



Konko Spirit Newsletter

March 2009

*Don't stray in your faith.
Straying in your faith to receive divine blessings quickly
is like taking an unfamiliar road for a shortcut.*

*This faith is to take the main road.
Be single-hearted and practice faith.*

(Modified from the Book of Teachings I Yamamoto Sadajiro 57-4)

Dear Believers and Friends, You and your family are cordially invited to attend the

Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony

(天地金乃神大祭)

on

Sunday, April 5th, 2009 at 11:00 am

Spring has come, and you can see evidence of it all around you—the beautiful flowers, the green grass, and new leaves growing on the trees. The Great Divine Spirit, Tenchi Kane No Kami, is renewing life once more.

The Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony is the time to express our appreciation to Kami together, for the blessing of life we receive with each breath we take, and for the countless blessings we are receiving each day. Let us show our gratitude by participating in this service wholeheartedly, and by developing our own kami spirit so that it grows ever so broadly to spread happiness and joy to everyone around us. We look forward to having you join us in the celebration. Thank you.

Rev. Michie Uzunoe
Head Minister – Konko Church of Portland

February Sermon – “Who Looks After Us?”

Rev. Amy Uzunoe-Chin

Good morning! I know today is the big Super Bowl Game, so I will try to keep this short. :)

Most all children have parents or parent figures to guide, look up to and try to show them the right path, but who do parents have?

In this faith, we are taught that we have two parents, mortal and immortal parents.

Gorikai III, Shinkun 1, 2: *“Kami is the parent of us all. Faith is the same as showing respect to your parents.” “You should be aware that Kami protects you in the same way as you love your child.”*

So, I want to ask all of you....How many of us expect children to listen to their parents and respect others? I think most all of us agree that they should always listen and respect others. However, I ask all of you...how many of us *adults* always listen to our parents? Or how many of us, *unconditionally*, always, take orders, advices or warnings from others without putting up a defensive wall or get selective hearing?

We expect children to obey and listen, but in truth, as many of us grow up and become adults, this seems to change a bit. Knowing we shouldn't, more and more we tend to get our emotions cloud our heart. We get impatient, angry, we try to prove to other's we are right or our ways are better, or to try to show off, too. This can lead to a lot of unwanted or unnecessary friction and problems, especially, when it's family.

Gorikai III, Jinkyukyogoroku 136: *“When told to clean, people immediately think of brushing away spider webs or sweeping and wiping floors. However, those who practice faith should remember to brush away the spider webs that exist in their own hearts rather than to clean the dust from the altars. After they clean the dust in their hearts, the cleaning of the altar will come naturally.”*

My father, Uzunoe Sensei, has always said to focus on my heart. If there is something to be angry about, if there is a problem, look at your own heart. A teaching he always quoted was, “Mirukoto, Mirukoto, Jibun wo mirukoto.” To look, to look, Look at our own selves.

Regardless who is right or wrong, we practice faith to improve our faith, our life, our happiness. So if something does not go smoothly it is because my heart has gone astray from Kami Sama. Therefore, don't blame others, get angry or be impatient.

Renew my heart, practice faith and pray to Kami for everything, no matter how big or small it may be. “Everything” means, pray even when we are angry, sad, lonely, or worried - don't take it out on others, instead, talk to Kami, Rely on Kami. Kami will guide me to divine blessings and arrangements, regardless the situation.

Gorikai II, Okida Kisaburo 5: *“People say practicing faith is difficult, but it is they who make it difficult. Faith means being close to Kami-Sama.”*

With this month being Valentine's Day, let's make this month not only a time to think about how we can show our appreciation to those we love, but a time to really look at our own hearts and listen to what Kami is saying/teaching us.

We can look at it as doing some pre-Spring cleaning so that our hearts can always be clear and be close to Kami-Sama. So that we can keep sharing and showing our love, Kami's heart, and spread our divine virtue to others in our daily lives and receive the infinite divine blessings, protection and guidance that Kami promises to bestow upon each one of us.

I would like to close with another teaching:

Gorikai II, Ichimura Mitsugoro 3,2: *“Think of Kami as your parent and Kami will think of you as His child. You know that if a child is not with his parent, the child may be bullied. But with the parent, the child will not be bullied.”*

“Since you never know when misfortune or disaster will strike, you cannot avoid them even if you want to. But if you have faith while thinking that Kami is your parent, Kami will protect you from disasters you cannot foresee.”

Thank you.

Church Events Calendar

MARCH

- | | |
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| 1 Spring Memorial Service | 10 am |
| Sunday School - Lesson | |
| 15 Monthly Memorial Service | 10 am |
| Sun. School – Choir | |
| 21 (Sat) Portland Church Golf Tournament | |
| (Location TBA) | |
| 29 (SUN) Church Clean-Up for Grand Ceremony | 10 am |

APRIL

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 5 Portland Church – Tenchi Kane no Kami | |
| Grand Ceremony | |
| 11:00 am | |
| 19 Monthly Memorial Service | 10 am |
| 25 (Sat) KCNA NW Regional Seminar – | |
| Host/Location: Portland Church | 10 am - 5 pm |

Daily Services:

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

Honoring the Spirits of March

- 3/06/85 Kiyu Yasui
- 3/07/67 Junjiro Takagi
- 3/10/87 Rev. Tomoyo Goto
- 3/11/44 Yayo Kondo
- 3/12/60 William Akagi
- 3/13/05 Ho Suet Mui
- 3/16/58 Sugao Inouye
- 3/16/03 Thomas Takamasa Bingo
- 3/19/80 Rev. Miyoko Iwamoto
- 3/19/46 Sataro Kumasaka
- 3/19/87 Rev. Isao Goto
- 3/22/64 Chikuyo Kuroye
- 3/27/88 Kameyo Nakamura

Teachings on Services:

Service days are important for you to not forget your faith. You will receive divine blessings as long as you don't forget these service days. If you forget, there will be no divine blessings. These service days are like the memorial service days for not forgetting your deceased parents' favors. You must not forget Kami's favors for everything.

GI Ichimura Mitsugoro 1-35-1, 2

Practicing faith is the same. You should come to worship when you can, because you will not be able to come when you are sick and feel the need to attend. Come to worship and receive divine blessings before you get sick.

[GIII:Jinkyu Kyogoroku/ed. Kataoka, Jiro:96.1]

The Konko Spirit is printed by the Konko Church of Portland. If you have any articles or events you would like to have included, please contact Rev. Lisa Uzunoe at Church. Phone: (503) 256-4201 E-mail: lisaunuzoe@hotmail.com

2009 PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGIONAL SEMINAR

Date: Saturday, April 25
Time: 10:00 am (Registration) to 5:00 pm (Dinner – Obento)
Location: Konko Church of Portland
Speaker: Reverend Rod Hashimoto
Konko Church of Vancouver
Theme: The Divine Call
Registration: \$10 18 years and over
\$ 0 17 years and younger

REGISTRATION FORM

Instructions: Complete form and reply by mail, phone or e-mail by **April 11, 2009**.
Mail: Konko Church of Portland, 1330 SE 92nd Ave; Portland, OR 97216.
Phone: (503) 256-4201 or E-mail: muzunoe@hotmail.com

Registration fees (check or cash) will be collected on the morning of the seminar.

Contact Information:

Name: _____
E-Mail: _____
Phone: _____
Address: _____

Church: _____

Participant Information:

Name	Discussion Group	Age (if 17 years and younger)