

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Boys & Girls Association Convention!

On August 19, the Boys & Girls Association convention was held, with the attendance of Rev. Kazumoto Kubo from BGA Headquarters.

For the first time in four years, association members gathered together at the Mission HQ to show God the Parent and Oyasama their sincerity as they performed the service. Following the convention, members enjoyed the game and food booths set up around the Multipurpose Hall!

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyo.com

September 2023

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

— *The Comeback of Records* —

This month, we will hold our Autumn Memorial Service. Let us walk on the path each day, remembering that our current path was paved by our predecessors who worked to spread the teachings.

Also, September is “the month to focus on nioigake.” Let us focus on nioigake, imparting the fragrance of the teachings, even more than we usually do, so that we can get even one step closer to the Joyous Life world.

When I arrived in the United States as a high school student in 1977, the main way to listen to music was using a cassette tape or record player. I brought a portable radio cassette recorder as part of my carry-on luggage when I moved from Japan to the United States.

Back then, most Japanese high school students owned the “SONY1980,” but I wanted to show off, so I bought the “SONY1990” that had a larger speaker. I am not sure if the “SONY1980” had the

same functions, but the “SONY1990” had an audio mixing function that allowed you to connect an electric guitar and use it as an amp.

Further, you could connect a microphone to it and record your voice. When I was going to high school, I stayed at the Central Fresno Church. The minister, Rev Masutsugu Yukimoto, was in charge of a show called “Tenrikyo Time” at a local radio station. He would give a talk every week, and there were times he would use my cassette player to record his talk.

As it was called a “radio cassette player,” it could not play CDs, Compact

(continued on page 18)

Coming Up

* Autumn Grand Service Sermon (10/15)

- Bishop Fukaya (E)

* Women’s Assoc. District Conventions

- Los Angeles District: 10/22 @ 10AM

- San Francisco District: 10/28 @ 10AM

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VOLUME L (50)

September, 2023

published by: TENRIKYO MISSION HEADQUARTERS IN AMERICA
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August Monthly Service Prayer

August 20, 2023

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, who is enshrined in this altar, I, Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya, Bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Dear God the Parent, You created human beings and this world, where there was no form. With the arrival of the promised time, You taught us Your direct and ultimate Teaching by revealing Yourself through Oyasama as Your Shrine and showed us the path of single-hearted salvation.

Since then, these teachings have spread to the world, and we have been blessed with those who lean on Oyasama's Divine Model and serve the path in America and Canada.

We are truly grateful for Your blessings and are striving toward world salvation. On this fine day, we will now hold our August monthly service, and receiving truth of Jiba, we service performers will unite our minds to joyously perform the seated service and service dance.

We Yoboku and followers have gathered here today, with many Boys and Girls Association members, to express our gratitude for Your daily blessings and to ask for Your continued benevolence. In witnessing our spirited singing of the Service Songs, we ask that You, God the Parent, become spirited as well.

Yesterday, with the attendance of Rev. Kazumoto Kubo of the Boys and Girls Association Headquarters, we were able to successfully hold our Boys and Girls Association Service Convention. We are truly grateful. We ask that You help us nurture our youth to become Yoboku who will lead the path going forward.

Also, today, in place of our usual monthly service sermon, Rev. Kubo will deliver a Vertical Mission Seminar lecture. Please make this an opportunity to renew our minds and to take our next first steps in nurturing the successors of the path.

Further, next month, September, is the month to focus ourselves on nioigake, imparting the fragrance of the teachings. So I ask all of us Yoboku and followers to strive to spread the teachings in our diocese.

In this seasonable time leading up to our 90th Anniversary, I would like for all of us in this diocese to unite our minds and strive for spiritual maturity. We pledge to dedicate ourselves to the path in high spirits each day towards the realization of the Joyous Life world.

