

Face to Faith

July, 2012

No.73



Hopes for the New Faith Movement by Our Spiritual Leader Konko-Sama at the General Assembly on June 10, 2012.

New Faith Movement Gets Off the Ground!

On January 1, 2012, Konkokyo Headquarters initiated a new movement: “The Faith Movement: Let Us Live a Mutually Fulfilled Life With Kami (*Kami-hito aiyo kakeyo no seikatsu undo*).”

This movement was created to realize the practice of faith whereby Kami is pleased with each of us in our daily lives, when we reflect the meaning and spirit of the Founder’s acceptance of the Divine Call and the Divine Wish expressed in the phrase, “The Way of Kami and people (*Kami-hito no michi*)” stated by our Spiritual Leader, Konko-Sama.

At the Grand Service for the 150th anniversary of Konkokyo Establishment, our Spiritual Leader Konko-Sama imparted, “Let us reflect and renew Kami’s Wish in the Divine Call and the Faith of our Founder, who humbly accepted this divine request. I wholeheartedly pray to serve in the realization of ‘The Way of Kami and people’ where both Kami and humanity are fulfilled through the interdependent (*Aiyo kakeyo*) relationship we each have in life, with Kami. Let us work together to realize the Way of Kami and people.”

He also teaches that “the connection between Kami and people is on a vertical axis and the connections between people are on a horizontal axis.” Modern lifestyle obscures sight of the vertical axis. As Kami reveals, “Though they live between Heaven and Earth, people are unaware of Kami’s blessings.” In modern society, people do not know of Kami, ignore their relationship with Kami and the Universe, or possibly are just arrogant and think they know everything about the Universe and Kami. These attitudes result in a self-centered and materialistic way of living whereby people’s awareness in daily life focuses only on human relationships and material things (money). Their standard of behavior is

The Faith Movement:

Let Us Live a Mutually Fulfilled Life With Kami

Let us seek and receive Kami’s Words through Mediation

Let us awaken to Kami’s blessings & Unconditional Love

Let us live a joyful life of appreciation

Let us pray for, help and guide one another,

with a compassionate heart of Kami

Let us truly live the Way of Kami & all people - in Mutual Fulfillment

not “The Way of Kami and people.” They do not realize that they are allowed to live through Kami’s blessings. Now is the time we need to regain this connection with Kami or the Universe and reverently express our appreciation.

The final line of the goal, “Let us truly live the Way of Kami & all people – in Mutual Fulfillment” is the direction of this movement. The goal is to realize “The Way of Kami and all people” by seeking and receiving Mediation, and living a life of faith that pleases Kami. In a sense, this is a movement promoting and developing faith life, aiming to realize “the Way of Kami & all people”, whereby Kami and people would be mutually fulfilled.

Courses of Action: For the mediators the movement is: encouraging faith in their own lives; reflecting Kami’s words, “If people listen to and accept Kami’s teachings, they can find relief;” reawakening people to Kami’s blessings; working on strengthening the “relationship between Kami and humanity.” For the believers it is: seeking and receiving Mediation and engaging in faith training in worship halls and wherever possible; seeking the way of life Kami wishes for us and helping others understand Kami’s blessings.

The Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato, Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo sorrowfully passed away on April 29, at the age of 62. He submitted his resignation on March 16, due to ill health and the need for intensive medical treatment.

The Reverend Sato was born in Hiroshima Prefecture in 1949, and was ordained a Konkokyo minister in 1975. He was named Director of the Konkokyo Research Institute in 1993. He was



Our Spiritual Leader Konko-Sama and his wife offering a sacred evergreen branch at Reverend Sato's 30th-Day Memorial Service at the Grand Service Hall



With Much Sorrow, Many Mourn the Passing of The Reverend Mitsutoshi Sato

devoted to his study and research of Konkokyo.

