

# Origins

No. 310 June 2017



*Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of Hawaii*

## May 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 Your desire to see us live the Joyous Life, You created us human beings and the world. Since then, You have been continuously protecting us day and night, guiding us along the path of spiritual growth. For this, we are truly grateful. Being guided by this true teaching, we are living in joy and high spirits as we feel Your blessings each and every day. At the same time, we are putting forth our efforts to grow spiritually by striving to follow the Divine Model of Oyasama as best as we can. Today is the day we are granted to conduct the May Monthly Service at this mission headquarters. We the service performers will unite our hearts as one with Successor-Designate Daisuke Nakayama at the core and perform the Seated Service and the Dance with Hand Movements joyously while earnestly praying for world salvation. We will be joined by our brothers and sisters of the Path in Hawaii who have looked forward to this day and have gathered here today, in singing the Songs for the Service in unison and high spirits. As You watch us, we hope You will be spirited as well.

Yesterday, being blessed with the presence of Young Men's Association President Daisuke Nakayama visiting Hawaii for the first time, we were able to hold the YMA's 100th Anniversary Pre-Convention Rally and Hawaii YMA's 60th General Meeting in a grand manner. Also Women's Association was able to hold this year's general meeting in a lively manner with the joy and excitement of seeing Daisuke-sama up close. For this, we thank You very much.

Taking this wonderful occasion as our new start and 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.

### **Obituary Announcement**

Rev. Eiko Meguro, fourth head minister of Makiki Church, passed away for rebirth on May 19, 2017 at the age of 83. The funeral service will be held on Saturday, June 24, from 2pm at Hosoi Mortuary. We express our deep appreciation for her achievements and extend our heartfelt condolences to her family.

# Mission HQ May Monthly Service Sermon

*Rev. Wesley Mikuni*

*Head Minister of Taiheiyo Church*

Aloha, and good morning! We have just completed a spirited performance of the service, which I am sure has brought much joy to God the Parent and our beloved Oyasama. First and foremost, I would like to thank Successor Designate, Rev. Daisuke Nakayama, for gracing us with his presence today. Also to Rev. Ando and Rev. Kubo, for their attendance, as well. The Pep Rally General Meeting for the YMA 100th Anniversary was successfully held yesterday, so congratulations to the THYMA, WA, and YWC on their successful General Meetings. The strength and vitality of the Hawaii Seinenkai makes me wish I were younger and still a part of YMA. Actually, I will turn 49 on September 1st, which also marks the upcoming wedding date for Daisuke-sama and his future bride, the lovely Ms. Nobue Kamikawa. What a lucky coincidence! Now Daisuke-sama might remember me, and the beautiful beaches of Hawaii, each year when he celebrates his wedding anniversary.

Seriously, though, I would like to thank Bishop Yamanaka and Mrs. Yamanaka, for this excellent opportunity to deliver my first-ever sermon at Dendocho. As you may know, I became the head minister of Taiheiyo Church in 2015, and I am very inexperienced, so I should forewarn you that you may come away with nothing of value in what I have to say, but still you are stuck with me for the



next 20 minutes.

The spring and autumn grand services are commemorated in January & October, and Oyasama's birthday celebration is held in April, but May's monthly service is also a special one; can anyone tell me why? Yes, because it marks the anniversary date when the spot of the Jiba was identified.

Jiba is significant for many reasons:

- It is the place where human beings were first conceived; the exact center of the bodies of Izanagi-no-Mikoto and Izanami-no-Mikoto.
- It's the place where God resides – in fact, the divine name of Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, by which we call God the Parent, was also given to the Jiba.
- It is the place where the Kanrodai is erected, and where prayers are focused during the performance of the Service for universal salvation.
- Furthermore, it is the place from which all salvation and blessings from God the Parent, emanates.

So important is this place, yet it wasn't identified until the latter stages of Oyasama's divine model. Just 142 years ago, actually, in 1875. I work for a company where the founder, Mr. Ralph S. Inouye, will turn 102 years old this year. (He still comes to the office three days a week). It really puts into perspective just how close we are to the time when Oyasama physically walked the grounds of the Residence and identified the spot of the Jiba.