God the Parent, we humbly ask for You to accept our minds of sincerity so that, even one day sooner, the hearts of all people will be purified and that this world will be transformed into one in which all people help one another. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

Vertical Mission Seminar by Rev. Kazumoto Kubo

Hello everyone at Mission Headquarters of America. My name is Kazumoto Kubo. All my English-speaking friends of the Church call me Mo, so please call me Mo.

I am very honored to be invited here as a committee member of the Boys & Girls Association Headquarters. I have always wanted to visit here.

Awareness of Your Own Causality

I studied music at a university in New York from 2006 to 2009. At that time, I could not find a place to live easily, and through a truly fortuitous encounter, I met Rev. Sasaki and I was kindly offered a place to stay at his missionary station at the beginning.

I came to the U.S. to study jazz drumming, which I had been doing seriously for a long time. Sasaki Sensei's missionary center had a basement, and I was allowed to stay there for a while. There, I found his son Hiro's drums and was able to practice with them. This was such a coincidence. Then, when I went to the school, I was to gain admission after passing an audition. When I



Rev. Kazumoto Kubo is the head minister of the Koujimachi Grand Church.

went to the school and looked up at the building next door, I saw a red flag that said, "Tenri" written on it. Coincidentally, my school was right next to the Tenri Cultural Institute.

There, Rev. Okui, who was then the director of the Cultural Institute and also the manager of ARUSU at Tenri University, supported me and gave me my first gig at a reception party at the Cultural Institute.

This gave me the opportunity to form a band with a wide variety of people from different ethnic backgrounds during my stay, and I was able to perform music other than jazz at various venues in New York

City.

I came to the U.S. to do what I love, but more importantly, I was able to study Tenrikyo through the faith and attitude of all the wonderful friends I met in this country, who later turned out to be a great treasure for me in my life.

At the suggestion of Rev. Sasaki, I decided to do Judo every Saturday. At that time, Bishop Morishita said to me, “Mo-kun, let’s do it together,” and he applied Newaza (the ground techniques) with tremendous force. I tapped immediately. I was first surprised by his strength.

Since then, I practiced Judo every week without fail during my stay. I was also participating in the Monthly Service, and was also allowed to perform Gagaku, with which I had a little bit of experience at my church. I had dreadlocks at the time, and my hair was always sticking out of my hat.

At that time, when I would go to the New York Center, we would perform the service or monthly service in the small space. Then it came time to demolish the south hall. Rev. Morishita used heavy machinery to break the concrete into pieces and we all sweated as we carried the heavy, large chunks of concrete to create the

parking lot on the kitchen side.

I just happened to be staying right during the middle of this construction.

The construction of the foundation was filled with the truth of many people. People engaged in the construction to receive God’s blessings, even putting their own personal surgeries on hold. I am sure that what I saw was only a small part of what went on, but I was able to learn the truth of all people coming together.

As a student at the time, there wasn’t much I could do, but I made a promise to God to visit and worship every day during my summer vacation.

Since I grew up in a church, I’ve seen many followers coming to church to pray, but for the first time, I had the experience of spending 45-minutes taking the subway and bus to visit the church myself.

I did hinokishin, which involved mixing concrete and building an outside staircase up to the sanctuary under the blazing sun. When I walked up the stairs many years later, I remembered the taste of the cold, delicious tea that was served to me at that time.

My fondest memory is of sanding the shrine with Jiro Morishita. Then, we all put the shrine into the sanctuary together.

We talked about many things over drinks in the evening.

The construction of the New York Center was completed. However, just before it was completed, the law had changed and the gas work had to be postponed, so the installation ceremony had to be postponed.

My wife was doing hinokishin as a Joshi seinen at the time and because of that, we were allowed to extend the stay for one year. The day I was originally scheduled to return to Japan happened to be the month following the installation ceremony.

In the end, my short stay in the U.S. lasted from the demolition of the previous building to the installation ceremony for the completion of the new sanctuary. I was also able to be there for the most eventful time of the center, its 30th anniversary and the time of two Head Ministers of the Center.

