

*Mission HQ December Monthly Service Sermon*

## **Reverend Masahiko Iburi**

*(Tenrikyo Church Headquarters  
Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs)*



Last year marked the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama and, seeing the entire year as the year of the anniversary, the whole Tenrikyo community worked hard to bring as many people to Jiba and as many times as possible.

This year has been a year in which we started taking steps toward preparing for the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama—a year in which we made a new beginning.

When we consider what our theme should be as we move toward the next anniversary, we see that it should be what each Yoboku ought to do to grow spiritually—that is, how each Yoboku should follow the path of spiritual growth. That is our consistent theme.

It is with this in mind, then, that I would like to share some of my thoughts with you today.

### • The Miracle Did Not Happen

Let us begin by taking a moment to recall the situation surrounding Oyasama's withdrawal from physical life, which occurred on February 18 (or January 26 by the lunar calendar) in the year 1887.

On January 4, Her health suddenly took a critical turn. This marked the beginning of a dialogue between God and human beings—a dialogue that lasted until February 18. Facing the serious condition of Oyasama who is Savior, Parent, an irreplaceable being for the followers, people wanted to know what the intention of God the Parent was. We have a very important record of intense dialogues between God's intention and the minds of human beings who were trying to respond to it. I believe that this dialogue represents an extremely important lesson we can learn from our early predecessors' experience with regard to how we ought to consider things. The early followers actually wished to go along with God's intention, but doing so would give rise to all kinds of issues. Therefore, they were hesitant about implementing what God intended them to do.

Yet God urged them to implement it, confronting them with a difficult dilemma involving Oyasama's failing health.

On February 18, the followers finally made

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up their minds. Led by [the first Shinbashira], those who were prepared for any consequences that might befall them performed the Service as intended by Oyasama. Thus, the followers were eventually able to carry out the tangible actions that were in accordance with God the Parent's intention.

As they did so, they entertained only one thought—the thought that Oyasama would now certainly be restored to health.

However, despite their implementation of God's instructions, Oyasama stopped breathing—a result that was entirely contrary to the followers' expectation.

I wonder what kinds of thoughts or feelings come to mind when you read this most important part of *The Life of Oyasama*.

“How distraught and saddened the followers must have felt!” This is something that occurs to everyone. Some may marvel at how the early followers managed to overcome this grief and achieve what they did.

Again, some may feel that God had planned for all that. Others may think that, had the followers performed the Service as intended by God from the start, a different situation might have unfolded.

But at any rate, the fact is that the miracle didn't happen.

The people's sole desire had been that Oyasama would recover. Yet, because of their concern over Her physical safety and well-being, they could not bring themselves to carry out God's instructions. Eventually, however, they decided to perform the Service, thinking that this would improve and restore Her health.

Nonetheless, the miracle did not happen—

at least, not the kind of miracle that the humans had envisioned. This is an extremely important distinction.

Often, there is a large discrepancy between what God intends and what humans wish for. The two could perhaps be seen as being on altogether different planes. We say a miracle has happened when, for example, someone considered hopeless by doctors is saved or when some seemingly impossible wish comes true.

Yet I wonder how a miracle would be defined in God's dictionary. In view of the 1887 event involving Oyasama, I feel sure that God's definition of a miracle would be totally different from ours.

### • The Settled Mind Is the Basis

If someone is cured of an illness without experiencing any transformation of the mind, such a cure is like magic, which is supposed to happen through spells, formulas of worship, or exorcism.

The important thing is the transformation of the mind whereby one moves from a mind that complains about everything to the mind that can find joy in everything, so that it becomes possible to live each day happily and cheerfully no matter how difficult the circumstances may seem. God's dictionary might explain a miracle in that way.

What is important, if we are to be shown a miracle in God's sense, is a certain process—a process that is required in order for us to achieve spiritual growth. This is the process of discussing things together and polishing our minds. I have no doubt that God likes to see us talking things over together and polishing our minds. When

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Yoboku

our discussion leads to a firm resolve, God will respond to it by opening the next chapter of our journey.

Thus, discussing things together and polishing our minds can lead to resolve, and it is this resolve that God will use as a basis for standing firm for us and showing us blessings. The process I'm talking about can be seen as the work of laying that basis.

In the lead-up to Oyasama's withdrawal from physical life, the followers performed the Service, prepared to face any consequences. Although She withdrew, they had laid the basis that allowed God to prepare a path that would lead to new developments, and the rest is history.

About a month after Oyasama's withdrawal—more precisely on March 25, 1887, at 5:30 in the morning—a person called Izo Iburi was settled as the Honseki.

After that, what God did was to use the Honseki in place of Oyasama to convey God's words. God also bestowed the truth of the Sazuke through him. From around February 1888, God gave pointers on the Besseki system and, by the summer of 1890, what we might call a forerunner of the current Besseki system had been established.

Thereafter, those who attended a series of Besseki lectures were able to receive the truth of the Sazuke, with the result that more and more people became Yoboku. There are now over 800,000 Yoboku.

