

# Origins

No. 351  
May-June  
2021



All Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day (4/29)



TSA Shinden Cleanup Hinokishin (4/17)



BGA Oyasama's Birthday Event (4/18)



WA Oyasama's Birthday Gathering (4/18)

*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, ever since creating the human beings and the world, You have nurtured and protected us with Your unceasing workings. Furthermore, with the arrival of the promised time, You took Oyasama as the Shrine to manifest the truth of all things and lay the path of single-hearted salvation, thus graciously guiding us toward the Joyous Life. For this, we are truly grateful. Being embraced in Your great parental love and wanting to repay for the blessings received daily, we are devoting ourselves to our tasks for the path in Hawaii. Today is the day we are granted to conduct the May Monthly Service at this mission headquarters. In the same manner as in previous months, we, approximately forty performers who have gathered here, with enough sincerity to represent all the other service performers and members of the congregation who cannot be here today, will now unite our hearts as one, by synchronizing with the recorded singing of the Mikagura-uta by the third Shinbashira and perform the Seated Service and the Dance with Hand Movements joyously in high spirits. We will earnestly pray for world salvation, especially for the ending of the current pandemic even a day sooner and the saving and recovery of those with serious symptoms.

Even though we cannot engage in normal Tenrikyo events and activities under the current difficult situations due to the pandemic lasting over a year, each and every one of us should never stop our daily acts of faith as followers of this path. We shall keep firmly trusting in God the Parent's workings and the everliving Oyasama's guidance all the time and live through each day with bright spirited minds to be illuminating those around us, thus implementing the way of the Joyous Life, first with people right around us, by helping, supporting, delighting, and encouraging each other. We are firmly determined to continue to do so, further accumulating and spreading it, in order to respond to God the Parent's intention.

May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that You allow us human beings to overcome the current great crisis and return our lives back to normal even a day sooner, seeing a great bud sprouting from this great knot, and guide us toward the realization of a Joyous Life World to bring about a true world peace. Together with all present, I sincerely pray that You bless us so.

# Mission HQ May Monthly Service Sermon

Rev. Sparky Shiiba

Head Minister of Kailua Kona Church

*This is in print only, not delivered at the monthly service.*

We may have learned some new words due to the pandemic such as “corona virus weight gain” and “corona fat” or in Japanese, “*koronabutori*.” We also speak of “corona needs for shopping,” “corona lack of service,” “corona year of adapting,” “corona no school,” “corona don’t come close to me,” “corona smile” and Corona beer.

How many of you have not been able to go to work? If you haven’t, you have become a ‘stay at home’ person, and as a result of being at ‘home sweet home,’ you remain indoors without even going out to eat.

Many years ago in 1956, when I was one year old, my family lived at Chuwa Grand Church in Japan. Before we moved to the states, my father wanted to do something to achieve a successful new life in America.

He decided to do something out of the ordinary. He collected all the human waste and distributed it to various gardens to be mixed in with the existing soil. (It was a common custom in the olden days in Japan to use human waste for manure in the gardens.)

When I was two years old, my mother gave birth to my brother. The head minister of our grand church gave him the name “Yoshikazu,” using the same *kanji* (Chinese character) ‘wa’ as in Chuwa.

In 1982, my brother married a Chinese local woman from Honolulu and the wedding

ceremony was held in San Francisco. My father ordered me to stay back to watch our church in Hilo. Although I was disappointed, I believed that it was my duty, for I had just returned from Japan, having served five years in Jiba.

On December 28, 2020, my brother’s first son got married to a Taiwanese woman. The wedding ceremony was held virtually from New York. I was close to my brother and he always called me “*oniisan*” (older brother). I was overjoyed as I viewed the ceremony online.

My wife has been furloughed and staying at home, taking care of the church. She sends me off at the door everyday, saying, “Thank you for going to work!”

On February 27 of this year, my wife was tired after returning from her usual walk and accidentally grabbed a bottle of ear medicine and placed a few drops into her left eye, immediately feeling pain. I administered the Sazuke, and shortly after, her pain lessened along with the swelling and redness. Upon visiting the doctor, she was given an X-ray exam and eye medication. Her doctor was also worried about possible damage to her eye, but thanks to his care, she has received no damage to her eye.

I have a Mazda van which I have named ‘*Otasuke Go.*’ Due to the pandemic rules, we must stay at home. We are unable to go out in public to pray for friends and strangers.

Therefore, I have changed my ways by

praying during work for fellow workers. In my security job, I listen, give advice and talk to them about the teachings. In my nursing job, I have five disabled single elderly males to care for. They all can barely walk.

Each time I see them, I ask the following questions. How are your eating habits? Are you sleeping well? Are you able to relieve yourself in the bathroom regularly?

My tasks are to drive them to their doctor's appointments, to their pharmacies, to clean their apartments at home, to cook their meals and more. Two men are in a wheelchair and three men are using either a cane or a walker.

I provide help to improve their lives. I am an extra arm or a leg for bettering their lives, for keeping them safe, comfortable and happy. I listen, counsel them and provide advice.