So far, I have used the word coincidence a lot.

At that time, I thought I had decided everything, did everything by my own efforts, purchased my own ticket, and acted on my own.

I thought that in the midst of all this, coincidences came together and many things worked well overall.

However, were these things really

a coincidence?

No, it was not.

Fourteen years have passed since then and I feel that everything was significant and that God was guiding me. After I returned home, I realized that without God's blessings and the virtue of my parents, things would not have worked out the way they did.

Here is my grandfather's furoshiki, the Japanese wrapping cloth, from seventy years ago. This was told to my grandfather by the second Shinbashira at the time he decided to become a world missionary, "The design of this furoshiki depicts the places at which I stopped when I traveled around the world."

My church had no branch churches overseas, and I had never even been on an airplane until I was 18 years old.

Now, looking back, I have been allowed to go to the countries depicted here by working for the Young Men's Association and the Boys and Girls Association headquarters. I marvel at how such connections were made.

When I think about this, I feel that I have not come to this place by my own will, but God has allowed me to come here.

My grandfather, whom I mentioned earlier, was involved in compiling

the scriptures and working at church headquarters, but soon after that, he passed away for rebirth at a young age. He was 52.

When my father was 16, my grandfather passed away for rebirth, and when my father was 8, my grandmother passed away for rebirth. I can only imagine that it was very difficult for my father and his siblings for what they had gone through.

When I was 16 years old, the same age when my father lost his father, my father became ill.

I remember calling my mother on the phone, distressed by the difficult situation I was going through as a student.

At that time, I asked him to tell me again why he grew up in the Tenrikyo church, which I had almost forgotten and what kind of message God gave him, and he said, "How fortunate we are."

What I am trying to portray here is the awareness of "innen", or causality.

As I have just mentioned, there is always meaning to the events in our lives that seem painful and difficult at the time. There is also meaning in the grateful figures that people of the past left behind for me for the present.

As a result, the fact that I am standing here today is due to my

faith in Tenrikyo which I have been following all along, it all makes sense.

It all means that God the Parent is trying to lead us to the Joyous Life.

I am not making my own way. God is letting us go through the path.

Now, I realize it deeply as I walk this path.

How about all of you?

Some of you may have been brought here by your predecessors, and some of you may be the first generation to come here to practice on your own.

We must first realize that it is no coincidence that you are here and that there was a causality that led you to the way of the path, and we must pass this on to our children, grandchildren, and the children that follow so that we will not forget and after three years, five years, decades, or even two or three generations, there will definitely come a time when you say, "Ah, I understand!"

In other words, I believe that vertical missionary work first means being aware of one's own causality, and then, when the time comes, it is important to pass this self-awareness of your own causalities on to your children, grandchildren, and future generations.

In this way, as we go through generations of faith through vertical

missionary work, what does God the Parent want us to pass on to our children, grandchildren, and future generations? It is without a doubt, the Joyous Life. It is “the way of life” and “faith” that if we follow this path, we will definitely be able to live a Joyous Life.

Passing on the Joyous Life

The Boys & Girls Association’s founding philosophy is written on its website. It says, “You can only approach the Joyous Life when there is “vertical mission,” in which the joy of the parents’ own faith is transmitted from parents to children and from children to grandchildren.

We can only move closer to the Joyous Life world when the parents themselves feel the joy of faith and pass it on to their children, and the children to the grandchildren.

Divine Words

Here, I would like to share with you some specific ways that you, your families, and your partners can become more joyful in your lives. I hope you will share it with those around you.

It is ... to go visit Tenrikyo churches

with your family to pray and pay respect to God the parent.

What? That’s it?

That’s what you all may have thought, However, actually, there is a little technique to it, so please listen to me carefully.

I arrived at the sanctuary with my wife and children.*Clap, clap, calap, clap* We clap our hands and bow our heads deeply.