However, the identification of the Jiba was foretold eight years earlier, when Oyasama composed the Mikagura-Uta in 1867. Interestingly, Song V, which might be correlated with the month of May, is where we find the first mention of the word "Jiba":

*Ninth, This is the Jiba, the origin of this world. Indeed a remarkable place has been revealed.*

It is a remarkable place, so it follows that remarkable things shall occur when one returns to Jiba.

In 2014, Bishop Yamanaka mentioned to me that Kyle Kawasaki was planning to attend the Minister Qualification Course, and he suggested that I consider attending with Kyle. I had drifted away from the path at that time, concentrating on my career and family, and didn't give much thought to my future as it related to the church. But I knew Kyle since the days of koteki-band, and thought it would be fun if we attended Koshu together. The thought of leaving my wife alone with

Jenna and our two little boys for a month was a bit scary, but Keiko was very supportive, so I decided to go.

I left Hawaii light-hearted, like taking a break from work to go on vacation. But when I arrived in Tenri, I felt a sudden change; something very positive and energizing. You know the feeling I'm talking about. Rev. Hinao Nagao calls it the "Ojiba Magic": that euphoric feeling that overcomes you when returning to the Home of the Parent.

I thoroughly enjoyed the Koshu experience: my cheerful classmates, our inspirational instructors; tsumesho life; worshipping at the main sanctuary; and doing hinokishin. Even the sui-hon food tasted excellent. It was during my stay in Jiba that Keiko informed me that she was pregnant with our third child. Long story short, by the end of the three-week course, I had made up my mind that I would succeed Taiheiyo Church in the following year, the same year Rev. Kyle was to succeed Aloha Church.

I imagine hearing about my decision to take over the church brought joy, but perhaps mostly relief, to my father who had already spent over 30 years as head minister. However, with 3 young children and Jenna, I thought it would be impossible for me to quit my job and become a full-time minister, the way my father and his father did.

I struggled with the thought of having to give up my career, and convinced myself that it would be best if I kept both professions. Some might say my decision was based on "worldly common" thinking, but I also feel

that experiencing the rigors and stresses of secular work helps me to relate to followers and non-followers who are also working long hours to make ends meet, especially living in Hawaii.

Then in June of 2015, Rev. Sparky Shiiba said something in his sermon standing right here at Dendocho that helped me with my decision. He was speaking about the many jobs he's had over the years, sometimes as many as 3 or 4 jobs at once. He said, "One good method to maintain the correct mind is not to think of work as a place to earn money, but as an opportunity to do missionary work, nioigake."

Sadly, until then, I never thought of work in this way. Perhaps many of us are the same. We tend to live dual lives, one at the church and the other outside, and we've become adept at compartmentalizing our different personas. But armed with this enlightenment, I was able to change my perspective about having to be away each day, and now have many opportunities to sprinkle the fragrance and administer the Sazuke on people I may not ordinarily be able to reach if it were not for my job: co-workers, business colleagues, vendors, and customers. So a belated "Thank you" to Sparky, for your words of inspiration!

However, that still leaves the problem of being away from the church 10 hours a day, leaving little time to connect with followers, and reach out to other people. This forced me to think of non-traditional ways of conveying the teachings. I created a website to which I could refer people even if I don't have any

pamphlets. It's [www.taiheiyochurch.com](http://www.taiheiyochurch.com) in case anyone wants to visit the site.

Then my childhood friend, Craig Nishio, moved back to Hawaii and suggested I post morning sermons on Facebook. This way, I could reach out to our congregation for 5 minutes a day and connect them to the church & Oyasama, even if they can't attend daily services.

Through social media and power of "friends of friends," we've been able to reach many more people than just Taiheiyo followers – sometimes over 600 people with a single post – that's like passing out 600 pamphlets! For anyone on Facebook, please search "Tenrikyo Taiheiyo Church" and 'Like' our page.

In this electronic age, online media is the most effective and efficient way of distributing information, and we can quickly spread the name of Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, all over the world. We never know who we'll reach.

