From where do you think this Service comes?
The people in high places will become spirited.

Ofudesaki II:4

YMA 90th Anniversary Celebration
“Gatherings for Tenri Young Men: Unity and Progress”
Waikiki Beach Marriott Hotel 10/18
Message from the Head of the Overseas Department
October 26, Tenrikyo 171

I would like to commend each of you for your daily dedication in your respective positions.

The Service which fell on a Sunday today, was greeted with many, many followers from within Japan as well as from far away regions around the world, as the October Grand Service of the 171st year of the Teaching, was performed joyously in unity with the Shinbashira as the core.

In the Service Prayer, the Shinbashira expressed his desire for all Head Ministers and Yoboku to reestablish deep into their minds, the truth in the day of origin of the founding of the Teaching, and vowed for all to rejuvenate their determination towards spiritual maturity, by receiving the truth from the Service, and engaging in noigake and salvation work. Furthermore, to work earnestly towards nurturing the successors of this path and resolved to strengthen the forward movement of single-hearted salvation with unity of mind.

In the words following the Service, the lecturer stated,

“In performing the Grand Service, we must first settle into our minds, the day of origin of the founding of the Teaching and to reaffirm the reason why this path was begun. And to once again, etch into our hearts the desire of the Parent and the Divine Model of Oyasama, and to be prepared as Yoboku to revitalize our hearts to take the steps forward, toward the realization of the Joyous Life world.” Passages were also quoted from the Life of Oyasama to explain in further detail its significance.

Being that this year marks the 100th year since the faith gained its independence, the lecturer also spoke on the history of the movement towards independence, quoting from the Osashizu dated during that time. With that in mind, we Yoboku must not be washed away with the tide of the era or with worldly desires, and etch into our hearts, that this path was started by one person, Oyasama, and raise our self-consciousness that we are the tools for the construction of the Joyous Life world. It is important that we must first start by sharing the harmony of the Joyous Life with those close to us.

Despite the economic instability world-wide during the October Grand Service this year, over 800 followers have returned to Jiba, requiring the simultaneous translation of the Service Prayer and Sermon in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, Portuguese, Thai, Spanish, and French, totaling eight different languages.

In closing, I would like to announce that on October 25th, New York Mission Center head, Rev. Keigo Morishita ended his term of 11 years and 6 months, with the appointment of Rev. Toshihiko Okui as the new Mission head. The Inauguration Installation Service for the newly appointed Mission Head and Monthly Service will be held on December 7th.

As the year has gone by quickly, there is only 2 months remaining. Let us join our hearts and unite our minds with the desire of the Shinbashira, and spiritedly walk this path.

Yoichiro Miyamori
Overseas Department Head
October Monthly Service Prayer


The reason Tsukihi began human beings
Was the desire to see you live a joyous life.

Ofudesaki XIV:25

As you have taught us in this phrase, You created humankind with the desire that they could live joyously while helping one another, and waited in anticipation for the years promised to lapse, and with the arrival of the promised time, 171 years ago on October 26, 1838, revealed in this world through Oyasama as the living shrine and taught the ultimate teaching to the human world. Through Oyasama, we came to know for the first time about the original Parent and the truth of human creation, which has enabled us to progress on a steady path toward the Joyous Life. Since then, we have endeavored to follow Oyasama’s fifty-year example of the Divine Model by applying our concise effort toward the construction of the Joyous Life World. There is nothing more that brings us gratitude and joy than this. To express our gratitude for this deep obligation, we are applying our effort accordingly as we follow this path. Today on the affinitive day of the beginning of this religion, we are granted to conduct the Autumn Grand service at this mission headquarters. The service performers will unite their hearts and perform the seated service and Teodori joyously in high spirits. We brothers and sisters of this Path have looked forward to this day and today, we are gathered here in prayer before You to sing the Mikagura-uta. As You watch us, we hope that You can be spirited as well.

Yesterday, in the presence of the Chairman of the Young Men’s Association, Mr. Chikara Iburi, the Gathering for Tenri Young Men: Unity and Progress was held as a kick off activity toward the 90th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Young Men’s Association. There were a large number of participants and as they gathered in youthful vigor, they vowed to apply their effort to widely spread the teachings throughout the world.

We as Yoboku, who will realize salvation throughout the world, will reflect on the path we have taken thus far, and utilize our free use of mind and bodies we have been lent to go forth toward our goal to realize the joyous life throughout the entire world. With joy in our hearts, we vow to follow the path of single-hearted salvation. May You, God the Parent, accept our sincerity, and we ask that you guide us, even a day sooner toward reconstructing the world where we can spend our days living in harmony by helping one another. Together with everyone present, I pray for these blessings.
With all of you here today, we have just completed October’s Grand Service which commemorates the day of Origin of the Teachings. Thank you very much for attending today’s service. I believe that this is a good opportunity to inquire about the Parental heart of God the Parent who created humankind and this world and so I would like to deliver today’s sermon about our goal which is the Joyous Life.