Breathing in, I give thanks to God the Parent:

“Thank you very much for bringing us through these days without any difficulties. Of course, it is the blessings of God the Parent and Oyasama that our family is happy and also it is because my kind and beautiful wife is always there to welcome me at home. Thank you for blessing our church and our family with such a wonderful wife..... I deeply THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!”

I thanked God in a subtle, audible volume so my wife can hear me ever so slightly....(LOL).

Then, a marvelous thing happened!

Later, as I walked down the corridor,...my wife was smiling. When the family sees the wife smiling, the children also become happy and joyous.

So everyone, Please give it a try!

The important thing here is “words.” Oyasama told Isaburo Masui about the relationship between husband and wife: “One word is the key.

One word is the key. One breath out, one breath in, one breath out, and it will all settle down within.”

What kind of words do you use in your home every day?

And what kind of words fill the air among your partners and those close to you?

Thank you for everything! Thank you very much! Thank you! Thank you! ?

One of my predecessors taught me that a married couple must say thank you at least fifty times a day, and I was surprised to hear that! That was a wake up call for me.

A family that is forever grateful for what their immediate family and partners do for them is overflowing with gratitude. However, when we take things for granted, gratitude disappears.

The “Joyous Life” is found in familiar words, and I believe it is being transmitted to us without even realizing it.

At this year’s annual executive meeting of the Boys and Girls Association, the Chairman said,

“Even a small and simple word from an adult, such as saying ‘thank you,’ or thankful words of gratitude or complaints or even just a single word can have a large or small effect on a child’s heart.

If what an adult teaches does not match what the adult does, the child will have doubts.”

He also spoke about the importance of nurturing members themselves to grow more spiritually mature.

He also mentioned that “I believe that one of the most indispensable things for the Joyous Life is to “conduct” or “Deeds”.

By “deeds” I mean not only our words, but also the attitude we manifest with our eyes, ears, nose, mouth, hands, feet, male and female tools, everything.

These tools are originally meant for us to utilize to see and hear the good in others and use them to please and help others.

To accomplish this, it is important to think of the other person, lean close to them, and accommodate them with a humbleness.

Harmonizing the heart. Putting hands together. In kanji characters, it is written as “Shi Awaseru” meaning to harmonize with each other, it also sounds like “Happiness”(or Shi

Awase).

Originally, God the Parent says that married couples, partners, parents, children and siblings all have different hearts or thoughts.

However, in this context, we should always be synchronizing with others on a daily basis. Put yourself in the other person's shoes and match your heart from the same perspective. It is important to communicate with others.

However, to be selfish and think only of oneself, and not be in agreement with the other person, is called a misunderstanding of the heart. (The hand gesture of "Kokoro chigai wa denaoshi ya", or "if you entertain wrong thoughts, you are to start anew").

Enjoy the Happiness That Comes to You

God says, "Happiness is to learn to support and help each other and become a mind that is in harmony with each other. Enjoy it. Beyond that is the joyous life of human beings."

The joyous life of Tenrikyo does not get passed along in a household atmosphere of differences.

When those of a church, a household, partners, or those close

to each other harmonize in a cheerful atmosphere, a sound is emitted. That is the kind of cheerful atmosphere that is transmitted.

With God as the core, vertical missionary work is also transmitted because people share their faith in a trusting and secure manner as parents and children bring their hearts together on a daily basis.

Heart

Above all, the most important thing in vertical missionary work is the parental heart.

More specifically, it is not about the words or attitude on the surface, but rather about the bottom of the heart, the true intention.

When I returned to Japan from New York, I immediately attended the Spiritual Development Course, Shuyoka, then the Headquarters Hinokishin, and the live-in hinokishin at the residence of the Shinbashira.

When I returned to Japan, many wonderful musicians and entertainer friends asked me to work, especially to perform on the stage, something I had longed to do as a student.

I turned them all down and explained about Tenrikyo to them.

