



# The Way of Kami and People from Me to the World

*On June 26, 2015, a Minister's gathering was held in Konkokyo Hawaii District. Reverend Shinkichi Kawai, the Assistant director of Konkokyo International Center, gave a lecture. A summary of this lecture follows:*



## 1. Question from "Actually Living Faith"

The Konkokyo International Center celebrated 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013. We reviewed the activities from last year back to 20 years ago. During the discussion, we questioned our adopted viewpoint, which is "Livable Faith." What we tried to do was avoiding the thoughts based on principles or doctrines. Instead, we focused our attention on actual faith that people could practice. In this way, we questioned this idea from actual circumstances.

The former Konko-Sama always taught "Everyone must be under someone's/something's care to do anything", and "Our lives continue by receiving cares and supports." We sometimes think that we are practicing faith. However, as these teachings tell us, we are not practicing faith by ourselves. We are able to practice faith by receiving cares of others, materials, and matters. A network of "cares" enables us to practice faith. Based on this perspective, how could the Konkokyo International Center serve for people as one actor in the network? This became our major objection to our activities.

## 2. Seek, convey and support "true and sincere faith" + Nurture, enrich, broaden and deepen the "true and sincere faith"

When we consider the Konkokyo as a practical "way"

rather than an organized religion, we could describe our "way" as a "Way of Faith." Our Founder taught, "Practice a sincere faith." Therefore, the network of "care" should be brought out so that we could understand how to enrich, broaden and deepen the "true and sincere faith."

Let us take "Toritsugi" as an example. "Toritsugi" consists of place for mediation, mediator, and the art of toritsugi. "Teachings" and faith stories are also important. Services and etiquettes are essential. There are all kinds of actors to nurture our faiths.

The Konkokyo has been enriched by a tradition that could nurture each individual faith. Therefore, our faith has been nurtured through tradition. For example, this tradition has been nurtured by a long history of Konko Church of Amagi, which is still alive in Hawaii. In the same way, varieties of faith from traditions exist in Konkokyo.

Our current mission is to create better conditions for each individual faith, so the faith will be nurtured and enriched. For these reasons, we have to rediscover what could make our faith lively. Furthermore, we need to establish an environment and "care" network to learn and be guided to the "way" of "true and sincere faith."

## + Opening a new horizon from Toritsugi

Among the Konkokyo traditions, what we should focus

on is Konko-sama's Toritsugi Mediation. By being there for an individual through Toritsugi an overwhelming universality could appear. The followings may be a long example, but this is an extract from June issue of "Ametsuchi" of this year. This is the part of the lecture given by the Chief Administrative Director of the Konkokyo.

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This is the episode when Dr. Beaver (1906-1987) of the University of Chicago visited Konko in June, 1959.

When he received Toritsugi from the 3rd Konko-Sama, he asked, "Not just people living in Japan, but if you have a message for people all over the world, could you please tell me?" .....

The 3rd Konko-Sama replied, "There are various requests. Therefore, I pray for each one to receive divine arrangements." Hearing these words, Dr. Beaver said, "Thank you. I understood clearly." .....

Reverend Masao Takahashi (1887-1965) said, "Dr. Beaver asked for a message to the people of the world. However, the 3rd Konko-Sama replied (exactly) what he does in his daily life." What does it mean? The 3rd Konko-Sama had received various requests at the *Okekkai* Mediation Place. There might be requests that were considered as headstrong or selfish. Sometimes, a parent and a child or husband and wife came to blame each other at *Okekkai*. However, the 3rd Konko-Sama listened and received each request and prayed. How did he pray? Reverend Takahashi said, "There are various requests. I pray for each one to receive divine arrangement." The 3rd Konko-Sama continued to pray in this way, and he made a statement based on his experiences. ....