But how many of them actually live as Yoboku, we wonder.

- Genuine Yoboku and Non-genuine

We Yoboku ought to ask ourselves whether we have not become Yoboku in name only. We need to grow spiritually into genuine Yoboku. This calls for urgent attention.

To examine what it means to be genuine, it is helpful to consider what it means to be non-genuine. This, of course, should be obvious enough. The opposite of what is genuine is, obviously, what is not genuine—which may be a fake, a deception, a counterfeit, an imitation, or a veneer.

Thinking along these lines, we see that what is non-genuine is something that only looks like what it is claimed to be but lacks the substance that makes it what it is.

What is a genuine Yoboku? What makes someone a genuine Yoboku is knowing the origin. Also, a genuine Yoboku lives in the origin. Such is a genuine Yoboku. Regardless of what our occupation happens to be, the origin of all of us who are Yoboku is Oyasama.

Do we know Oyasama well? Do we genuinely feel connected to Her? Are we living by the Divine Model of Oyasama? We need to ask ourselves these questions.

It is when we give up the effort to grow into genuine Yoboku that we become non-genuine Yoboku. So long as we are working hard to achieve spiritual growth, we remain genuine Yoboku. But once we abandon that effort, we are no longer genuine Yoboku.

There are obstacles that mitigate against our effort to grow spiritually. Such obstacles may include preoccupation with material possessions, money, social status, personal honor, etc.

It is clear that, once we start being too concerned about these things, we deviate from

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the path of spiritual growth.

- The Unforgettable Service That I Attended in the Congo

What should we Yoboku do to grow spiritually? Part of the answer is to study the teachings. However, just studying the teachings is hardly enough. We need to implement what we have learned.

The frame of mind in which we are to implement the teachings is a desire to make repayment for blessings we receive.

When Oyasama was physically present, She saved many people. Most of them, being farmers, brought Oyasama rice or other things they grew when they tried to express their gratitude.

Then along came someone from a different walk of life. He was Izo Iburi, who was a carpenter. In order to express his thanks to Oyasama for saving his wife, he offered to build a shrine. This offer led to the construction of the Place for the Service.

Let us take a moment to reflect on what was happening. The desire to make repayment for the blessings—which motivated the implementation of the teachings—led to the construction of the Place for the Service. Thus the idea of giving tangible expression to spiritual practice came into being. This refers to a very important aspect. To make progress in our spiritual growth, it is extremely helpful to use tangible expression.

An example of such tangible expression is the Service. I have had opportunities to visit many churches where I attended their services. The service that has made the strongest impression on me is the one that I attended at Congo-Brazzaville Church, which is in Africa.

It was about four years ago that a Congolese Yoboku named Pierre Bazebibaka was installed as the head minister of that church, and I was given the opportunity to attend his installation service there. The service was excellent. Apart from myself, the only other Japanese followers who took part in the service were Rev. Takai (the first head minister of Congo-Brazzaville Church) and two staff members of the Overseas Department. The rest of the performers were all local Congolese people. It was a marvelous service, with the musical instruments creating a perfect, harmonious whole. Afterward, I asked how they had managed to learn the service so well.

Apparently, after the plan for the installation service was decided, they practiced almost every evening throughout the three-month lead-up period. In fact, they carried a copy of the Romanized Mikagura-uta with them wherever they went. Whether they were riding in a taxi, visiting a market, or plowing their fields, they sang the songs for the service. That's how they were able to give that wonderful performance of the service.

In order to properly perform the service—which is a tangible expression—the Congolese followers exerted their full measure of sincerity in practicing it. That is what enabled them to progress in spiritual growth.

Thus, their minds became increasingly spirited, and more and more of them started sprinkling the fragrance and working for the salvation of others.

The service was, indeed, the key to enabling the Congolese Tenrikyo community to make a successful fresh start in the true sense of the word, as the local followers themselves keenly

felt.

- Fire and Water—Reason and Sentiment

What is important in order for us Yoboku to grow spiritually?

One important thing is, of course, to work with our own mind. Another thing is to help and encourage one another. And the most vital thing is care and guidance to be provided by one's spiritual parent.

An example of such care and guidance comes from Rev. Chujiro Okuma of Keijo Grand Church.

Born in 1903, Rev. Okuma went to the Korean Peninsula when he was young, and he took over Keijo Church from its first head minister. Rev. Okuma was a very, very modest and quiet person but led so many people to this path and inspired many of them to undertake missionary activities. Once, when he had a chance to give a speech at Kawaramachi Grand Church in 1953, he said: "My father was short-tempered. My mother was tenacious. They strove for single-hearted salvation while complementing each other. Such was the beginning of Keijo."

Rev. Okuma was, of course, talking about the couple who established what is now Keijo Grand Church. He explained: "Water is cold, and fire is hot. When these two completely different things come into harmonious interplay, something new can be created. Compensating for each other's shortcomings and bringing out positive qualities in each other represent an important underlying principle of salvation work, for mutual help leads to mutual development, and vice versa."