I experienced this recently. Through Facebook, I was contacted by a gentleman in Bulgaria...Yes, I was thinking the same thing – where in the world is Bulgaria? It sits on top of Greece, to the east of Italy, across the Adriatic Sea. At first I was skeptical because his online profile shows a man in a military uniform with a beret. But he said he came across the teachings and was inspired by Oyasama. Upon reading the verses from the Ofudesaki he said, "It is so fascinating. I absolutely feel in touch with the teaching of Oyasama and the goal of achieving the

*universal* salvation... I am so happy. From the start I found parental encouragement in the verses of God, written by Oyasama.”

I asked him if the Japanese language and Asian appearance of the Service was any barrier for him. He replied, “For me the word of God cannot be associated only with one nation or language. Though God’s revelation was given through Oyasama from Japan, it was given with the divine guidance to spread to all of God’s children. When it is said ‘The Joyous Service’ I feel its intent is to bring the mutual joy for God and his children.”

Hearing these words reinforced my thoughts that we shouldn’t just limit ourselves to sprinkling the fragrance in the places where we live and work. Let’s think really BIG, because as my Bulgarian friend says, the goal is achieving *universal* salvation. I really hope that I can meet him in person some day, in Jiba.

After becoming installed as the fourth head minister of Taiheiyo Church in 2015, I was informed of another gathering for newly appointed head ministers and spouses, which Keiko and I attended in May of last year, along with Rev. Kyle, and Yoko Kawasaki. It was another great experience, and inspiring to see so many other couples in attendance. There were some very young reverends, some around our age, and some senior couples, too. Some of the reverends were women, supported by their husbands. Even newly installed head ministers of daikyokais attended this gathering, including Reverend and Mrs. Masahiko Iburi!

At the conclusion of that 2-day gathering, all 250 participants were seated inside Oyasama’s Sanctuary to receive a talk by the Shinbashira. I was so afraid that my legs would get numb from sitting seiza for the hour that he spoke, but to my amazement, I barely had to adjust my position during the entire talk.

In that address, Shinbashira-sama spoke about our predecessors who established churches throughout Japan and the world. He spoke at length about their single-hearted efforts in spreading the teachings and doing salvation work; building up their respective churches; and nurturing their members. Nioigake, otasuke; nioigake, otasuke. Day after day, sprinkling the fragrance and saving others. Tireless were their efforts, and it is because of that unwavering spirit that God responded and blessed them with followers who would stay loyal and devote themselves to the Path.

The Shinbashira also emphasized the truth of a church name, which is granted by the everliving Oyasama, as a result of the true sincerity of those who have pledged to work for single-hearted salvation with their minds united in faith. These early pioneers who established the thousands of churches throughout Japan and the world, did not do so for the sake of the next 10 years, or 20 years; not even for the span of their lifetimes. Rather, they established the truth of the church name to continue on for generation after generation, far into the future.

Therefore, the responsibility is now on us

for continuing their mission of conveying the truth of single-heartedness with God, and practicing single-hearted salvation at our respective churches. Let us endeavor to keep our churches active and lively, so that we can set the example of the joyous life in our neighborhoods and attract those who may be interested in discovering why smiles and laughter pervade at our places of worship.

Let's pass along our devotion to the faith to our children and grandchildren: bring them to church and don't worry so much if they run around and make a little noise. Let's also reach out to the community and offer to help those in need. In this way, let us turn the tide of our meekness, and surge ahead toward a new era of growth and prosperity in Tenrikyo. Thank you for your kind attention.

## **YMA's 100th Anniversary Pre-Convention Rally Hawaii YMA's 60th General Meeting**

On May 20, Hawaii YMA hold the YMA's 100th Anniversary Pre-Convention Rally and Hawaii YMA's 60th General Meeting in the presence of YMA President Daisuke Nakayama. The President encouraged the participants to implement the Joyous Life in daily living in his address. Prior to the meeting, he visited 5 churches in Hawaii between 17 and 19. He also engaged in the missionary activities with Hawaii YMA members in Maui and Waikiki.

