



# Konko Spirit Newsletter

January 2009

## 150<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of Konkoko (1859)

### Greeting by Head Minister

Happy New Year to everyone!

I hope everybody received the New Year safely.

The First Day of the year always brings happy & refreshed minds, but this year is much more special. This is because with the poor economy and concluding the end of the year with a record snow fall and cold here in Portland, we all experienced difficult times together.

In the New year of 2009, let us renew hope and pray for events to turn for the better. We have the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Oregon, a new Leader of the United States, and the celebration of our 150th Anniversary of Konko Kyo.

Our Founder taught us that if we think good things, good things will happen. Let us think positively and help each other to make things possible one by one, day by day with Kami's protection and guidance, to go through this year of 2009 with a smile.

- Rev. Michie Uzunoe

### New Translation of the Divine Reminder:

#### *Tenchi Kane No Kami*

~ Divine Parent of the Universe ~

#### *Ikigami Konko Daijin*

~ Divine Mediator ~

**Pray sincerely,  
With all your heart.  
Be one with Kami.**

**Kami's blessings begin within  
Hearts grateful and caring,  
In harmony and joy.**

**Look to Kami always,  
Now and forever.  
On this very day, pray.**



## December Sermon - "Gift of Love"

12/27/08 Rev. Amy Uzunoe-Chin

Good morning and I would like to extend my Season's Greetings to everyone.

This year of 2008 has been a challenging year, with the global economic turmoil, and world wide conflicts increasing tension and anxiety for a lot of us. With 2008 coming to an end, this brings to most of us a sense of uncertainty and concern to what is in store for us in 2009 and the future.

However, through these hard economic times, Kami Sama's love, guidance and protection are still evident. I see many people struggling, but still appreciate the blessings they have received and also be able to face the problems and turn them into more blessings. Kami's love for us gives us the hope and guidance we need to keep positive and see the divine blessings we have, so that we are able to practice faith, pray and receive blessings for our troubles and spread the joy and comfort of knowing that Kami is and will always be there for us.

Just like this past week, we held a Charity Potluck for Foster Children, in which we were able to raise funds over three times our initial goal! It is through the generosity of people's heart, having compassion, kindness, caring for others and helping others unconditionally regardless how big or small it was, it's the heart that matters, and this is the heart of Kami/Kami's love. When we are born, we have been given the gift of love -the ability to love- and Kami wants us to maintain Kami's heart, not only during the holiday season, but also throughout the entire year when practicing faith.

There are times when we have to fine tune our hearts once and while, but that's totally OK, as long as we realize the problem and try to get back on track and renew our hearts sincerely.

The holidays are not so much about giving or receiving, but about love, our hearts. The love and prayers we gave to those Foster Children will give them hope and guidance, just like Kami has given us during these hard economic times, to keep positive, and hopefully, help them to be able to help others in their community, society, maybe even the world in return when they grow up to be adults. Idealistically, isn't this what a parent would want from their children? To have their children grow up to be a kind, compassionate adults and become useful and helpful to others?

***"Do as much as you can for others, and have a heart that cannot help wanting to give. Don't be concerned with only yourself." Konko-Sama advised. He added, "As long as it is not constricting, give all you can." He repeated this so often that it made me think, "There he goes again."; Konko-Sama said, "When people come in need, lend them your high-quality rice. Have a heart which lets them keep the rice if they cannot return it. Unfortunately, there are few people with such hearts." "But people have their own way of doing things," I countered. Then he said, "No, having a good heart will make it completely different. Good things will happen."***

Gorikai II Onishi Hide 5,6 (page 164-165)

***So please join me in giving the gift of love to others from our hearts  
everyday in our daily lives.***

One of my favorite quotes is from the movie "Wizard of Oz". When the Wizard tells the Cowardly Lion at end of movie: "The heart is not judged by how much you love, but how much you are loved by others." Repeating what our Founder, Konko Daijin said,

*"Do as much as you can for others, and have a heart that cannot help wanting to give.*

*Having a good heart will make it completely different.*

*Good things will happen."*

I wish all of you a great 2009 next year! Thank you.

# Welcome!!!

A wonderful welcome to Finnegan, Lia, & 9 month-old Moss!

They attended the Monthly Service on 12/7 for the first time, and are enthusiastic about joining the church and faith. (Lia's father was a former boy scout at the Konko Church of San Francisco).

Please give them a warm welcome and hello!