This principle can also be seen as an interplay between reason and sentiment. What Rev. Okuma is saying seems to be that care

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and guidance that can bring about what may be called true salvation can only come from the harmonious balance and interplay between reason and sentiment.

The word "reason" here refers to the Reason of Heaven. It is the inexorable principle of Heaven. It refers, in other words, to the teachings of God. And if I were to sum up the teachings, I would say the following:

God created humankind. At that time, God gave humans the freedom of mind. The freedom of mind, however, can lead to self-centered states of mind. That is why human beings accumulate the dust of the mind. This dust will then become causality and result in the distortion of the soul.

I believe that originally the human soul is like a perfect sphere. And God has laid a path leading to a world called the Joyous Life, where the mind will be filled with perfect joy. When God rolls this sphere, which is our soul in this analogy, it should be able to go straight toward the Joyous Life.

When we accumulate dust, however, our soul becomes distorted and is no longer a perfect sphere. Then even though God gives us a perfect push, our soul will not move in a straight line. It will swerve to the right or left and, thus, move in a totally unintended direction.

What we need to do here is to make our soul like a perfect sphere as intended by God, so that we can once again follow the straight course of the path to the world of the Joyous Life.

- Returning the Mind to Its Original Condition

In actual fact, however, our accumulation of causality makes it hard to orient the mind in the direction of the Joyous Life. If we leave the situation as it is, we may be heading for self-

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destruction. We may be destroying ourselves through the way we are living our lives. This will happen unless we do something about our human situation.

Nevertheless, since God is the Parent of all humankind, God desires to do whatever it takes to save us. Seeing us going down the path of causality by misusing our freedom of mind, God wants to find a way to save us.

Whenever I think about these things, I am reminded of the story of Isaburo Masui found in the Anecdotes of Oyasama.

When Isaburo's mother became critically ill, he visited Oyasama to ask Her to save his mother. When he was received by Oyasama, he asked, "Please, save my mother from her illness."

Oyasama replied: "I am sorry, Isaburo, in spite of your request she cannot be saved." Isaburo then said, "I see, I understand," and went home. However, when he saw his mother suffering from illness back home, he was overwhelmed with the thought, "Oh, I want her to be saved at any cost." Therefore, he again returned to Oyasama's Residence and asked earnestly, "I know this is an unreasonable request, but please save my mother." Oyasama replied again: "Isaburo, I am sorry, she cannot be saved." He trudged home, disappointed. However, when he got home and again saw his mother suffering, he could not bear to sit by and do nothing.

So again, he walked back to Oyasama's Residence. When he arrived, he was told that Oyasama was already in bed, but he implored again, saying, "I understand that my mother cannot be saved but somehow, please, save her." Then, Oyasama said: "The child comes for the

sake of his parent to ask that the life, which cannot be saved, be saved at whatever cost. This is sincerity itself. If sincere, God will accept." Isaburo's mother was saved.

He was told that his mother could not be saved, yet he exerted his fullest measure of sincerity for her sake, whereby the orientation of the mind changed to allow for salvation. When we look at how early followers practiced their faith, we see that those who fervently wished for salvation later turned out to be wonderfully instrumental in helping others be saved.

The most troublesome people at present are not those who are greedy, selfish, or full of desires. If their orientation of the mind is changed, these people could become very earnest about salvation work. Their desire for their own salvation can change into a desire for the salvation of others. And this path can bring about that change.

The most difficult people are those who are totally indifferent and don't care about anything. They are people whose minds are disenchanting or closed.

Oyasama's path is a path of the mind. No matter what kind of causality we may have, and no matter what kind of life we may have lived until now, we can replace the mind and start following the path to salvation. If reason says that our salvation is not possible, then the Parent's sentiment is expressed as the desire to save us. It is through the interplay between inexorable reason and warm sentiment that Oyasama guides us.

In other words, Oyasama warmly embraces us and leads us to the world of inexorable reason. Such is the path of Oyasama's Divine Model.

Thus, two become one. This is represented

by such pairs of opposites as water and fire, reason and sentiment, others and self, sternness and kindness, heaven and earth, husband and wife, father and mother, pushing away and embracing, the principle of cutting and that of joining, endless generations and the present, ideal and reality, the Service and the Sazuke, and collective salvation and individual salvation. Our path of Oyasama will advance forward through oneness in two.

Thus, the path of single-hearted salvation is characterized by interplay between reason and sentiment. We may say that this interplay represents the most important aspect of the attitude we should adopt when we try to provide care and guidance.

- **Because This Is the Path for Endless Generations**

There are various things we Yoboku should make a point of doing. One of the most important thing is to build virtue in our own mind.

Another very important thing is to always make every effort to find a way to share Oyasama's teachings with others. Those who are

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good at explaining things should just go ahead and convey the teachings. Those who are not so good and those who are shy can find their own ways in which to share the path with others.

Yet another important thing is to make sure that the next generation will follow in our footsteps. So the three important things are to build virtue, to share the path with others, and to help our children and grandchildren succeed to the path we are following.

