

# Origins

No. 240 August 2011



The 41<sup>st</sup> Hawaii Spiritual Development Course  
*Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawai‘i*

# TENRIKYO NEWSLETTER – ORIGINS AND MAKOTO MISSION STATEMENT

**To provide for the Tenrikyo community in Hawaii  
and the people in the State of Hawaii information  
related to the services, activities, and events of Tenrikyo in Hawaii.**

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

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# Message from the head of the Overseas Department

Tenrikyo 174, July 26

In this full blown summer, we can hear the sound of cicada (semi) ringing in the air in Jiba. Today, in the harsh rays of the summer sun, a great number of children returned to the Home of the Parent to gather and excitedly wait for the “Children’s Pilgrimage to Jiba” to begin. With the Shinbashira as the core, the July Monthly Service was performed spiritedly.

In his service prayer, pertaining to the opening of the Children’s Pilgrimage to the Jiba, the Shinbashira stated that not only will children in Japan be returning to Jiba, but children will also be returning from various places overseas under the theme of, “Let’s all go to Oyasato as One Family.” The Shinbashira wishes for God the Parent to watch over the children who are looking forward to the fun events, as well as the activities dealing with training and planting seeds of sincerity. Further, the Shinbashira prays for the blessings for the children to grow cheerfully, in good health and with a sincere mind.

The Shinbashira further states that, we must settle the Truth of the Seasonable Time in our minds and we must continue the Path of Single Hearted Salvation with powerful strength. At the same time, we must make sincere efforts for World Construction and engage in Hino-kishin with a unity of mind. Further, we must spread the cycle of mutual help and answer God’s deep intention with determination. He prayed that, with God’s blessing, we will be able to sweep the evils from the world and have everyone awaken to the Truth of the Parental Heart, so that we may be guided even a day sooner to a world of the joyous life.

The sermon was given by a Honbuin, Yoshiaki Mihama.

Rev. Mihama quoted the Shinbashira during the Spring Grand service, “The enormous understanding of leveling the ground throughout the world entails making the teachings accessible all over the world. Rather than simply rejoice that Tenrikyo finds itself in far more fortunate circumstances today than in the past, it is vital for us to be fully aware that the path of world salvation has barely begun and to focus our minds more sharply on the tasks at hand.”

*Continued on Next Page*

## **Message from the Head of the Overseas Department**

In response to this quote, Rev. Mihamra stated that with the Jiba as the origin, it is important that we followers obediently follow and utilize the voices and movements coming from the Jiba, to sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings and to engage in salvation work.

He also talked about “The Great East Japan Earthquake.” Rev. Mihamra urged us followers of the path that it is important to put into practice the key words for the joyous life which are, “Gratitude, Moderation, and Mutual Help.” Further, he stated that we must spread the teachings of the divine model as taught to us by Oyasama to the world. He also mentioned that after the earthquake, the Taiwan Diocese made great contributions in its relief efforts.

Over 800 people from overseas will be returning to the Jiba for this year’s Children’s Pilgrimage. The Service Prayer and the sermon today were translated simultaneously in four languages, English, Chinese, Portuguese, and Korean. Furthermore, this year’s Oyasato Seminar began on July 10<sup>th</sup> and the English Course I and III, and the Chinese Course officially ended yesterday. The Portuguese Course will end tomorrow.

During the Course, especially the Mission Caravan, a large typhoon came and forced us to change our schedule. However, we were able to continue the seminar safely without any serious problems and for that, from the bottom of the heart, I would like to express my deep gratitude.

As we enter August, the Oyasato Seminar Korean Course will be held for the fourth time from August 5<sup>th</sup> until August 17<sup>th</sup>, and the Taiwan Student Association Pilgrimage to Jiba will be held from August 16<sup>th</sup> until August 26<sup>th</sup>. The summer activities of the Overseas Department will continue and we the Overseas Department Staff will come together as one, as we put in our utmost efforts so that we will be guided without mishap until the very end.

Yoichiro Miyamori

Head of Tenrikyo Overseas Department



## ***Monthly Service Prayer***

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

*God the Parent, with Oyasama as Your living shrine, You revealed the original truth of human creation and taught us through the divine model the path towards the Joyous Life. Then guiding us through Your over-flowing grace and blessings, You showed us the way to sweep the dust from our minds, revealing miraculous blessings as we advance toward spiritual maturity. These boundless blessings are truly more than we can expect, and we express our sincere gratitude each day through our duties. Today is the day we are granted to conduct the July monthly service at this mission headquarters. The service performers will unite their hearts to perform the seated service and Teodori joyously in high spirits. Today, as you view the brothers and sisters of the path, who have looked forward to this day singing the songs of the service in unison, with hearts filled with gratitude for Your parental love, we hope that You can be spirited as well.*

*From June 19<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month, the 41st Hawaii Spiritual Development Course was held over the course of 26 days. Five students and one auditor completed the entire course without incident. Also, in Jiba the Oyasato Seminar is currently in session with 8 students participating in Course I and Course III. Together with their counselors, the students are further embracing Oyasama's teachings in high spirits. In addition, approximately 26 participants will be returning for the Children's Pilgrimage. From the 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Tenri Judo Club will be participating in the U.S. Nationals Junior Olympics in Texas. A record number of 26 members will be displaying the results of their vigorous and dedicated training with pride and confidence.*