Now, those friends are very

active in the music industry and are experiencing great success and even performing at the closing ceremony of the recent Olympics.

After I became the head minister of my own church, someone said this to my parents.

“I was surprised that you allowed your child to do what he wanted to do abroad. Didn’t you think that he might not come back and lose faith in Tenrikyo?”

I had never heard the answer to this question from my parents myself, so I wondered how they answered.

Then, I heard that my father replied, “I never once thought that he wouldn’t come back. I believed in my son.”

I am sure that deep down in my parent’s hearts, their true feeling was:

“This path is absolutely wonderful!” “I definitely feel that he will follow the path. I am sure that he will.”

This is something that I personally feel as I raise my four children.

I tell my children that the service is important and that this is how they will be enlightened, and I talk to them

about faith in various situations.

However, what about the depths of my own heart?

When I myself tell them things that do not come from the heart, the children listen with reluctance, and they do things because they have no choice.

However, when I am spirited and do things from the bottom of my heart, the children listen to what I say and do it together with me willingly.

It is very interesting.

At the Board of Directors New Year’s meeting, I was told that the Shinbashira quoted the Osashizu given to Tamae Nakayama when she was about 12 or 13 years old,

Children, even being children, are born with their own hearts and minds, and they are human beings with their own personalities. It is our responsibility as adults to watch over them with all our hearts and minds, and to raise them with all our sincerity.

Children are not the property of their parents. Therefore, they do not grow up as their parents wish or expect them to grow up, and they will not necessarily have the same faith. They will grow up according to their

parents' hearts.

If parents themselves truly think it is good, truly like it, and always have a true heart, then the children will want to imitate their parents even if you try to stop them.

Finally,

At the New Year's executive meeting, the Shinbashira stated that since the Divine Model left behind by the Oyasama is more than a hundred years ago and it is inevitable that we may feel that it is not relevant in our own lives, but, still.....

The Divine Model is a path that all people who are striving for the Joyous Life must follow, no matter what circumstances they are in at any given time...It is essential for us to always ask ourselves how we can follow the path of the Hinagata and ponder over it.

Considering these words, I believe that Nurturing Members should learn from the three specific examples of the "Divine Model" that are indicated in Instruction Four.

First, "When you drink water, it tastes of water."

These are the words that Oyasama conveyed to Kokan and I believe they contain all of the vertical guidance of the Joyous Life.

Please imagine what kind of

environment, or situation Oyasama was in when She mentioned this.

I don't think She was being overly expressive in Her words. I'm sure She said softly and sincerely, "If you drink the water, it tastes like water." "How fortunate we are."

I believe that because Oyasama uses soft, gentle, positive "words" and has the "attitude" of always wanting to help others, which always comes through with sincerity, and the parental love that comes from the bottom of Her heart, even in situations we would normally have negative human thoughts, we can easily understand them and settles into our hearts.

I believe that everything depends on the mind, and this gesture itself is Oyasama's Divine Model, and this is what vertical guidance is all about.

Buds Sprout From Knots

In the same way, when there is a knot in life, in order to realize that it is God the Parent's intention and to realize it cheerfully, we need an example of the Divine Model that Oyasama left for us as a reference.

For me, the most memorable thing was watching my parents become cheerfully enlightened through faith

in the midst of difficulties that had originally knocked their spirits down.

I believe that not only during good times, but especially during those difficult times is when the faith gets passed on.

“If you save others, you shall also be saved.”

As the church has grown over the generations, we no longer have to go through the hardships of our parents’ generation. However, when we think about how we are still following the “Divine Model,” instead of having to go through the hardships of our predecessors, I believe that it would be good for us to spend more time reaching out to our followers and those who are not.

I aim to be a church that is open to the outside world and before I knew it, I found myself running a children’s cafeteria, a food pantry, a shelter for domestic violence victims, and a homeless shelter for young people. I was asked to take care of some Ukrainian refugees, so they live at our church with us.

