

No. 202 JUNE 2008

ORIGINS

*The self-centered mind will not do.
The mind of God differs entirely.*

Ofudesaki I:73



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

May 17, 2008

Message from the Head of the Overseas Department May 26, Tenrikyo 171

I would like to commend each of you for your daily dedication in each of your concurrent positions.

In Oyasato, the Home of the Parent, the season of verdant greenery greet us throughout the fields and mountainside, but today we are blessed with the heat of the sun, reminding us of an early summer. Many followers of the Path returned to Jiba from their respective countries and regions, performing the May Monthly Service spiritedly, in unity with the Shinbashira as the core.

In his Service Prayer, the Shinbashira declared his resolution for all Yoboku to persevere in the construction of their minds, obediently follow Oyasama's Divine Model, engage in nioigake and salvation work with a bright and radiant mind, and to exert their utmost sincerity in the advancement of their seasonable duties. He prayed that we may realize the Joyous Life World even a day sooner.

Following the Service, the sermon was given by Honbu-in, Rev. Koji Masui.

Rev. Masui referred to the Anecdotes of his predecessor, Isaburo Masui, quoting from Anecdote 16, "The Child's Concern for the Parent", and Anecdote 137, "A Single Word", and spoke about the mind of faith and the beginnings of his faith.

On the topic of sowing seeds of true sincerity, Rev. Masui spoke at great length, quoting from the Mikagura-uta, Osashizu and the Okakisage.

Rev. Yoshio Uchida, chief of the Latin-America section, was appointed as the 6th head of the Tenrikyo Mission Center of Colombia. With Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs, Rev. Iburi presiding, the Installation and Monthly Service was held successfully this past May 11th. At the Mission Headquarters in Korea, Rev. Toshihiko Yamamoto, chairperson of the Shonenkai Headquarters presided in the ceremony for the establishment of Shonenkai in Korea, held on May 18th.

This concludes my greetings and announcements.

Yoichiro Miyamori
Overseas Department Head

May 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 have guided us in accord with the seasonable time and there is not a moment You cease to protect us. For this we are deeply grateful, and we are striving to meet Your desire by daily engaging our effort to spiritedly follow the path which will allow us to make repayment for the blessings we receive. Today is the day we are granted to conduct the May monthly service 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.

The All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day was held throughout the world, and it was conducted on the 3rd with 150 participating on Oahu. Participation on Kauai, Maui and Hawaii will soon follow. Also, on the 17th the Hawaii Women's Association and Young Men's Association general meetings were jointly held with many attending. Guest representative Mr. Isaku Nishida from the headquarters of the Young Men's Association was also there to join them. As each member deepened their resolve as foundations of the faith, and their passion as pioneers of the path, they vowed to apply their spirited effort directly toward the realization of the joyous life world.

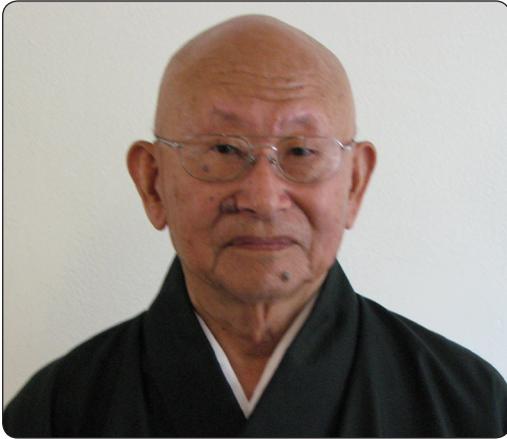
As we spiritedly pursue the path of the Divine Model of Oyasama, we hope to make the best of each day, and not be swayed by self-centered thinking, as we apply our utmost effort toward our duties and administer the Sazuke in hopes to meet your desire for world salvation.

Although we are far from your expectations, may You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity and as brothers and sisters 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 May Monthly Service Sermon

Reverend Yoshinobu Nakao

(Tenrikyo Pearl Church)



Tenri-O-no-Mikoto

Together with all of you in attendance, we have just fulfilled our responsibilities and completed our May monthly service. I believe that God the Parent, Oyasama, and our ancestors are completely satisfied with our efforts. Being designated to give a sermon today, I would like to request your kind company for a short while.

Since around 1930, the Japanese government, as a policy to unite the nation with the ideology that an ancestor of the emperor, Amaterasu Ookami was the ultimate God, strict measures were taken to control all speech, ideas, and religions that opposed this policy. Members of this imperialist congress decided that Tenrikyo was a religion that was against the national interest and immediately

a public outcry demanding the disbandment of Tenrikyo was executed. Ministries of the Department of Religion, Internal affairs, and police agency declared that Tenrikyo was a movement against the interest of the nation and demanded that the Doctrine of Tenrikyo be altered.

The Kagura Service was abolished, the Ofudesaki that were souvenirs distributed during Oyasama's Fiftieth Anniversary and complete volumes of the Osashizu were confiscated from Headquarters and incinerated, the use of the verses from the Mikagura Uta's Yorozuyo, "When I, God, reveal Myself", in Song Three, "Original God, True God", and in Song Five, "This is the Jiba, the origin of this world" was not permitted, and also the explanation of the "Truth of Creation could not be told. Our Doctrine was mutilated, and our religion narrowly escaped being dissolved. It is beyond my imagination the agony, distress and dilemma that the second Shimbashira endured.

I truly believe that if we did not conform to the policy of the country, surely, first the Shimbashira, Honbu-in, and all Head Ministers would have been thrown into prison. Actually, if Tenrikyo was a religion with a huge fellowship, Honbu may have been demolished by dynamite and our Foundress and the top leaders around Her may have been

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thrown into prison,

Knowing they would lose, Japan's army and navy attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7th 1941. Recklessly engaging in war with America, as a result, two nuclear bombs were dropped on Japan. In 1945 the war finally came to an end.