*We Yoboku will align our minds with You, God the Parent, who anxiously desires to save all people of the world, not sparing a single person and diligently follow the path of salvation as instruments of Oyasama.*

*May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that you guide us toward reconstructing the world where we can spend our days living in harmony by helping one another. Together with everyone present, I pray for these blessings.*



## ***Mission HQ July Monthly Service Sermon***

### **Rev. Tyron Inouye**

### **Head Minister of Hawaii Central Church**



#### **"The Divine Guidance"**

Good morning and Aloha! We have just performed July's monthly service in high spirits with the Bishop and Mrs. Hamada as the core. As everyone sang the seated service and the 12 chapters in accord with the musical instruments, God the Parent has again blessed all of us with truth of the teachings.

My name is Tyron Inouye. I am the 2<sup>nd</sup> Head minister of Hawaii Central Tenrikyo Church. Before I go any further, I would like to thank the Bishop and Mrs. Hamada for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts with you. I would like to also thank Mrs. Shigemi Nakao for pro-

viding the Japanese translation of this sermon.

I humbly ask for your kind attention as I share with you my thoughts about "Divine Guidance".

Last year when I received the 2011 monthly sermon roster I noticed my name next to the July 17<sup>th</sup> sermon entitled "Divine Guidance". There was no doubt in my mind that this would be an easy subject to cover. With my life long experiences of growing up with 8 brothers and sisters, and me being the last of them, I had more than my fair share of "Divine Guidance" from each and everyone one of my siblings. Till this day, I'm still receiving such "Guidance". The only difference now is that I am "talked to" and I don't have to protect my ears from being pulled. (Sometimes)

Being raised in this faith has been, for the most part, a very challenging yet rewarding experience to say the least. As some of you may know, my parents were born and raised in Japan and given the opportunity to come to Hawaii to spread the teachings. It was tough being the last child of eight, but not as tough as my eldest sister had it. She is 20 years older than me and was always in charge of watching over me. Can you imagine my sister going out

## ***Monthly Service Sermon***

on a date with me tagging along, and people asking her “how old is your son?”

Now many of you in the congregation, especially the slightly older ones with older siblings can probably relate to Tenrikyo life as a child. My mother worked 3 jobs and as far as I can remember all my older siblings had part time jobs while going to school. From delivering newspapers to working at the supermarkets, they worked very hard. When they received their paychecks it would always be offered to the church first and then my parents would give back a ¼ of what was donated so my siblings would have some spending money. Because my father was a full-time missionary it was his faith and determination that helped our family to understand the many things about the teachings of Tenrikyo.

When I reflect on my childhood, I cannot help but think of all the personal Divine guidance I received. Whenever a calamity struck, I would think to myself how lucky I was to escape serious injury or even death. Of course at that age when things happen and there is no explanation, it just becomes a part of your childhood experience, but in Tenrikyo it is said that all things happen for a reason.

I would like to share one of my experiences here at church headquarters. This happened back in the early 70's when the Drum & Fife corps was the main activity for the kids and young adults. Many times when the practices were over the younger kids would have some time to play and cause trouble to the older kids which al-

ways resulted in a game of chase master. The only difference was that the older kids would torture us if they caught us. As one of the known trouble makers, I would try to run away and hide somewhere to avoid being captured. On this one particular day as I was being chased around the hall down-stairs I ran into the kitchen which had a door back then and closed it behind me. The kitchen consisted of one gas stove in the corner of the room, the sink, the upper cabinets and a very old 1950's refrigerator that was unplugged and empty. In haste and without thinking I dove into the refrigerator to escape from my pursuing captor. When things were made back in the 50's & 60's, the manufacturers had only 2 things on their minds, quality and durability. Safety was almost unheard of. While I was sitting in that refrigerator I realized how dark and cramped it was. It was only after a few minutes that I realized there was no way of me opening the door from the inside. I'm not claustrophobic by nature but this one experience made me truly understand the meaning of being claustrophobic. I started to panic and was yelling at the top of my lungs. In order to open this refrigerator, the outside handle had to be pulled very firmly so that the internal latching mechanism would lift and the door could be opened. It felt like eternity being in there. Finally when the door swung open and my eyes adjusted to the bright glare, I was so happy and relieved to see the outside world that I thanked my captor as he laughed and shook his head while giving me a choke hold.

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I have many more personal “divine guidance” stories that I would love to share with you but my time is limited to less than an hour. So before I run out of time, here are a few stories of friends who have experienced the divine guidance from God the Parent.

I have many close friends who are of other faiths and beliefs. Though it is very interesting how we are brought together and how we all share the same common ground that is called friendship.