I believe that the nature of salvation work is changing as times change, or depending on the environment, the content of the salvation work will

naturally change.

For example, if social problems and people’s lifestyles change here in the U.S., it would be good to adapt to those changes.

As Oyasama said, “You cannot complete the day without helping another.” I just want to reach out to those in front of me with a parental heart as if they are my own adorable children.

I believe that it is good if we have the heart of wanting to help others.

With all of this happening, my four children seem to be watching all of this.

They are not the ones being raised or taken care of but on the side of helping and doing salvation work by playing with the Ukrainian children with whom they do not speak the same language.

I also naturally explain all the social issues to my children, such as wars, child poverty, domestic violence, and the like, so they become interested in the news and other topics themselves.

Then, they started asking themselves, “Why can’t people get along?” or “Why do these problems occur?” and have become children who have started to think about and question the issues of the world.

Because of this, I truly believe that

they will realize for themselves how wonderful this path is and that this is “the true path that will enlighten the world.”

The Shinbashira stated at the New Year’s executive meeting,

The path of the Joyous Life that Oyasama laid out for us is the one true path that will settle the world and link the people of the world with joy. However, even this path, no matter what era or region, if there are no people to follow the path of the Divine Model, then it may disappear. The growth and prosperity of the path of the Joyous Life begins with those of us who are steadily practicing the teachings daily with the Divine Model as our goal. Then from the joy that is gained from the practice of the Divine Model, we can spread these teachings to the world and will definitely become the motivation to continue the path forever.

Therefore, first of all, let us be aware of our own personal causalities of being guided to this path, and with the joy of faith, let us strive to follow the Divine Model of Oyasama in our daily lives. Then, let us move to lead those who do not yet know this path while practicing what we can do to help others in today’s society and community in today’s churches. I am

sure that the way we do this will have a great impact on the future members of the Boys and Girls Association. Let us be in high spirits as we do this together.

This concludes my talk on vertical missionary work.

Thank you very much.

(translation by S. Fujimoto)

*Editor’s note: You can view Rev. Kubo’s talk on the Mission HQ homepage! Please use the QR Code below to be directed to the video!



News and Announcements

SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SERVICE (9/17)

Officiant: Bishop Assistants: Marlon Okazaki, Kazumi Kawakami Attendants: Motohiro Iwahashi, Ray Tadokoro

Director: Shigemi Torizawa Offerings Officiant: Gary Yashiki Sermon: Noriyuki Sasaki (J)

1) CHURCH AFFAIRS

Divine Sanctions:

North America Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service, Request for Temporary Change of Service Date, Request to Change Church Affiliation

Divine Sanction: July 26, 2023, Succeeding Minister: Rev. Noriko Kitai,

Enshrinement Service: October 1, 2023

Mission Headquarters: Request for Special Service

Planned Divine Sanction: October 26, 2023

San Francisco Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Planned Divine Sanction: October 26, 2023 Head Minister: Tomoyoshi Tanaka,

Enshrinement Service: December 2, 2023

2) TENRIKYO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (TLI) & ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

TLI applications for the Japanese Language Department (the 2024-2025 academic year) are now available. Ichiretsukai Scholarship applications for Japanese Language Department applicants are also available. For those who wish to apply, please notify the Mission Headquarters by August 15. Additional information is as follows:

Form	Application Period	Fee
TLI Japanese Lang. Dept.	August 15~September 20, 2023	\$5.00 for each application form
Ichiretsukai Scholarship	August 15~September 20, 2023	Free of charge (for TLI applicants)

The application information about TLI's Oyasato Fusekomi Department is as follows. If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible because we need to order application forms.

Application period: October 1 to 31, 2023 (The admission office is not open on Sundays, national holidays, and on the morning of October 26.)

