

Face to Faith

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“Praying for World Peace”

Reverend Konko Hiromichi
Spiritual Leader of Konkokyo

Last year, 2025, marked the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. Yet, even as we welcome this new year, the world remains far from peaceful. We all wish to live in a world where everyone can smile and live in harmony—so why do human beings continue to fight, destroy nature, and take away the smiles of others?

By nature, human beings have the ability to reach out and help those who are suffering. This capacity exists so that everyone may live with a smile. I believe we are truly human because we can support and care for one another. One of my favorite phrases is “Think globally, act locally.” It reminds us to maintain a broad perspective while taking action within our own communities. There is always a small, meaningful step each of us can take right now to contribute to a better world.

My grandfather, the Fourth Konko-sama, often said, “To sweep the road in front of my home is to sweep the road that leads to the world.” These words beautifully express the spirit of starting exactly where we are. He studied under the poet Kubota Utsubo and composed more than 40,000 poems. One of the poems says,

“A heart which expresses gratitude to-

wards everybody and everything that takes care of it is a heart that brings about peace.”

He taught us to ground everything in gratitude, believing that steady efforts lead to peace. I hope to convey and embody this sensibility.

Now that I have my own family, I feel encouraged by Kami-sama to begin peace within my home, for that is where world peace truly starts. I hope to teach my children the importance of peace, and the preciousness of life and blessings of the Universe that sustain us. We have received an “unbroken relay of life” that has led us to who we are today. How long has the Universe been sustaining all life—perhaps billions of years? Without this living Universe, there would be no air or water, and human life would not exist even for a moment.

When we watch a river or a waterfall, our hearts are healed by nature’s quiet and patient workings. Unlike nature, we humans often seek immediate results, which can be dangerous. I hope and pray that, within the flow of time known only to Kami-sama, we may move together toward a peaceful world where everyone can live in harmony.

From the Konkokyo Radio Broadcast, January 2, 2026

A Hope for KCNA 100th Anniversary – For the Konko Faith to be Everyone’s “Second Home” –

Reverend Joanne Tolosa, Konko Church of San Francisco



I was deeply grateful that the Konko Church of San Francisco was chosen as the site of the 100th Anniversary of the Konko Churches of North America’s (KCNA) on Wednesday, 8/12/2026 at 11am. It has a rich history here, with our founding head minister, Rev. Fukuda Yoshiaki, the first North American Administrative Minister when the Headquarters of the Konko Missions in America was established in San Francisco on April 1, 1939.

In the 1970’s Rev. Matsui Fumio, former KCNA Chief Administrative Minister, led the strong push for more Konko Faith English material. He knew that this Faith could not benefit the local people of Canada and the United States, nor spread & grow, if they couldn’t understand it. Since then, the Faith Training Division was established in 1986, and Faith Training Seminars in English have been held to educate believers who want to know more about this Faith, with the hope that several would eventually become Konkokyo ministers to help the local people develop strong individual relationships with Divine Parent Kami.

This year, February 20-22, the Missionary Women’s Society Seminar (MWSS) celebrated its 35th Anniversary. We held prayer services at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma, and offered flowers at the gravesites of Revs. Fukuda Yoshiaki & Shinko (see photo), Revs. Matsui Fumio & Fumiko, and newly inurned KC Fresno minister, Rev. Okazaki Hiroko.

The Konko Youth Camp (ages 13-17) was developed in 1992 and shortly thereafter, Family Camp (ages 0-12), Young Adult Seminar (ages 18-25), and Spirituality Bridge

(adult age) arose to educate each age group and deepen the bonds between us.

The loss of lives and economic devastation of Corona Virus 19 cannot be ignored. However, steering us to livestream has become a great blessing for our church, as well as other faith traditions. We were inspired to broaden our reach of people throughout the world, remotely share services, and hold regular virtual Toritsugi Mediation, in addition to in person Mediation. The LGBTQ+ population has reached out to our church and a number of them have become believers. I believe Konko



Daijin’s teachings and the Konko Faith are resonating more and more in the hearts of people throughout the world. The majority of our new believers are not of Japanese ancestry.

With 6th-generation Konko-sama, Rev. Konko Hiromichi’s presence in August at the KCNA 100th Anniversary here in KCSF’s

Worship Hall, I hope and believe everyone present and afar, will feel the deep significance and impact of this historic celebration.

I truly feel the world is becoming “smaller” as we increasingly broaden our hearts to become more interconnected and accepting of one another -- all of us Kami’s precious children. With the help of the internet, we can reach more people, and more people can reach us, so that together, we can follow and live the Founder’s teachings. We acknowledge the deep faith, sorrows and triumphs of our pioneer ministers and believers who braved crossing the vast Pacific Ocean to share this life changing Konko Faith that focuses on Parent Kami’s unconditional love for us, “belonging,” and our “Aiyo Takeyo” mutually interdependent relationship. My hope is that each of us, worldwide, can grasp

Parent Kami's benevolence, unconditional love, and Wish for everyone to have peace of mind with a joyful, harmonious heart.