I have been blessed to be part of their lives and to have helped them in ways that only God the Parent could have made possible. There is an old cliché about how God works in mysterious ways. Yes this is true if one is not aware of God the parent’s true intention, which is to see all humankind lead a joyous life. Since God revealed Himself through Miki Nakayama at the pre-ordained time, we have been taught about this intention many times over. Divine Guidance is one way that God the Parent helps humankind to avoid any type of serious ailments, misfortunes, or calamities. As a Yoboku I have had many opportunities to help my close friends understand this intention of God the parent through the Divine Grant and by conveying the teachings in our discussions.

One day, a few years ago, I received a call from the wife of a very close friend about an incident that happened while they were out exercising at the park. My friends are a few years older than I am and had felt

that they needed to get back into shape. They started exercising gradually and fell into a routine which included walking and biking around the park. On this day my friend decided to ride his bicycle while his wife walked around the park. As she was walking on the sidewalk towards the road, she noticed some commotion on the street where her husband had been riding his bicycle earlier. There, between the parked cars, my friend was lying down in a stupor and unresponsive. In a panic she rushed over to him to find out what had happened. At that precise moment, there were 2 doctors exercising across the street when they noticed my friend had fallen from his bicycle. They rushed over and provided assistance until the ambulance arrived. Upon hearing this part of the story, I was totally convinced that my friend had received the divine guidance from God the parent. During the following days in the hospital, he was put through a battery of tests and examinations. The examinations revealed 3 of his arteries were clogged over 90% and that he would need a triple bypass surgery. If it wasn’t for that faithful day, I firmly believe my friend would not be here today. Through God the Parent’s divine guidance and protection, my friend and his wife and their whole family and especially all his friends truly experienced a joyous blessing. Till this day my friend calls me daily just to talk.

In 1987, I completed my 2 years of studying in Tenri. I returned home and was

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very busy in many activities here at Mission Headquarters. Not long after, my childhood friend invited me to go out to have a few drinks. During our conversation my friend inquired what it was like to live in Japan and what kind of experiences I had there. I did not mention a whole lot of the teachings, but I did talk a lot about life in Tenri. When I had told him that I was returning to Japan the following year, he asked if he could come along with me. When we arrived in Tenri, my friend was awe struck at the sight of the main sanctuary.

After paying our respects, we returned to the dorms and had a very warm welcome by the staff. This was the first of the many trips to Tenri that my friend would take. When he and I returned to Tenri to pay our respects to God the Parent and Oyasama my parents were always so happy. Over the course of years, my friend would accompany me on my trips regularly and at times would go on his own to pay his respects.

One day in 2003, my friend called to ask if I could perform the Divine Grant on his mother who was in the hospital. My mother and I went to the hospital right away. After performing the Divine Grant, my friend had explained to us what had happened to his mother. The doctors discovered that she had cancer of the uterus and this was causing her to bleed excessively. Prior to performing the first Divine Grant, the doctors had taken some CAT scans of her uterus to determine the size or

percentage area of the cancer. Though the images weren't clear, the percentage area was about 20-25%. At this percentage, the cancer could be completely removed through surgery. The doctors and the surgeons were planning and scheduling the surgery within a couple of days. Up until the scheduled day of the surgery, we performed the Divine grant daily. When the doctors took another CAT scan prior to the scheduled surgery they discovered the cancer had disappeared. At that point the surgery was cancelled. The whole family could not believe it. Having received God the Parent's divine blessing, my friend made a resolution to return to Tenri for a few weeks to show his sincere gratitude for this timely blessing. He also resolved to pay his respects everyday after work to mission headquarters and Hawaii Central church till this day, my friend and his mother still pay their respects daily.

In society today we are blessed with many of life's conveniences. Because of this we sometimes lose our focus and our minds become clouded with mental dust. When this happens we fall into a life of misery and helplessness. This is an important reason I believe God the parent gives us divine guidance throughout our lives. In order for all human beings to learn the true intention of God the Parent, we must first align our actions and thoughts with the divine teachings and sow our sincere efforts daily. When God accepts our minds, the joyous life will then be realized.

Thank you for your kind attention.

# ISLAND LIFE

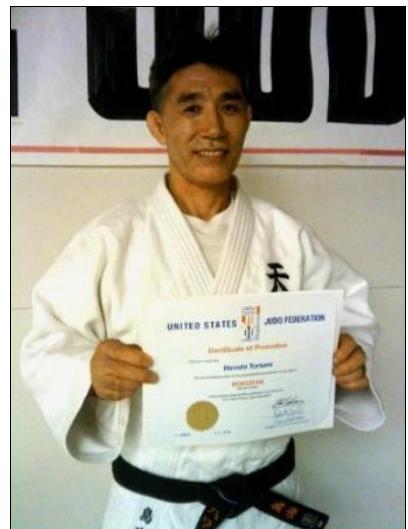
## The English Singable-Danceable Mikagura-uta

Translation conference was held at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii from May 30, 2011, Monday, through June 3, 2011, Friday, immediately following the Tenrikyo Hawaii Convention 2011. This conference was planned in advance to utilize the grand opportunity where some of the key project members were on Oahu for the Convention. The attendees of the conference were Marlon Okazaki and Rebecca Uesugi from Los Angeles, Louise Sasaki from New York, and the Hawaii's local members, Tsunenori Ichise, Melvin Iwata, Colin Saito, Motoko Iwata, Taeko Nakao, and Janyce Imoto. Rev. Nobuyuki Takeuchi of the UK also attended the conference via skype on its first day. The attendees worked on the singable and danceable translation of the Song IX and Song X every day from 9 am through 5 pm.