During the extreme confusion and chaos of losing the war, the citizens of Japan experienced days of living on empty stomachs. In such a turbulent time of distress and lack of food, the second Shimbashira had to make the difficult decision on which direction to lead our religion and how to restore our faith to its original state. With determination, he set forth to spread the path through the original doctrine taught by Oyasama therefore the Kagura Service was performed with the Kagura masks during the Autumn Grand Service the very year the war ended. Both the Service performers and followers in attendance were deeply moved and shed tears of joy as the Service was being performed.

At this time, the previous Shimbashira was merely thirteen years old. He reported to his mother who was resting quietly at the Hyogo Diocese Administrative Office in Kobe with the following words: "A large number of followers attended today's Grand service. From today, the Service was performed with the performers wearing masks centering around the Kanrodai, the Yorozuyo and as in the past, the entire twelve songs were performed. Many followers were in tears and spiritedly sang the verses in high spirits. It was so wonderful."

Next, the Shimbashira abolished the Meiji era version of the doctrine that was considered distorted and twisted, then he devoted all

his energy in compiling the Doctrine in its original form as conveyed directly to us by Oyasama.

Together with Yoshikazu Nakayama, Yoshinori Moroi, Tadamasa Fukaya, whom completed their studies in Religion at Tokyo University, and who had strong desires to research the teachings of Tenrikyo, began to examine the scriptures over and over again, immersed in their efforts in compiling the Doctrine of Tenrikyo, they announced their plan before the October Grand Service in 1948. On October 23rd the second Shimbashira spoke on the Doctrine of Tenrikyo.

"Concerning the doctrine, conveyed to us solely by the words of Oyasama, to formulate a standard for the teachings of God the Parent, our spirit is incorporated in setting a basis for our life of faith. To explain in other words, the teachings are not merely words from another place, it is our doctrine. It is not to be shown to only people outside our faith, but to be read together by people outside and within our faith. The doctrine was compiled with the sincere desire that it be read by all people. Therefore, I feel that the doctrine is our standard for our joy of faith." (unofficial translation)

I would like to speak about the circumstances leading to the publication of the Doctrine of Tenrikyo.

In the beginning of Chapter Four in the Doctrine the following is recorded.

"We call out the name Tenri-O-no-Mikoto in praise and worship of God the Parent. God the Parent is God of Origin, God in Truth, who created humankind and the world where there was no form and who gives life, time, and

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place to all things throughout eternity.”

I am the God of Origin, who began the human beings of this world.

Yet there may be no one who knows Me.
Ofudesaki III:15

I began to teach My providence in the muddy ocean,

And you have come to prosper step by step.

Ofudesaki III:16

“God the Parent is the origin of humankind and this world. Not only was the world created by God the Parent, but there is nothing in this world whose existence does not depend on divine providence. The unlimited workings of providence can be distinctly seen by our eyes, felt by our bodies, and sensed by our minds. Indeed, God the Parent is God of Origin, God of Truth”.

This is truly the ultimate document and there is no need to add or supplement anything to these words. If we were to do Nioigake and were asked “What kind of God is Tenrikyo?” If we were to explain accordingly our reply would be complete. For all of us, it is our duty to do our utmost in fulfilling our life of faith from the bottom of our hearts.

Through the wonderful blessings I experienced as a member of the Tengen Fraternity, I would like to speak about Oyasama’s parental love in raising Her children. From Chapter One to Chapter Seventeen, Oyasama wrote 1,711 verses of the Ofudesaku plus three verses of the Ofudesaki unnumbered set. From December of 1874 to

December 27th, 1875, during this one year span, She wrote 583 verses of the Ofudesaki. These verses amount to about a third of the complete verses. Because of this I feel that the year 1875, the 37th year of the establishment of Tenrikyo and also when Oyasama was 78 years old, was a very crucial period in our history. Again in the beginning of 1868, the songs of the Mikagura –Uta were composed. Seven years later in 1875, the verses and hand movements for “Ichiretsu sumasu Kanrodai” were taught and the Mikagura-Uta was completed.

The first three sections of the Mikagura-Uta, “Ashiki o harote, Chotto hanashi, Ichiretsu sumashite Kanrodai,” eight verses of Yorozuyo, and the twelve counting songs, consisted of a total of one hundred and thirty three verses. God taught us the entire Tenrikyo teachings directly through the verses of the Ofudesaki and Mikagura-Uta.

In the Ofudesaki, our Foundress is repeatedly referred to as not a human being and that Oyasama is God, She is Tsukihi, and the Parent of all humankind.

We are taught in the Ofudesaki:

These thoughts of Tsukihi are spoken through Her:

The mouth is human, the mind is that of Tsukihi.

Ofudesaki XII:67

Listen! I, Tsukihi, am borrowing Her mouth wholly,

And I, Tsukihi, am lending My mind wholly.

Ofudesaki XII:68

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household for three years.

Also,

This Parent, who began human beings,
lives. This is the truth.

Ofudesaki VIII:37

These songs teach us the fact that because God the Parent received Oyasama as His shrine, this means that Oyasama Herself is God, Tsukihi and the Parent of humankind and we can also say that She possessed the soul of Izanami no Mikoto, the body of the mother at the time of Creation.

Again we are admonished,

From now on, whatever I may say or do,
do not take it in the least to be human.

Ofudesaki VII:56

As an important historical fact of 1875, on May 26th the Jiba was identified. This event clearly indicated the Truth of the Jiba as one of the three causalities essential for the establishment of our faith. Another important historical event of 1875 was the passing away for rebirth of Kokan-sama on September 27th of that year.