Currently, we are holding the Seminar for Successors at Jiba. I believe that while it is obviously important to convey the teachings to more and more people, it is equally important to pass the path down to the next generation. The reason is that this is the path for endless generations.

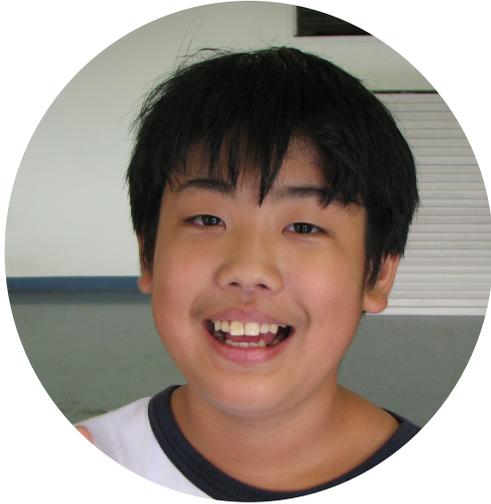
The need for us Yoboku to make spiritual growth—this is our most urgent issue as we move in the direction of the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama. I hope that the remarks I have made today will be of some use to you when you consider what needs to be done and what sort of way of thinking is appropriate in order to achieve spiritual growth.

## ***January Grand Service***

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

***Sermon in Japanese by Bishop Michihito Hamada***  
***English Translation by Reverend Colin Saito***

## *Young Faith Expressions*



**by Tori Kawasaki  
Tenrikyo Aloha Church**

My favorite Tenrikyo teaching is “If you save others, you will be saved.” When I save someone I feel very happy that I could do something, and when I get saved from something I feel happier that someone cares about me when I am in trouble. Also, doesn’t God the Parent want us to live Joyously? If we keep doing that, we will have a happy life along with doing hinokishin. That is why I like this teaching, if you save others, you will be saved.

## *Faraway Friends of the Path*



**by Michelle Inouye  
Hawaii Kai Mission Station  
Hawaii Central Church**

When I was a kid, I use to glance through the Origins newsletter. When it came to the section on “Faraway Friends of The Path” I looked forward to the day I might get the chance to write one (I know I’m a dork). I’ve been living in Tenri for almost three years and I’ve never been asked to write. Currently I’m doing hinokishin at the Tenrikyo Overseas Department and have been assigned to read a bunch of previous Origins newsletters. While reading the other day I realized I don’t have to wait around to be asked to write, I can take the initiative to do it myself! So here I am, dorky as ever writing to you all in beautifully warm Hawaii.

When I was younger, people who knew

me use to call me the “Anti-Tenrikyo.” I was the definition of negative and only had doubts and questions towards religion. On my summer vacations, I attended the Children’s Pilgrimage to Jiba and then Oyasato Seminar. Like my two older brothers, I was also scheduled to attend TLI (Tenrikyo Language Institute) after I graduated from high school. A whole year studying Japanese in Tenri versus my family, friends, job, and boyfriend. Yeah, I didn’t want to go.

The story on my reason for agreeing to come to TLI is one that is chock-full of nonsense so I won’t waste your time with it. Point is, I came. One year and then back home right? I spent the year playing, accompanied by ups and downs. But by the end of the year I found I wanted to stay a second year to attend Oyasato Fusekomi at TLI (which turned out to be one of the biggest changes, right along side one of the best years of my life).

In Oyasato Fusekomi, I got to study and was even lucky enough to live out some of the teachings of Tenrikyo. It was during this time that I began to understand why Tenrikyo is taught as “The Ultimate Teaching.” Among many reasons, one I like best is the simple idea of having gratitude and understanding for any and everything around you. I’d love to go more into this topic but I’m afraid I’ll end up babbling on for pages. In any case, I discovered the greatness of the teachings and only wish to spread it far and wide.

This is where you and I come in. How do you feel about Tenrikyo? How does the idea of everyone living happily and helping one another sound to you? Sounds pretty surreal, what with all the craziness going on in our world today. But there are people moving towards this goal and lucky for us we have a teaching that tells us how to reach this goal. Like an instruction book to life. But I’m just one person and you’re just one person, what can we do?

Every single person is significant in their own way. A mob is made up of a bunch of individuals. Through doing nioigake we can get others to realize this goal. We can go door-to-door or pass out pamphlets but some of us are quite busy and find it hard to find the time. As an alternative for the busy, all you have to do is smile or pick up trash you see on the ground, something small and simple that doesn’t even take time. These things are also a form of nioigake. I know it may not seem like you’re doing much at the time, but it’s like planting a seed, with time it will grow into something you wouldn’t have imagined could come from something so small.

Point is I’d like for us to be able to go through our day remembering that we are Tenrikyo, looking for small ways to do something, anything to improve the world we live in.

Don’t got time? Just smile!

Mahalo for reading!