In the Ofudesaki it is written,

The reason Tsukihi began human beings was the desire to see you lead a joyous life.

Ofudesaki XIV:25

Therefore we are taught that God the Parent created human beings to see the Joyous Life of humankind and, thus share in that joy.

It is also written in the Ofudesaki,

Only through the exhaustive efforts of Tsukihi, made step by step, have you become the humans you are.

Ofudesaki VI:88

We are thus taught that the omniscient and omnipotent God the Parent over a long period of time with indomitable spirit created this world so that we could live the joyous life. We human beings are the result of that profound intention of God the Parent.

The first head minister who founded the Kawaramachi Grand Church, Rev. Genjiro Fukaya was a blacksmith. While working, a piece of iron went into his eye and through this suffering he became to believe in the teachings and became the foundation for 1 out of 7 churches. Each time Rev. Fukaya returned to Jiba, he would be given direct instructions from Oyasama and thus deepened his faith. At this time Oyasama was already 85 years old.

Rev. Fukaya said this about Oyasama, “Each time I would return to Jiba, God
(Oyasama) would tell me about God’s creation of the human beings. And each time, Oyasama would shed tears.”

Oyasama would shed tears as She told the story of human creation because of the deep Parental heart that created human beings and who is patiently looking forward to human beings to realize the Joyous Life. Then, what is the Joyous Life?

In the Doctrine of Tenrikyo, Chapter Ten, it is written:

“A bright and spirited mind is a joyous mind. By living each day with this joyous mind, we shall find true happiness and shall feel that life is indeed worth living. On the other hand, if our minds are not spirited, but depressed, we shall not be in accord with the mind of God the Parent, no matter how long we continue our faith. The greatest source of happiness for humankind is to live each day joyously in this world, receiving the blessings of God the Parent as they are given. If we open the windows of our minds and receive the radiant light of God the Parent, the dark clouds will clear away of themselves and we shall arise in brightness and joy. The Joyous Life is indeed a life full of happiness.”

The second Shinbashira also mentioned:

“It can be said that once we have reached a state of mind when anything we see or anything that happens to us, we are filled with happiness to be alive, then we have succeeded in realizing the Joyous Life.” (Unauthorized translation)

We are taught that the Joyous Life is the feeling of being filled with joy to be alive regardless of what we see and what we are going through.

You all have different degrees of faith, but in what manner are you making the effort towards realizing the Joyous Life?

For me, it is from the third generation after believing in this faith. I have already passed my 60th birthday. In my own way, I am trying my best towards single hearted devotion to the path so that I can understand God the Parent’s parental heart and bring joy to Oyasama.

However, I am far from being able to “have reached a state of mind when anything we see or anything that happens to us, we are filled with happiness to be alive.” I have been shown various knots and I have also received blessings of buds from the knots. However, when I am faced with another knot, I feel like complaining why did this have to happen?

Although I understand it in my head, when I ask myself if I understand it in my heart, I realize that I still do not understand, and that I still have to attain spiritual maturity. I feel as though I am always being scolded. Because of my position perhaps I may seem as though I am a spiritually matured individual, but in truth I haven’t matured much and do not understand much either.

However, all I can say is that our goal is the Joyous Life and although I may be taking my time in attaining spiritual growth, I am doing my best even if I do not have the full understanding. The realization of the Joyous Life may be far in the future for me at this rate.
**October Grand Service Sermon**

The second Shinbashira said, “After all it can be said that having faith in our lives is a journey. However, at the end of the journey there is surely a paradise which is the Joyous Life.” (Unauthorized translation) Therefore no matter how slow you are or how long it may take, you must have the firm belief that you will eventually attain the Joyous Life. He also declares that the Joyous Life can be realized with the following words, “To reach it may be the hardest thing to do, however I have the conviction that it is possible.” (Unauthorized translation)

In the Ofudesaki God the Parent says,

**Hereafter, I shall set out to make the whole world brim with joy.**

Ofudesaki X:103

As written in the Ofudesaki, we are promised that God will guide us towards the Joyous Life.

It is up to us to determine how we will interpret this. Do we believe or is it just a dream for us human beings to have hope in but in actuality impossible to achieve?

Here in Hawaii there are many Christian churches. I frequently meet people when I go door to door nioigake saying that they belong to so and so Christian church. In Christianity they are taught that their ultimate goal is to go to heaven. So I ask them, how do you go to heaven? They reply that if you believe in Jesus Christ you can go to heaven. So I ask them what happens to people like us who believe in a different God, what happens to us? Some make an evasive reply and say they don’t know and there are those who clearly state that we cannot go to heaven.