Kokan-sama was a person who had the affinity to the Jiba and as a Service Performer, possessed the soul of Kunisazuchi-No-Mikoto at the time of Creation. Her elder sister Oharu who married Sojiro Kajimoto of Ichinmoto, passed away for rebirth one day after giving birth to her fifth child in 1872. Kokan-sama went to the Kajimoto household to take care Oharu's remaining children. Oyasama told Kokan, "it is fine to help but come back as soon as possible", however, overwhelmed by passion, she remained at the Kajimoto

No matter how much Tsukihi pleads with
you close to me,

No one understands. Oh, how I regret.

Ofudesaki IX:41

Although she was urged to return home, Kokan-sama passed away for rebirth on September 27, 1875 at the age of thirty nine. On being notified, Oyasama still under detention, obtained special permission and returned to the Residence by rickshaw. She went straight to Her daughter's bedside. Stroking her cold, lifeless body, Oyasama thanked her for many years of service and said tenderly:

"What a pity! Come back soon."

People from the adjoining Shoyashiki village attended and helped with the arrangements for Kokan's funeral. Her remains were buried at Zenpukuji temple. After the funeral, the top disciples and people of the village were provided a tray of food after the funeral was completed and everything was put away.

Then addressing the villagers, a sensei stated, "how about devoting yourselves to the faith by forming a fellowship? It seems that because of the villager's mood at that time they consented. Informed of these turn of events, Oyasama was overjoyed and took off the red clothes She was wearing and said: "As a symbol of worship for your faith, enshrine this!" and withdrew. Since the location was the home of the God of the heavens, it was determined that the fraternity be named Tengen. It is conveyed that this was the very beginning of Tengen Branch Church and there

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are many important historical events that occurred related to our fortunate past.

One such fact was on December 26, 1874,

What do you think of these red clothes?

Tsukihi dwells within.

Ofudesaki VI:63

Oyasama said these words and began to wear red clothes. I assume nine months later, the villagers of Tengen Fraternity were the first to receive the red clothes from Oyasama. Anyway, this event occurred in 1875 and there are no records related to the Tengen Fellowship in either the Residence or the home of Genjiro Adachi who was the head of the Tengen fellowship to prove this. However, as proof, these symbols of worship have been continually protected by church heads through generation after generation. Presently, at Tengen Branch Church this red coat is enshrined in it's Foundress' sanctuary.

The second fact is the identification of the Jiba on June 26, 1875

There at the Jiba,

I began all the human beings in the world.

Ofudesaki XVII:7

This verse plainly states that the Jiba is the original place with the affinity for the creation of human beings. Three months after this verse was written, the villagers that live in the vicinity were given the name Tengen for their fellowship. At that time I wonder how many followers really understood the

truth of the Jiba. Because it was the origin of the heavens, I believe that one of Oyasama's senior disciples came up with the good idea to name our fellowship Tengen. Because of our location there is absolutely no other fellowship that can be named the origin of the heavens. In a Ofudesaki verse written in April of 1874.

Even more do I hasten to save the villagers.

Please ponder quickly.

Ofudesaki IV:78

This verse states the strong desire to bring the villagers together and devote themselves to God as soon as possible. The very next verse reads:

To God, people throughout the world are My children.

All of you equally, know that I am your Parent.

Ofudesaki IV:79

This verse describes that all humankind are children of God the Parent.

The twelve songs of the Mikagura-Uta were composed in 1867 (the third year of the Keio Era), among those verses are the following:

Villagers I wish to save at once,

But they do not understand My heart

Mikagura Uta IV:6

Since firmly we are determined to believe,
Let us form a brotherhood.

Mikagura Uta V:10

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We can say the forming of fraternities was actualized eight years after these verses were written. I believe that during this seasonable time, the three historical facts of the red clothes, Jiba, and Kokan-sama's passing away for rebirth are deeply related.

One fellowship name that appears in "The Life of Oyasama" is the Shinmei Fellowship headed by Shuji-Sensei. In September of 1880, using the opening ceremony of Tenrin-O Fellowship as an opportunity, a list of names were planned and upwards to twenty fellowships were established in 1881.

Kokan-sama's passing away for rebirth gave the people of Shoyashiki village the opportunity to gather, and the wish for the villagers to be saved for eternity was realized. I understand Oyasama was extremely overjoyed. Since then fellowships were established in Yamato, Kawachi, and Kyoto. Although names for fellowships were granted, there was no one who was devoted enough to go before Oyasama and deepen their faith. So out of the sixty two households within Shoyashiki and Mishima, not even one person was appointed as a Honbu-in. In the vicinity of Ojiba, in Toyoda there was Chusaku Tsuji, in Mamekoshi Village, Chushichi Yamanaka, and in Ichinomoto, lived the Ihuri and Kajimoto families that devoted themselves to Ojiba and were the closest associates of Oyasama, however there was no one from Shoyashiki Village.

From that time on, as the years passed there was a increase in the number of worshippers returning to Jiba and Tengen Fellowship too experienced a turn of fortune and devoted their efforts to the Jiba. My

great grandfather Shojiro Nakao became the second head of Tengen Fellowship and my grandfather Asakichi Nakao was appointed the fifth head of the fellowship. At the time we received our fellowship name, the people of Shoyashiki Village were called murakata or villagers. In 1877, thirty one households of Shoyashiki Village and another thirty one households from Mishima Village merged and the combined total of sixty two families became known as Mishima Village. The Nakao family was originally from Mishima Village and as a "murakata", became members of the Tengen Fellowship. My grandfather left his nine children to do missionary work in Tokyo, however his mission was interrupted and after his return, he was appointed head of the Tengen Fellowship. The first work he engaged in was the construction of a place of worship for the members of Tengen Fellowship and he tried his utmost to encourage the members to devote themselves to the fellowship. It is not that the members passionately devoted themselves to the teachings because they received miraculous blessings, but the entire village of sixty two families all converted to this religion and the church conducted ceremonies and funerals for the sake of the villagers, a practice that continues till today.