Michelle Inouye

# 2008 New Year's Resolutions



**Kyana  
Kawasaki (6)**  
To help other  
children



**Mrs. Noe  
Sakai (86)**  
To continue taking  
steps forward even  
as I get older.



**Bis  
Har  
We  
Eng**



**Mrs. J  
Nakag  
To be  
with e**

**Rev. Glen  
Honda (69)**  
A wish of  
Joyous Life for  
everybody



**Hikari  
Nishida (24)**  
To think of  
others



**E  
T  
t  
Y  
I  
b**



**Rev. Tad  
Iwata (30)**  
To spread the  
joy of Faith



**Melinda  
Swanson (24)**  
To win my Judo  
Olympic Trial.

**Kyko  
Kawasaki (10)**  
To throw as  
good as  
Colt Brennan!



**Rev. Steven  
Nakao (55)**  
To do Nioigake and  
Otasuke more



**Brittany  
Iwata (12)**  
To be determined  
and try my best



**Mrs. Satoe  
Kakitani (48)**  
To stay  
forever young



**Terri Miy  
To lose w  
I wish fo  
to be he**

hop & Mrs. Michihito  
mada (60 & 53)

e wish we'll be able to speak  
English!



**Rev. Masahiko Iburi (65)**

15,000 steps a day,  
547,500 steps a year



**Naritaka  
Shimizu (29)**

To do good  
deeds without  
recognition

une  
awa (75)  
healthy  
everybody



**Michael Daley (12)**  
For my dad to stop  
smoking



**Michioki Inafuku (62)**  
Looking at the Model of  
Oyasama, to continue to  
grow spiritually.

tsuko Ganjali (39)  
to save money  
his year  
ukari Ganjali (7)  
wish I could  
be a bird!



**Rev. Takaharu Ichise (56)**  
"If Hawaii changes, the  
world will also change"  
- Let's move forward this  
year with a big dream!



**Toyoko  
Hanada (32)**  
To master Hula!



**Mr. Melvin  
Nakamura (64)**  
No War and  
World Peace



**Mrs. Doris  
Sugimoto (79)**  
I want to go  
to the Women's  
Association 100th  
Anniversary in 2010



**Motoyuki  
Gonai (26)**  
To treat everyday  
important, not wasting  
even one day

yamoto (33)  
weight and  
for everyone  
healthy



**Sensei Gregory Chow (43)**  
To have 5 Tenri Judo Club  
members compete in the Olympic  
Trials, and at least 2 players  
make the Olympic Team!

# ISLAND LIFE

## Rev. Masahiko Iburi & Rev. Takaharu Ichise Visits Hawaii Mission HQ



*Rev. Iburi arriving in Honolulu*



*Honoring our 80-year-olds*

From December 14 to 18, we had the honor of welcoming the Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs, Rev. Masahiko Iburi, from Church Headquarters, accompanied by Rev. Takaharu Ichise, Chief of the North America and Oceania Section of the Overseas Department. They visited various churches, including Hilo Church on Hawai'i Island (see photo on right) as well as the Tenri Cultural Center. During the *naorai* lunch hour after the Mission HQ monthly service, he presented gifts to our 80-years-young followers.



*Rev. Iburi & Rev. Ichise at Hilo Church*

## **HUGS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

On December 15th, the third annual Christmas Party for HUGS (Help Understanding and Group Support), a non-profit organization that provides various support services to families with seriously ill children, was held at Tenri Cultural Center.

Over 300 people gathered, including families from the neighbor islands. Members of the Women's Association, Young Men's Association and Young Women's Club also volunteered at the event, with Steven Nakao and his family spearheading the event.



*YWC members volunteering at the HUGS event*

### **Boy's and Girl's Association Leadership Camp**

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*January 26, 2007 (Saturday) thru January 27, 2007 (Sunday)*

*Starting at 9:45 AM after Yohaishiki at Mission HQ*

*Open to ages 11-18 years old. Disband is after New Year's Party.*

### **Boys and Girls Association Hinokishin & New Year's Party**

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*January 27, 2007 (Sunday) Starting at 9:00 AM with a prayer service, clean-up hinokishin at Moilili Old Stadium Park, then BBQ Party! All ages welcome. We look forward to seeing you!*

### **Makoto/Origins Newsletter Mission Statement**

To provide for the world community information concerning the services, activities, and events relating to Tenrikyo in Hawaii.

To inspire and initiate interest in having faith in Tenrikyo, by conveying the Truth of the Jiba in words, in the manner and the heart of God the Parent and Oyasama.

## OYASATO SEMINAR COURSE II

The Oyasato Seminar was held at Den-docho from December 26 to 29, 2007 with three students, one counselor, Cheryl Hori-kawa, and one staff from the Overseas Department, Mitsuo Kajimoto. The students must attend Course II in their respective areas, either Hawaii or America Dendo-cho, in order to participate in Course III in Jiba during the summer following Course I. The activities presented during Course II are various lectures pertaining to the Teachings, nioigake, hospital visitations, musical instruments and hand-dance practice, and an activity with their parents to learn about the origin of the faith of their families. The students reflections will be in next month's issue.