Konko-Sama, our Spiritual Leader, assigned Reverend Sato to the position of Chief Administrative Director. Upon this appointment, Reverend Sato formed the first cabinet and adopted the basic policy of "To enhance Toritsugi Mediation and to realize the Salvation." He carried out a number of activities to promote and realize "The Way of Kami and people." This was in keeping with a basic precept of Konko-Sama, which has guided believers in the propagation of church and a life of faith.

During his tenure, Reverend Sato's cabinet built the Konko Kita (north) Wing for faith training, resting and lodging, and reinforced the Grand Service Hall in preparing for earthquake. In commemoration of the 150th Anniversary of Konkokyo Establishment, they held the lecture meetings and the Head Ministers' Faith training session, and in addition, made an animation "Konko-Sama, Tales of Toritsugi Mediation."

In 1993 when he was working at the Research Institute, Reverend Sato traveled to Korea to participate in a symposium of exchange between Japanese

and Korean religious scholars. There he tried to find Reverend Wongyu Lee, the former Head Minister of the Konko Church of Seo-daemun in Korea. This visit became the impetus to rekindle propagation of Konkokyo in Korea, the first of its kind since World War II.

Reverend Sato served as director for four years and was reassigned to a second term of the position on September 18, 2010. Until his death he worked earnestly for the 130th anniversary of the Founder, which will be held in 2013.

Let us pray for the Mitama spirit of Reverend Sato.



Delivering the Face to Faith by e-mail

"Face to Faith" is now available through e-mail. The Konkokyo International Center (KIC) has been printing its "Face to Faith" newsletter and distributing it through the mail. KIC has begun distributing its newsletter by PDF file, via e-mail. Color pictures are sharper and clearer. And through this electronic means, we are doing our share in preserving our natural resources. Please try it. If you would like to receive your newsletter by e-mail, please contact us at kic@konkokyo.or.jp.

The English Website of Konkokyo Headquarters Just Renewed! Check it out!

URL: <http://www.konkokyo.or.jp/eng/bri/index.html>

Philosophy on Life, Faith on Life 3

Lectured by Reverend Yoshitsugu Fukushima

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



The Relationship Between the Universe and Human Beings

Animals or plants live in accordance with the natural movement of Heaven and Earth. Only human beings resist, confront or ignore the natural workings of Heaven and Earth. Human beings have attempted to shape history through the creation of complex and sophisticated tools and machines and by designing and building civilizations, an accomplishment beyond the ability of any other living creatures.

Let us think about the capabilities of human beings, while at the same time, reviewing a revelation from Kami on August 19, 1873 of the lunar calendar:

Though they live between Heaven and Earth, people are unaware of Kami's blessings.

Shrines, temples, and homes stand on Kami's land. Unaware of this, people only examine the Days and Directions and commit irreverences to Kami and encounter hardships due to their accumulated offenses.

They are to practice faith and receive divine blessings.

Tenchi Kane No Kami has sent Ikigami Konko Daijin to the people to give blessings and teachings and to have them prosper forever.

Kami is Kami because of people, and people are people because of Kami. Both continue to uphold each other.

(Konko Daijin Oboegaki 21-21)

The "accumulated offences" in the above passage refers not to just one offence committed by our ancestors but to the accumulated or totality of irreverence to Kami that all of us have committed. Konko Daijin was critical of those who thought it enough to simply follow the dictates of the Days and Directions in their daily lives. For Konko Daijin, these individuals were merely trying to keep Kami away or avoid Kami from themselves while continuing to be allowed to live

within the virtue of Kami and receive unlimited blessings. Konko Daijin believed such attitude was irreverent to Kami, as it was an attempt to escape from Kami based only upon a person's own convenience.

The passage also reveals that the places where we live, the space between Heaven and Earth, and the Earth itself, in other words, the entire universe is part of Kami, or, more simply, Kami's land. If I used another person's land or possession without asking permission, I would naturally be accused of theft, trespassing, selfishness, arrogance and the like from a secular and legal perspective. However, if we open our eyes more fully, we can see the truth that the basis of all aspects of life is gifted by Kami and entrusted to us by Kami.