As one of Tengen's own unique traditions, on the day a person passed away, that day would be set where each month that member's home would be visited and a prayer would be recited before the mitama. During the August mid year and Obon seasons the trustees of the church would divide themselves into groups and visit all the homes of members and

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perform memorial services.

Since becoming a fellowship, after fifty years, my grandfather was able to establish a missionary station. The church was later relocated to its present location in Ichinomoto, and after constructing the sanctuary, he passed away at the age of seventy two. It can be said that as the head of Tengen Fellowship, he strengthened the foundation on which the church was built.

Ten affiliate churches were established under Tengen and the establishment of Pearl Church too was due to his diligent efforts. In 1928, fifty-one-year-old Tsugi Nagayama (affiliate of Keijyo Grand church) graduated from the Minister Qualification Course. She wished to go to Hawaii to do missionary work and thought maybe she could receive a church that belonged to Ojiba so she confided in my grandfather, the head of Tengen Missionary Station. Conceding to her firm devotion to the teachings, he went to the Overseas Mission Department to discuss the situation and made arrangements for her passage. She was finally able to depart for Hawaii six years later in 1931. At that time our first Bishop Morikuni Inoue was a staff member at the Overseas Mission department and in charge of making the preparations for her trip. Bishop Inouye assumed his position as the head of Hawaii Dendocho (Mission Headquarters) twenty three years later in 1954, the fact that because of Bishop Inoue's kind assistance, in August of that year, my wife and I were able to go to Hawaii to engage in missionary work. I cannot help but feel God's ever present workings and a strange affinity to our first Bishop.

This is written in the Fifty Year History of the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii so I will go on.

In the final section of Chapter Four in the Doctrine:

“God the Parent is the true Parent of humankind. God's sole desire is the Joyous Life for all the children. Therefore, God appeared in this world through Oyasama as the Shrine to open the path of single-hearted salvation at the Jiba, the place of origin. The Jiba is the place to which the divine name Tenri-O-no-Mikoto was given, and there, Oyasama remains alive forever, protecting all humankind.”

Of whatever salvation, you are assured,
because your true Parent lives.

Ofudesaki VII:101

Indeed, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, Oyasama and the Jiba are one in truth. Only when we accept this truth can the path of single-hearted salvation leading to the Joyous Life be fulfilled.

Because of the arrival of the promised time, at the Jiba of human origin, Oyasama became the Shrine of Tsukihi, and we all exist here today because we all have the affinity to this origin.

Eighty years ago, I was born in the home of the Parent, Jiba, and due to my parent's guidance and the causation of my soul, I had a affinity for this land of Hawaii, and was able to come here and do missionary work. And during this seasonable time, I would like all of us all to renew our awareness on how we are related and effected by the causality of origin

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and three great causalities of the establishment of Tenrikyo. I would like to request that we strengthen our resolve and give our utmost efforts in following the Divine Model.

Please forgive me for speaking about myself and passing the allotted time.

This year I am eighty years old and my day's may be numbered. This just might be the last time I speak here before you. About ten years ago, before all of you, I said if I could complete the fifty year history of Hawaii Dendocho, I would be completely satisfied and with a beautiful smile, laugh and pass away for rebirth. Two years have passed since the compilation of the history of missionary work in Hawaii, although that period has come and passed, I still somehow manage to exist.

It may be just my self-centered thinking but maybe God is saying let Nakao live for a little while longer. As my remaining days come to an end, I would like to spend these days having as many people as possible read the fifty year history of the path of Hawaii, have as many people as possible understand our history, and reflect on the blood stained path our predecessors endured. Like the many wonderful and encouraging stories written in the fifty year history, I wish to devote even more of my efforts for the sake of this path.

My first great grandchild was born the other day. Fifty four years ago my wife and I arrived in Hawaii with just one suitcase woven out of Yanagi wood. Presently, including my children, their spouses, and grandchildren, the Nakao family consists of 21 people. Blessed with five children, living through poverty, they experienced many hardships when they were young. However if I speak of those problems

back then, I would be disputing their character so I will refrain. All of them have their own families, and with their support of Pearl Church I can say we have become firmly established here in Hawaii. After arriving in Hawaii, I did Hinokishin as a seinen of Dendocho, and during those days, I would think about my situation and wonder what the future would hold for me. At that time, my outlook at life was cloudy and I did not have any bright hopes for the future. By remaining in Hawaii for fifty four years, I am so thankful for all of God's miraculous blessings and the support of all the members of our congregation which is responsible for my present good fortune.

My son Owen has matured and engages in Hinokishin at Dendocho and has responsibilities for the Boy's and Girl's Association and Young Men's Association. My grandson, Moses and his wife became staff members here at Dendocho last year. I don't know how diligently they perform their duties, but probably, their efforts are not more or less than mine. There may be some who say that my grandchildren work the hardest, but the only thing I can say for sure is that Moses has inherited my ability to drink beer.

There is no greater joy than when all three generations, parent, child and grandchild are blessed with good health and devote their efforts for the sake of this Path. This is really a rare occurrence in the history of the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii.

Do not grieve over whatever path you are on now.

Take delight in the main path that lies ahead.
Ofudesaki III:37

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The present path: what kind of path do you think it is?

Though it seems to you to be unclear,
Ofudesaki IV:1

My dearest wish is continue my salvation work in high spirits and believe that the future still holds many wonderful pleasures. Thank you for your kind attention.

June Monthly Service

June 15, 2008 (Sunday, 9:00 a.m.)

***Sermon "The Divine Model"
in English by Mrs. Jean Yama***

Japanese Translation by Reverend Tsunenori Ichise

OPEN THE DOOR TO A NEW LIFE!