## Tenri Judo News!

At the end of the July Hawaii Dendocho Monthly Service, Mr. Hiroshi Toriumi an instructor of the Hawaii Teri Judo Club has been recognized for receiving 6<sup>th</sup> dan (6<sup>th</sup> Degree Black Belt). Mr. Toriumi stated that in recent years, Hawaii Tenri Judo has been one of the top 10 Judo Clubs in all of America. This is all due to dedication of Bishop Hamada and Mrs. Hamada, the Judo committee members, and Tenrikyo followers that made it possible for Tenri Judo to make it thus far. Mr. Toriumi's next goal will be to become the number 1 Judo Club in America!



# Koshinokuni Hawaii Church 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service



10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service of Tenrikyo Koshinokuni Hawaii Church, combined with June Monthly Service was held at 10:00a.m. on June 12, 2011 with presides of Bishop & Mrs. Hamada of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarter of Hawaii and Rev. Yoshikazu Uno, head minister of Koshinokuni Grand Church.

Rev. Takatoshi Mima, head minister of Koshinokuni Hawaii Church read his prayer,

“Expressing our appreciation for boundless blessings and unlimited guidance of God the Parent towards 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of the church, and further, along with slogan towards Grand Church 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary being held on November 6, 2011 “let us put more efforts to purify our mind and convey voices of God the Parent to people, I have decided to contribute and dedication with our sincere minds in world salvation.”

After completion of the Service, Bishop Hamada gave his congratulatory greeting to followers, saying, “Expressing appreciation for God the Parent’s boundless blessing till today’s 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and further toward to 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, to all followers who are connected with the church by the God’s guidance, please gather and pray for world salvation. And then, Rev. Uno delivered his sermon, “Along with God the Parent’s intention, let us purify our minds according to the teaching and put utmost our efforts in world salvation from now on. Lastly Rev. Mima first thanked you to all followers for today and then, concluded by saying, “realizing of the truth of our bodies are things borrowed and things lent by God the Parent, let us continue praying for realization of Joyous world through performing divine service daily at the church for the future”.

After commemorative picture taking, the Naorai luncheon was provided, and with having Kanpai toast, performing Hawaiian songs, slide show of short history of the church in the friendly atmosphere.

## 56<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TENRIKYO PICNIC

The 56th Annual Tenrikyo Picnic was held on Monday, July 4th from 9am to 2pm at Kapiolani Park. A day that has always emphasized “fun for all ages” began with the annual tug of war – this year won by the women. Following shortly after were games meant for young children, adults, and their elders. Under the bright sun, picnic goers were treated to free shave ice from the Young Women’s Club and pot-lucked to make incredible BBQ plates with their fellow churches and friends.

For this picnic bystander, the moment that symbolized the day the best was during the annual women’s Vegetable Scramble. Seeing that one woman had fallen during the mad scramble and was walking away empty handed, newly-wed Monika Iwata offered part of her newfound treasures to the woman with a smile. To those looking it may have been just a cantaloupe, but to this picnic attendee it was a bridge, connecting the young and the old and bringing the perfect end to a day that was “fun for all ages”.

**Wahine power  
knocked the guys  
down in the game  
of Tug-of-War!  
(right).**



### BALL TOSS GAME

**Always good participation by the  
very young & not very young (left).**

# **2011 Hawaii Spiritual Development Course**

## **Faith Speeches**



**Ms. Cynthia Hisao  
(Maui Church/ Honjima G.C.)**

Good Evening Chocho sensei (Bishop Hamada), good evening everyone. Tonight I'll be talking about my experiences and studies that I have learned through out this one month Shuyokai, so please bare with me.

Growing up in a Tenrikyo church I was surrounded by the morning and evening service and the daily hinokishin we do. I remembered when I was young I would sleep in the back of my church during evening service. I also tried to get out of doing hinokishin, but every time I did that, my mom would tell me the story of how Oyasama saved my life. In the Ofudesaki it reads:

**The conception of the baby is by Tsukihi.  
Giving birth to it, also, is by the work of  
Tsukihi.**

**VI: 131**

When my mom was pregnant with me, the doctor told her that I would be a premature ba-

by. So every night my grandpa who was the head minister then, would administer the sazuke to her. They prayed and prayed, and finally I was born on September 18, 1991. I was a healthy baby that weighed 7 pounds and the doctors were surprised. They called me a "miracle baby."

Shortly after that 10 months went by. I got a terrible disease called the Kawasaki Syndrome. It's a disease that causes children under 5 and more for Japanese and Korean decent to get a high fever and bumps all over their bodies. This disease, also effects the heart.