Dr. Michio Araki (1938-2008)..... had a wish to contribute to the way of faith by studying the world religions. .... Dr. Araki expressed a broadness and depth of Konkokyo by introducing this 3rd Konko-Sama's story as follows:

The 3rd Konko-Sama just talked honestly with what he has been doing in his daily life. The content of Toritsugi is huge. .... what the 3rd Konko-Sama prays is far beyond religions in Japan and Christianity. His prayers opened widely to all religions and all the people's requests. It has a capacity to go beyond any human domains. As it is well described by the Founder's saying, "All people are children of Kami," the Konkokyo characterizes its broadness that embrace the whole world. This describes the broadness of

the Konkokyo World. We are so fortunate with having Konko-Sama for years. It is a tradition that has continued since our Founder. If all the religions in the world have this prayer, no war occurs – no Iraq War and no Israel problems. Isn't it right? I wonder if we are the ones who are making this prayer less powerful.

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Toritsugi Mediation at *Okekkai* Mediation Place is taking place facing one on one. It consists of an individual and specific operation. Therefore, the mediator can take "various requests" as they are, and prays to receive the "divine arrangement" for each requests. The "divine arrangement" means that requests were realized fulfilling Kami's Wish. And its possibility is open to any requests. Konko-Sama's Toritsugi has an overwhelming universality.

We need to realize this fact with a pleasant surprise.

### 3. "Kami-yo" in "nin-yo"

Now we are asked to live our lives with a "true and sincere faith" as our Founder taught. Amid in the society of the progressive worldwide secularization, we have to live "Kami's Way" in our daily lives.

In *Oboecho* (Record of Revelations), the following revelation was written in 1880:

Kami-Sama revealed, "Right now the world is human-centered. All things are done by people's own power, and many people are going against my teachings.

Those who do as I say shall become a kami. Long ago, it was a Kami-centered world. Now it is a human-centered world.

Because of this, I shall teach people to return to a Kami-centered world. Difficulty and suffering are caused by people's own hearts. Whether or not they can live a peaceful world also depends on their own hearts.

As stated, we are living in "*nin-yo* (human-centered world)." And many people live confused, hurt, and suffer from various hardships. "The True Way of Faith" which is "the Way of Kami and people" was opened in this "*nin-yo*," and the world of *inochi* (life) to be saved will be born continuously. Therefore, "*Kami-yo* (Kami-centered world)" should be realized in "*nin-yo*" within the Konkokyo organization, Konko churches, and believers' home.

What kind of world is it that the *inochi* life can be saved? The *inochi* life does not mean an individual life nor biological life. This is the whole life that flows continuously from

ancestors to descendants. It is the life that pass through the past, present and future. Through a continuation of practicing “the True Way of Faith,” we are able to live our lives receiving the divine blessings in any situations. In any moment, we can walk such “the Way of Kami and people.” When our lives were tuned in by Kami-Sama, our ancestors and descendants who related to our lives are also saved at the same time. In this way, the way to receive blessings is open.

The world of secularization continuously cut deep into our lives. Now, it is the time bringing light of “*Kami-yo*” into right in the middle of “*nin-yo*” through our faith. Let us seek and practice the “True Faith.”



## New York - New Jersey Area Konko Faith Connections

Reported by Reverend Joanne Tolosa,  
Head Minister of Konko Church of San Francisco, USA

The first 2015 Konko Faith Gatherings I conducted in New York and New Jersey, took place from May 21<sup>st</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 2015. Two informal meetings were held that Thursday, just hours after touching down at John F. Kennedy International Airport. The Kodera Family were sick at home in Brooklyn and thus, could not attend the Friday & Saturday gatherings, therefore I visited their home in Brooklyn, for the first time, and gave encouragement, prayers and sacred rice “Goshin-mai” (御神米) rice. That night I met, for the first time, Konko Church of Los Angeles believer and Broadway actor Marc Oka (*currently in “The King & I”*) for dinner prior to his performance at the Lincoln Center.

On Friday morning, I met a Konko follower for Mediation and to conduct her family’s restaurant blessing ceremony in Brooklyn.

That afternoon, I met a regular attendee at a Union Square café for the informal gathering.