I’ve asked them what is heaven like and most of them reply that heaven is a place filled with happiness. Other than that they have no other details. Those who do not go to heaven are said to go to hell. Hell is the world of suffering, and if you go to hell, it is not just one life time, but you must stay there for all eternity. Once in hell they say God cannot save you.

In the teachings from Oyasama we are taught that the Joyous Life is here on this earth. We are taught that this world was created so that we could use our body, and through our body and soul, to feel joy and delight. This is a world where we can feel happy, feel delight, and with our body taste how good food is and to feel good. For this reason God the Parent gave us the free use of our mind and created this magnificent human body over a period of nine hundred million years.

In the Songs for the Service, Song Four, Verse 9,

*Here is paradise on this earth, I, too, wish to go quickly to worship.*

In the song we sing every day, this place is the most wonderful place to be and where we can become happy. This is where God the Parent and Oyasama resides.

Also in the Songs for the Service, Song Ten, Verse 4,
Greed is fathomless like muddy water. When your mind is completely purified, Then comes paradise.

We are taught that once our mind is completely purified, this world will attain the Joyous Life.

However, for the whole people in the world to purify their mind will be difficult to do. Even I have a hard time to purify my mind. Even when I think I’ve cleansed my mind, when something happens, my mind becomes disturbed and it becomes impure.

Put muddy water in a cup. After a while the water becomes clear. However if you shake the cup, the dirt that settled on the bottom will rise and the water becomes muddy again. Unless you completely remove the dirt the muddy water will never become purified.

It is an easy task to filter the dirt from the muddy water in a cup. However it is not that easy to remove the dirt that has settled in the mind.

In the Songs for the Service, Song Ten, Verse 3, we are taught,

This mud in the water; I wish you to take it out quickly.

We sing this desire of God the Parent every day. The mud pertaining to this verse means the mental dusts. It is difficult for us to not accumulate the dust, and sweep away the eight mental dusts that we have been taught. However if we keep saying that it is difficult to purify the water, then the water will not be cleansed. We must make the effort to purify the water.

In the Ofudesaki,

Arrange to clear this water quickly. Purify it by using a filter and sand.

Ofudesaki III:10

To purify muddy water, use a filter and sand.

Do not wonder where this filter can be found. Your heart and mouth are the sand and filter.

Ofudesaki III:11

You are probably wondering where the filter and sand can be found. We are taught that with our mind we come to a realization and with our mouth we discuss. To come to an understanding, one needs to ponder with your own heart to God’s intentions, but for a discussion a person needs to consider the thoughts of the other person. To do this would require courage. At times what you said for their benefit is taken the wrong way and they become resentful. When this occurs, don’t we tend to avoid having an unpleasant confrontation and not say anything at all? If this is true, then we will not spiritually grow and progress cannot be expected. The Second Shinbashira also mentioned, “It can be said that the Joyous Life cannot be attained because of the lack of reflection of one’s conduct and effort.”
(Unauthorized translation) It is exactly as he mentions.

Our soul is just like grass and flowers that need the sunlight to grow, our soul constantly needs to look forward to the Joyous Life. Everyone in the world wishes to be happy. It can be said that we too are looking towards the light, towards the sun to grow.

We cannot just wait for the Joyous Life to come to us. Nor is it something that we just physically walk towards. The Joyous Life is constructed through our efforts. Because it is something that we create, we can create it even now if we wish. The reason why we cannot construct it is because of our lack of reflection on our conduct and effort. We can make it according to our mind. If we remove the dirt from the cup of muddy water then the water will become purified, and just like the water, our mind will become pure when we remove the dirt from our mind. It is easy to say, however difficult to do. Because the dust accumulated in our mind has become imbedded, it is not an easy task to do.

I would like to share with you a personal story. When I was younger, I was instructed to go to a church in Congo, Africa twice. The first time I went was as a seinen, a staff member, and the second time I went as the person in charge along with my family and staff members. As the person in charge, I went with high hopes to work together with the head minister there and engage in missionary work. However, there were instances where we did not share the same opinions and ended up being at odds with each other. Ultimately, it was decided that church headquarters could not let the dispatched staff stay there and we were all to return to Jiba.

When you are overseas, your passport is the next most important thing besides your life, and that valuable passport was taken away from us. Not being able to leave the country my impatience and anger grew day by day. Concerned over this situation, the former Shinbashira who was the Shinbashira at that time sent me a telegram and even personally called so that we could finally get our passport back, and return to Jiba. My state of mind at that time was to escape from that place.

Two days after safely returning to Jiba, the lower portion of my buttocks suddenly began to hurt and the pain was excruciating. I could not move, and staying still did not relieve the pain either. I began to reflect why this was happening. The first thing that came to mind was my relationship with the head minister in Congo and about how furious I was about the situation for our return. I asked my wife who had been worried about me about what I had been reflecting, and she said that she also felt the same.