2008 HAWAII SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE

(SHUYOKAI)

JUNE 15 - JULY 12, 2008

Tenrikyo Mission HQ of Hawaii will hold its 38th Spiritual Development Course providing a place to learn the teachings of Tenrikyo and to train spiritually, in a safe and nurturing environment.

Through group life at the Mission HQ, you will learn the true purpose of life by helping one another and practicing the teachings in actual situations. You will be able to experience the joy of having the faith.

How can we live a happy and prosperous life? How can we be healed from illness and solve our problems? You will find answers to these questions and more, as you experience the true joy of life.

This course is conducted in both English and Japanese, and is open to anyone 17 years of age and older.

Applications are due by Sunday, June 8th

Please contact Mission HQ (Dendocho) for further information

Faith Experience Speech



**Tenrikyo Hawaii Women's Association
49th General Meeting
May 17, 2008**

Setsumi Saltman

Thank you for allowing me to share my faith experience with you. I also would like to thank Mrs. Kazuko Fujiwara for translating this speech.

When I look back at my childhood, I feel so lucky that my biological parents were also my spiritual parents. They were the most dedicated, sincere, generous and caring parents to us and to everyone they touched. Most of all they were obedient to their parents and God the Parent. At the request of my grandfather, my father left medical school to become a missionary. The reasoning was that becoming a missionary instead of a physician would allow him to better help people, bring more blessings and improve the causality of the family. My father and mother got married

at the request of their parents without ever having met each other until the wedding day. They established their first church in Hiroshima and approximately 6 years later my father, before consulting my mother agreed to go abroad to spread the teachings in response to the Shimbashira's call for missionaries to go abroad to engage in world salvation work. He left first, then two years later, my mother and the four of us, the youngest only two, joined him in California. The Bishop asked him to establish a church in Fresno since there were no Tenrikyo churches there. He was unable to speak English so he developed relationships with the Issei and Nisei families and through them developed friendships with non-Japanese residents, some of them prominent families in Fresno. Even without the ability to speak English, he was able to be part of the Fresno local community. One family allowed us to establish our church at their previous residence, a mansion on twenty acres of land for many years free of charge. My father supported the church and family by working eight hours a day as a gardener for a prominent attorney who asked for his help in maintaining his Japanese garden which was 5 acres in size. He toiled in the hot sun during the summer (over 100 °F) and cold winters (below 32°F) from Monday - Saturdays and did missionary work in the evenings and weekends. Throughout my childhood we lived with students, families, elderly people and visitors. He welcomed any and everyone.

We hosted many events and activities, one even having the attendance of the mayor of Fresno. My mother supported him by nurturing the members, cooking, and maintaining the church. She cooked for ten to fifteen people each meal and always cooked for large activities without ever stressing or complaining. We also were expected to do a lot of hinokishin in the kitchen and yard work to help them.

I always enjoyed listening to my father's sermon and remember believing in God early on. Everything I heard seemed consistent and logical. Most of all, I saw the benefits of believing because my family on both sides, starting with my grandparents and all of their children were very dedicated and had planted lots of seeds for us. My parents followed and modeled the teachings and I was able to see the immediate benefits in my daily life. We always had delicious food, we were surrounded by caring people, we were able to grow up without ever requiring a visit to the doctor, we never encountered accidents or trauma and we were all able to attend universities with minimal support from our parents. We lived in a caring environment where people came to learn, practice and help each other grow through the faith. After many years we were given the opportunity to establish our current church on the very residence, the one with the Japanese garden that he (my father) had helped to care and nurture. Most of all, our siblings get along with one another, follow the faith and have married

into other wonderful families. I believe this is all due to the blessings from the work of my grandparents and parents.

When I look back at what I learned from my father, I remember how clearly he explained these concepts:

- We are all brothers and sisters
- A person who does not do something after he is told is stubborn, a person who does things after he is told is sincere, but a person who does things before he is told has true sincerity.
- If you save others you will be saved
- The blessings you receive through your faith will carry over to your next generation.
- Two as in one. Everything has a positive and negative side, complementary parts which maintains the balance.
- Everything you see or happens is a reflection of your heart or mind.
- Be a person who can get along with different types of people.
- Enlarge your container by experiencing difficulties and overcoming them; From knots, buds will grow.
- You come to church for your own sake not for anyone else's.
- Your body is so remarkable; each organ functions even at rest.
- All you need to do is save one person during your lifetime.
- You can accomplish the same thing in short period of time or long period, it is up to each of you.
- Mind of joy, appreciation and tanno are the most important things.

- The service is one of the most important part of salvation work.
- Place God in the center of everything you do.

I am thankful for this religion because it helps guide us to the joyous life and most of all it helps us get through difficulties. At the age of 32, I lost both my mother and father within one year and remember how the members, my brothers and sister were able to lean on God, comfort each other and accept it peacefully. My brother, the current minister must have felt a big loss, since he was suddenly left with a busy church without his spiritual parents. A few years ago we lost a 45 year old brother to leukemia. Through his faith he endured one year of medical treatments with a positive, grateful and peaceful attitude. His wife, who is not of Japanese descent,

became the pillar by caring for him physically and by leaning on God and the teachings. Even without my brother now, she places daily offerings onto the altar, performs the service, drives three hours with her little son to Fresno each month to attend the monthly service, is active in local church activities and is planning to take over one of our fellowships. She tells us how the faith helped her through this difficulty. I think about how my brother in his short life accomplished his goal of making a difference in another person's life.

My goal is to continue to study the teachings, practice it well, and share this faith with my children and others so that they can have the opportunity to learn about the teachings and receive the wonderful blessings that I have. Thank you for your kind attention.