On Saturday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> the formal Spring Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony was held in New Jersey, in the dining room of the Terasaki-Chung Family. The framed

“Tenchi Kakitsuke” hung on the wall permanently. It gives Michiko Terasaki much comfort and joy to be “caretaker” of the New York-New Jersey’s ceremonial “Tenchi Kakitsuke.” There may have been few in number due to illness, work or vacation. Nevertheless, it was offered most reverently and sincerely.

It is not surprising that the faces of the believers I meet may change from trip-to-trip -- because New York is a mecca for millions and the very mobile. People are always moving in and out of this area. Despite the people and gathering location changes, I continue to provide individual Mediation, home visits as needed, informal and formal prayer services/grand ceremonies and spiritual support for the Konko believers there. I also continue to keep contact with them

by phone, text and email, while on the West Coast. Our next gathering is in the fall, most likely in November 2015. Please contact me at: [sanfrancisco@konkofaith.org](mailto:sanfrancisco@konkofaith.org) for more information or to join us! We would love to get to know you, provide emotional and spiritual support, and share our faith with each other, as we “Truly live the Way of Kami and all people - in mutual fulfillment.”





# The 1st Konko International Celebration Back to the Day : inspiring the future

KIC will conduct the 1st Konko International Celebration in Konkokyo Headquarters.

This event is held by the cooperation of many supporters in Konko-cho.

Believers from all over the world and those who are interested in Konkokyo are welcome to join in.

- +Let's get together to celebrate the Konkokyo Establishment Day at the Sacred Place "Goreichi".
- +Realize the roots of our life through prayer and faith enrichment activities.
- +Feel the spirituality of "Goreichi".
- +Deepen our mutual understanding.

Activities:

Guided tour of "Goreichi", Prayer Services, Party, Workshop,  
and Konkokyo Establishment Day Service

Date: November 14<sup>th</sup> 13:00-15<sup>th</sup> 12:00

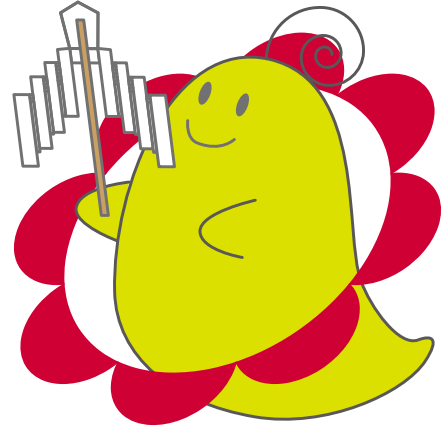
Place: Konkokyo Headquarters, Otani Konkocho Asakuchishi Okayama

Registration Fee: 2,500yen Includes dinner, breakfast and lodging

The deadline is the end of October.

For further information, please contact KIC.

Please check Facebook page; <https://www.facebook.com/koncele>



## Konkokyo Gathering in London 2015



Prayer Service & Casual Discussion

Date: November 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> Location: Imperial Hotel, London

All are welcome to participate in the gathering. Please contact KIC for further information.

## From Kyoto

People go to the Hiromae to worship and receive teachings, but no one follows what they are told. They return home and alter the teachings for themselves. And so there are no divine blessings.

Some have said, "I went to the Hiromae and received teachings. I also practiced faith, but what Kami told me did not happen."

They lose Kami's teachings on the way home by distorting them to suit themselves. For their resultant failures, they blame Kami. Reforming your heart is most important.

Being wholehearted toward Kami means not to have doubt. (Gorikai I, Ichimura Mitsugoro Chapter 3 -19)



FACE TO FAITH NO. 84 VOL. 22-3 issued by

**Konkokyo International Center**

E-mail: [kic@konkokyo.or.jp](mailto:kic@konkokyo.or.jp) Tel: +81-(0)3-3818-3701 Fax: +81-(0)3-3818-3793 Twitter: @konkokyo\_kic

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KIC1993>

2-17-11 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku,  
Tokyo 113-0033 JAPAN

URL: <http://www.konkokyo.or.jp/eng/kic/>