We both immediately went to the main sanctuary and offered our deepest apologies to God the Parent and Oyasama. We also made a pledge that we would never be angry towards that head minister again and that the next time we meet that we would greet him with a smile. Then that evening, that excruciating pain as if it had
been a lie, suddenly stopped. Since then, I have never experience such pain again. I realized that God the Parent was clearly telling me about my wrongdoing.

However, things did not end there. Another shocking incident had occurred. It was about 2 weeks later when I was reading the morning newspaper. I saw a small article in the international events section. It was an article about an airplane crash. An airplane departing Congo, Africa en route to Paris, France had crashed in Chad and that the debris of the crash was scattered about 6 miles.

The cause of the crash was not written in detail, but that flight was exactly one week after our flight. Because there are only 2 flights a week, if we had received our passports even a little later, it was very likely that we would have been on that plane. If we were on that plane not only my family of 6, but the 4 staff members who left with us, our remains would have been scattered in the vast lands of Africa.

After reading this article, I was filled with deep gratitude that through the guidance of our parent, we were led from a great misfortune and far from a small misfortune to no misfortune at all. Through this I learned that the misuse of anger is truly something to be feared.

In the Besseki Lecture we are taught about anger in the following:

“The dust of anger is to become angry because you want to have your own way. Because you are too comfortable having your own way. You won’t allow otherwise. You become angry when someone has said something unpleasant about you or done something contrary to our expectations; and to feel anger at others’ refusal to accept our point of view when we unreasonably insist on our own opinion rather than trying to understand theirs. From now on one should not become angry and understand other people’s opinions. One will lose their merit and even their life from losing their temper.” (Unauthorized translation)

One will lose their merit and even their life from anger. I put the lives of my family and staff members at risk and could have been in that tragedy in Africa. Since then, I have been trying to be careful not to become angry.

However, it is difficult to not become angry. I become irritated by something my wife said, even when we really get along. Because our mind can be used freely, things that I shouldn’t be bothered with, bothers me.

That is because there is something within my heart that is bothering me. Without it nothing should bother me, however, this is something like a tough stain that is hard to get rid of. It feels as though I need to use a scrubbing brush to remove it. It may take a drastic measure to get rid of it.

The former Shinbashira said, “The world of the Joyous Life is constructed by us. It will be constructed when each of us has settled their minds, when each of us is practicing the teachings, and through the efforts of each of us diligently following this path. (omission) However, even if you try so hard, there is a limit how much one can do. When that happens, what do you all
**October Grand Service Sermon**

think? (omission) If you don’t succeed the first time, try a second time, a third time, and even if that doesn’t work, a fourth and a fifth time over and over until you reach your goal. The effort you made without becoming discouraged and aiming on this path is truly following the path of the Divine Model of Oyasama and this attitude I ask of you should always be in our mind as followers of this path.” (Unauthorized translation)

These are times when we have an abundance of things. In other words, an era of contentment. When we are full, no matter what kind of delicacy is laid out, one doesn’t feel it is a delicacy. Same goes for our heart. Do we not feel satisfied the way things are now? We are not trying to better ourselves nor making the effort or reflecting upon ourselves. Are we not abandoning our goal for the true Joyous Life?

The path of the Divine Model of Oyasama was truly a path of poverty. Yet, was it not Oyasama’s teachings that taught us that even in the midst of poverty the Joyous Life can be savored?

In the Ofudesaki,

*If only human beings throughout the world have purified their minds and lead lives joyously…*  
  Ofudesaki VII:109

*When the mind of Tsukihi is truly spirited, so will be all human beings.*  
  Ofudesaki VII:110

**When the minds of all the world are spirited, Tsukihi and human beings will be one in mind.**  
  Ofudesaki VII:111

With the blessings received from God the Parent we should each help one another and with a pure heart become spirited and have the joy of living. With this cheerful mind you will be filled with warmth and this will make your mind even more spirited. God the Parent is awaiting the spiritual growth of the children. By seeing our Joyous Life, God the Parent too will share in that joy. When the whole world’s mind becomes purified then God the Parent and human beings will be one and the intention for single hearted salvation will have been accomplished. God the Parent will spread the divine blessings to everyone and human beings will live to 115 years. Furthermore, according to one’s mind they can live as long as they want and live in supreme bliss which you’ve never experienced before. This is the world we are looking forward to, the world of bliss for God and humankind. This is truly the peace of the world.

