

Origins

No. 285 May 2015



Boys and Girls Association Oyasama's Birthday Activity (4/19)

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii

Relay Essays by Bishop & Mrs. Yamanaka & Board of Directors

Melody of Life

Clyde Mikuni

Music has always played an important part of my everyday life. I enjoyed an aunt's singing of old standards, listening to Ted Mack's Original Amateur Hour on the radio, watching Lawrence Welk on TV, and of course learning and singing all of Elvis Presley's songs... and doing a pretty good imitation of Elvis at that, with sideburns and wiggling and all.

Recently I often find myself singing a song from the movie *The King and I*, called "Getting to Know You". The only thing is I've been singing it with a different pronoun... and it goes, "*Getting to know me, getting to know all about me*".... and I guess it has somewhat to do with getting close to my 76th birthday and still learning something new about myself every day. And more excitingly in discovering what caused me to become the person I am.

The ultimate melody of life, of course, is the "*Mikagura-uta*". It's soothing tune satisfies our every mood and truly helps to settle the mind. My granddaughter Jenna loves the *Mikagura-uta*. Being legally blind and autistic does not prevent her from enjoying the music and singing. Among her limited vocabulary is O TSU TO ME, and recently she's able to keep the beat of the tabor by hitting her thigh with her left hand. Jenna is musically inclined like her grandpa and indeed a godsend that keeps me on a spiritual high note.

Opportunity Continue

'Tis the "Season"..... the 3 years, 1000 days one, that is. The one filled with numerous opportunities to grow spiritually, and I will be the first to attest to the "*numerous opportunities*" part. The Instruction Three teaches us that various knots, or challenging situations as well as misfortunes and difficulties are expressions of the parental love that desires us to cleanse our hearts and ultimately to be saved. In one of the Shinbashira's sermons many years ago, he asked us to listen for Oyasama's voice behind all daily occurrences, a practice I have diligently followed since. It has helped me to understand and overcome challenges, and more importantly offered invaluable insight in "*getting to know me*".

Mirror Mirror on the Wall

Has a day gone by without looking in the mirror? I'm sure you've watched yourself brushing your teeth, combing your hair, and of course, you don't have to consider yourself being self-centered if you're concerned about how you look. That's all part of grooming. Wouldn't it be nice though, if we could see our minds in that same mirror to check if it's also properly groomed? Unfortunately, the face reflected in the mirror can only go as far as giving us an idea if we're happy or not so happy. We are taught however, that the world is a mirror, so the rest of the day can be spent on discovering how well our minds are groomed, simply by reflecting on how we react to what we see others doing, and hear others saying.

If reactions are positive and pleasant, we can say our minds are well groomed. If not, we can initiate a "self-reflection". Remember, our minds are being reflected so I believe that this practice will help us to "*getting to know more about me*".

A Personal Note

My first reading of the Instruction Three brought goose bumps on both arms. It felt so personal. I thought to myself, “the Shinbashira must have been watching me prior to writing the instruction, he must have.” My shortcomings flashed before my eyes all at once leaving me feeling guilt-ridden. Now, that personal instruction is my primary guide in salvation work.

The closing paragraph of the Instruction Three is especially touching to me.

In Instruction One, we were requested to rouse ourselves.

In Instruction Two, we were strongly requested to rise up.

In Instruction Three, he says, *“I hope with all my heart”* that all of us Yoboku, who are Oyasama’s instruments, will maintain a full awareness of our mission and strive to carry out our work, thereby bringing joy to the everliving Oyasama.

Now doesn’t that leave you teary-eyed?

April Monthly Service Prayer

Appearing before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, I (Shugo Yamanaka) Bishop of the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii speak with reverence on behalf of the Hawaii congregation.

God the Parent, You revealed Yourself to this world by receiving Oyasama as the Shrine and conveyed to us the truth of origin of the creation of human beings. Furthermore, through Oyasama’s 50-year Divine Model, You laid the Path to guide us toward the Joyous Life. We are living in joy and high spirits as we feel Your blessings each and every day, while trusting in the daily guidance of the everliving Oyasama. At the same time, we are putting forth our efforts to grow spiritually so as to accord with Your intention. Since this is the month in which Oyasama was born into this world 217 years ago, we shall now perform, with joyful and rejoicing hearts, the April monthly service at this mission headquarters. As You watch the brothers and sisters of the Path who have gathered here in prayer before You to sing The Songs for the Service, we hope You will be spirited as well.

