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Let us Be the Light for “World Peace and the Salvation of All Humans” by Embracing the Divine Reminder and Following its Teachings

by the Reverend Wada Kazuma
Director of the General Affairs Department

The Divine Reminder (Tenchi Kakitsuke) reads, “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.” I humbly interpret these messages embroidered in this Divine Reminder as Revere the Sacred Mediation of Ikigami Konko Daijin and pray to the Divine Parent of the Universe with a single heart every day and month. The Divine Favor will be there for you when your own heart becomes harmonious and joyful.

I am currently blessed with a 10-year-old son and a 6-year-old daughter. Whenever I pray to Kami-sama for them to succeed my faith, I try to make sure that I do not stand in front of them, but that we are facing the same direction. Another important thing for me is that I do not explain the Konko Faith to my children, but I let them know about the value and wonderfulness of Konko Daijin’s faith through my own. I don’t think I can tell my children the wonderfulness of Konkokyo by saying, “The Konko Faith is a religion which is...” or “You must do this because the Founder of Konkokyo tells you to do so.” On the other hand, if I truly become happy

and grateful due to practicing faith in the Konko Faith, and if I interact with my children with a positive, delightful attitude, they will naturally feel, “Our dad is always positive and he smiles no matter what happens to us.” That’s when my children will have interest in Konkokyo and what I mean by “letting someone know about the value and wonderfulness of Konkokyo through one’s own faith.” If we can put this into practice, then we can be the light as shown in the Basic Policy of the Konko Faith.

I have just mentioned the possibility of us “becoming the light.” How can this lead to world peace and the salvation of all humans? When he was the Director of the Worship Hall Department, the current 6th Konko-sama kindly showed us the answer: “These are my favorite words, and they go, ‘Thinking globally, acting locally.’ Our perspective should be broad enough to let us think things globally. And yet we should act locally; we should act positively in our local community. Each of us may be a small individual. Not many people are able to make global activities. We, therefore, should look at ourselves well and do what we can do right here, right now. Our acts may be quite local and small accordingly, but we should be

thinking things globally as we think locally.”

The 4th Konko-sama said, ‘When you sweep the road in front of your house, you are sweeping a road that leads to the whole world.’ Here, he talks about the very sense that allows one to make local activities with a global perspective. You are not only doing a thing just around you... you are in fact taking care of a part of the Divine Parent of the Universe. It is very important for us to be aware and conscious of this.”

(A quote of Rev. Konko Hiromichi’s speech

at the Commemorative Event for the 160th Anniversary of Konkokyo’s Foundation on June 2, 2019, sponsored by the Konkokyo East/Higashi Kinki Diocese)

Let us become the light to first fulfill ourselves and then help people around us be saved. This effort may be quite local and only one single drip of the vast ocean, but I humbly pray that we still take our steps forward to help realize Kami’s wish of “world peace and the salvation of all humans.”

Special Commendation for 16 Years of Dedication to Regional Revitalization

By the Reverend Kadokawa Daisaku
Konko Church of Oshikoji, Kyoto

The Reverend Kadokawa Daisaku has been awarded the 2024 Special Commendation from the Commissioner of the Agency for Cultural Affairs in recognition for his many years of extensive dedication to regional revitalization during his tenure as Mayor of Kyoto. This prestigious commendation honors individuals and organizations that have significantly contributed to the promotion of Japanese culture, specifically those who have made a significant impact on the broader community. The commendation ceremony was held on January 23, 2025.

Rev. Kadokawa’s career included serving as a staff member and later Commissioner of the Kyoto City Board of Education. In 2008, he was elected to Mayor of Kyoto, a position he held for four consecutive terms, totaling 16 years, until February 2024. During his time in office, he actively promoted opportunities for students to learn about and experience traditional culture as a part of the school curriculum. He also played a crucial role in actualizing the relocation of the Agency for Cultural Affairs from Tokyo to Kyoto.

Upon receiving his commendation, Rev.



Kadokawa expressed his gratitude:

“I am deeply honored that my work focusing on the concept of ‘life culture,’ the principle of ‘live and let live,’ regional revitalization, and the promotion of Japan through culture has been recognized. I am also grateful for the collaborative efforts with individuals across Japan to relocate and ‘strengthen’ the Agency of Cultural Affairs in Kyoto. I extend my heartfelt appreciation to everyone who supported these initiatives. As a citizen of Kyoto, I remain committed to supporting the city in fulfilling its responsibility to uphold the mission of the Agency of Cultural Affairs. I believe the ultimate expression of culture is how people live their lives. ‘Live with sincerity and a caring heart;’ ‘Pray to be the light for world peace and the salvation of humanity;’ and ‘Based on the appreciation’—these core values of the Konko Faith are the essence of a meaningful life.”

Rev. Kadokawa will host a new radio program on KBS Kyoto, starting March 31st, airing every Monday evening from 18:30 to 19:00. Drawing on his experience as a reverend of the Konko Faith and former Mayor of Kyoto, the program will feature discussions on Kyoto’s culture and offer consultations on life’s challenges.

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A Journey of Faith, Science, and Purpose

By Christian Williams, Konko Church of San Francisco

My name is Christian Williams, and I am a devoted believer of Konkokyo, actively attending and engaging in service since 2024. My journey of faith has been one of self-discovery, intellectual curiosity, and a deep yearning for a more compassionate and meaningful world.

As an autodidact and an INTJ according to the Myers-Briggs assessment, my mind is naturally drawn to problem-solving and deep contemplation. However, I must remain mindful, as my ADD can easily spiral into OCD if not properly channeled into productive pursuits.