I had bumps all over my body and also in my mouth. My parents went to the doctors on Maui, thinking it was just misseals. Nothing changed and I wasn't doing so great so they sent us over to Kapiolani hospital on Oahu. I was then treated for hours and hours and during that time I was crying. My mom held me in her arms while I was under needles and medication. At my respective church and also Honjima daikyokai did the special prayer service, the onegaizutome. Again, God the Parent and Oyasama saved my life. If it wasn't for their sincerity and help I wouldn't be here today.

Honestly speaking, I wasn't excited about coming to this one month Shuyokai. I wanted to hang out with my friends, and just relax till school started, but I knew that wasn't going to happen, because I committed to God The Parent and Oyasama that I would be attending this course. Even though I committed myself, when I first heard that I was the only one attending in the beginning, I was nervous and scared, but look around I ended up with 4 people and 1 coming in after. Oyasama helped me be part of

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an awesome group. This group is filled with Laughter and craziness. We have a good bond.

During the first half of Life of Oyasama with Iris Saito, we had many discussions. During one of the discussions, I talked about how I wanted to leave and run away from Shuyokai. I felt lost in the beginning. Being the youngest in the group and trying to see how I can make it through.

In the life of Oyasama it talked about how Oyasama wanted to commit suicide. As she was proceeding towards the pond she was stopped. A voice was called upon her, leaving Oyasama's leg to be stiff. Be not rash! Be not rash! That night during evening service tears came running down my eyes. I realize Oyasama stopped me from running away. Emotions came bursting out, sight of relieve. It brought me back to my Oyasato Seminar memories. The hardest time in my life, being in a group that I hardly knew and the only girl from Hawaii. I would have a hard time getting along with people in my course. I felt a bit lonely and scared. I was struggling and I didn't understand

why. I got sick very easily, mentally and physically my body was having a hard time. In the Osashizu:

**With human beings: the body is a thing lent by God, A thing borrowed. The mind alone is yours.**      **Osashizu, June 1, 1889**

Coming to Shuyokai, it helped me realize one thing. Oyasama brought me here to be part of this group to reflect on my past. All the struggles I have come upon I look it as a guide from Oyasama. I will always lean on God the Parent and Oyasama to find my path in life. The Ofudesaki:

**All human bodies are things lent by God.  
With what thought are you using them?**

**III: 41**

I will try and continue to work hard and use the mind correctly. Thank you for letting me be part of this year's shuyokai.



**Mr. Newton Nakao  
(Net Hawaii M.S. / Amijima G.C.)**

Good afternoon everyone. As I complete the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii, Shuyokai program, I am asked to offer a "Faith Experience!" with you. Please bear with my humble awakening.

As the classes progressed and many conversations between classmates arouse, one such discussion was about "The Path" and how it pertained to each of us. During one of the classes, we read a passage in Ofudesaki:

**Do not complain about your present situation. A broad path will appear ahead of you.**

**III: 36**

**Do not grieve over whatever path you are now on. Take delight in the main path that lies ahead.**

### III: 37

When I read this, for unknown reasons, my thoughts awakened to the words, "Déjà vu!"

Before I spin the tale of my experience, let's look at the definition of déjà vu? **Déjà vu** is a French word which literally means "ready seen!" It is the experience of feeling sure that one has already witnessed or experienced a current situation, even though the exact circumstances of the previous encounter are uncertain and were perhaps imagined. The term was coined by a French psychic researcher, Emile Boriac.

The experience of déjà vu is usually accompanied by a compelling sense of familiarity, and also a sense of "eeriness", "strangeness", "weirdness", or what Sigmund Freud calls "the uncanny." The "previous" experience is most frequently attributed to a dream, although in some cases there is a firm sense that the experience has genuinely happened in the past. That is the definition and now a little background to explain my awakening.

About April 2009, I started to prepare for my retirement and had grand ideas of what I wanted to do. My plans were to retire; drive cross country; visit friends on the way; hang out with my grand-children Junior & Mady in California; return to Hawaii; attend Shuyoka at Tenri; and, finally return to Hawaii to take care of my mother, Hisako Nakao. As you can see, it was a GRAND plan and you know what happens to GRAND plans; "Murphy's Law" ("Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.")

On, October 1, 2010, I retired and I was not able to implement my plans, however, I was

having strong déjà vu's. January 2011, instead of driving, I flew to California and enjoyed my visit/bonding with my grand-children, Junior & Mady. February & March, 2011 my relationship with my girlfriend was changing and my thoughts returned to "How can I implement my original plan?" In the beginning of April 2011, I believe Oyasama gave me a sign and allowed me to give up my favorite truck to my son. I now had no excuses, and left New Jersey on, April 30, 2011 and returned to Hawaii.

Remember when I said I would attend Shuyoka in Tenri; that was a promise I made to my Mother and Oyasama in 2009. So, having returned home, my thoughts were Oyasama was guiding me and with the help of my Mother, my brother, Rev. Steven Nakao & his wife, Shigemi, I committed to attend Shuyokai on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

In my lifetime and probable yours, I've had many déjà vu moments and didn't understand the "weirdness." but it has been in recent years and months that the déjà vu has been strong at times and/or infrequent.