Eligibility: Those who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Those who completed formal education or some sort of recognized schooling for a minimum of 12 years in their home country.
2. Those who are children of church head ministers or fellowship heads, or someone equivalent, and are/will be Yoboku at the time of entrance.
3. Those who graduated/are expected to graduate from TLI's Japanese Language Department this academic year or those who have passed N2 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
4. Upon graduation, those who are going to engage in Tenrikyo activities in their home

country in the future.

3) AUTUMN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Mission Headquarters will conduct its Autumn Memorial Service on September 16 (Sat), from 7PM.

4) 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PRAYER SERVICE

On October 25 (Wed) following the morning service dance practice at the Church HQ Foundress' Sanctuary, we will perform a prayer service (seated service) so that we may successfully conduct our 90th anniversary celebration. If you are planning to return to Jiba at that time, please join us in the East Worship Hall to perform the service, pray at the Foundress' Sanctuary & Memorial Hall, and then disband.

5) ALL YOBOKU ACTIVITY DAY

In order to “promote people who live in the same area to encourage and inspire each other, in order to further engage in their own and their church’s anniversary activities, during the period of ‘three years, one thousand days’ that leads up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, the “All Yoboku Activity Day” will be conducted in each district. We invite you all to participate; please confirm the dates and times with your district representatives.

6) MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

The Mission HQ has set up a box in the office to collect donations for the Maui wildfires relief until October 15. All donations collected will be sent to the Mission HQ in Hawaii, which will then be used towards the Maui wildfire disaster relief.

Please write checks to “Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America,” and write “Maui Donation” on the memo line. If you require a receipt for tax purposes, please write your name, address, and donation amount on a slip and include this with your check or cash donation; thank-you letters will be sent out from the Mission HQ at a later date.

Please do not send cash by mail. Also, you can donate directly to relief funds by accessing the web page below:

Hawaii Community Foundation Maui Strong fund -<https://www.hawaiicommunityfoundation.org/strengthening/maui-strong-fund>

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Missionary Committee

* We are planning to hold a “Yoboku Gathering” in November. Details are under consideration.

Nurturing & Educational Committee

* This year's in-person Oyasato Seminar preliminary session will be held at the Mission HQ from December 28~30. The OS subcommittee is currently contacting students that are eligible and sending out the registration link to those who are interested.

* The TSA Winter Conference is planned to be held at the Mission HQ from December 26 (Tue) ~ 29 (Fri). Program: Lecture, HARP Activity, mochi rice pounding, ski/snowboard trip. Applications will be distributed this month.

Public Relations Committee

* We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight everyone's efforts and activities leading up to the 90th anniversary of the Mission Headquarters so that we can share our events & ideas with all of our congregation members. Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity reports & pictures to us (Kawakami: kamishuyo@hotmail.com or Hayashi: takhayashi@gmail.com).

Women's Association

- * District Conventions: Chicago District - September 24 (Sun) from 1PM @ Midwest Church
New York District – September 24 (Sun) from 1PM @ New York Center
Los Angeles District - October 22 (Sun) from 10AM @ Mission HQ
San Francisco District - October 28 (Sat) from 10AM via Zoom
- * Meetings with Committee Heads by the Chairwoman begin in September.

Boys & Girls Association

- * The Vertical Mission Seminar was held in August. The video of the seminar will be uploaded to the Mission HQ homepage.
- * Please conduct children's gatherings at your churches, so that BGA members may listen to stories about Oyasama and engage in hinokishin in their communities.

NY Center

- * August 22: Visit by Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations (TCI)
- * August 31: Bryton Wong (Honjima GC, NC Church) will be serving as staff at the New York Center for 6 months.
- * September 3: Nioigake Day district activities (40 participants)
- * October 14: YMA/YWG Joint Assembly

Discs, which were not yet commercialized in 1980. There were no CD players for cars, and the newest car audio systems only had a radio and cassette player.

I believe that the next thing to come out was the Digital Audio Tape, or DAT. With this system, sound was recorded digitally onto media that looked like a cassette tape. Although the audio quality of DAT was excellent, DAT became extinct due to its inferior usability compared to Mini Discs (MD) and CDs.