The realization of this ideal world is a long way from now, however, let us truly believe that this will be realized and steadily make the effort by bringing joy to God the Parent and Oyasama with a cheerful mind.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.
Many problems in society today are self-inflicted. Often, people do not understand or forget the purpose of human existence. Therefore, these people do not use their minds with respect to God the Parent’s intention. Instead, their minds are misguided with the accumulation of self-centered thinking, to the point where it might be difficult to decipher between good and bad. This results in a society that lacks harmony, as described in the following excerpt from *Instruction One*:

The world is still plagued by war, and humanity’s insatiable greed is even endangering the natural environment, the very sustainer of life, thus threatening humankind’s survival itself. There is a growing tendency for people to think that all is well if the present is well for oneself alone, and the weakening ties between husbands and wives and between parents and children are undermining the very fabric of society. Today, more than ever, the world needs a dependable guide (Shinbashira, 1998).

This excerpt tells us that human life is being threatened by war, environmental problems, and an unharmonious society and that a world needs a “dependable guide” (Shinbashira, 1998) to fix those problems.

One threat to the world (Shinbashira, 1998) is war. It is obvious that war destroys the lives of many individuals. Unfortunately, deaths in wars would only increase if technology and research continues to advance in making weapons and other forms of destructive equipment. This will allow soldiers to kill greater sums of people quicker. This distances us from the joyous life and only accumulates dust in our minds. Feelings of hatred, grudge bearing, and anger can often fuel a war. For example, the United States has a strong sense of hatred for terrorist and therefore bears a grudge on the Iraqi people in the current War Against Terror. In return, many people hate the US government for its actions in Iraq. If the minds of the world continue to pile with dust, it is certain that we are traveling in the opposite direction from the joyous life.

“Humankind’s survival” is also threatened by a deteriorating environment caused by human greed (Shinbashira, 1998). Human beings often use their minds to engage in activities that hurt the environment. For example, people consume and waste water at a rate that is quicker than the rate which nature can
replenish the water levels in the reservoirs. This not only effects the environment but also effects the survival of people since human beings are heavily dependent on water. The world is made precisely by God the Parent to allow human beings to live healthily and is regulated by God the Parent’s Divine Providence of fire, water, and wind\(^1\). The destruction of the earth causes a change in the balance of the world. This balance is necessary to maintain human life but if it is destroyed our livelihood could be destroyed.

An unharmonious society is caused by people who believe that “all is well if the present is well for oneself alone” (Shinbashira, 1998), and that the family structure is being threatened. God the Parent is very satisfied when society can work in harmony towards the goal of the joyous life. However, if a particular individual has selfish concerns and does not care about his or her community, that person does not fit well in the harmony of society. If more individuals have a similar way of thinking, the harmony of society will break. If this happens, we are thrown astray from the path towards the joyous life. For example, if one person in a group of students working on a project decides he or she does not want to participate in that project, that person will not give much attention to it. Other members of the group will witness such actions and will become angry and start to bear grudges. When this happens, neither side would cooperate making it more difficult to complete the project, which puts the group in the threat of failing. This same situation can also occur on the smaller level of the family. If one member of the family does not work in harmony, the whole family is put into stress. On the large scale, if each family acted in such a way, the structure of the world’s community will crumble. Society would not be harmonious.

As the excerpt indicates, the world has many problems that need to be dealt with. Therefore, as members of a spiritual community who have a strong connection with God the Parent and Oyasama, it is our duty to become a “dependable guide” (Shinbashira, 1998) for the world. As stated in the excerpt of Instruction One, it is clear that the current world is causing a lot of turmoil in the world. If things continue to go as it is currently going, it is critical that we change that to prevent chaos from spreading. Oyasama, as the Divine Model of Tsukihi, showed us how to save others and more importantly showed us how to live the joyous life in any situation. In order to fix the world’s problems, we must first fix our lives and live the joyous life ourselves. We as followers of Tenrikyo must try our best to make our minds round and follow the example set by Oyasama. Although it would be quite difficult to live like Oyasama because of her extreme actions, such as fasting for seventy-five days, we can still tune our minds to become sincere at all times. If this is accomplished,
our actions will help create more harmony within society. Furthermore, it is important that we make sure everyone understands and works hard to try to end wars and to help preserve the environment. Our small actions as the “dependable guide[s]” (Shinbashira, 1998) for the world can lead to great change in the world.

Bibliography


November Monthly Service

November 16, 2008 (Sunday, 9:00 a.m.)

Sermon in English by Reverend Owen Nakao

Theme: “The Yoboku”

Japanese Translation by Mrs. Taeko Nakao

ORIGINS

www.tenrikyo-hawaii.com/news
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“Joyous life to everyone!” That quote from Chairman of the Young Men’s Association (YMA)-Chikara Iburi’s speech summarized the all day activities celebrating the Young Men’s Association’s 90th Anniversary which took place on October 18th 2008. The all day program started with a beach/park cleanup in the morning and ended with a high spirited banquet at the Waikiki Beach Marriot.

I want to give a huge shout out to “God the Parent” for providing us with the perfect weather for our beach cleanup.