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TO JIBA 2008

July 17 (Wed) - July 30 (Mon)

BGA HAWAII GROUP



We encourage you to invite your family and friends on this yearly event.

**The airfare is estimated at up to \$1000 per person. Airfare assistance will be provided for Hinokishin Corps participants. Please inquire at Mission HQ office for further details.*

What Do You Think?

Q: With Mother's Day just past and Father's Day coming up, what comes to mind for you? What are you thankful for?



Reverend Colin Saito (54)

"I'm thankful for my parents. If you've ever heard the song 'The Living Years' it really rings out true for me. There are some things that I wanted to do and say when they were alive that I didn't do. In Tenrikyo your soul is eternal, so I talk to them everyday. I thank them for what they did to make my life better."



Darilyn Pestano (44)

"I think I am very fortunate to have both my parents in my life. They are a huge part of my kids life as well as my life. They always wanted us to have more than they had when they were growing up and they worked hard to instill values. Without their help there is no way that I could have done it all."



Yoko Tsuchiya (26)

"My Father passed away four years ago. From the time he became sick to the time that he passed away, we as a family became very close. Since then we've realized how important it is to appreciate and take care of our mother. I am thankful to both my parents for giving me the opportunity to find happiness."



Cole Chandler (10)

Tenri Judo Club

"I feel like it's great that I have parents because they are nice and they give you a lot of things. For Mother's Day I wrote my mom a poem and gave her a notebook. I like my mom & dad because they are very nice."

ISLAND LIFE

WA-YMA-YWC General Meeting



The joint general meeting for the Women's Association, Young Men's Association and Young Women's Club was conducted successfully on May 17, 2008 with the presence of the Young Men's Association Headquarters representative Mr. Isaku Nishida. Following the service conducted jointly by the associations, the Women's and the Young Men's association conducted the first part of their general meeting separately (women in the sanctuary and the men in the hall) and joined together again for the Bishop's message and the two faith experience speeches delivered by Mrs. Setsumi Saltman and Mr. Daniel Higaki in the sanctuary.

During lunch the food bazaar was held

to help support the Young Women's Club pilgrimage to Jiba in 2010. This year the Young Men's Association tried something new: "Nagashi somen." Somen noodles that would slide down the bamboo stick in water and you had two minutes to catch as many noodles to eat to your hearts content! Other popular food items like the oden, saimin, yakisoba, tsukemono and steak were sold. Musical entertainment was provided by Daniel Akemoto's band, "Kui Lima".

What a joyful day it was!

None of this could have been possible without the hard working help of so many people from the congregation. A big Mahalo to you all. See you next year!!!

ISLAND LIFE



YMA Representative Nishida



Singing-A-Song



WA Honored Members



Nagashi-Somen!!



Catch that somen!!



Bishop Hamada joining the fun!!

Reflections of the General Meeting

by YMA Chairman, Daniel Suzuki

I must say that this year's general meeting was "Fantastic!!" thanks to all the hard work put forth by everyone! The Young Men's Association (YMA) representative from Honbu (Church Headquarters) was Reverend Isaku Nishida. We had roughly fifty-five YMA members take part in the service performance along with the WA and YWC. All of the performers gave it their all and it showed by the harmony of the dancers and instrument performers. Reverend Nishida informed me that the performance and the sincerity of the performers truly touched his heart. This year included many first time performers which added to the positive energy of the service. Excellent job people!

Following the service the YMA gathered downstairs in the hall to conduct our general meeting. We had Representative Nishida deliver the YMA President's address in English. He did a wonderful job. After the address the Hawaii YMA chairman, Daniel Suzuki, thanked the new and current YMA members for their dedication and encouraged each of the attendees to be more involved in our activities and to invite other friends and family to join in on the fun. The more members we have on our team the more we can accomplish. It was truly a heart felt moment to see the past, current, and future YMA members working together for a great cause. It is vital that our associations continue to be

progressive and move forward and not to become stagnant in our thinking and in our activities.

All of the associations gathered once more in the sanctuary to hear our supportive and encouraging Bishop Hamada's thoughts and feelings. After the address by the Bishop we were treated to two faith speeches by Mrs. Setsumi Saltman and our very own YMA member Mr. Daniel Higaki. The entire congregation was grateful to each of them for sharing such personal accounts of how each of their faiths began and continues to prosper over the years.

The post-service food booths and entertainment ended the day's activities perfectly. The creativity and hard work by the post-service activities committee paid off. The lively and happy looks on the people's faces as they ate the delicious foods and listened to Daniel Akemoto's band really made all the planning and preparation worthwhile. The first-time ever Nagashi somen by Jason Kawasaki, Michael Inouye, and Tomo Kaisho was spectacular! The Famous Reverend Inafuku yakisoba sold out in a few minutes and the many chefs and cooks watched as attendees happily gobbled up their delicious creations.

At the day's end it was truly a blessing from God the Parent to see all of the participant's unity and everyone's pride in being Tenrikyo. After all, it's all about "One World, One Family". Thank you!

HINOKISHIN DAY



Maui Island Hinokishin



Big Island Hinokishin

The **Annual All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day** was held in Hawaii during the month of May at six different locations on four islands. On the Island of Kauai, the hinokishin was held on May 24th at the Japanese Cemetery. On the Island of Maui, the Makawao Veteran's Cemetery was the center of hinokishin activity on May 24. On the Island of Hawaii there were three locations: In Kohala, the Old Kona Airport Park was cleaned on May 11; in Hilo, the Homelani Veteran's Cemetery was cleaned on May 24; and in Kona Town, the hinokishin activity was held at the Kona Memorial Park on May 25. And finally on the Island of Oahu, the Honolulu Zoo happily welcomed the annual Tenrikyo clean up crew.