On the 7th of this month, 85 members of Women’s Association united their hearts and dedicated a performance of women’s instruments in celebration of the everliving Oyasama’s birthday. Also from the end of this month through May, All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day will be held at various locations in Hawaii. As we engage in hinokishin, we also hope to sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings to the community by expressing our joy of faith as well as our gratitude for the blessings of “a thing lent, a thing borrowed”.

Together we vow to accord with the intention of God the Parent, whose desire is for all humankind to live the Joyous Life, and as instruments of Oyasama we will walk firmly on the path of single-hearted salvation and single-heartedness with God here in Hawaii. Especially with the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama just nine months away, each and every one of us is firmly determined to make decisive efforts to grow spiritually so as to bring about concrete actions and results befitting this important season of the final year of our pre-anniversary activities. May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that You guide us further toward the advancement of the Path in Hawaii and the reconstruction of the world into a Joyous Life World where everyone will live together in harmony helping and caring for one another even a day sooner. Together with all present, I sincerely pray that You bless us so.

Mission HQ April Monthly Service Sermon

Rev. Tyron Inouye

Head Minister of Hawaii Central Church



Good morning! Before I begin my sermon, I would like to thank the Bishop and Mrs. Yamanaka for this opportunity and Mrs. Motoko Iwata- who is translating today's sermon. If I may humbly ask for your kind attention for the next few moments.

We have just completed April's monthly service here at church headquarters. This month's service was moved a week ahead due to our foundress Oyasama's birthday which is on the 18th of this month. In early November of last year, I was asked by the Bishop or I should say propositioned to do this month's sermon or to be the next Shuyoka instructor which is the spiritual training course that is held in Japan for three months. With such a difficult decision on my mind, it took me a whole minute and half to give the Bishop my answer. As he smiled and grinned at me with a slight chuckle, he asked me again if I was ok with the doing the sermon. I sincerely told him that my interest in being the Shuyoka instructor was actually on my mind but due to my current situation it would be difficult to

leave for 3 months on such a short notice. He shook his head and then gave a big smile and said thank you for your answer. He then said that if your wife declined to do her sermon which was in just a few weeks away I would have to also do her sermon.

As a child growing up with eight older siblings I always wondered what life would be like not being scolded eight times or told what to do when to do it everyday. Actually on the positive note, I miss those days of just following my brothers and sisters around and learning what life was about growing up in the 70's. Even though we had very little money we were very happy as a family. My late father Gordon Kakuji and Mother Yoshi Inouye were as devout followers as they came. It was during this period of my life the teachings of this faith would have a great impact on my future as well as my wife to be.

My grandfather Chojiro Inouye was a well respected blacksmith in Oita prefecture Japan and a proud father of three very young children. Tragedy struck early when my grandmother Shun passed away for rebirth soon after my aunt was born. Responsibilities came to my father sooner than he expected. My father was the oldest and did his best to keep things together while my grandfather ran the business. It wasn't long after that, my grandfather was introduced to the sister of Higashi-Chuo grand church's 1st head minister Rev. Kuraji Kashiwagi and was married soon after that.

When my father was old enough he moved from Kyushu Oita prefecture to Harajuku in Tokyo where Higashi-Chuo Branch (before becoming a grand) church is located. Today Harajuku is one of the worlds most renowned fashion cities in Japan. If you were to visit Higashi Chuo Grand church you would have never believe it was once known throughout the neighbor hood as the “furyo kyokai” or “the dark shady church” where a great number of the followers with ailments, personal and mental problems and alike gather there daily and received the divine blessing from God the Parent. It was during these times, I believe my father had begun his true faith.

Rev. Kuraji Kashiwagi was regarded as one of the most influential and enthusiastic reverends of his time. I remember my mother telling many stories of how life was back then at the branch church before it became a Grand church. Rev. Kuraji and his wife would go out to do salvation work non-stop to however many people they could preach to. Because of his very influential character and his deep faith in the teachings people would often come to the church to offer prayers and listen to him talk about the teachings.

Soon after high school my father was drafted into the military and sent off to war. According to my mother it was probably the darkest time of his life. When I asked my mother about dad being in the battle fields she replied at that time his battalion was on its first tour and was still in the scouting phases of the war. He never believed in the idea of war and hated to be there. After two years he was able to return home and attend college

where he majored in English and graduated. When the war ended Japan was in a state of despair and chaos. Ironically my father applied and got a job as a translator for the American consulate where many of the high ranking military people worked. I remember my mother telling me how my father would boastfully talk about riding the elevator with General Douglas McCarthur in the mornings and I believe this is why I have a brother named Douglas.