For example, before and after my retirement on October 1, 2010, I had many déjà vu experiences; it slowed down & even stopped between November and April; and, now it's strong again. Hmmmm?

So when we read the passage from the Ofudesaki, that's when I had a "Faith Experience" and I felt these déjà vu's were now making a little sense to me. Remember, I had promised to attend Shuyoka; the déjà vu at that time was strong; remember January, February, March, I detoured from my plans; the déjà vu were infrequent or none; remember May 14<sup>th</sup>, I decided to attend Shuyokai; and, the déjà vu has now returned.

After reading about the path, the following day we were told that we had to give a "Faith

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Experience” speech. I knew Oyasama had already given me the topic, “Déjà vu.” Through the many Sensei’s I encountered & their teachings, I was convinced that I was on the right subject & path.

I realized that through déjà vu, Oyasama was showing me all the time, my “innen” and “the path.” I now look forward to seeing, not the “uncanny or eeriness” but, a glimpse of my



**Mr. Cyril Hamada**  
**(Meishin Honolulu M.S./ Senba G.C.)**

If you wanted to hear about my physical condition you will be disappointed. There is no earth-shattering news to report. Suffice it to say that this ijigarui hito will be around for a while yet.

I will be talking about my observations these past few weeks. I believe that one of the purposes of Shuyokai is to deepen the understanding of Tenrikyo. To that end, one should ask questions and joyously receive answers to the best of one's abilities.

If I were to report to you about all the

path again.

Now that you understand déjà vu and my experience, the next time you have a one, feel spirited and ask/tell yourself: “Am I on the right path?” “Do I change my “innen/causality of this path?” or just say “Take Delight in the Main Path that Lies Ahead (Ofudesaki III:37)”

Thank you for your patience and listening to my “Faith Experience!”

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questions I posed, we would be here until tomorrow morning. So let me home in on one particular question.

– Why is the Ashiki o harote service done 21 times during the seated service? The implication is that the movements are so simple and easy to master that maybe 7 or 10 should be enough. The answer to this question given by Lena sensei was so memorable that I forgot it about 10 seconds later. Gomenasai Lena sensei! I would like to share with you the answer that I received, but first you need some background information.

Back in the Middle Ages when I was attending school, I believe the surveying professor provided this situation:

”You are all taking or have taken calculus?” When we answered “Yes” the professor proceeded, “Suppose there is a wall 100 yards away. You are to proceed to the wall in increments of one half of the remaining distance. That is first 50 yards, then 25 yards, then 12.5 yards, and so forth. You may take unlimited steps. If you should reach the wall you will receive \$1 million, for the sake of this talk let's substitute paradise as the prize, but if you fail to reach the wall you will go to hell! Once started, you cannot return to the starting line.”

So we were asked individually whether we

would start or not? I felt pretty confident that my answer, which matched the other students, including the smart ones was correct. My answer was no, theoretically I would never reach the wall because I would always be one half of the remaining distance away, whether it be a millimeter or one thousandth of a millimeter.

Then the instructor said that we would never reach paradise and that we all thought like mathematicians. He would start for the wall without hesitation since he thought like an engineer. As a human being he would eventually be so close to the wall that he would be touching it. In other words, close enough!

After graduating I was working at a construction site doing topography. Topography is essentially determining the slope of the land. It was a site with a steep grade somewhat like the Dendocho. I was taking raw data and writing the elevations in my notebook in 100ths of a foot, for example 100.12 or 100 feet one inch. An old timer came up to me and after looking over my shoulder at my notebook said to me "No good, what was your last reading?" I replied "39.38". He then proceeded to scuff the dirt at that point and said "Read it now." "39.32" I said a little peeved. Finally, the old-timer said "39.3, close enough."

It was only later when I was making the contour map of the site that I realized that the old-timer was right. For a steep slope where I was taking elevations, a 2 foot contour interval was less than a half-inch on the contour map. Therefore, the difference between 39.38 and 39.32 was really insignificant.

When we began Shuyokai some 4 weeks ago, we were 5 separate individuals. I believe over the course of study we have bonded and become closer.

Shortly after the start of Shuyokai, we made a rule for Otsutome that whoever arrives first at the pew gets to choose his or her seat. If you paid attention, I usually got to sit in the middle position. From that position I can copy the hand movements of my fellow students. Here is my observation, which only applies to the evening service, since the morning service everyone is half asleep:

The first week we were each our own individual drummer, some somewhat faster, some somewhat slower.

The second week, we were getting better in unison, but still 5 different drummers.

However, by the end of the third week by constant repetition, we were CLOSE ENOUGH in unison.

Therefore my answer as to why we do the Ashiki o harote 21 X is that you should be thankful that if a joyous service is the same as perfect unison, that Oyasama thinks that 21X is CLOSE ENOUGH.

In closing, I would like to ask for audience participation? Do you want to participate in a little experiment?



## *ISLAND LIFE*



### **Ms. Michelle Inouye (Hawaii Kai M.S./ Higashi-chuo G.C.)**

"What was your reason for attending Shuyokai?" was a question our instructor's would ask. I'd answer, "To revisit the teachings." But of course, I came up with that answer after I had made the decision to attend.