May all the Sacred Evergreen Branch Offering representatives truly realize the significance of being chosen to represent not just their local church, or KCNA, but the entire Konko Faith. May this centennial be seen as

a milestone, but more so, a catalyst, a springboard to more peace, love, respect, understanding and interconnectedness throughout the world, to spread sincerity, gratitude and kindness – to welcome more people feeling disconnected or distanced from the world and others, and embrace the Konko Faith community – as their “second home.”

In Remembrance of the Former Konko-sama, Reverend Konko Heiki “The Wish Imbued in His Words”

Reverend Mitsumoto Shinichi, Konko Church of Ochiai

Occasionally, I received mediation from the Fifth Konko-sama and each experience was memorable and has continued to support me till today.

In 2006, about two years after graduating from the Konkokyo Seminary, I was assigned to work as a staff member at the Konkokyo Eastern Chugoku Center. Starting this position meant my lifestyle would change significantly. Feeling a bit anxious, I sought mediation and shared my concerns to the Fifth Konko-sama. I asked, “As I begin my service, please tell me if there is anything I should keep in mind.” The Fifth Konko-sama said, “Cultivate the heart of gratitude toward everything you depend on.”

In 2009, when I was appointed Deputy Director of the same center, I once again asked the Fifth Konko-sama what I should keep in mind regarding my duties. He replied, “You should just continue to cultivate the heart of gratitude toward everything you depend on.”

The following year, when I participated in a training session at the Konkokyo Headquarters, I asked, “Now that I am returning to my church to perform the service of Toritsugi Mediation, what is the most important thing for me to value?” He responded, “What do you mean ‘what’?” And he advised, “It would be good for you to continue to cultivate the heart of gratitude

toward everything you depend on.”

Somewhere in my heart, I expected to receive a different message. However, as if he could see right through me, the advice given to me was the same, “Cultivate the heart of gratitude toward everything you depend on.”

People say “what happens twice will happen thrice” and “the third time is the charm,” but at that moment, I was momentarily speechless as if doused with cold water. Simultaneously, I felt miserable. This was because I realized that although I had asked with a plausible air and received his advice, I had not been seriously following and putting it into practice.

I could feel the Fifth Konko-sama's sigh when he again responded, “What do you mean ‘what’?” As if he were saying, “I've already taught you this many times.” Looking back, I am filled with nothing but shame. At the same time, I also feel that his words were imbued with an earnest wish for me to somehow understand that what is important must be treated as important.

“Cultivate the heart of gratitude toward everything you depend on,” these words of advice by the Fifth Konko-sama has become a core principle and a great guiding light for me, who is so prone to losing my way.

Reprinted from Konko Shimbun, July 23 2025 issue



The Fourth Konko-sama 35th Anniversary

This year marks the 35th anniversary since the Fourth Konko-sama, Reverend Konko Kagamitaro, returned to the Divine Realm in 1991 at the age of 81.

Here, we would like to introduce some words of the Fourth Konko-sama.



“Practicing Gratitude in Return for the Care We Receive”

I feel deeply that every single day I am continuously cared for in all aspects of life—clothing, food, and shelter—and that this is truly something precious and undeserved. Human life involves many different matters, but the fact that we are supported in our clothing, food, and shelter is beyond doubt.

When I reflect on everything around me that supports me and is useful to me, I keenly realize how insufficient my expressions of gratitude have been. The previous Konko-sama spoke of apologizing for not being able to fully express gratitude, and gradually, I have come to understand this deeply within myself.

There are things that each of us must do ourselves, but we are all unable to do anything without receiving care and support. A carpenter cherishes the large tools that support his work. Without receiving care and support, no work can be done. Materials are needed,

people are needed—every kind of support is required. Tools alone are not enough to accomplish work.

We, too, should think about the things around us that support us. Even a single futon (bedding) supports us throughout the night, and when we fold it in the morning, we should sincerely express our gratitude for the care we received. Our Founder taught: “Those who practice faith should feel grateful even upon rising from a tree stump on which they have sat and rested.” (Gorikai III, Konko Kyoso Gorikai 31). We are taught never to forget a heart of gratitude toward those things that have been useful to us and have supported us—even something silent like a tree stump.

In this sense, I believe that tree stumps, chairs, futons (beddings), houses—everything is the same. Whether something can speak or not, I practice expressing gratitude, right at the place where the care was received, toward all that has supported me. This is the practice I strive to carry out every day.

Although studying is something we do on our own, we cannot study without being supported by study tools, desks, chairs, and everything else around us. I often tell young children that while studying is their own responsibility, it is founded upon the care and support they receive. In this way, in the midst of daily life, I hope to live each day carefully without mistakes or negligence, and to receive blessings through such living.

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