*participants sharing the origin of the faith of their families*

## HONOLULU MARATHON

The 35th annual Honolulu Marathon was held on December 9, 2007, Sunday. Among those participating in the 26.2 mile course were ten Hawaii Tenrikyo followers. Congratulations on completing the race!



### Finishing Times of Participants

Saul Lam	5:27:51
Clayton Lam	5:27:52
Jason Miyauchi	6:00:11
Yasutsugu Miyauchi	6:18:46
Kyoko Takemura	6:40:03
Tokyoko Hanada	6:59:22
Lincoln Okada	7:34:47
Kathy Lam	8:00:00
Shelly Ann Inafuku	8:00:00
Louise Inafuku	8:00:00

## ALOHA BAND CAMP

The Tenrikyo Aloha Band headed by Yasutsugu Miyauchi conducted a band training camp at Dendocho from December 21-23. Sixteen participants including six adult leaders endured the rigorous practices: which included marching and section practices. But they also enjoyed the fun activities such as football at TCC, movie night and some games for night time activities.



## KUAKINI MOCHI POUNDING

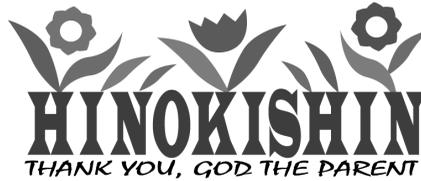
On December 27th, Thursday, Mission HQ staff along with the Young Men's Association & the Oyasato Seminar Course II students held a mochi pounding demonstration at Kuakini Hospital.

Also on December 30th, Saturday, the annual Mission HQ mochi pounding was held. The fun started briefly after morning service and lasted until mid-afternoon. This year along with the Kansai Club, Mission HQ was able to pound a new all-time high of 325 pounds!



## **DENDOCHO YEAR-END CLEANING**

Mahalo to those who participated for this yearly cleaning of Dendocho. It is held every year after Yohaishiki, December 26. Thank you very much!



### **YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB**

#### *Follow Miss Kokan Seminar*

---

**February 23-24, 2007, Saturday - Sunday**

Registration: 9:15 a.m. at Taitan Church

Followed by an overnight activities which are the speech by Mrs. Lynn Honda, women's instruments practice(tuning), hand dance practice, montsuki workshop, discussion on YWC's 2010 convention in Jiba, Taitan church monthly service and farewell party for the young women of Mission HQ !

\$5 donation per person

Please join us!

### **Community Hinokishin Day**

Please assemble at Mission HQ at 9:00 a.m. Please wear your green hinokishin T-shirts. If you do not have a shirt, please contact Mission HQ. Monthly Nioigake day will continue to be the Monday after Mission HQ's monthly service.

***First Tuesday of every month***

**This month: January 8th**

***In Memory of  
Mrs. Hatsuko Shiiba***

*(Wife of the former head minister of  
Tenrikyo Mishima Hilo Church, presently Kailua Kona Church)*



*August 25, 1928 ~ November 23, 2007*

Mrs. Hatsuko Shiiba was born in Nagasaki, Japan and moved to Hilo, Hawaii in 1958 with her husband, Reverend Yoshinobu Shiiba and her two sons, Yoshio and Yoshikazu, to take over Tenrikyo Mishima Hilo Church. She lived a simple, humble life, dedicated to the teachings of Tenrikyo and was devoted to the members of her congregation. Mrs. Shiiba will be remembered by her family and friends by her sweet smile, gentle spirit, and wonderful sense of humor. She will be missed by her family, and knowing that she is with her son, Yoshikazu, she is finally at peace.

She is survived by her husband, Reverend Yoshinobu Shiiba, son, Yoshio (wife, Nanae, grandchildren, Jennifer and Timothy), preceded in death by son, Kazu (wife, Rita, grandchildren Kevin and Justin), daughters, Lillian, Kayleen (husband, Jim, children, Camille and Celine), Michelle (husband, Tony), and her brother and sisters Yoshinori Tasaki, Tsugiko Matsuo, Yoneko Komatsu, and Kurako Tsubarai in Japan.

Mrs. Shiiba peacefully passed away at the Life Care Center in Kona at the age of 79. Services were held at Dodo Mortuary on December 8, 2007.

**MISSION HQ (DENDOCHO) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

January 13th, Sunday, Japanese Cultural Center (JCCH) Mochi Pounding  
10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m., 1:30 p.m.

Please join us!

# 2007 Year in Pictures



May 19th - Young Men's Association Members bid Chairman Tad Iwata a spirited farewell. Reverend Iwata continues to "reach for the sky" in his new endeavors on Maui.