### ***Faith Experience Speech by Tad Iwata of Haleakala Church***



Good morning. I am deeply honored and humbled to be standing before our Young Men's Association President Daisuke Nakayama, Chairman Yoshihito Ando, and Chief Kazumoto Kubo, Bishop and Mrs. Yamanaka, all of our Tenrikyo Hawai'i Young Men's Association members, and all of you in the congregation. I am not sure

why I was asked to speak today. Perhaps it was because I have hit the old age of 40 and this will be my last opportunity to speak as a member of the Young Men's Association. Whatever the reason, I will do my best to satisfy Chairman Kyle Kikuchi's request, and share a few of my experiences with you. I realize my task here today has taken on added significance as this is the Pep Rally for the Young Men's Association's 100th Anniversary, a momentous milestone for all of us members of the Young Men's Association. I humbly ask for your kind attention for a while.

I was asked to speak about "Sprinkling the Fragrance from Heart to Heart". For

me, the key to sprinkling the fragrance is in making connections, building relationships with people, thus the importance of “heart to heart”. Sprinkling the Fragrance of the Teachings or nioigake is critical in our work as Arakitoryo, Pioneers of the Path, yet I understand people’s hesitancy in sprinkling the fragrance of the Teachings for any number of reasons including feelings of unworthiness or fear of rejection. These feelings are real, as I experienced them myself; however, my hope is there may be one thing in my talk today that will motivate you to engage in sprinkling the fragrance of the Teachings.

When I was 23, I resigned from my job as a high school teacher to devote myself to the Path. I entered the head minister’s qualification course in Jiba, where I learned then that the most direct way to attain spiritual growth is to make firm resolutions on the Path. I then made a resolution to engage in nioigake, the door-to-door variety, upon returning home to Hawai’i. Many people could not understand why I would do such a thing. Even people in the Tenrikyo faith questioned if door-to-door nioigake was an effective method of spreading the Teachings. One thing that motivated me was a desire to experience a little of what our predecessors went through to spread the Teachings in Hawai’i. It is through their sincere efforts that we have this Path of Tenrikyo in Hawai’i today. I knew it would be difficult, but I made a resolution to God the Parent, so I was going to give it my best effort.

That was almost 20 years ago, but I still

remember most of my experiences vividly while going door-to-door because of all the things I learned. One of the first things I learned was engaging in door-to-door nioigake was not solely to bring people into the faith, but perhaps more importantly, it was for me to grow spiritually. I cannot think of a more humbling experience than engaging in door-to-door nioigake. For example, one day I approached a house with a pleasant-looking lady on the porch. I introduced myself and started to make conversation when a whole group of ladies came out of the house. They said to me, “Do you know this is a dorm for Catholic nuns?” They were shocked a man of another faith would attempt to do missionary work at a dorm for nuns. I was shocked myself. This and many other experiences quickly humbled me and only through humbling myself was I able to continue to engage in this form of nioigake.

To try so hard to spread this Teaching of the Joyous Life to others, complete strangers, was challenging; however, as I continued I began to notice my mind, my thoughts, starting to change. At first the reaction of these people not wanting to listen may have felt like rejection, but gradually, I was able to see things in a positive light, like they were helping me experience what I was meant to experience.

I was also able to remind myself Oyasama is always leading the way, creating situations of salvation for us. Whether the person listens, whether they accept the Teachings or Sazuke prayers, that is up to God the Parent. We



just need to be there, following Oyasama's footsteps, willing to take action. When I truly relied on God the Parent; and Oyasama to lead the way, my words, my actions seemed to flow smoothly and I was able to share my joy of faith with many people.

I also continually thought of new ways to approach the situation. I approached every house like there was someone in the house to pray for, I just needed to build a relationship with them in say 10 or 15 seconds so they would allow me to do so. Quite simple, right? This may seem difficult to do, but that was my challenge and goal at every house--make that connection. Find something, anything of interest to that person, and they are likely to talk, sometimes for hours on end. I remember listening to a man talk about the pH of his soil for an hour. There were people I was able to connect with and we ended up talking for a long time before they finally asked, "What did you come here for anyway?" However, by then we had already developed a relationship, so it was easier to talk about living the life of joy or having them accept a Sazuke prayer.

