



Main Worship Hall

# *Aiyo Kakeyo,* Interdependent Relationship, between Kami and People



By the Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato  
Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo

**H**appy New Year to all. I believe that all of you welcomed this new year with a renewed heart. Following the basic principle, “Seek and Manifest the Faith of Konko Daijin for the sake of Salvation of the World and Humanity,” Konkokyo moves various activities forward. Now I, welcoming a new year, wish to live this whole year, by working toward the realization of world peace and humanity’s happiness.

One morning, on my way home from morning worship at the Main Worship Hall, I found the morning star shining brightly. I looked around north, south, east, and west, as I scanned the wonderful starry sky. I looked at the beautiful stars for a while, when I experienced an indescribable and enigmatic certainty that something was warmly watching over me.

Tenchi Kane No Kami, whose body is the whole Universe, bestows primordial and vital workings to sustain the lives of all things including human beings. All the people, without exception, are allowed to live in the midst of gifts and works of Tenchi Kane No Kami. Our Founder taught us, “Heaven is father and Earth is mother.” I intuitively felt that this concept is about the awareness of being watched by Kami. I believe that by knowing this principle and appreciating the divine gifts and works, our human ways of life become valuable. At the same time, as people become

enlightened about such a valuable life, Kami can fully manifest the divine work. Because people work for Kami Kami can be Kami, and because Kami exists, people can be people. The Founder described the concept, “Kami is Kami because of people, and people are people because of Kami.” He represented the relationship by the phrase, “*Aiyo kakeyo* (Interdependent relationship).”

During this whole year, what challenges await us? The order which has stabilized the global society lost its power. Despite the fact that we cannot see the future, this year has begun. As wide-spread anxiety wraps up the whole world, everyone seeks a light somewhere.

So, let us think about the relationship between the Work of the infinite Universe continuing from far distant past toward the eternal future, and oneself living now on this very day.

Our Founder, Konko Daijin, left a teaching, “Trust in Heaven and depend on Earth.” Facing a Universe that has continued to run its activities for so long, far beyond human thoughts and knowledge, I, who am allowed to live by receiving the life of the Universe on this very day, strongly wish to keep on walking along the Way of *Aiyo kakeyo* between Kami and people this year too, in order to fulfill world peace and humanity’s happiness, which is Kami’s Wish and our goal.

# Philosophy on Life, Faith on Life 1

Lectured by Reverend Yoshitsugu Fukushima

The following is a summary of a chapter from his book *Inochi no Shiso, Inochi no Shinko*.



## The Roots of Our Spiritual Identity

At times, we are concerned about the source of our existence and thinking about what is the bases of our life hitherto. Konko Daijin (1814-1883) also faced his question of *raison d'etre* when he was forty-five years old (1854). The first paragraph of Chapter 6, the *Konko Daijin Oboegaki (Memoirs of Konko Daijin)*, and a section of the *Konkokyo Kyoten (Sacred Scriptures of Konkokyo)*, describes it in the following manner:

On September 23, 1858 (October 29), Kane No Kami-Sama requested, "Tensho Kotaijin-Sama, please give Bunji (Konko Daijin) to me.

Tensho Kotaijin-Sama complied, "Okay, he is yours." Kane No Kami-Sama informed me, "Bunji, you have been given to Me and I will make you My First Disciple."\*1

Then Kotaijin-Sama retracted, "Kane No Kami-Sama, although I said he is yours, I just can't give him to you. It's because there is no one like him."

"Saying that You will give him and then saying that You won't will make it a lie. I must definitely take him. If giving him will be a great loss, I will have his son Asakichi go to worship at Your hiromae when Asakichi comes of age. So please, let Me take him," pleaded Kane No Kami-Sama.

"Since You put it that way, I shall acquiesce."

"Receiving him will be a relief to Me," acknowledged Kane No Kami-Sama.

To my mother and I, and the whole family, Kane No Kami-Sama said, "Bunji shall become My First Disciple. I won't take him away from here. I will teach him right here. There is no need for concern."

This conversation between two gods, Tensho Kotaijin and Kane No Kami was recorded by Konko Daijin.

In those days, receiving revelations and directions from Kane No Kami (later renamed as Tenchi Kane No Kami) enabled Konko Daijin to experience bountiful

harvests which surprised villagers. At the same time, as a member of Otani Village (now Konko Town, Asakuchi City, Okayama Prefecture), his spiritual behavior was still strongly influenced by the norms of his environment. The belief in a village god and that Tensho Kotaijin ruled over village gods resulted in a lifestyle tightly bound within the traditional framework and ideas of family, village, feudal domain and nation.

Kane No Kami, on the other hand, never imposed such limitations so that Konko Daijin began to be liberated from these social conventions and all its constraints. At the age of 45, his new god had not been fully revealed, but later Kami would reveal the true feature as Kami of Heaven and Earth, named Tenchi Kane No Kami. This Kami could enter the hearts and minds of all human beings and watch over them. Beyond the spatial limits of village or nation, and beyond the notion of local shrines, village gods and their followers, this true (Tenchi) Kane No Kami could lead everyone to a realization of a wider world, that of Heaven and Earth. Yet, with this spiritual awakening, Konko Daijin faced the spiritual identity dilemma of being a villager who is protected by a village god, or one who is protected by (Tenchi) Kane No Kami.

Through the conversation between the two gods, Konko Daijin gained a realization which allowed him to free himself of the villager's roles and its various constraints.