The attendance at the annual zoo hinokishin activity has been declining from over 200 people to about 100, but this year we were blessed with an unusual number

of people. There were 145 people who participated, including about 25 Leilehua High School Band members who recently visited Tenri. The weather was beautiful as everyone was divided into four groups. One group cleaned the bird display area and the Leilehua High School group cleaned the inside perimeter of the front fence area. Another group volunteered to do crafts and cut out bird masks, for the



Honolulu Hinokishin

zoo's children's activity program. And the fourth group diligently cleaned the general area throughout the zoo.

For many years, we have always cleaned the Honolulu Zoo around the month of May, which is the season when the Monkey Pod trees are dropping their seedpods on the ground. Our hinokishin mainly focuses on the picking up of these heavy and sticky seedpods and clears the grassy lawns to be usable again by families to enjoy with their children. Many heavy bags are gathered and according to Barbara Thacker, the

Honolulu Zoo Volunteer Coordinator, it is a big help to the Zoo Staff who are very happy to receive our help.

To all the people who came out in the "*Spirit of Hinokishin*" for these various hinokishin activities on your respective Islands, '*Thank you very much*' for your wonderful contribution and selfless acts of expressing your gratitude to God the Parent and Oyasama. Our actions can speak louder than words. Let us continue to do more hinokishin in the community. Congratulations on a job well done!

YMA & YWC HELP AT HAWAII SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Every year the Young Men's Association (YMA) and Young Women's Club (YWC) spiritedly help with the Hawaii Special Olympics held at the University of Hawaii. The Special Olympics is held over three days and the volunteer shifts are usually broken down into two shifts per day, each shift averaging around 4 hours.

As usual we had a wonderful turnout this year, about 17 YMA and YWC members joined in on the fun. When I say fun, I really mean it. This event truly brought out the best in everyone who attended! We had many of our friends and first-time members help out this year and the amount of positive and joyous energy was enough to provide the energy needs of a small city for weeks.

Yes, many of us were running around under the hot sun but we also got tons of hugs and compliments from the athletes, families, and staff. This event is just one of the many events that we participate in that provides the volunteers an opportunity to witness true happiness and joy. Watching the athletes, the coaches, staff, and the families' excitement and sincerity is like no other feeling in the world, and to know that we were a small part of that is a feeling that I will cherish for a lifetime.



ISLAND LIFE

“Rice Around the World” at Wai’alae School

With soaring gas prices and the threat of increase in price for rice, many locals decided that it was time to stock up on their vital source of comfort food. Contrary to the panic, 2nd graders of Wai’alae School in Kaimuki have been taking a deeper look at where our rice comes from, and the various cultures which cherish rice as its main staple. As a culmination of their studies, teachers, parent volunteers and members of the community assisted the 2nd graders in a celebration of “Rice Around the World”.

Tenrikyo Mission HQ was invited to Wai’alae School on Friday, May 23rd to demonstrate the tradition of mochi pounding as a portion of the “Rice Around the World” activity. Students were treated to a lively mochi pounding demonstration



and enjoyed making their own *daifuku* mochi with the help of Mission HQ staff members. Three student volunteers had the opportunity to pound mochi for the first time while the other students encouraged the pounders, shouting “*yoisho! yoisho!*” The smiles on the children’s faces was surely an indication of yet another successful mochi pounding demonstration and sprinkling of positive fragrances of the Joyous Life in the community.



NEW BABY ON BOARD!

SADIE AYUMU NAKAO

BORN: MAY 5, 2008

WEIGHT: 6 LBS. 10 OZ. /19 INCHES

PARENTS: MOSES & CHIEKO NAKAO

CHURCH: PEARL CHURCH

TENGEN CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS!

Hawaii Tenri Judo Club

Days: Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday of every week
Time: (Mon, Wed, Fri) 5:30-8:30 (until 6:30 for beginners)
(Sat) 9:00-11:00 am All groups practice

We are waiting for you! Great way for kids to join a club at a young age.

For more details and to get an application please contact

Melvin Iwata at 537-4852

Please visit our new website online at

www.hawaiitenrijudo.com

Monthly Service Shuttle!!

YMA & YWC Members!!

Starting this Monthly Service we will have a shuttle waiting at TCC. We encourage all YMA & YWC Members to park at TCC to help to open up the Mission HQ Parking lot for the elderly and possible new followers who would like to attend the Monthly Service. For more information please call Moses at Mission HQ 595-6523.

Tid Bits

Associations' Reports



WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Many members participated in the annual Joint General Meeting of WA, YMA, and YWC and the Service was performed with our minds in unison. Thank you for your hinokishin and your numerous donations to the Food Bazaar to support the Young Women's Club during the luncheon. The Hawaii Spiritual Development Course will begin on June 15th. Let us again prepare the lunches and dinners with sincerity. I humbly ask for your contribution and support.

BAZAAR HINOKISHIN

TCC West House (every Wednesday)
9 – 12 p.m

NUUANU HALE VISITATION

June 14 (Sat) 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

MONTHLY MEETING

June 9 (2nd Mon)

| | |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Meeting | 9:00 – 10:00 a.m |
| Anecdotes of Oyasama | 10:15 a.m. |
| Ten Providences | 11:15 a.m. |

WOMEN'S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PRACTICE

June 10 (Tue) 9:00 am ~

WOMEN'S SUPPORT NETWORK
June 15th (Sun) after lunch following
Mission HQ's Monthly Service.

*June Mission HQ monthly service luncheon Hinokishin is assigned to Honolulu-ko Church. Thank you!

*TCC HINOKISHIN...
will be *cancelled* for the month of June.



BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

CHILDREN'S PILGRIMAGE TO JIBA

It's already close to summer and the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba! This year's group will depart on July 17th and return on the 30th. Due to the fuel surcharge increase, BGA raised the airfare assistance for children participating in the BGA Hinokishin Corps. Please call Rev. Owen Nakao at 381-9612 for more info. Airfare cost and optional tour info will be forthcoming.