Through nioigake, I also realized God the Parent's care and blessings before my very eyes. Again, I always felt Oyasama's presence with me, leading the way. Whatever I needed to experience was provided for me at just the right times. If I needed a little encouragement, or if I needed a little challenge, God the Parent provided them without fail. For example, the first house I visited on my very first day, I met an elderly

couple who were actually delighted to see me. They welcomed me and allowed me to offer my prayers for them. It was as if I hit the jackpot on my very first try. God the Parent had led me to that house and allowed me to feel immense joy in offering the Sazuke. This feeling of joy was what I needed at that time to encourage me to keep going.

A few days later, I visited that same house. Naturally, I was feeling confident this couple would welcome me again, but God the Parent had something a little different in store for me. This time, as I knocked on the couple's door, a younger man in his 50's came out, with a stern look on his face. What's more, I immediately recognized the man because he was a politician I often saw on television. My first thought was, I should turn around and come back another time, because he was not looking very welcoming, but I was already on his property and he wanted to know what I was there for, so I did my best to muster the courage to make conversation. I was nervous, but surprisingly, he was familiar with our Tenrikyo church. He shared that he often came to Honolulu-Ko Church as a young school boy to play with my aunts and uncles. He quickly warmed up to me and even joined in my prayer for his parents. In this manner, I quickly realized through my door-to-door experiences, God the Parent was always creating opportunities for my spiritual growth.

Back then, there was still an active missionary house in Hawai'i, so I would join the missionaries from time-to-time. I was

impressed because they were so smooth with their approach, which they learned through many years of missionary work. I remember going around with a particular missionary, and it seemed he knew everyone at every house we visited. He would strike up conversations with ease, so I asked him how he knew the people in this neighborhood. He responded that he did not know them previously, which shocked me. He said, “Everyone in this world are brothers and sisters, so I approach each house as if I am visiting my brother or sister whom I have not seen in a while.” How true it is, I thought. If only we could all treat each other in this manner, what a truly joyous world this would be.

If you are able to commit to engaging in nioigake for a month, a week, a day, even an hour, any amount of time, I know you will learn more than you could ever imagine, and grow spiritually. Better yet, our fellow Young Men’s Association members have scheduled monthly nioigake days to encourage its members to actively participate. I encourage you to take advantage of this opportunity to engage in nioigake activities with your fellow Young Men’s Association members. What is truly amazing, is by picking yourself up and continuing to engage in nioigake, you are likely to develop a mind that can find joy in nearly every situation you face. For me, nioigake set the foundation for what was to come in my life, as chairman of the Hawai’i Young Men’s Association and head minister of Haleakala Church, in terms of building relationships and connecting with people of

all backgrounds.

I also know engaging in nioigake to complete strangers may still be challenging for some of you. My wife will go door-to-door nioigake, as long as I do all of the talking, and she can stand in the back admiring the flowers and plants. I do appreciate her support, but if you are like my wife, and are not quite ready to do the door-to-door version of nioigake, I have good news for you. We do not necessarily need to go out to talk to strangers to find many opportunities to sprinkle the fragrance of the Teachings.

There are so many people close to us, whom we have built relationships with, looking for direction, guidance, a life of joy. Take a moment, close your eyes, and think of all the people in your lives, people you know, who are unhappy, or are suffering from illnesses or other problems. It could be a loved one, a relative, a friend, a neighbor, a co-worker. How many people are you able to think of? 5? 10? 20? Would it bring you joy to see their lives improve?

Opportunities to help others are constantly presented to us. Every situation has been arranged for us to grow spiritually and allow us to be the hands and feet of God the Parent in our quest for the Joyous Life World. We, as Arakitoryo, and as Yoboku, would do well to follow Oyasama’s lead and take action when the opportunities present itself. I have experienced time and time again how following Oyasama’s lead results in greater joy for us and those around us. Please allow me to share a story with you to illustrate this.

Tenrikyo Haleakala Church is located on a quarter acre lot, in an older neighborhood in Wailuku. The church building sits on the front of the lot. When I first moved to Haleakala Church, there were a few fruit trees, but most of the property was covered with nut grass, a very fast growing and difficult weed to maintain. Maintaining the weeds was a never-ending battle. The weeds seemed to grow an inch a day. I have spent months pulling out all of the roots, only to see the weeds return after one rainy day. After a few years, I gave up pulling out the weeds, admitting defeat. I thought there were better ways to spend my time, so I instead ventured out to engage in hinokishin, which we members of the Young Men's Association learn to do quite well.