One night, my brother David and I stopped by Mission Headquarters. Our Bishop of Mission Headquarters' wife, Mrs. Hamada, suggested I go to Shuyokai since I just got back to Hawaii. "Um..." I panicked but she quickly continued "Just think about it." We went to a family gathering, I had a few beers and before I knew it I was in my other brother, Michael's car riding back to MHQ to get the Shuyokai forms. So, the reason why I'm here is because of a few beers. Haha, nah, really, it's because of God the Parent, through Bishop and Mrs. Hamada, lead me here and for that, I am truly thankful.

I found my faith in 2002, 2003, 5, 6, 7, and now 2011. A brief background, during my first 2 years in Japan I discovered/received the feel-

ing of true gratitude. I was ecstatic, gratitude and joyousness were pouring out of my ears. Man, I thought nothing could stop me, which lead me to Senshuka. But even then I kept challenging myself so I'd wake up at 1am, clean the dormitory; make my rounds at the main sanctuary, etc. Until one day my body shut down and I was put in a wheelchair. Long story short, I ended up with a feeling that God was kicking me saying "Go away, I don't want you!"

That was my last big experience with Tenrikyo, until this Hawaii Mission Headquarters Shuyokai 2011 edition.

"Can you believe?" was the question I had written in my notebook as I sat in class. I could see, hear and feel my instructors' belief radiating from them as they spoke of the teachings/their stories. I realized that I lack the open heart/mind of a 3 year old, to believe.

During our Life of Oyasama class, we took turns reading the Songs for the Service out loud. My turn came around, Song 3. Gradually as I began to read, this feeling started to grow inside me. This overwhelming realization that these, these are the words of God. God! The creator of our universe! Who controls the providences in almost 7 billion people in the world. GOD! God the parents words!! God the parents teachings!! God the parents love!!!

It hit me even harder at the 7<sup>th</sup> verse.

**Seventh, Whatever may happen, from now on, I will go single-heartedly leaning on God.**

I began to tear up.

**Eighth, There is nothing so trying as illness; so from now on, I, too, will devote myself to hinokishin.**

I had to suppress the need to cry so I could finish reading Song 3.

**Ninth, Tough I have believed thus far, I did not know that You are the original God.**

**Finally, This time, you have revealed Yourself. No doubt You are the true God.**

My voice was shaking but I thought, at least I made it to the end. But we still had 9 more songs to go! Song 4, 5, felt the warmth of god the parents love; 6, gratitude consumed me; 7, tears were welling up; 8, taking deep breaths. My turn again, Song 9. By now the tears had broke free and were streaming down my face. I suppressed my sniffles and taking another deep breath,

**First, Clapping around throughout the wide world, And cleansing human hearts once and twice, I will advance the work of salvation.**

My voice was shaking uncontrollably.

**Second, Against any hardship I will protect you;**

I could barely see through my tears.

**So lean closely on the mind of God!**

That was it, my throat closed up and I was done. I couldn't read any more. Only sobs as I listened and cried through the rest of the songs for the service.

"Step by step" Another step up with this new feeling of belief/faith. As the scriptures and a few of my instructors emphasize, if only I'd lean on the mind of god, I need not worry about anything at all. Daily, I try to refresh my mind and remember to practice leaning on god and not to worry so much. In 2007 I felt as though god had kicked me out and now God the Parent is welcoming me home but actually, I've always been receiving God the Parents divine guidance and thus, I've always been home.



## Welcome aboard!

Congratulations to: Mr. Kenichi Hongo & Yukari of Alexander Mission Station. Chloe Kokona Hongo was born on May 11, 2011. 6lb and 9oz, 19.5 inches

# Tid Bits

## Associations' Reports

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

This month there will be the Annual Tenrikyo Bazaar. One of the purposes of the Bazaar will be to do Nioigake (sprinkling the fragrance). With your bright smiles and warm words will create bonds which will then guide them to the Path of the Joyous Life.

#### Monthly Meeting

August 8 (Mon) 9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.

Study Anecdotes of Oyasama

Lecture by Bishop Hamada

#### Nuuau Hale Visitation

August 13(Sat) 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

#### Bazaar Hinokishin:

August 16(Tue) Making the Tsukemono

August 17(Wed) Packing the Tsukemono

August 18(Thu) Making the Konyaku

August 22(Mon) Separating and sorting used clothes

Every Hinokishin is at TCC from 9:00 a.m.

#### Joint General Meeting

September 17(Sat) 10:00a.m.

Seated Service & Yorozuyo

Ceremony

\*August Mission HQ monthly service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to Godo A Group.

### YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

August 21st - Sunday

Monthly Meeting/Canopy Setup

Mission HQ Social Hall-1pm

August 28th-Sunday

Annual Bazaar

TCC-7am

Please refer to Bazaar Hinokishin Schedule for other dates.

We will again be needing parking help on August 28th, please contact Burt Iwata if you are available!

### YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

August 28 Sunday Bazaar

Baked goods packing is on Saturday August 27 @ 9am

Please...