For example, this past January was cold so out of my own pocket, I purchased winter socks, warm slippers and a heated pad for a certain client.

My five clients were all once married but are single today, so we share stories about their younger days' experiences. As I converse with my clients, I emphasize how to be thankful and to appreciate being alive by the ten aspects of God's complete providence. I have also prayed for them a few times.

I have also started to cook meals to exchange with my clients and I find myself enjoying meals that are cooked by others. We also exchange recipes.

The following are the teachings I review with my clients:

1) To be grateful to live life each day

(God's complete providence), to be able to eat, use the restroom and to be able to walk. I have clients who struggle to take a breath.

2) To be grateful for a life filled with family, children and friends.

3) To be able to drive a car, to own an ID card, to be able to go shopping, to have an EBT food stamp card, to accept 'Meals on Wheels' and to receive donated boxes of food from Costco and the Food Bank.

I listen to their stories of struggles with strokes, give them rehabilitation massages, do exercise together and give lessons teaching how to eat properly, how to sleep better and how to relieve digestive issues such as constipation.

In the early part of this year, I learned a lot by experiencing difficult situations. To be thankful, to be kind and to provide a smile to the carpenter and electrician workers who were working at a hotel.

One day, my van would't start due to a weak battery. These eight workers who were on site offered to help me to push the van to kick start it. This act of kindness warmed my heart so I started to greet them each morning as they were starting their shift and I was ending my overnight shift.

By accepting our daily life too lightly, humans tend to take life for granted. By having lockdowns and "stay at home" orders, one has less freedom to go out. And this "Stay At Home" order has caused many to realize that "Home Sweet Home" means home is a better place.

We have added more comfort to our home. Human beings have learned to adapt to COVID-19 in order to survive. Our home

has gone through improvements and added modern technological appliances, better security and improved furniture.

Twelve Shiiba families from New York, Boston, Colorado, Oregon, San Francisco, Sacramento, San Diego, Honolulu and Tenri, Japan have conducted virtual calls via Zoom. We have experienced a few virtual funerals, a virtual wedding and conducted an online gaming trip.

My son is presently working in Tenri at the North America and Oceania Section of Tenrikyo Overseas Department along with 11 staff. His duties include English translations, private tutoring lessons to two children of our branch church, and assisting Tenri Junior High School English teachers with proper pronunciation and intonation.

He has created documentary videos for Boys & Girls Association, Young Men's Association and Tenrikyo Overseas Department. Using social media and the internet, he has created videos in English for the ten aspects of God's complete providence and the eight dusts of the mind, trying to put these teachings in words that are easy for the younger people to understand.

Our human lives have changed by adapting to the new COVID-19 rules:

1) People are more aware of who is sick and who has not caught this virus yet.

2) People are more careful not to touch each other and not to spread or catch this virus.

3) We stay 6 feet apart, wash our hands often, we are careful where we touch and we wear a mask at all times when we go outside.

4) Life has changed; we cannot visit people

in person so we call by phone, write a letter or postcard and text in order to reach out to one another.

5) Our son has created an Instagram and Facebook page to spread the teachings and keep everyone connected by posting photos of our services and festivals.

Although it is not true that the coronavirus was caused by the Chinese people, some people may think differently. I have recently experienced two situations of being called Chinese and being told, "You people are the original cause of our American people's suffering and stress!"

On March 4, I was shopping at the Kona Costco store with one of my clients in a wheelchair. At the cashier, a 5 ft. 4 in. female in her mid-forties passed behind me about 8 feet away and yelled, "Chinese man! Do not come close to me!" I turned around and replied, "I am not Chinese and I have received my second COVID-19 vaccination."

On March 8, in the laundry area of the elderly housing apartment, I was assisting my client with unloading the wet clothes from the washing machine and a white female in her early eighties yelled, "Stay 6 feet away from me, you Chinese!" I took the basket of clothes and walked away. Although I was able to walk far away from her, I was angry. Once again, I was called Chinese – the cause of stress for the American people.

My father once said to me, "Yoshio, go walk to the main office to pay for the bill." However, today one has to call ahead, make an appointment and receive a phone call or skype with your doctor.

Therefore, one has to learn to use a

cellphone with applications, be able to look up emails for contacts or reply to government paperwork online. This means we live in a new high-technological world where you need to own a cellphone and a computer.

The old saying is that an average American family has 3 cars. The saying now is that one cannot live without a cellphone, computer and laptop. “Out of sight, out of mind” is perhaps what this pandemic has shown us.

I would like to close with a few of my selections from the Osashizu:

*You will not understand unless you grasp the little truth by hearing that the body is: A thing lent, a thing borrowed. No matter how much you practice your faith, you will not understand unless you understand the truth.*

January 23, 1888

*Bud sprouts from knots.*

May 12, 1889

*Children only exist because of their parents. No matter how intelligent the Children may be, respecting their*

*parents is a primary principle.*

October 14, 1889

*Human beings are children of God, I say, parents and children, brothers and sisters – they are all in the same position though. They are each born with the Truth of their individual mind.*

August 9, 1890

Let me also share with you these words of the Second Shinbashira:

It goes without saying that those of us spreading the teachings ought to take Oyasama as our Model to follow. Yet, to insist that everything must be done in the same way as in the old days in terms of outward form would reflect a lack of understanding of the times.