I initially started by simply taking my weed whacker and going up and down the street cutting the front of people's overgrown lawns. Most of the residents on the street are older and have a difficult time maintaining their yards, so they welcomed my cleaning. I would cut the grass and trim the trees sticking out onto the road. After doing this a few times, the neighbors would come out and greet me. We would talk for a while. In our conversations, many would inquire about the service, which they hear every morning and evening. Some would even comment on how listening to the service helps them to clear their minds, and start their days. Many would also tell me about their problems and health issues, which was a great opportunity for me to administer the Sazuke, which

they all welcomed. Since we already had a relationship, my neighbors were comfortable talking about their problems, and also receptive to my talks about faith, the service, and prayers.

I could talk a little about each of my neighbors, but instead I'll share the story of one woman. She moved into our neighborhood about six years ago. Shortly after she moved in, I was cleaning the streets when she stopped me to ask, "Do you work for the County?" I said, "No, I am your neighbor." She then responded, "Well, you should bill the County for all the work you do for them," and she was serious. I just laughed and said it was my pleasure.

I introduced myself and asked if she would like some help with her yard. She gladly accepted. After cleaning her yard, we talked for a while. She had a lot to share, and seemed at ease after doing so. From that point on, she treated us like family. She would often bring cooked meals over for my family, take care of my boys, and invite us over for family parties. About three years ago, she started to have physical problems with her heart and lungs. It was an opportunity for me to administer the Sazuke prayers. I told her I would like to offer my prayers for her and she readily accepted, but first made it known that she was Catholic. I said okay and proceeded to pray for her and talk to her about our bodies, our mind, and living the life of joy.

Although she always reminded us she was Catholic, my wife and I were always welcomed over, almost daily, to offer our

prayers. The prayers brought comfort to her body and peace to her mind. Then one day, a marvelous thing occurred. She told me her grandson was going to Japan to enter a program and she thought it may be a part of my church. I could not believe what I was hearing so I reached out to her grandson and it turns out he, Brock Bal, whom many of you know, was in fact entering the spiritual development course in Jiba through the guidance of Hawaii Central Church. Knowing her grandson was entering the spiritual development program in a faith she was now very familiar with, brought her an immense feeling of joy and satisfaction.

A year ago, I was able to pray for her as she took her last breath, peacefully passing away for rebirth in her mid-80s in the comfort of her home with all of her family by her side. Immediately after her passing, I was approached by her family who asked me to officiate her funeral services. I was a bit shocked and asked, "I thought she was Catholic?" They responded, "You were her spiritual leader and Tenrikyo was what she spoke about and believed in during her last few years." It brought tears to my eyes.

After her passing away for rebirth, Brock was there for her funeral services and I asked him to be my assistant in the service, and he performed wonderfully. I know his late grandmother was very pleased.

This story probably would be fine if it ended here, but there is so much more that has happened as a result of me introducing myself, weed whacker in hand, ready for

whatever God the Parent had in store for me. During her final months, my neighbor required a live-in nurse. This nurse would observe my wife and I coming over to pray for her. One day my neighbor told me her nurse would also like a prayer, so I immediately offered my prayers. From there, this man began coming to our daily and monthly services, and last summer entered the spiritual development course in Hawai'i and returned to Jiba to receive the Divine Grant of Sazuke.

This man, whom some of you have met, also brought a few friends to church. One of his friends was so inspired by the service, he also began to attend every morning. He is Hispanic, knows no Japanese, yet he loves signing the Songs for the Service and performing the musical instruments. To say he uses all of his energy during the service is an understatement. The service was very new to him as was singing the songs in Japanese; however, he always performs the service with utmost sincerity. He says performing the service is so healing and even shares that feeling with the people he meets. After the service, we read the scriptures together and discuss the Teachings and how to live a life of joy.

One day, he asked me if he can do some hinokishin in the yard. Yes, our yard full of weeds. I said okay, thinking he would pick up a few leaves here and there, but this man has since spent hours upon hours each day transforming our yard into a tropical garden, full of flowers, fruits, and vegetables.