January 1st - New Year's Day at Mission HQ



January 14th - JCCH Mochi Pounding



January 20th - New Beginnings Workshop



February 19th - TCC Hinokishin Day



*March 24 - Let's go this way!  
Mini Olympics at the Boys & Girls  
Association Spring Camp*



*April 8th - Spencer & Kristil Lau are married at  
Tenri Cultural Center. The couple were one of  
three couples that held their ceremony at TCC.*



*April 10th - Janyce Imoto, Yumiko Yamamoto,  
& Margaret Nakashima participate in the 47th  
Oyasama Congratulatory Instrument Performance*



*April 1st - Kanreki Celebration  
Dressed to impress - Bishop Hamada & Reverend  
Takatoshi Mima celebrate their 60th Birthday*



*May 5th - All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day  
Honolulu Zoo clean-up*



*June 8th - This year all types of people visited  
Mission HQ - even sumo wrestlers from Japan!*



*March 18th - Mission HQ Monthly Service*



*July 4th - Tenrikyo Picnic  
Shoot! Shoot! Shoot! The always popular "Tama-Ire" Game*



*July 21st - YMA Members Lincoln Okada, Jason Kawasaki, & Burt Kawasaki help to clean-up Kalihi Church*



*August 19th - Tenri Judo Club's Junior National Champions are recognized at Mission HQ Monthly Service*



*August 26th - Tenrikyo Annual Bazaar  
One of the hottest in recent memory did not stop the over 250 volunteers make it a success*



*September 27th - Remembering those that have walked the Path before him, Reverend Clyde Mikuni prays at the Autumn Memorial Service*



*September 29th - Taking nothing for granted, Mrs. Mitakara is happy to spread the teachings even in a wheelchair during Nioigake Day*



*October 13th - Lincoln Okada & other YMA Members spend this sunny Saturday afternoon cleaning up graffiti*



*October 13th - Sumako Forbes dances and entertains the residence at Nuuanu Hale*



*November 6th - Monthly Hinokishin Day One small piece at a time Robert Miranda helps to beautify Kakaako Park*



*November 11th - Pom Pom Workshop Kiyomi, Yoshie, Hiroko, Yumiko, Satoko & .... Reverend Miyauchi!*



*December 14th - Mission HQ's smallest staff member Misako Takemura welcomes Reverend Masahiko Ihuri*

# Tid Bits

## Associations' Reports



### BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Until further notice the weekly Sunday School will take a rest, however, the third Sunday – Sunday school will continue...

#### LEADERSHIP CAMP AND NEW YEAR PARK CLEANUP & BBQ PICNIC!

Our annual leadership camp (from ages 11-18) and New Year Stadium Park Cleanup and BBQ Picnic will be held on January 26 through 27. The leadership camp will start from 9:45am on 1/26 and end after the BBQ picnic on 1/27. The Park Cleanup and BBQ Picnic will start at 9am at MHQ for prayer service then go to the park. Invite your friends and family!

#### SPRING CAMP

In gearing up for the Spring Camp in March the BGA will be conducting Service practices as follows: 1/20(Su): MHQ (Mission Headquarters of Hawaii), 2/2(Sa): Pearl Church, 2/8(Fr): Aloha Church, 2/17(Su): MHQ, 2/23(Sa): Kochi Makoto Church, 2/29(Sa): TBA (To be announced), 3/7(Fr): Hawaii Central Church, and last dress rehearsal on 3/19(We): MHQ. All practices to start at 7pm. Thank you all for your support!



### YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

#### YWC Volunteers for the HUGS Christmas Party

Steven and Shigemi Nakao would like to thank everyone for their generous help with the HUGS Christmas Party that was held on Saturday, December 15th. They and everyone truly appreciated all the volunteers helping to make the party very enjoyable and look forward to attending again next year.

#### YWC Planning Meeting

We have scheduled the YWC Planning Meeting for Thursday, January 10th from 7:00pm at Taitan Church. The planning session will go over the calendar for the upcoming year, any new activities that we will be considering and promoting, and our plans for the 2010 trip to Japan. If you are interested in attending the YWC planning session for the up-coming year, please email Terri at [terrim@servco.com](mailto:terrim@servco.com).

#### Bakers Anyone?

For our monthly mini-bazaar during the Mission Headquarters Monthly service, we are looking for bakers to create ono goodies that we can sell. If you are able to bake at least one time for one of our monthly sales, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Terri at [terrim@servco.com](mailto:terrim@servco.com) to sign up for a particular month. Volunteers for manning the mini-bazaar and tea-pouring are also being sought after.

### Follow Miss Kokan Seminar

For 2008, the Follow Miss Kokan Seminar is scheduled for the last weekend in February on the 23rd and 24th. It will be a sleepover with many different activities. Please save time during that weekend to plan and attend the Kokan Seminar.

### YWC Garage Sale Fundraiser

Our first Garage Sale of the year will be on Sunday, March 30th. We are looking for a main coordinator for this event as well as volunteers for collecting donated goods, setting up the day before, and working the sale. The proceeds from this fundraiser will help support our club activities and also help offset our expenses for our 2010 trip to Japan. Please contact Terri at terrim@servco.com if you would like to volunteer for this project.



## YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

### January 9th (Wed)

- Monthly YMA meeting  
Rainbow Hale 7:30 p.m.

### January 13th (Sun)

- Mochi pounding  
Japanese Cultural Center 10:30 a.m.