Missionary work was always my father’s life. It didn’t matter what time of the day it was or where it was he would always talk to people about the teachings. A few years after my parents married they committed themselves to salvation work. However they wanted to start a family but my mother could not conceive and went to see a specialist who tried various treatments to increase her chances of conceiving. In the end the doctor told my mother she would not be able to conceive. She then went to see and consult with the wife of Higashi Chuo grand church and was told by her to establish a church with as many live-in followers as possible. It wasn’t long after that they established Higashi Honyo church. There were many followers living at the church and many others around the neighborhood who attend the morning and evening services regularly. Soon after establishing the church my mother was able to conceive her 1st child of many that would follow there after.

Because of the war Japan’s economy and government was very unstable. Many cities in Tokyo were still littered with fallen buildings and structures which made living

conditions there unbearable. I had often thought about the great sacrifices my parents took to plant the right seeds for these people who came to church for salvation. Even forgiving a follower who stole and pawned my mothers very expensive Kimono's that my grandmother had given her as gifts.

During the early 50's my father was asked by the overseas department director at church headquarters to be a translator for one of the very first catholic priest who was planning to visit church headquarters. I was told that my father had done such an impressive job that the department director recommended him to go to Hawaii for missionary work and to help propagate and spread the teachings of Tenrikyo. It wasn't long after that my father, mother and sister Lisa were sailing to their final destination which was of course Hawaii.

It was a very difficult time leaving the church they had established and their followers behind but what made it even harder to leave was the four older children that had to stay behind. When they arrived in Honolulu the Rev. and Mrs. Ueno of Honolulu church greeted them and were their sponsors for their visas. A few months later my parents moved to Liliha in a very small boarding house. With only two suitcases and a Japanese tea cup set my parents had set their minds on doing missionary work. My father would walk from Liliha to Waikiki then to Nuuanu and then home everyday to do salvation work. He also walked over to Kaneohe on the weekends and had been able to do salvation work and was asked by a family to help care for an elderly incapacitated family member. He agreed to do it for a few days a week.

One day while he was returning home from Kaneohe via the Pali highway in the pouring rain, a stranger had offered him a ride home. During the ride my father explained the teachings and his purpose here in Hawaii. This person who just graduated from the University of Illinois was very intrigue and interested so much that he had asked my father to explain more of the teachings in detail to him. By this one meeting, my father had planted the very seed of sincerity and was able to save this persons mother from cancer. This person would become the very first cornerstone of Hawaii Central church.

As the 2nd head minister of Hawaii Central church I often find myself humbled by my parents legacy and moved by all the sacrifices they made for us so we can live the life we have today. Following in the foot steps of my parents and implementing the teaching into my daily life has given me the opportunity to help my family and others find the joy and reasons why things happen. I know this path is the only path that I need to take to find my way back to the original parent who created this world.

When Oyasama became the living shrine of God, it took human beings fifty long years to realize what God's intentions were. Living joyously and spiritedly, my parents devoted their entire lives to the path and always reminded me how important these teachings are. Today as I stand before many of you I could not imagine what my life would be without them. I would like to conclude my sermon by thanking all of you for your kind attention today.

Island News & Mission HQ Announcements

Women's Association Oyasama's Birthday Gathering

On April 7th, 55th Annual Oyasama's Birthday Gathering was held with 85 participants. They played the women's musical instruments from the Eight Verses of the Yorozuyo through Song XII of the Mikagura-uta, with six performers on each instrument in four rotations.



Voice from Jiba

Corey Kikuchi

Aloha everyone back home in sunny Hawaii! Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Corey Kikuchi, I am Kyle Kikuchi's youngest brother. This is my second time returning to Jiba, the first time was in November for Kyle and Michelle's wedding.

I've returned to Jiba to attend the Shuyoka program. It has been about three weeks now that I've been in Tenri. I'm really enjoying my time at Jiba. Everyone in Tenri is really nice and friendly.

What I've enjoyed the most about Shuyoka is the people and having the opportunity to be able to go to the Shinden and do Otsutome as frequently as I possibly can. I am also loving the weather at the moment. It's a nice 50-55 degrees everyday. The Sakura trees were a sight to see. They are amazingly beautiful. No pictures can do them justice.