There was a slight overcast to protect us from the sun and a light breeze to cool us off-perfect Hinokishin weather! At 9am Toan Tabbal our good friend and M.C. for the entire day introduced Reverend Melvin Iwata who started off the Pep-Rally with opening prayers and a high-energy speech that set the tone for the entire day. Dan Suzuki-the Hawaii YMA chairman got on stage and gave some words of gratitude to the attendees. At 9:25 everyone separated into three teams that cleaned up different areas of the beach/park. We all gathered
Listening to words of encouragement again at 11am for drinks and snacks and to listen to a motivating and thought provoking speech by Chikara Iburi. The morning program ended at 11:30am. Many people brought their friends, coworkers, and family out to the event! It was an unbelievable feeling to have experienced seeing 98 people wearing their “One World One Family” shirts as they listened to several uplifting speeches and later cleaned up Magic Island and Ala Moana Beach/park. Right on!

The high energy feeling continued into the evening at our celebration banquet that started at 5pm with our meet and greet portion of the program. The YMA and Young Women’s Club were able to welcome new and old friends to the celebration. Reverend Tad Iwata began our formal program with a beautiful opening prayer—we wouldn’t expect any less from brother Tad. Brother Toan, our incredible M.C., got everyone on their feet as Kyle Kawasaki and D.J. Slant pumped up the crowd. Once the crowd was energized Dan Suzuki came out dressed like a disco/boxer lead by Reverend Melvin and surrounded by his YMA officers. It was quite a sight to see! The Hawaii YMA chairman with his officers’ support greeted the large crowd of about 240 people. After, Tomo Kaisho was called to the stage to deliver one of his outstanding toasts. The Waikiki Beach Marriot prepared a delicious prime rib buffet. Following dinner, two beautifully made videos from Seinenkai Honbu (Young Men’s Association HQ) were shown. Next, Chikara took the stage and gave yet another heartfelt speech. The formal program came to an end with closing remarks by Dan Suzuki.

The night would not have been complete without musical entertainment from Dan Akemoto’s band-Ku’Illima, Thad Kanegawa’s band-No Reservations, and D.J. Slant. Thanks guys, you all rocked it and made the night fun! Thanks to Shane Kumamoto, Moses Nakao, and Lincoln Okada for videos and pictures! Rev. Melvin, Rev. Tad, Kaisho, Kyle Kawasaki and Toan you guys are outstanding! Bert K., Mike, Lucas, the YMA, Trina, Louise and the YWC thanks for the many hours of preparation and hard work you all put into making the YMA 90th anniversary a success.

This entire production would not have been possible without God the Parents’ blessings, Bishop & Mrs. Hamada’s support, Chikara Iburi’s speeches, and the support of all the churches and donations from the Tenrikyo members. Thank you!
OCTOBER GRAND SERVICE PILGRIMAGE

The October Grand Service was faithfully conducted with the Shinbashira as the core on October 26, 2008 with tens of thousands of people returning to Jiba from throughout Japan and throughout the world, including but not limited to Brazil, Columbia, Argentina, Korea, Taiwan, Australia, England, Singapore, Thailand, Philippines, Canada, Mexico, and U.S.A, including 20 from Hawaii.

The service started promptly on a cool morning at 8:00 a.m. with overcast skies and a little rain. The rain stopped at the beginning of Yorozuyo bringing relief to the thousands sitting outside with umbrellas. And as if with excellent well intentioned timing the rain started again near the end of the Shinbashira’s sermon.

In his sermon, the Shinbashira talked about the day of origin commemorating this day, when on October 26, 1838, God the Parent was first revealed and received Oyasama (Our Beloved Parent), Miki Nakayama as His living shrine. Oyasama taught us not only on how to receive blessings, but taught us about the origin and how and why human beings were created. The Shinbashira reminded us of how her children Shuji and Kokan played important roles early in the faith by enduring and embracing the hardships of the Path such as the deprivations of poverty and harassment by the police. He also encouraged us not to be swayed by the current of the times and worldly human desires, but remain on the straight path of conveying and showing the Divine Model to the people in the world.
When you hear the word carnival, the ‘Punahou Carnival’, the ‘50th State Fair’, or the ‘Farm Fair’ might come to mind. But for most people of Maui, “The Maui County Fair” is what everyone looks forward to each year.

This year, the Maui County Fair celebrated its 86th year with the theme, “Where a Community Comes Together” from October 2nd through the 5th. Each year, the Fair is kicked off with a parade, followed with craft vendors, art and gardening exhibits, floral displays, entertainment, a carnival and a smorgasbord of foods. “The Maui County Fair is all about reconnecting with friends and family in an environment where everyone from the keiki (child) to senior can find something to appreciate.” (quote from http://www.mauicountyfair.com/)

Aside from the conventional fare, the organizers worked diligently to introduce new attractions this year, introducing a robotics tournament, cheerleading competition and a demonstration of the Japanese tradition of mochi pounding.

