

Origins

No. 309 May 2017



All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day in Honolulu was held at Honolulu Zoo on April 29 with 160 participants

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii

This Month's Message: "Warmth and Love" by Rev. Tomozo Hirano

Once a little boy of five or six who had dislocated his right wrist was brought to the Residence by his grandmother, and Oyasama said to him:

"Welcome home, dear."

Anecdotes of Oyasama, no. 103

Childhood is a time when the values of social responsibility and caring for others are learned in a loving and affectionate environment. An atmosphere of peace and trust is also conducive to the cultivation of a genuine spirit of inquiry.

Those deprived of love in childhood may not develop a tolerant and accepting attitude toward others. Those whose childhood innocence is betrayed may be plagued by fear and doubt throughout their lives and may

find it hard to feel positive about life. Every child should be able to grow up in a caring and nurturing atmosphere.

How tender and warm Oyasama's gaze must have felt as the boy with a dislocated wrist sat in front of Her! Those who met Her when they were children never forgot the sense of warmth and love emanating from Her.

Her Divine Model is the epitome of purity and beauty. If you patiently tell children the story of how She lived, they will listen intently and will love Her.

The Divine Model will provide them with an invaluable spiritual resource, which will help them find hope in the face of even the most insurmountable challenge.

TENRIKYO HAWAII YMA PRESENTS

100th Anniversary

Tenrikyo

SEINENKAI

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY
5.20.17

THE 60th JOINT GENERAL MEETING
and 100th ANNIVERSARY PRE-CONVENTION RALLY
• AT HAWAII DENDOCHO 930AM

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, with the arrival of the promised time, You revealed Yourself to this world by taking Oyasama as the Shrine and conveyed to us the truth about 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. Receiving Your boundless providence and the everliving Oyasama's guidance, we are striving each day in high spirits on the path of making repayments to You. Since this is the month in which Oyasama was born into this world 219 years ago, we shall now perform, with joyful and rejoicing hearts, the April monthly service at this mission headquarters while earnestly praying for world salvation. Gathering before You are our brothers and sisters of the Path in Hawaii who have looked forward to this day and will be singing the Songs for the Service in unison with gratitude for Your daily blessings and pledge to further grow spiritually. As You watch us, we hope You will be spirited as well.

On the 4th of this month, 64 members of Hawaii 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 venues in Hawaii. As we engage in hinokishin, we also hope to sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings to the local community by expressing our joy of faith as well as our gratitude for the blessings of "a thing lent, a thing borrowed." And from the 17th of next month, Successor-Designate to the Shinbashira and Young Men's Association President Daisuke Nakayama will be making his first visitation to Hawaii. We should like him to feel the joyousness and spiritedness of the Hawaii congregation and sense the great potential for further development of the Path in Hawaii.

Responding to Your desire to hasten world salvation, we Yoboku vow to further accumulate sincere and earnest efforts so as to advance the construction of the Joyous Life World. 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 the truly peaceful Joyous Life World, even a day sooner, where everyone will come to know of the Parent of Origin thus awakening to the truth of universal brotherhood & sisterhood and live together in harmony helping and caring for one another. Together with all present, I sincerely pray that You bless us so.

Mission HQ April Monthly Service Sermon

Rev. Owen Nakao

Head Minister of Pearl Church



Good morning & Aloha! I would like to take this time to congratulate the Hawaii Boys & Girls Association chairwoman Rev. Audrey Suga-Nakagawa, staff and friends for the successful completion of their annual Spring Camp and 42nd General Meeting this past March 24-26 with a total of 79 camp participants which is probably the most in a long time. I'm thankful and feel very privileged to be here at the Mission Headquarters of Hawaii to deliver today's sermon. May I ask for your kind attention.

The title of today's sermon is "FAITH AND THE DOUBTFUL MIND!" Which I believe is the theme of Song VI of the Mikagura-uta.

Let's compare a person who has faith and a person who doesn't have faith. The person, who has faith, believes in God. He believes that God exists and that no matter what happens, if there is sincerity, things

will come out ok. He recognizes and is aware of the blessings around him and is thankful and works to keep his faith strong.

The person, who doesn't have faith, doesn't believe in God or is not sure that there is a God. He worries a lot. He is worried about the future, about what is going to happen to himself, his family, his country and the world. He has a lot of doubt about religion. He is not sure what he needs to do.

Which kind of person are you? Are you a person of faith or a person without faith, or perhaps you are somewhere in the middle? Of course all of us have some faith otherwise we wouldn't be here! All of us have some faith. But sometimes I used to question my faith. I would ask myself if I have complete faith in God, then I wouldn't have any doubts and worries, right? But oh, yes I did have worries and doubts. So it's something that I used to struggle with for a long time. It was only during my time as instructor of the 3-month Spiritual Development Course that I came to a better understanding of the mind of faith and the doubtful mind. Let's put faith on the side for a little while.