I wish all of you could see it. Some of you visited Haleakala Church during the Mission Caravan to Maui, and observed the transformation. Since then, he has covered most of the available space with more flowers, fruits, and vegetables. He always does his gardening with such joy, in high spirits, and even prefers listening to the Songs for the Service while engaging in hinokishin.

What's even more astonishing is he often brings people from the neighborhood to join him in hinokishin. This man will easily strike up a conversation with anyone, often talking about the church, the service, and hinokishin. There are often Caucasian, Filipino, Hawai'ian, and Korean neighbors coming over. Some even join us for the service. They bring their own tools and gardening materials. One person even volunteered to take care of the water bill. Best of all, they leave expressing their gratitude for being able to participate in hinokishin. This yard, which I had struggled to manage, now produces fruits, vegetables, and flowers to use as offerings for the church and to give to our neighbors, all through the sincere efforts of hinokishin from many people in the neighborhood. I neither could have imagined this happening nor could have done it with my own strength, but again, God the Parent has a profound intention for all situations.

Time and time again, I have found the people I have a connection or relationship with to be very receptive to the Sazuke prayers and the Teachings of God the Parent.

I encourage you to reach out to those closest to you, and sprinkle the fragrance from heart to heart. With God the Parent's strength, Oyasama leading the way, and the Teachings as the foundation, we should feel confident and prepared, so let's reach out to those in need, and be the hands and feet God the Parent needs us to be to construct the Joyous Life World. Remember, we neither save the person, nor control whether the person even accepts our words or actions. That is up to God the Parent. We simply have to be willing to offer our service when placed in those situations. If we can do this with utmost sincerity, we will quickly realize our own spiritual growth taking place, our lives will be ever more joyful, and we will find a sense of indescribable fulfillment in being Arakitoryo.

God the Parent is always looking over us, providing everything needed to live a life of joy. Yes, we may not always get what we want, but we always get what we need. Many of us here are waiting for the right time to take action. I am telling you the right time is now. Right now because we have Daisuke-sama to lead us; right now because we are approaching the 100th anniversary of the Young Men's Association; right now because God the Parent needs us to be Arakitoryo, for the sake of our families, our churches, our communities, our world. Now is the time! Who is with me? Stand up if you are ready to take action! Stand up, regardless of your age or gender! Stand up, for the sake of the Joyous Life World! We are ready! We are Pioneers of the Path! Thank you very much!

# Tid Bits

## Associations' Reports

### WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Thank you all for participating in the YMA 100th Anniversary Pep Rally & YMA/WA General Meeting. Daisuke-sama visited Hawaii for the first time and taught us in his address, "If we can change our words, our minds will change." Let us use warm and kind words to make people around us spirited.

#### **Bazaar Sewing Hinokishin (West House)**

Every Wednesday 9:00am - 12:00pm

#### **Nuuanu Hale Visitation**

June 10th (Sat) 9:30 a.m.

#### **Musical Instruments Practice**

June 13th (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

#### **Lecture for Mothers**

June 25th (Sun) 9:30 a.m.

\* Lecture & discussion (Lecturer: Mrs. Yamanaka)

\*The June Monthly Service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to Godo-A group.

### YOUNG MEN'S ASSOCIATION

Aloha Young Men of Hawaii! Thank you all so very much for the amazing General Meeting and 100th Anniversary Pep Rally last month! I had an amazing time and

hope you all did too! I know Daisuke-sama, Rev. Ando and Rev. Kubo were very impressed with our spirit and sincerity! To see our enthusiasm and hardwork and single-heartedness made them spirited! The rally was just the beginning! A starting point! Please join us for our meeting this month on Wednesday June 14th at 730pm as we plan our goals for the 100th Anniversary next year! With our minds united we can accomplish anything! Please start thinking of projects we can start on and bring them up at the meeting this month. I hope to see you all there!

Finally June 28th Wednesday at 7pm will be our Doctrine Study. Thank you all for your support.

### BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

#### **2017 Children Pilgrimage to Jiba**

Application is now being accepted for this summer children's pilgrimage (July 24-30th). Forms are due by June 15th to the Dendocho Office to reserve room accommodations at 38 Moya and participate in the activities. Airfare assistance to youth and teens under age 17 is available (young toddlers with own purchased seat are eligible but excludes OS students). For more information, contact Daniel Higaki at 722-7706.