The Tenrikyo Mission HQ was blessed once again, with an invitation to demonstrate mochi pounding at a public venue. Organized by Rev. Tad Iwata of Haleakala Church, over twenty members of Maui Church, Wailuku Church and Haleakala Church collaborated their Hinokishin efforts in spreading the joy of faith through mochi pounding! Three staff members from Mission HQ also took part in the event, taking the Mission HQ van and all the mochi pounding equipment on the Superferry over to the Valley Isle.

According to the Maui News, over 96,000 people attended the Fair over the four days, which is said to be 2,000 more than last year. (mauinews.com)

This event was one of very few gatherings where members of the three Tenrikyo churches on Maui unite their efforts in Hinokishin. It was the first time the Tenrikyo Church has done a mochi
pounding demonstration on Maui, and it was the first time ever for Spencer Lau of Maui Church, to pound mochi. “I had a great time. It [pounding] was hard at first, but after watching you guys, I got the technique and it made it a lot easier,” Lau said at a recent YMA gathering on Oahu.

Other members were excited to have such an opportunity to go out into the community representing Tenrikyo. All participants wore the green, ‘One World, One Family’ t-shirts to promote unity and brotherhood. An emcee from a local radio station was on hand to explain the process of mochi making as well as to share the teachings of Tenrikyo. It was a wonderful occasion of sprinkling a joyous fragrance to the people of Maui.

The demonstration was held on Saturday, the third day of the Fair from 3:00 pm. Many spectators commented on the traditional equipment used and the beauty of the usu, inquiring on how they can be acquired. Approximately 360 pieces of daifuku (mochi confectionary with sweet azuki bean inside) were made and handed out for the audience to enjoy. Not a single piece of mochi was left!
Scenes from Maui Nioigake Day

Engaging in salvation work on August 8, 2008
(Origins staff apologizes for the delay in publishing these pictures.)

NEW BABY ON BOARD!

CASEY KAORU IWATA
BORN: September 16, 2008
WEIGHT: 5lbs. 2 oz. 18 inch.
PARENTS: TAD & NORIKO IWATA
CHURCH: HALEAKALA CHURCH/
       HOFU GRAND CHURCH
CONGRATULATIONS!

MISSION HQ ANNOUNCEMENTS

For those of you living in the United States and are receiving forwarding services through the U.S. Postal Service, please let Mission HQ office know your most current mailing address so that the Makoto or Origins newsletter can be sent to you directly. It will be greatly appreciated. Mahalo!

Tel: 808-595-6523 or E-mail: origins@tenrikyo-hawaii.com
**Tid Bits**  
*Associations’ Reports*

**YOUNG WOMEN’S CLUB**

**VOLUNTEERS/DONATIONS FOR THE MINI-BAZAAR**

We need volunteers to help with our monthly mini-bazaar at the Mission HQ’s Monthly Service. If you can donate a baked good or help out during lunch time, please contact Terri at 387-1871 to sign up.

**YWC MEETING/HINOKISHIN ACTIVITY**

We will be having a meeting after the November Mission HQ monthly service. The meeting will be to discuss upcoming YWC Hinokishin events, fundraising, and our upcoming 2010 trip to Jiba. The meeting will be in the dining hall at 12:30pm. We will also be doing Hinokishin in the downstairs kitchen and restrooms. To show our appreciation to God the Parent and Oyasama, please join us in the Hinokishin event and YWC meeting as we get closer to our 2010 convention. Please call Terri at 387-1871 if you have any questions.

**YOUNG MEN’S ASSOCIATION**

**YMA MONTHLY MEETING**

November 12, Wednesday  
7:15 p.m.-9 p.m.  
Rainbow Hale

**COMMUNITY HINOKISHIN & POTLUCK!**

November 22, Saturday  
9:00am  
Location TBA - more information to come

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**WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION**

Time flies quickly as we have only two months left this year.

The Hawaii Translation Conference will be held this month (at Mission HQ). Let us dream of the day that Oyasama’s teachings will be able to reach all corners of the world as we do our part during the conference.

**NUUANU HALE VISITATION**

November 8 (Sat)  
9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

**TRANSLATION CONFERENCE MEAL PREPARATION HINOKISHIN**

November 10 (Mon) ~ 15 (Sat)
- Monday  Shuto  
- Tuesday  Honjima  
- Wednesday  Godo A  
- Thursday  Hofu  
- Friday  North Honolulu  
- Saturday  Godo B

*Please prepare both lunch and dinner for your assigned day. Mahalo.*

**TCC HINOKISHIN**

November 15 (Sat)  
9:00 a.m.