The Mikagura-uta is translated into English, so I can read the English version

and understand the meaning. We perform the service every day, so we should try to understand what God is trying to tell us in the verses of the Mikagura-uta. Song VI in the Mikagura-uta caught my attention, because it talks about “wrong thoughts.”

I was wondering what God meant when He mentioned “wrong thoughts.” You could say that wrong thoughts could be the eight mental dusts. Possible...

Thirteen years ago, when I served as the English Shuyoka instructor in Jiba, we were conducting the narimono practice which was held on the top floor of the Yakata 5th wing. It's called Go Kodo. There were about 400 students in this big hall including mostly Japanese Shuyoka students, one English class and one Chinese class. During the middle of the narimono practice, the lead instructor for that class said that in playing the narimono instruments it is important that we should nurture the mind of unity (awaseru kokoro). As he was explaining this, some of the younger Shuyoka students were talking and not really serious in their practice. I wanted to tell them to pay attention. I was thinking about what I should say to them when I noticed that we were practicing Song VI which mentions about wrong thoughts and the Tenrikyo term “denaoshi,” which means passing away for rebirth. I thought this is something I can use to convey the teaching. After practicing a few verses, the

lead instructor asked the other instructors if there were anything else that needed to be told to the students. I couldn't resist this teachable moment and I raised my hand and I went up to the front of the class onto the stage. I really didn't know what I was going to say but I needed to say something! I bravely took the microphone. I first spoke in English so that my English speaking students would understand, there were about twenty at that time, but also to catch the attention of the Japanese students. It worked because everyone became so quiet and listened carefully to what I had to say. The Japanese students probably wondered why I was talking to them in English!

But anyway, I said to the students in both English and my broken Japanese. “The Mikagura-uta is so important. It's important because God taught it to us and because through the service, our fate can be changed.” I mentioned the part about “wrong thoughts.” I asked the students, “What is the meaning of ‘wrong thoughts’? This is really important. Why?” Because right here it says,

*Eighth, If you entertain wrong thoughts,
you are to start anew.*

Mikagura-uta, VI: 8

I said, “This word ‘denaoshi’ has two meanings: one is the official translation in the Mikagura-uta which is ‘start anew’

and the other more commonly means ‘pass away for rebirth.’ Now if it means, passing away for rebirth, don’t you think it’s really important?” Everyone became very quiet. I think they understood my bad Japanese, because after that everyone sat up straight and practiced very well.

As I explained earlier to the Shuyoka students, “denaoshi” has two meanings: one, it means we need to start with a new mind and two, it means to depart for rebirth. I have a strong feeling that it means to depart for rebirth.

Sukezo Incident

Rev. Yoshinaru Ueda (Church HQ Honbu-in) in his interpretation of the Mikagura-uta, “O Kagura no uta” (page 448) also believes that it means to depart for rebirth and gives the example of the Sukezo Incident in *The Life of Oyasama*.

In *The Life of Oyasama*, it says that Oyasama in 1865 saved Sukezo of Harigabessho Village from an eye disease and was among those who came to worship. In the course of time, he suddenly stopped coming to the Residence and began to say that the village of Harigabessho was the original dwelling place of God, whereas as the village of Shoyashiki was the place where God was temporarily manifested.

Around October 20, after fasting for 30 days, Oyasama and four followers went to confront Sukezo at his home at

Harigabessho. After three days of argument and negotiations, Sukezo finally apologized and acknowledged that he had been in the wrong.

Although not mentioned in *The life of Oyasama*, Rev. Ueda says that Sukezo later got blind again and died after that. In other words he departed for rebirth.

Next look at verse five:

Fifth, Always performing the Kagura and Teodori, In the future, I will work remarkable salvation.

This verse implies that after long years of always performing the service, despite many hardships and disappointments, God the Parent will work miraculous blessings.

Tina’s Story

I would like to share a short story about a Mrs. M. I’ve been visiting Mrs. M off and on for the past year or so to do Sazuke on her knee. Sometimes it would get well and sometimes the pain returned. One day I went to her apartment and her adult granddaughter Mrs. A answered the door, I asked if Mrs. M was available. Mrs. A began talking to someone I couldn’t see, near the door. All this time I could hear a baby crying. Mrs. A told me that Mrs. M was busy. Anyway, I said to Mrs. A, please tell Mrs. M that I want to thank her for helping at the zoo on Hinokishin Day

and to give her this bag of rice (which is the osagari rice) which I had brought with me. Again she was talking that person I couldn't see from outside the door. Then Mrs. A asked me, "Can you pray for my baby, Tina, she won't stop crying. She's been crying all day."