Prayer service is scheduled on June 25 at Dendocho at 7:00 pm and followed by schedule briefing and orientation. All participants Including Shohi and OS students and their parents should attend.

# YOUNG WOMEN'S CLUB

Aloha YWC! Thank you very much for participating in the YMA/WA General Meetings & celebrating with the YMA 100th Anniversary Pep Rally! Upcoming Events:

**Tenrikyo Picnic** at Kapiolani Park

July 4th (Tue) 9:00 a.m.

\*We will be running relay games and shave ice stand. Need your help on this day.

**YWC Mini Bazaar** at Dendocho Hall

July 16 (Sun) after monthly service

\*Requesting baked goods



## The Hungry Reporter

I often buy this particular cake to bring to potlucks. Yet interestingly, I am so amazed at how easy it is to make. 7-Up is the key ingredient to make the cake light and fluffy! It was my go-to recipe when making Birthday cakes for the boys I took care of when I lived in Mission Viejo years back. So easy and a sure pleaser! Enjoy!!

## Dobash Cake Hawaii Style

### Ingredients for cake:

- \* 1 (12.25 oz) box Devil's Food Cake mix
- \* 3 large Eggs
- \* ½ Cup Vegetable Oil
- \* 1 (12 oz.) can 7-UP

### Ingredients for frosting:

- \* 1 1/2 Cup Water
- \* 1/4 tsp Salt
- \* 1/2 Cup Unsweetened Cocoa
- \* 3/8 Cup Cornstarch
- \* 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
- \* 1 Cup Sugar
- \* 1/4 Cup Butter
- \* 1/2 Cup Water

### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Generously grease 2 - 8" round pans. In a mixing bowl; combine cake ingredients well. Divide batter into prepared pans. Bake 30-35 minutes. Cool and slice each layer in half, horizontally, to make 4 layers. \*Note: Optional to bake in a 9x13-inch baking pan.

2. Frosting: In a saucepan over medium heat; whisk together water, sugar, salt, butter and cocoa. Bring to a boil. In a mixing bowl; combine cornstarch and water. Whisk into cocoa mixture; stirring constantly until mixture thickens. Stir in vanilla.

3. Pour frosting over cake while still hot; spread evenly with a spatula. \*Note: Work quickly as frosting will set up as it cools.



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## June Calendar 2017

1 <sup>st</sup>	Thu	Monthly Community Hinokishin Day Bazaar Committee Meeting	Meet @ Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.
5 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Monthly Nioigake Day TCC Monthly Service WA Committee Meeting	Meet @ Mission HQ TCC Mission HQ	9:00 a.m. 1:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m.
6 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	Mrs. Yamanaka to return to Jiba (until June 16)		
8 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	Bishop Yamanaka to return to Jiba (until June 13)		
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	WA Nuuanu Hale Visitation	Nuuanu Hale	9:30 a.m.
12 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	TCC & Bunko Joint Comm. Meeting	TCC	7:30 p.m.
13 <sup>th</sup>	Tue	WA Narimono Practice	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
14 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	YMA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:30 p.m.
15 <sup>th</sup>	Thu	BGA Meeting	Rainbow Hale	7:00 p.m.
17 <sup>th</sup>	Sat	Board of Directors Meeting TSA Hinokishin & Sleepover	Mission HQ Mission HQ	2:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
18 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Mission HQ Monthly Service Sunday School/ Aloha Band Practice Head Ministers Meeting Hawaii Shuyokai (until July 13)	Mission HQ Mission HQ Mission HQ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.  12:45 p.m. 3:00 p.m.
19 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Kamina-nagashi in Waikiki	Waikiki	10:00 a.m.
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Fri	Adopt A Hwy Cleanup Hinokishin	Meet @ Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
25 <sup>th</sup>	Sun	Lecture for Mothers Children's Pilgrimage Prayer Service & Orientation @ Mission HQ	Mission HQ	9:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
26 <sup>th</sup>	Mon	Yohaishiki (26th day service)	Mission HQ	9:00 a.m.
28 <sup>th</sup>	Wed	YMA Study Session	Mission HQ	7:00 p.m.