We are expecting a lot of people to attend. Please join us!!  
Japanese Cultural Center

\*\*Additional Hinokishin Events to be announced.



## WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Happy New Year!

As we take our first steps toward the 100th anniversary of the establishment of our association, let us live spiritedly this year, respecting and helping one another as we strive to become closer to God the Parent's intention even a day sooner.

### NUUANU HALE VISITATION

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

### MONTHLY MEETING

January 14 (2<sup>nd</sup> Mon) 10:00 a.m.

Speech by Bishop Hamada

New Year Party

(Game, lunch, and etc.)

\* Many games with prizes!!

### WOMEN'S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PRACTICE

January 15 (Tues) 9:00 a.m.

### HINOKISHIN

- JCCH Mochi Pounding  
January 13 (Sun) 10:30 a.m., 12:00, 1:30 p.m.
- TCC Hinokishin
- January 19 (Sat) 9:00 a.m.

### WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK

January 20 (Sun) after lunch following Mission HQ's Monthly Service

\* January Mission HQ monthly service luncheon Hinokishin by Hofu group.

Thank you!



# The Hungry Reporter

Happy New Year everyone!! I am hoping that 2008 will be a grand year for all!! During this time of year, many of us have the opportunity to attend parties to celebrate the holidays. In the islands especially, it is often not a rare thing that we are faced with having to think of something delicious to bring to a potluck party. I received as a Christmas gift a cookbook called *Hawaii's Best Pupu & Potluck*. The author, Jean Watanabe Hee also has many other 'Hawaii's Best' cookbooks based on mochi recipes and local desserts. I decided to share a recipe from this wonderful book (can be found at any store that carries local cookbooks). As always I do attempt to chose something simple and delicious that I know you will enjoy!

## Curry Mango Cream Cheese Spread

### Ingredients

Cream Cheese (softend)	2 pkgs-8 oz	Green Onion	2 tsp
Curry Powder	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp	(green part only, chopped)	
Dry Mustard Powder	$\frac{1}{2}$ tsp	Sliced Almonds (toasted)	$\frac{1}{4}$ cup
Mango Chutney	$\frac{1}{2}$ cup	Crackers	1 box

\* For mango chutney, Major Grey's Chutney, and for crackers Carr's water crackers or Ritz crackers is recommended

### Directions

1. Place cream cheese in large bowl to soften and set aside. Mix together curry powder and dry mustard. Mix in mango chutney. Add to softened cream cheese; mix together thoroughly.
2. . In a medium size plastic container with lid, sprinkle almonds and green onions on bottom of container. Spread curry cream cheese mixture over green onions and almonds. Cover with lid and refrigerate for at least one hour. Use butter knife to loosen mold from around the sides of container. Place serving plate on top of container and turn over. Serve with crackers.

## January 2008

<b>1st</b>	<b>Tue</b>	New Year Service	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
<b>3rd</b>	<b>Thu</b>	Mochi Pounding	Sheraton Waikiki Hotel	1:00 p.m.
<b>5th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Missionary House Grand Service	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
<b>7th</b>	<b>Mon</b>	WA Committee Meeting	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
<b>8th</b>	<b>Tue</b>	Monthly Hinokishin Day	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
<b>11th</b>	<b>Fri</b>	YWC New Year Party	Mission HQ	TBA.
<b>12th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
<b>13th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	JCCH Mochi Pounding	JCCH	10:30 a.m.
<b>14th</b>	<b>Mon</b>	WA Monthly Meeting		
		WA New Year Party	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
<b>15th</b>	<b>Tue</b>	WA Instrument Practice	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
<b>16th</b>	<b>Wed</b>	YMA Monthly Meeting	RH	7:00 p.m.
<b>17th</b>	<b>Thu</b>	BGA Staff Meeting	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
<b>19th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	WA TCC Hinokishin	TCC	9:00 p.m.
<b>20th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	January Grand Service	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		Aloha Band Practice	Mission HQ	1:30 p.m.
<b>21st</b>	<b>Mon</b>	Nioigake Day	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
<b>26th</b>	<b>Sat</b>	Monthly Yohaishiki	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		BGA Leaders Camp	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
<b>27th</b>	<b>Sun</b>	BGA Park Clean up +	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		BGA New Year's Party	Stadium Park	9:45 a.m.

## February 2008

<b>5th</b>	<b>Tue</b>	Monthly Hinokishin Day	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
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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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Tenrikyo homepage: <http://www.tenrikyo.or.jp>  
Tenrikyo Online: <http://www.tenrikyo.or.jp/kaiden/newsletter/>  
Hawaii Mission HQ Online: <http://www.tenrikyo-hawaii.com/news>

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## *Successors of the Path Seminar*

*Saturday, March 29, 2008*

*Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii*

*8:30 a.m. – 3:45 p.m.*

*Open to Tenrikyo members and non-members  
aged 17-40. Participants should have some  
basic knowledge of the Tenrikyo teachings.*

Please inquire Mission HQ for further information