## Holiday Party & Charity Fundraiser

(12/13) William Chin

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008, our church held our first Holiday Party Potluck at 1:00 PM. Combined with good food, good music, line dancing lessons, and even some brave karaoke souls (Madeline Uzunoe-Chin and Emily Jackson), we all enjoyed ourselves while also raising money for a good cause. This year, donations were utilized to purchase gifts for several deserving foster children under the caring arms of the Division of Children and Family Services.

Our 2008 Holiday Fundraising Goal was to raise \$150.00 to help support foster children and also the Oregon Food Bank. With all of your support and donations, we were able to raise a total of \$504.00! Thank you very much! We also would like to thank Michele Fukawa, Atsuko Akagi, Tomiye Akagi, Karen Sunada, Teresa Jackson, and Amy Uzunoe-Chin for volunteering their time to making this event a success!

Please feel free to contact either William Chin or Amy Uzunoe-Chin regarding any fundraising ideas for 2009! Again, thank all of you for making this a successful event!



Santa Claus is coming to town! (From left to right, Rev. Michie Uzunoe, Bernie Gerhardt DSHS, Michelle Fukawa DSHS, Rev. Amy Uzunoe-Chin, & Santa Claus)

### **Thank You for Your Snow Help! (12/23, 12/27)**

Thank you to Cari Chan & Miho Uzunoe for volunteering to shovel the church walkways of snow, and helping the pedestrians to have a place to walk! Also thank you Rev. Amy & William Chin for volunteering to help shovel the snow-packed church parking lot before the Year End Service!

### **23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mochitsuki Fundraiser (12/29-31)**

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!!! To everyone who helped with making mochi from so early the morning, and also to those who brought food to keep us going! It was truly due to everyone's help and hard work that our annual Mochitsuki fundraiser was able to continue. Special thanks to Frank & Karen Sunada, Frank Sunada, Sr., Masami Sugie, Shizu Akagi, Cari Chan; Teresa Jackson, & Miho Uzunoe, along w/Revs. Michie, Amy, & Lisa, who all dedicatedly arrived at the church to help at 5:00am; and before 3:00am (even the little ones)! With Kami's blessings, all the snow and ice melted just in time to allow safe travel for our volunteers, delivery, and customers. Thank you again!

## *Church Events Calendar*

### JANUARY

<b>1 (Wed)</b>	<b>NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>New Year's Party</b>	<b>11 am</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>MONTHLY SERVICE</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>17 (Sat)</b>	<b>Community Mochitsuki @ PCC Sylvania</b> * Please Note: Event on a Saturday = prep on Fri	
<b>23-25</b>	KCNA Missionary Women's Society Seminar (MWSS) in San Jose	

### FEBRUARY

<b>1</b>	<b>Monthly Service</b> <b>Sunday School – Lesson</b>	<b>10 am</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>Monthly Memorial Service</b>	<b>10 am</b>

#### Daily Services:

Monday – Saturday 5:30 am & 7:00 pm  
Sundays & Holidays 5:30 am

## *THANK YOU!!!*

*Thank you to Mr. & Mrs. Hamada  
for your offering of boxes of  
Hood River Pears from your orchard!*

*Thank you to Hiroshi's Anzen  
for your offering of Tai (Red snappers)  
for the New Year's Day Service!*

### *Upcoming Events:*

**1/16-1/18** – Rev. Nobuharu Uzunoe  
will be in town!

**1/17 (Sat)** – **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!**  
Please help, you really make a difference,  
even if you can come help for an hour!

This year the Mochitsuki Event will begin at 11am and end at 3:00pm (an hour earlier than last year). Which means set-up will begin **at 9 am** @ PCC Sylvania.

### *Honoring the Spirits of January*

- 1/04/85** Mrs. Katherine Yamada
- 1/10/91** Konko Kagamitaro no Kimi
- 1/13/85** Mrs. Kikuko Namba
- 1/15/02** Johnathan Dorner
- 1/18/72** Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama
- 1/20/44** Mrs. Iso Hirayama
- 1/23/71** Mrs. Toyo Ishibashi
- 1/26/04** Saki Uzunoe, Lisa & Andy mizugo

Your efforts to share the New Year spirit with the community by doing the mochi demonstrations, giving out mochi samples, and helping w/the event planning during meetings has earned us a title of "sponsor" by the mochitsuki committee. It is such an honor. Thank you everyone for all of your hard work!

**12/23-25** – **MWSS** Revs. Michie & Lisa Uzunoe will be attending this year.