ALOHA BAND YARD SALE!

The Tenrikyo Aloha Band will be holding a yard sale on Sunday, June 29, 8:30 a.m.–2:00 p.m. at the Tenri Cultural Center "patio" area in front on the Judo Hall and Hawaii Tenri Bunko. They will be accepting saleable item donations on,

June 15 (Sun) at Mission HQ after monthly service

June 27 (Fri) - all day & June 28 (Sat) - 8am-noon at Tenri Cultural Center

Hinokishin help is requested of anyone from the morning of June 28 at 8am and also the after clean up on June 29, 2:00 p.m.

Proceeds will be used to offset expenses of pom pom section uniforms and band instruments.

Band practices are presently held once a month on the third Sunday after the Mission HQ monthly service at 1:30pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school class is held every third Sunday during the Mission HQ monthly service starting at 9am initially joining the monthly service from the seated service through Yorozyuo and proceeding to Rainbow Hale for Sunday school program and then return to the sanctuary at 11:30am.



YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all for your time, effort, and participation in the Joint General Meeting this past month. It was a great success! Please join us on Wednesday, June 11, for the YMA monthly meeting at Rainbow Hale at 7:30 p.m. Mahalo!



YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

VOLUNTEERS FOR THE ALOHA BAND YARD SALE

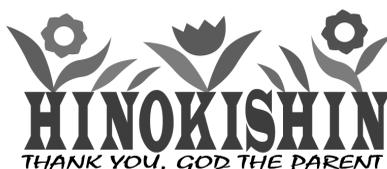
We need volunteers to help with the Aloha Band Yard Sale on Sunday, June 29th. We will be needing volunteers to help set up and with the sale itself. The Aloha Band is fundraising to return to Jiba in 2009 and perform in the Oyasato Parade. If you are able to volunteer, please contact Terri at 387-1871 to sign up. Also, we will help with collecting donations for the sale.

SIGN UP FOR THE 2010 YWC CONVENTION

Remember to make the commitment to return to Jiba for the YWC Convention in April 2010. Stop by the YWC mini bazaar table at the Mission Headquarters Monthly Service or call Terri at 387-1871 to put your name on our commitment list.

PICNIC VOLUNTEERS

We will need volunteers for our 4th of July picnic at Kapiolani Park. With many things needing to be done, the more the merrier. Please call Terri at 387-1871 to sign up.





The Hungry Reporter

As you know I am always on the look out for new recipes. I especially love the ones my family and friends share with me. I am fortunate that my friends are not particular about “keeping their recipes a secret” because they say, “What a shame that would be to let my legacy die with me!” It is a gives gain to share, just knowing we can bring enjoyment to a lot of people!! One of my very good friends (Edean Kitamura) enjoys sharing; She just received the Woman of the Year Award for women doing work in construction, and is an engineer at Hawaiian Dredging. Edean balances her life by making a difference in many people’s lives. Her salmon recipe is not an exception. It is one of 3 variations of salmon recipes I have thus shared. Simple and tastes good. That’s how I love it. Please try it and enjoy!!

Fukujinzuke Salmon

Ingredients

| | |
|---|--|
| Tomato 2 (sliced ¼ inch thick) | Skinless Salmon 2 1/2~3 lb (from Costco) |
| Sweet Onion 1 (sliced 1/8 inch thick) | Mayonnaise 1 Cup |
| Marukai Brand Fukujinzuke ½ Can (can approx 4 oz) | Wasabi Paste 2 Tbsp (or to taste) |
| | Salt & Pepper to taste |

Directions

Slice Tomato about ¼ inch thick and sweet onion about 1/8 inch thick. Layer heavy-duty aluminum foil on a cookie sheet and crimp the sides up so that juices will not escape. Layer tomato then onion on to foil in the shape of the salmon. Sprinkle salt and pepper to taste and drizzle the juice of the fukujinzuke (about 2 Tbsp or to taste) on the tomato and onion. Place the skinless salmon on top of tomato and onion. Mix mayonnaise and wasabi and slather on to salmon. Make sure that all the surface of the salmon is covered with mayo mix and is not exposed. Preheat oven and bake for 10 minutes at 350 degrees. Then raise salmon to the top rack and broil until mayonnaise is brown, bubbly and looks ono! Serve and be prepared to receive compliments on a great dish!!

June 2008

| | | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------------------------------|------------------|------------|
| 3rd | Tue | Monthly Hinokishin Day | Mission HQ | 9:00 a.m. |
| 7th | Sat | Missionary House Monthly Service | Missionary House | 10:00 a.m. |
| 9th | Mon | WA Monthly Meeting | Mission HQ | 9:00 a.m. |
| 10th | Tue | WA Narimono Practice | Mission HQ | 9:00 a.m. |
| 11th | Wed | YMA Meeting | Rainbow Hale | 7:30 p.m. |
| 12th | Thu | BGA Staff Meeting | Rainbow Hale | 7:00 p.m. |
| 15th | Sun | Mission HQ Monthly Service | Mission HQ | 9:00 a.m. |
| | | Shuyokai Opening Ceremony | Mission HQ | 3:00 p.m. |
| | | Aloha Band Practice | Mission HQ | 1:30 p.m. |
| 16th | Mon | Monthly Nioigake Day | Mission HQ | 9:00 a.m. |
| 26th | Thu | Yohaishiki | Mission HQ | 10:00 a.m. |
| 29th | Sat | Aloha Band Yard Sale | TCC | 8:30 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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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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53rd Annual Tenrikyo Picnic

July 4, (Fri) 2008

9:00 a.m. ~ 2:00 p.m.

at Kapiolani Park

Please invite your friends and
family to this yearly event