◎A Lifelong Love for Japanese Culture

From a young age, I have been fascinated by Japanese culture, arts, music, and philosophy. However, my immersion in Konkokyo has restored my faith in humanity in a way that no other system or ideology has. What is the purpose of technological advancement if humanity is heartless—constantly at war, consumed by greed, and lacking compassion? This disillusionment with the modern workplace and corporate world has led me to seek a greater purpose beyond just personal success.

It is not enough to simply pray for a better world; we must actively work to create one. Love—whether for ourselves or others—requires effort, design, and intention. While comfort and quality of life are important, the well-being of our minds, bodies, and souls must take priority over ego-driven and harmful pursuits.

◎My visit to Gohombu, the Headquarter of Konkokyo

Upon arrival in konko town being greeted by Seeing Rev. Alan Matsui, Rev. Joanne Tolosa, Rev. Rodney Yano, and Dale Nakahara, from San Francisco Church was a relief. They showed me Konko town, its traditional architecture later explained by Rev. Konko Kiyoji, the Director of the Worship Hall Department. A dream come true! Experiencing more than 100 years of tradition was heartwarming. The hospitality, gifts, and sentiments shared by the ministers and staffs truly changed my life.

◎My Spiritual Evolution

Since 2022, I have been visiting the Konko Church of San Francisco annually for Hatsumode, the tradi-

tional first prayer of the New Year. Initially, this was my only connection to Tenchi Kane No Kami (the Divine Parent of the Universe). However, my journey into Konkokyo deepened over time, leading me to embrace its teachings as my guiding philosophy.

I was raised in a Non-Denominational Christian Baptist faith, which shaped my beliefs for the first 20 years of my life. However, an existential crisis caused me to question the God of the Bible—the contradictions, human limitations, and rigid interpretations left me searching for a deeper truth.

Reading “Conversations with God” by Neale Donald Walsch was a pivotal moment. It introduced me to a broader, more compassionate understanding of the Divine, which in turn led me to explore various religious philosophies, including Buddhism, Taoism, and Shinto. At the same time, I developed a strong interest in science and psychology, seeking to reconcile faith with empirical knowledge.

◎Science and the Divine Design of Life

My scientific curiosity led me to anti-aging research, biochemistry, and epigenetics. Through this, I discovered mechanisms that affirm a profound truth: God wants us to thrive. Every cell in our body is designed to sustain life, working tirelessly to heal, regenerate, and adapt. Nowhere in science is there a mechanism specifically designed to make us die—rather, our own actions, mindsets, and lifestyles disrupt these natural processes.

We damage ourselves by living ungrateful lives, disrespecting our bodies, each other, and the very world that sustains us. But if we align with the natural flow of life, appreciating our existence and taking care of ourselves and others, we can unlock the full potential of our divinely designed bodies and minds.

◎A Life of Purpose

My journey is an ongoing one—a balance between faith, science, and the pursuit of a more compassionate world. Through Konkokyo, I have found a spiritual foundation that aligns with my evolving understanding of God, life, and human potential. I strive to channel my intellect and passion into meaningful work, ensuring that my actions reflect my values of love, harmony, and progress.

It is not enough to pray for a better world—we must build it together.



“My story of being a sole believer”

By William Gillberg, Sweden

I first discovered Konkokyo in my early teens. Since I was quite young I do not recall how I came upon the faith, but I do remember it making a big impression that has lasted for all these years into adulthood. During these years however, I have at times struggled with my faith and have gone through periods of doubt. Looking back, I believe the main reason for these struggles is because I was a sole believer in a country far away from any clergy or community to consult. This meant that I had to educate myself on our faith, so I turned to reading the “Kyoten,” watching live and archived services, browsing websites and of course reading the “Face to Faith” newsletters to progressively build my understanding of the faith on my own. The support and encouragement of the Konkokyo International Center was also very invaluable for my own faith journey, as I would not have been able to access the Konkokyo Kyoten.

For me, the teaching “Practicing faith is the same as learning. It progresses step by step.” (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 62-2). This has been especially true as my faith journey has been one step at a time. For many years my efforts were focused on my faith and relationship to Kami. I spent countless hours studying and doing my best to live by the teachings. More and more, as I grew older, my knowledge and

understanding expanded. I often contemplated sharing the faith with others, and establishing a community of our faith in my own country, but I was doubtful of my own understanding and ability to accurately portray and share the faith. After all, I would potentially be the communities’ initial introduction to Konkokyo. I felt that I had to be very well versed in the faith to show respect and properly present the religion. Eventually though, I gained confidence and wanted to do my part in spreading the faith to others, and helping to bring the teachings to my own country. With the invaluable support and encouragement of the Konkokyo International Center, I made the first translation of the “Voice of the Universe” into Swedish and established the Konkokyo Sweden website to promote the faith and share the teachings on social media. <https://konkosweden.wordpress.com/>

My own faith journey has been a lot about opening myself and my heart to be a more caring person. And also learning to trust that Kami is near, even if the faith can seem far away. Being a sole believer means that there are no clergy to share the teachings, so you must be disciplined to practice the faith. Like a log removed from fire, the faith will grow cold and eventually burn out if it is not rekindled and more fuel added. This has meant reminding myself of teachings such as, “Although Kami cannot be seen, you are constantly walking within and through the midst of Kami.” (III Konko Kyoso Gorikai 6) and “Tenchi Kane No Kami is Tenchi, the Universe. He is not in a shrine. He dwells in a truly sincere heart and will be a blessing.” (II Fukushima Gihe’e 10-2), and I by myself must add to the fire of faith. Even if I continue to be a sole believer for a long while more, I pray that one day we will be a bigger community and the faith will grow in the hearts of even more believers.