If we repeatedly and carefully read the anecdote cited above, we see it more than a simple mythological tale. We will find something important from this conversation between gods, which can help us with the difficult decisions in life. I am sure it will give us the pathway or the means to leave behind the traditional quagmire and enable us to make a spiritual breakthrough to a broader realization.

(\*1. The designation of "First Disciple" represented the attainment of a higher faith by Bunji. This enabled him to come under the direct guidance of Kane No Kami.)

(summarized by KIC)

# A Brazilian Believer Trains at Konkokyo Seminary

**Y**uji Kakiya, a second generation Japanese-Brazilian from the Konko Church of Birigui (Brazil), recently spent two months training at Konkokyo Seminary this past October.

The Konkokyo Seminary is a boarding school facility where those who enter acquire the basic attitudes and disciplines of a minister during the year. Mr. Kakiya further developed his faith when learning about the history and doctrine of Konkokyo and living with other students.

He said, "I grew up in a family who has faith in Konkokyo, so I naturally set my heart towards Kami as I listened to sermons delivered by Reverend Tateo Suenaga, Head Minister of Birigui Church. After I began practicing the Founder's teachings in my everyday life, I received many divine blessings

which made my life drastically change. At this point, I wanted to understand Konkokyo more

deeply and please Kami; that's why I went to train at Konkokyo Seminary. I learned a lot through participat-

ing in various events there. For example, every day we attended a service at both Konkokyo Seminary and the Main Worship Hall. Afterwards, we had classes and time to

clean the grounds, caring each other with single-minded.

I understood that these events generated a bond of solidarity and trust in our relationships. I also deepened my faith through the teachings of the instructors at Konkokyo Seminary."

He also said, "I would like to help Brazil see the Konko Faith in the future. I hope to arrange events especially for Brazilians and convey this faith to them."



## KIC's Activities 2012

The 2012 Activity Policy of the Konkokyo International Center is "Fostering the Salvation of Humanity by Connecting the World and Konkokyo and Realizing the Path Between Kami and People."

We are working on the following activities in order to achieve these goals:

1. Holding gatherings in regions (such as Europe and Australia) where there are currently no Konko Churches in order to strengthen cooperation with local outreach bodies, network believers, and encourage the growth of Konko Faith.
2. Continue working with the Konkokyo Seoul Activity Center and Konkokyo Asuncion Activity Center.
3. Spreading the Konko Faith throughout the world through various media, such as newsletters and internet-based outlets (websites, Twitter, and Facebook).
4. Working in close cooperation with the Konko Churches of North America, Konko Missions in Hawaii, and Konkokyo Brazilian Churches Association and supporting them by making propagation materials available in other languages.
5. Gathering information on worldwide propagation and examining this doctrine through attending lectures and symposiums, associating with scholars, and studying research materials.
6. Implementing an Internship program and also bringing in trainees from overseas to develop human resources for world propagation.

## The Lancaster Church Has Been Established!



On September 28, 2011, the Konko Church of Lancaster was established, receiving official approval from Spiritual Leader of Konkokyo. The opening ceremony will be celebrated on July 29, 2012.

Reverend Yoshiko Ota, the Head Minister of the new Konko Church of Lancaster, said, "I was born after the war. My mother was not in the best of health and people around her were opposed to her giving birth to me. She prayed to

Kami to watch over me, if she were not able to do so, after my birth. I was born prematurely. As a result, from the very beginning, my physical condition was weak.

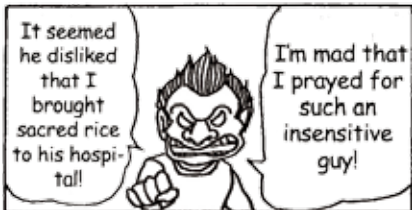
As I grew older, I suffered a variety of illnesses, but as I endured them, I have learned that the more I serve and work for Kami, the more I was blessed with energy for life.

"Six years ago we moved from Garden Grove to Lancaster because of my husband's job. When we bought our new home, we strongly felt that Kami was behind us, supporting us and allowing us to live in this house. The day we moved in, we set up the Kami altar in the best room in the house. This became the worship hall.

"On January 25, 2007, we were authorized to open a propagation hall. Since then, we have come to believe that we need to make a stronger, dedicated effort to spread our faith. We felt we needed to build a new church."

Now, Reverend Ota strongly desires to work to realize Kami's Wish. She expressed her aspiration, "We hope to convey our Founder's teachings to as many people as we can."

### Faith Life Sketch<sub>3</sub>



by Tama Hyoroku

### Konkokyo Kyoten Gorikai I Addendum Published

This book is an English translation of the *Konkokyo Kyoten Tsuiho*, published by Konkokyo Headquarters in 2004.

*Kyoten* is the Sacred Scripture of Konkokyo. *Kyoten Gorikai I* is a collection of teachings passed down in writing or dictated by believers who heard the teachings directly from Konko Daijin, the founder of Konkokyo. The original text of this addendum was from twelve believers, discovered after the *Konkokyo Kyoten* was published in Japanese in 1983.

The initial English translation was completed by Konko Missions in Hawaii.

Konkokyo International Center (KIC) read the translation and made some revisions. KIC then consulted with Reverend Yoshitsugu Fukushima and Reverend Motoo Tanaka, who were both involved with the *Konkokyo Kyoten* translation, on theological contents. KIC enlisted the help of Mr. Philbert Ono, who helped with the revision of the *Kyoten*, to help with the editing of the addendum. Konko Missions in Hawaii and Konko Churches of North America reviewed the final draft and upon receiving the Spiritual Leader's approval, the *Konkokyo Kyoten Gorikai I Addendum* was finally completed.



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