I said, "Sure, of course." She said, "Please come in." I stepped in and I saw Mrs. M with Tina! So it was Mrs. M that the granddaughter was talking to. Later I found out that Tina was her great granddaughter. Tina was just 2 months old and just kept crying and crying, so I quickly did the Sazuke. Then lo and behold! She stopped crying on my second set of "Namu tasuke tamae...!" Everyone there was so surprised, they couldn't say a word. When I finished, I said to them, "Always give your thanks to God. Never take things for granted..." They just nodded their heads.

To really pray earnestly and receive a blessing so quickly is so gratifying.

Mr. T's Story

In another story in December of last year, we met an 80-year old single man. We shall call him Mr. T. Mr. T suffered from shingles for over ten years. He said that the pain originates in his shoulder and ribs and spreads throughout his body. Medication helps control the pain, but it makes him drowsy and it's difficult to do his daily tasks. He accepted our 3-day

Sazuke prayer. After three days, I asked him if I could continue the Sazuke prayers and told him that I will try to come every day. He said ok and that he was willing to try anything. I invited him to our monthly service, but he refused saying, "I don't go to that kind of thing," even though he said that he was willing to try anything. When I visit him at 8 o'clock every morning, he complains about his illness saying that he cannot go on living like this and that he cannot take it any longer. And that he wants to take his life.

At the same time, he talks about going to the flea market to purchase fruits and vegetables and taking his one-hour walk to maintain his health. So deep inside he wants to live. We may be amused at his contradiction. We all want to live, but we want to live free of pain. I've never had shingles, so I can only imagine how unbearable it must be to constantly experience pain...hence my dedication in making my visits to administer the Sazuke. It's been about 5 months now and there's been no noticeable relief from his suffering. Still he anticipates my visits and accepts my prayers. I believe that since he refuses to attend our church services and other church activities, that he maintains a somewhat negative and skeptical mind...and that because of this, it's difficult to receive the blessing of a quick cure. If he received a blessing right away, then I suspect it would

be thank you and good bye. Sometimes I think it's a blessing not to receive a blessing right away. It gives us time to get to know the person and make our resolution. For me it will happen in God's time as we keep and perform our resolution. For him, perhaps as he witnesses our faith and sincerity, that he too will come to change, embrace the faith and receive the blessing in due time.

Comparison

In the case of baby Tina, at 2 months old, she has a pure and innocent mind; while in the case of Mr. T, who at 80 years old, probably has a more skeptical mind and he even admitted that he was a negative person. You could say that his mind has a

few wrinkles. This reminds me of a story in the *Anecdotes of Oyasama* #45.

Oyasama said, "To save a person is to smooth the wrinkles of a person's mind with the truth of the teachings."

I believe that if the wrinkles in Mr. T's mind can be smoothed out, he can release his doubts and rely on God and thereby receive a blessing.

In conclusion we have learned that...by getting rid of our doubtful mind and nurture the mind that truly believes we can receive God's free and unlimited blessings. We can release our doubtful mind by repeatedly performing the service and administering the Sazuke.

Thank you for your kind attention.

WA Oyasama's Birthday Gathering

The 57th Annual Oyasama's Birthday Gathering was held on April 4 with 64 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.



New Baby Boy on Board!

Danson Chihiro Akemoto

March 31, 2017

Daniel & Hiromi
Akemoto

(Paradise Church)

Congratulations!



Joy Workshop 2017

- June 25, 1:00pm Taitan Church
- Sept. 23, 2:00pm Mid Pacific M.S.

Please ask Darrell Suzuki at 227-4884 for more information.

Tid Bits

Associations' Reports

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

YMA 100th Anniversary Pep Rally & the 60th YMA General Meeting will be held on May 20th at Dendocho with the presence of Daisuke-sama. After receiving the words of Daisuke-sama, WA members will hold the General Meeting in the social hall without performance of the Service. We will be looking forward to seeing all of you at the General Meeting as well as the evening reception at Pagoda Hotel.

Bazaar Sewing Hinokishin (West House)
Every Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

Cleanup Hinokishin at Dendocho
May 4th (Thu) 9:00 a.m.

Monthly Meeting
May 8th (Mon) 9:00 a.m.
*We will wrap the commemorative gifts for General Meeting after the meeting.

Musical Instruments Practice
May 9th (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

Nuuanu Hale Visitation
May 13th (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

Pre. Hinokishin for General Meeting
May 19th (Fri) 9:00 a.m.

**YMA 100th Anniversary Pep Rally
& Hawaii YMA/WA General Meeting**
May 20th (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

*The May Monthly Service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to Hofu group.

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

Oyasama Birthday Celebration

Mahalo to all who helped us celebrate the Foundress' birthday on April 16. 75 children and adults enjoyed hearing a short story of her life, participated in fun games, and munched on pizza, cake and ice cream. Thank you for joining us.



YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Aloha Arakitoryo! May is here and may your hearts be full of Joy for Daisuke-sama's arrival! We have been working hard in preparation and I need to thank you all for your support. We could not have accomplished any of this with selfish intentions. Thank you all for your generosity and sincerity. It's the final push and I would

like to make one last request, please, please encourage your YMA members and friends to attend the following events leading up to and during Daisuke-sama's stay. Let's give Him a good feel for the Aloha Spirit and what makes Hawaii a special place! Thank you all again, over and over for your dedication, we have truly strived to fulfill the goals for the 100th Anniversary without any hesitation by implementing the Joyous Life in our daily actions and hinokishin. I know together we have done our best to "Bring Joy To Our Parents, Bring Joy to our Spouses and Bring Joy to the World!" You guys are amazing!

May 17th Wednesday

11:30am @ Dendocho: to Welcome Daisuke-sama and his party to Hawaii

May 19th Friday

11:00am - 2:45pm @ Taiheyo Church: to Accompany Daisuke-sama and his party in Missionary Activities in Waikiki

7:00pm @ Rainbow Hale: All Hawaii

YMA BBQ Dinner with Daisuke-sama and his party

May 20th Saturday

8:30am @ Dendocho: 100th Anniversary Pep Rally & 60th General Meeting Registration

1:00pm Friendly Activities with HI YMA and YWC

6:30pm Reception at Pagoda International Ballroom

May 21st Sunday

9:00am Dendocho Monthly Service

1:00pm Hawaii Tour

3:00pm Waikiki Hotel Check In

3:30pm More Activities and Dinner

May 22nd Monday

12:30 pm See Daisuke-sama and his party off to the airport!

Monthly Meeting

May 10th (Wed) 7:30 p.m.

The Doctrine of Tenrikyo Study Session

May 31st (Wed) 7:00 p.m.

Forbes Sewing Class holds annual Senior Fashion Show

It's been almost 20 years since Mrs. Sumako Forbes started her sewing class at the Tenri Culture Center. Mrs. Forbes who specializes in millinery teaches her students how to transform Japanese kimonos, obis, and yukatas into fabulous contemporary garments. These Japanese garments are transformed into dresses, gowns, coats, vests, and casual wears are designed and sewn by her students. Then some are presented at the annual senior citizen fashion show held at the Tenri Library. Some are sold and proceeds are donated to the Tenri Library. This year the fashion show was held on March 8. We thank you Forbes Sewing for your generous donation. Forbes class is held every Wednesdays and Thursdays.



The Hungry Reporter

This is an easy make ahead recipe. You can add canned black beans, diced bell peppers or sun dried tomatoes for an added kick. This Tex Mex dish serves well with Tortilla Chips, Avocado and Salsa on the side. Enjoy!!

Tex Mex Chicken Casserole

Ingredients:

4 tsp Olive Oil
6 Tbsp Sour Cream
4 oz Shredded Cheddar Cheese
2 Cups fresh sliced Mushrooms
1 (16 oz) Jar Salsa

2 Cups White Rice, cooked
8 oz Boneless Chicken Breast, cooked
& diced

Directions:

1. In a skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Sauté mushrooms.
2. Combine mushrooms, sour cream, cheese, salsa, rice & chicken. Place in greased casserole dish.
3. Bake at 350 degrees F (175 degrees C) for 25 to 35 minutes.



Hawaii Spiritual Development Course

Dates: Sunday, June 18 to Thursday, July 13, 2017

Qualification: 17 or older

Application due by Sunday, May 14. Please ask Hawaii Dendocho for more details.

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 Mission HQ of Hawaii: <http://www.tenrikyo-hawaii.com>

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May Calendar 2017

1 st	Mon	Monthly Nioigake Day	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
2 nd	Tue	TCC Monthly Service	TCC	9:30 a.m.
3 rd	Wed	Monthly Community Hinokishin Day Bishop to return to Hawaii	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
4 th	Thu	WA Cleanup Hinokishin	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
8 th	Mon	WA Monthly Meeting TCC & Bunko Joint Comm. Meeting	Mission HQ TCC	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
9 th	Tue	WA Narimono Practice	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
10 th	Wed	YMA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
11 th	Thu	BGA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:00 p.m.
13 th	Sat	WA Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Nuuanu Hale	9:30 a.m.
17 th	Wed	Daisuke Nakayama to arrive in Honolulu		
20 th	Sat	YMA 100th Anniversary Pep Rally & YMA/WA General Meeting		9:30 a.m.
21 st	Sun	Mission HQ Monthly Service Sunday School/ Aloha Band Practice	Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
22 nd	Mon	Daisuke Nakayama to return to Jiba		
23 rd	Tue	Kamina-nagashi in Waikiki	Waikiki	10:00 a.m.
26 th	Fri	Yohaisiki (26th day service) Bazaar Comm. Meeting	Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 10am/7pm
31 st	Wed	YMA Study Session	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.