*(March 29, 1944: 2nd Training Course for Graduating Students of Junior Seminary)*

Thank you for your kind attention.

---

## **WA Oyasama’s Birthday Gathering**

Women’s Association celebrated Oyasama’s 223rd birthday by performing the women’s musical instruments from Yorozuyo to Song XII on April 18.



## **BGA Oyasama’s Birthday Celebration**

Boys & Girls Association held the online event to celebrate Oyasama’s birthday on April 18. The program included Oyasama’s story, Tenrikyo quiz and birthday song. Thank you for your participation.

## 70th Anniversary of Hawaii Dendocho

We have decided to hold our anniversary celebration to commemorate the 70th anniversary of Hawaii Dendocho on Sunday, September 29, 2024.

## The Hungry Reporter

I found this recipe in a cookbook by Molly Baz called Cook this Book. The apple tart recipe uses miso in its glaze and I thought it was an interesting combination of East meets West. A little time consuming but definitely worth a try. I hope you enjoy this.

### Miso Apple Tart

#### Ingredients:

2 large Apples (about 1½ Lbs)  
3 Tbsp Unsalted Butter (room temperature)  
1 large Egg  
¼ cup Heavy Cream  
1 sheet Puff Pastry (store bought), thawed overnight in the refrigerator  
Vanilla Ice Cream for serving (optional)  
2/3 cup packed Dark Brown Sugar  
3 Tbsp Almond Butter  
2 Tbsp White Miso  
All-purpose flour, for dusting  
1 tsp Vanilla  
Flaky sea salt

#### Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper.

2. Make almond butter frangipane: Combine 1 Tbsp butter and 1/3 cup brown sugar in a bowl. Using rubber spatula, mix together, spreading them along the sides of the bowl until the mixture is well mixed. Add 3 Tbsp almond butter and 1 Tbsp white miso. Mash spatula until well combined. Add 1 egg to the mixture, using a whisk, mix the egg into the almond mixture.

3. Prepare the apples: Cut and core 2 large apples lengthwise into 1/8-inch-thick pieces, keeping them arranged so they are easy to fan out.

4. Roll out and assemble: Lightly flour your work surface. Using a rolling pin, roll 1 thawed puff pastry sheet into a 9 × 13-inch rectangle. Transfer the puff pastry to the parchment-lined baking sheet.

5. Using a small spoon, spread the almond paste evenly over the surface of the puff pastry, leaving a ½-inch border.

6. Arrange the apples on the tart, fanning them out in a random pattern — leaving the ½-inch border. Transfer to the fridge to chill for 15 minutes.

7. Make the miso glaze: In a small saucepan, combine ¼ cup heavy cream, 1/3 cup dark brown sugar, 2 Tbsp butter, and 1 Tbsp white miso. Cook over medium-low heat, swirling the pan frequently, until the butter melts. Whisk constantly until the mixture comes to a simmer, until the sauce is smooth, and the sugar dissolves, about 1 minute. Remove the pot from the heat and whisk in 1 tsp vanilla.

8. Remove the pastry from the refrigerator. Using a pastry brush, generously brush the apples with the miso glaze. You will have some left over; reserve the remainder.

9. Bake until the apples are softened, the almond paste has puffed slightly, and the edges of the pastry are puffed and deeply golden brown, about 25 to 35 minutes. Let cool.

10. Before serving, brush the apples with the remaining miso glaze. If mixture is thick, slightly warm. Sprinkle with flaky sea salt. Cut the pastry into squares and serve, preferably with vanilla ice cream.



Tenrikyo Hawaii Dendocho  
2920 Pali Highway  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96817  
Phone: (808) 595-6523, fax: (808) 595-7748  
e-mail: [origins@tenrikyo-hawaii.com](mailto:origins@tenrikyo-hawaii.com)

**Nonprofit Org.**  
**U.S. Postage**  
**PAID**  
**Honolulu, HI**  
**Permit No. 570**



On April 30, Genki Maruta, staff of Hawaii Dendocho and Chihiro Kato got married at Foundress' Sanctuary in Jiba. They arrived in Hawaii on May 7. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Mr. & Mrs. Maruta!

## ***Newlyweds!***

On June 5, Eric Miyauchi (Asakusa Hawaii Church) and Tsunagi Morimoto got married at Hawaii Dendocho. Congratulations and Best Wishes to the new Mr. & Mrs. Miyauchi!



## **New Baby Boy & Girl on Board!**

Joseph Masayoshi Tabrah, born on May 19, to Joseph and Ikue Tabrah (Hawaii Central Church). Congratulations!



Jordyn Chiyuki Kao, born on April 12, to Jeffrey & Natalie Kao (Koshinokuni Hawaii Church). Congratulations!