In order to fully understand to the idea that "Tenchi Kane No Kami is Tenchi, the Universe," we need to dramatically change our way of living and thinking. Konko Daijin was trying to reveal to us that we are being requested by Kami to realize how we have continually been irreverent to Kami (the Universe) in our life and that we should acknowledge and apologize for our continued irreverence and convert our life.

We should be careful about mindlessly following the trends of the world and re-examine our fundamental view of life from a different viewpoint. Simply agreeing with the major trends of public opinion and conforming to the social norms is not always in accord with the principle of the Universe. We must develop beyond the stereotypes and not be swayed by the trends of the world, just as Konko Daijin did in his time. By learning what actions Konko Daijin took at the beginning of the Meiji Era and utilizing that knowledge as a base for ourselves, we must reconsider our present way of life (e.g. the protection of natural environment) and affect a similar change for ourselves in our lifetime.

From Kyoten

Society today is knowledge-oriented. People create logical explanations for events without recognizing the divine favors of Tenchi Kane No Kami. This is the reason why difficulties increase. Logical explanations cannot solve problems. (*Gorikai III Kyoso Gorikai 22*)

Business Trip to Korea

Konkokyo International Center (KIC) makes a semianual business trip to Korea. Reverend Masafumi Kimoto, staff member of KIC, visited Korea from April 19 to 25 on this occasion. On April 21, he participated in Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Service, which was conducted by Reverend Jin Koo Lee, representative of Konkokyo of Korea. In spite of the rainy weather, many believers from different locations attended the spectacular event.

While Reverend Kimoto interacted with many believers, he talked with one particular believer who was going to stay at Konkokyo Headquarters as a trainee. He listened to this



believer's serious feelings about Konko Faith, Korea, and the problems about propagation.

Reverend Kimoto said, "This trip gave me a blessed experience. I was surprised that a believer in Korea is motivated to become a minister of Konkokyo, even though the relationship between Japan and Korea has never been smooth over a long history. Also, I recognized Kami's working behind this, and I felt the prayers and wishes of ministers who were dedicated to the propagation of Konkokyo in Korea. I would like to link this experience to KIC's working for the future."

New Intern Welcomed

KIC welcomed a new member, intern Reverend Masako Fujimura from Konko Church of Sanda in Hyogo Prefecture. She has taken part in Konkokyo Fogel, one of the Konkokyo's youth development activities, from her childhood, and is liked by children particularly for her cheerful personality. She told about

her aspirations regarding her training at KIC as follows:

"The time had come and I entered Konkokyo Seminary last year. At first I intended to go back to my church upon graduation. But an encounter with international trainees changed my mind. Their attitude of faith is impressive. I wanted to follow their example and I wanted to be helpful to many people all over the world.

I think this training is a present from Kami. I am happy to be involved in international matters, in which I have been interested. I am also grateful

to do my missionary work using English.

My faith and knowledge are still poor but I would like to work for Kami with great pleasure and joy. Then I would like to grow up to be helpful for people and society."

Please expect her development through experiences at KIC from now on!



The New Anime DVD Released

The animated movie, "Konko-Sama - Tales of Toritsugi Mediation 2" was created by Konkokyo Headquarters. In this DVD, there are two stories, "Offering from a True Heart" and "The Kami in Our Heart," that show how the Toritsugi Mediation of our Founder, Konko Daijin was. The pair of animes, which are about 30 minutes long, is recorded on a single DVD in Japanese and English. Also, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish subtitled versions are available. If you are interested in this DVD, please contact KIC.



FACE TO FAITH NO. 73 VOL. 19-3 issued by

Konkokyo International Center

E-mail: kic@konkokyo.or.jp Tel: +81-(0)3-3818-3701 Fax: +81-(0)3-3818-3793 Twitter: @konkokyo_kic

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

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