I'm learning new things about Tenrikyo, Japanese language, and Japanese culture everyday. I'm trying to be like a sponge and soak it all in! Before coming to Tenri I barely knew how to play narimono or even do otefuri but, since being here I've been able to pick up on how to play the narimono quite fast and I've been able to dance Yorozuyo and songs one and two with minimal errors.

What I want to achieve by the end of Shuyoka is to get a better understanding of Tenrikyo, be able to memorize as many of the songs as possible and the dances that go with them. Master narimono and sweep away a lot of dust! And also to receive the Osazuke so I would be able to help others. Thank you for allowing me to share my thoughts with you! Until we meet again! One World. One Family.



Corey is on the far right.

Tid Bits

Associations' Reports

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all members who attended the Oyasama's Birthday Gathering last month. I hope that Oyasama would receive our harmonious melody as well as prayer for world peace. The annual Joint General Meeting will be held on the 16th of this month. Please ask as many people as possible to attend and let us pray for world peace.

Bazaar Sewing Hinokishin

Every Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm
At West House

Nuuanu Hale Visitation

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

WA Monthly Meeting

May 11th (Mon) 9:00 a.m.

*After the meeting, we will practice musical instruments for the General Meeting.

Joint General Meeting Otsutome Practice

May 14th (Thu) 7:00 p.m.
At Dendocho Social Hall

WA YMA YWC Joint General Meeting

May 16th (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

*May Narimono Practice will not be held.

*The May Monthly Service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to Godo-A group, which will be started after the General Meeting.

*The lunch preparation Hinokishin for the General Meeting will be held on Friday, May 15 from 9am at Dendocho Social Hall.

YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Our annual WA/YMA Joint General Meeting is upon us. As we are in the final year of the season leading to the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama, we have been blessed to have a representative from YMA Headquarters to join us for our General Meeting, and to deliver the message from our new President, Daisuke Nakayama. Please welcome Mr. Shusaku Kato of Sendai Grand Church, YMA Headquarters Committee member, and Chief Editor of the Taimo (YMA) publication.

I know that many of you are excited to know your service assignments. If you have not heard from one of our representatives, and wish to join us for our service performance, please contact us immediately.

2015 WA/YMA Joint General Meeting

Saturday, May 16, 2015.

The Service will begin at 9:30 am.

Please ensure that you prepare your service kimono (otsutome-gi), and if you do not have one, contact your head minister to arrange to borrow.

We look forward to reuniting with all our brothers to join our hearts, and minds in a joyous performance of the service!

We will be holding our monthly meeting one week earlier than our usual date, Wednesday May 6th from 7:30pm at Rainbow Hale. Please join us in our final preparations for the General Meeting.

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

Oyasama's Birthday Activity

The annual BGA Oyasama birthday activity was joyously held on the 3rd Sunday, April 19th at Mission HQ with 50 children, teens, parents and grandparents in attendance. Celebrating Oyasama's 217th Birthday, the program began with the prayer service. A video slide show presentation of Oyasama's story was narrated by Kyanna Kawasaki (Aloha Church) and Kori Nakagawa, (Lanai Church). The Young Men's and the Students Association teamed up to conduct fun games and group activities. The children sang the birthday song over a candle lit cake which was enjoyed as dessert with their pizza lunch! Happy Birthday Oyasama!

Children's Pilgrimage Summer 2015

The Children's Pilgrimage date is set for July 24-28, 2015. Check in at 38th Moya is on 7/24, 4pm and check out is 7/28 at 9am for general group and 10:30 for Shohi (Boys & Girls Hinokishin Corps). Airfare assistance is available for those participating in Shohi.

Flight reservations can be done on your own or through Panda Travel. Groups of five or more can book airport bus transfer with the Overseas Department. Children's Pilgrimage applications are available at MHQ or contact Rev. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa at 836-3333 or email: audsn@hawaii.rr.com for an application by email.

STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

On behalf of TSA, we would like to thank everyone for your support. It has been a little over a year now since we have started TSA again in Hawaii. I would like to ask for your continued help in hopes that we can keep this association going.

Thank you to all who attended BGA Oyasama's Birthday Activity this past month. It was very nice to see all the kids enjoying themselves at Dendocho. We hope for them to return to Dendocho as often as possible. TSA was able to sleep over the night before to help with Oyasama's Birthday Celebration. We will have our monthly sleepover once again next month, the night before monthly service, Saturday May 16th. As always, we encourage anyone to join us so we can all bring joy to others. Please contact Eric Miyauchi if you have any questions. Mahalo!

YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

Aloha lovely ladies of the YWC! It's that time of the year again for the General Meeting! I would like to invite you all to join us with the Young Men's and the Women's Association in unity of mind on May 16, 2015 Saturday in performing the Service. This is the last General Meeting of the seasonal 130th Anniversary of Oyasama, let's perform with our hearts in harmony for the salvation of all mankind and with gratitude for the precious gift of life. "Gratitude is not only the greatest virtue, but parent of all other virtues." - Cicero "Pro Plancio" (55 B.C.) Let's do this ladies!



The Hungry Reporter

I have grown to love quinoa and often consume it as an added source of protein. Quinoa can be added to any dish and works well when added to soups to add texture or to thicken. The quinoa used in this recipe is red. The white one is equally as good. This recipe suggests pot cooking it but I often cook it in the rice cooker. Comes out great. The vegetables are merely suggestions. You can stir fry anything you have on hand in the fridge! Hope you enjoy this!

Chicken with Quinoa & Veggies

Ingredients:

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 Cup Quinoa, rinsed | 2 Tbsp Extra-Virgin Olive Oil |
| 2 Cups Chicken Broth | 1 Zucchini, diced |
| 2 Tbsp Extra-Virgin Olive Oil | 1 Tomato, diced |
| 2 Cloves Garlic, chopped | 4 oz Feta Cheese, crumbled |
| 1 small Onion, chopped | 8 fresh Basil leaves |
| 2 Skinless, Boneless Chicken Breast halves
- cut into strips | 1 Tbsp Lime Juice |

Directions:

1. Bring the quinoa and chicken broth to a boil in a saucepan; reduce heat to a simmer and cover the pan. Simmer until the broth is absorbed, the quinoa is fluffy, and the white line is visible in the grain, about 12 minutes.
2. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a skillet; cook and stir the garlic and onion until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes. Stir in the chicken breast strips and cook until the chicken is still slightly pink in the middle, about 5 more minutes. Remove the chicken meat and set aside. Pour 2 more tablespoons of olive oil in the skillet and cook and stir the zucchini and tomato until the zucchini is tender, 5 to 8 minutes. Return chicken to skillet and sprinkle with feta cheese, basil leaves, and lime juice. Cook until the chicken is fully cooked and hot, about 10 more minutes.
3. Serve over hot quinoa.



May Calendar 2015

2 nd	Sat	All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day: Honolulu Venue		9:00 a.m.
4 th	Mon	Monthly Nioigake Day	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		WA Comm. Meeting	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
5 th	Tue	Community Hinokishin Day	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		TCC Monthly Service	TCC	1:00 p.m.
6 th	Wed	YMA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
8 th	Fri	Adopt A Hwy Cleanup Hinokishin	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
9 th	Sat	WA Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
11 th	Mon	WA Meeting	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		TCC & Bunko Joint Comm. Meeting	TCC	7:30 p.m.
13 th	Wed	Mr. Motonori Mukai to begin his duty at Mission HQ		
14 th	Thu	Mr. Shusaku Kato, YMA Representative to come to Hawaii		
		BGA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
16 th	Sat	WA YMA Joint General Meeting	Mission HQ	9:30 a.m.
		Board of Directors Meeting	Mission HQ	2:00 p.m.
		TSA Sleepover	Mission HQ	
17 th	Sun	Mission HQ Monthly Service	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		Sunday School	Rainbow Hale	AfterYorozuyo
		Aloha Band Practice	Mission HQ	1:30 p.m.
		Oyasato Seminar 2015 Orientation	Mission HQ	12:30 p.m.
18 th	Mon	Mr. Shusaku Kato to return to Jiba		
19 th	Tue	Mr. & Mrs. Sakagami and family to return to Jiba		
26 th	Tue	Yohaishiki (26th day service)	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
		Hand Dance and Musical Instrument Practice		AfterYohaishiki
29 th	Fri	YMA The Life of Oyasama Study Session	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.
31 st	Sun	Mr. & Mrs. Sakagami and family to return to Hawaii		

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Hawaii Spiritual Development Course

Dates: June 21 (Sun) to July 16 (Thu) 2015

Course information:

Classes in *The Doctrine of Tenrikyo*, *The Life of Oyasama*, the Mikagura-uta, faith experiences speeches, and the dance and musical instruments for the service. Students will engage in *hinokishin* activities which provide them with precious opportunities to savor the joy of faith with their whole being.

Age requirement: 17 or older

*Please apply at the Mission HQ office by June 14 (Sun)

*Please ask Mission HQ for more information.