\*Bring baked goods by Friday August 26

\*Label or notate name of baked goods item with ingredients for people with allergies

\*Do not pre-price items; there has been a change in script prices

September 17 Saturday General Meeting Women's Association, Young Men's Association, & Young Women's Club will it's annual General Meeting. More details will be available soon!

## **BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION**

### **Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba**

The children's pilgrimage to Jiba for the Hawaii group was held from July 24-30 at the Jiba of Origin. Twenty-seven participants including seven in the Boys & Girls Hinokishin Corps (Shohi) braved the hot weather energy and enthusiasm.

### **Bazaar Games and Toys Booth**

The proceeds from annual Tenrikyo Bazaar support BGA activities and the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba. We'd like to show our appreciation by helping out at the games and toys booth. Please contact Yasu or Rumi Miyauchi.

### ***In memory of the late Rev. Margaret Fumiko Nakashima of Waikiki Church***



Rev. Margaret Fumiko Nakashima passed away for rebirth on June 23, 2011. She was 86 years old.

Rev. Nakashima served as head minister of Waikiki Church (Shuto Grand Church) from 1998 - 2008. She was also a very devout member of Taiheyo Church and Den-doho where she could be seen participating in hinokishin activies, nioigake, the Women's Association activities and so forth. She was truly devoted to the teachings as well as to her family. She was an inspiration to all of us and we will miss her kind smile.



# The Hungry Reporter

In the early 80's I lived in a growing community called Mission Viejo. My church managed a mission house and 5 young boys were attending school. Amongst them was the present head minister of the Honjima Grand Church and his younger brother. All of these boys have gone on to becoming head ministers at various churches on the Mainland and boy they surely had hardy appetites! Thus, the beginnings of my passion for cooking began there. The boys loved it and, hope you enjoy it too!

## Dr. Pepper Barbeque Sauce

### Ingredients

- 4 Tbsp Unsalted Butter (1/2 stick)
- 4 cloves Garlic, chopped
- 3 Tbsp Tomato Paste
- 1/2 Cup Apple Cider Vinegar
- 1/2 Cup packed Dark Brown Sugar
- 2 tsp Chili Powder \*(Ancho or New Mexican suggested)
- 1 large Yellow Onion, chopped
- 1 cup Ketchup
- 1 tsp Kosher Salt
- 1 Can Dr. Pepper (12-ounce)
- 1/3 Cup Worcestershire Sauce
- 1 tsp fine-ground White Pepper

### Directions

1. In a heavy saucepan, melt the butter. Sauté the onion and garlic in the butter until translucent, about 10 minutes. Add all the remaining ingredients and simmer for about 15 minutes, until the flavors have blended. Continue cooking until the sauce begins to thicken, 20 to 30 minutes. Taste and adjust the seasonings with salt and pepper if desired.
2. Let the sauce cool for about 10 minutes or until it is warm but no longer "boiling" hot. Puree with an immersion or traditional blender (this will make the sauce thicker). Let cool. The sauce will keep, tightly covered, in the refrigerator for up to 2 weeks.
3. Brush it on food 5 to 15 minutes before the cooking time is finished. If desired, serve extra on the side.



## August Calendar 2011

9 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	TCC Monthly Service Translation Committee Meeting	TCC Mission HQ	10:00 a.m. 7:30 a.m.
11 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Bazaar Booth Head Meeting	Mission HQ	9am & 7pm
13 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	WA Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Meet @ HQ	9:30 a.m.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	TCC Committee Meeting	TCC	7:30 p.m.
16 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	BOD Prep. Meeting	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	BGA Meeting	Mission HQ	7:30 p.m.
20 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	BOD Meeting	Mission HQ	2:00 p.m.
21 <sup>st</sup>	Sun	August Monthly Service	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Mon	Monthly Nioigake Day	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Tue	Ritual Committee Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
26 <sup>th</sup>	Fri	Yohaishiki (Service from afar )	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	The 41 <sup>st</sup> Tenrikyo Bazaar	TCC	8:30 a.m.

## September Calendar 2011

5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	All Tenrikyo Nioigake Day WA Committee Meeting	Stadium Park (Moiliili) Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Monthly Community Hinokishin	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
7 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	Three Associations Meeting	Mission HQ	7:30 p.m.
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	WA Monthly Meeting	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	BGA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Joint General Meeting	Mission HQ	10:00 a.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	September Monthly Service	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Yohaishiki(Service from afar)	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.

### Abbreviation key:

BGA = Boy's & Girl's Assn.   WA = Women's Association      TCC = Tenri Cultural Center  
 YMA = Young Men's Association      YWC = Young Women's Club      BOD = Board of Directors

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## **All Tenrikyo Nioigake Day!**

**“Sprinkle the Fragrance of the Teachings!”**

**Monday, September 5, 2011**

**9:00-11:00 a.m.**

**Meet at Moiliili Stadium Park**

Your choice of: Door to door nioigake or  
Park cleaning hinokishin (wear “One World, One Family” T-shirt for  
hinokishin and bring own yard equipment)  
Bring your family and friends!