**WOMEN’S SUPPORT NETWORK**

November 16 (Sun) after lunch following Mission HQ’s Monthly Service.

*November Mission HQ monthly service luncheon hinokishin is assigned to North Honolulu. Thank you!*

**WOMEN’S MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS PRACTICE, AND MONTHLY MEETING ARE CANCELED**
TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF

Thank you very much for your efforts in collecting and making donations for this year’s fund drive. Please remember to turn in the orange collection boxes to the MHQ office by November 10.

2009 CHILDREN’S PILGRIMAGE TO JIBA AND FUNDRAISING

The count is now 60 people for next year’s pilgrimage. Seating is limited so please make plans early and call Mission HQ if you plan to go!

Due to the high airfare costs, we will be conducting fundraisers beginning with Beard Papa cream puffs tickets (6 for $10). Churches, Missions and individuals are requested to help in this regard. Please contact Ms. Rumi Miyauchi at MHQ if you have not received any tickets. We are also collecting items that could be sold on Craigslist. Please label items (for BGA Craigslist sale with the original retail price or suggested sale price) and bring items to Rainbow Hale or call Owen Nakao at 381-9612 for pick up.

ALOHA BAND

In preparation for next year’s pilgrimage the Aloha Band will be conducting a practice camp on November 29 – 30 (Sat-Sun) at MHQ. We would like to ask everyone to put extra effort to encourage your members and friends to join the band and pompom section at this coming practice camp. Camp will start on November 29 at 1:00pm and end with closing prayers on the 30th at 2:00pm. Schedule and application will be available at MHQ soon. Camp cost is $5 for the first child and $3 for second child and on.

Band practices are presently held twice a month on the second and third Sunday at Mission HQ from 1:30pm and pompom practices are held once a month on 3rd Sundays at Mission HQ from 1:30pm.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school class is held every third Sunday during the Mission HQ monthly service starting at 9am. The program initially starts with joining the monthly service from the seated service through Yorozuyo, proceed to Rainbow Hale for the Sunday school program and then return to the sanctuary to rejoin with parents at 11:30am for the closing prayer.
The Hungry Reporter

This month's recipe is Giada's from the Food Network. I love cassaroles and you will love this one too! Simple and ono!

Italian Baked Chicken

Ingredients

1 cup pastina pasta (or any small pasta)
2 tablespoons olive oil
1/2 cup cubed chicken breast (1-inch cubes)
1/2 cup diced onion (about 1/2 a small onion)
1 clove garlic, minced
1 (14.5-ounce) can diced tomatoes with juice
1 cup shredded mozzarella
1/4 cup chopped fresh flat-leaf parsley
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup bread crumbs
1/4 cup grated Parmesan
1 tablespoon butter, plus more for buttering the baking dish
1/4 tsp freshly ground black pepper
1/4 cup bread crumbs
1/4 cup grated Parmesan
1 tablespoon butter, plus more for buttering the baking dish

Directions

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
Bring a medium pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Add the pasta and cook until just tender, stirring occasionally, about 5 minutes. Drain pasta into a large mixing bowl. Meanwhile, put the olive oil in a medium saute pan over medium heat. Add the chicken and cook for 3 minutes. Add the onions and garlic, stirring to combine, and cook until the onions are soft and the chicken is cooked through, about 5 minutes more. Put the chicken mixture into the bowl with the cooked pasta. Add the canned tomatoes, mozzarella cheese, parsley, salt, and pepper. Stir to combine. Place the mixture in a buttered 8 by 8 by 2-inch baking dish. In a small bowl mix together the bread crumbs and the Parmesan cheese. Sprinkle over the top of the pasta mixture. Dot the top with small bits of butter. Bake until the top is golden brown, about 30 minutes.
# November 2008

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4th</td>
<td>Tue</td>
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<tr>
<td>8th</td>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>Nuuanu Hale Visitation</td>
<td>Mission HQ</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>Aloha Band Practice</td>
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<td>10th</td>
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<td>Translation Conference</td>
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<td>BGA Monthly Meeting</td>
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<td>Mission HQ November Monthly Service</td>
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WA = Women’s Association  TSA = Tenrikyo Student Association  
BGA = Boys & Girls Association  RH = Rainbow Hale  
YMA = Young Men’s Association  WSN = Women’s Support Network  
YWC = Young Women’s Club  TCC = Tenri Cultural Center
2009 Spiritual Development Course in Jiba

The English Spiritual Development Course is a three-month course held in the Home of the Parent, Jiba, from April thru June. Classes on the Tenrikyo teachings, the scriptures, and the musical instruments are held in the English language. Students will also engage in hinokishin, which is the action done to express gratitude for the blessings of God the Parent and Oyasama.

For those who are committed to attending and may require a visa, please inform Mission HQ office by November 16, 2008.