The university that I went to had a record store in the Student Union. I would buy records from time to time, but during my first or second year, as CDs were gaining popularity, this record store closed. Before they closed, they had a closing sale, and I bought a few records at a discount. I still have these records in my home in Tenri.

When I graduated from university, I brought home the turntable I had bought. I replaced my old turntable with this new one on my home audio system, and listened to records on it. However, I would listen to records less and less, bought CD's instead, and listen to CDs more and more on my CD radio cassette player. The reason for this is that CDs are much more portable and easier to take care of.

And now, several decades later, the

songs can be transferred from CDs onto computers, and we can listen to these digital audio files.

It is not that I cannot live without music, but when I write my service prayers and articles, I do so while listening to easy-listening-music or songs I listened to during high school or college (late 70s and early 80s music) by connecting my computer to a speaker. This helps me to concentrate when I write.

When I listen to music on a CD, there is none of the "surface noise" that occurs when listening on a vinyl record. However, I feel like sound on the CD is missing the deeper, extra layer of sound of vinyl. It is true that the sound from the CDs is very clear, but I personally feel that it lacks the warm sound of records.

I have heard that there are young listeners who prefer the sound of records, and I am guessing the reason is close to what I just mentioned above. Some say that the surface noise of the needle on the records is very pleasing. Some also like the jackets the records come in.

When asked, "Why do you buy records?" young people give replies such as, "I want to physically own the music," "I like the act of playing the record on the turntable," "I like to read the booklet that comes with the record," "I want to support my favorite artist," "I like look-

ing at the records,” and “I want to immerse myself into the album.”

This may be part of the reason, but in 2021, the total sales on records in the US was over one billion dollars for the first time in 35 years. A female American singer's record sold over one million copies in three months, and most of the people who purchased the records were Gen Z people who grew up downloading and listening to music on their smartphones.

Most Gen Z do not own records or CDs, so it is understandable that they have a desire to “physically own the records” or “look at records.” Gen Z do not necessarily need to listen to the records, as they find value in merely “owning the records” or by “supporting their favorite artists.” Statistically, half of the people who bought records in 2022 did not own a turntable.

I was surprised that records have made a comeback in this way, but being a person with an intimate relationship with records, I was delighted to hear this. Although this may sound arrogant, I am thinking, “People are finally understanding the merit and qualities of records.”

With the passage of time, old things can come to light again with a different kind of value. The younger generation who did not originally know about such

old things, seem to find “fresh value” in it now. I think this is a very interesting phenomenon.

For us, the teachings of Tenrikyo are not something that is “old.” Some people might say that the teachings are “old,” since Oyasama taught it 186 years ago, but the teachings do not change nor get old. It is true, however, that the perception, reception, and comprehension of the teachings may differ over time. Also, it could be true that by finding new perspectives on God the Parent's intention, a new interpretation or insight is gained.

Therefore, it is important to reflect on the teachings, Oyasama's Divine Model, and the path that our predecessors walked upon. That is, it is important to constantly seek God's intention, and to strive to align our minds with these intentions. Lastly, it is important to walk on the path with this mindset every day.

(translation by H. Kamio)

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TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

TENRIKYO came into existence on October 26, 1838, when God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, became revealed through Oyasama, Miki Nakayama, to save all humankind. God the Parent is God of Origin and God of Truth who created this world and has nurtured and protected us ever since.



God the Parent created human beings so that by seeing us lead the Joyous Life, God could share in our joy. Leading the Joyous Life is, therefore, the purpose of our existence. Since God is our Parent, we are all God's children; thus, we should realize that we are all brothers and sisters.

“With human beings : the body is a thing lent by God, a thing borrowed. The mind alone is yours.”
Osashizu : June 1, 1889

We are taught that we borrow our bodies from God the Parent and only our minds truly belong to us; further, through the proper use of our minds, we will be able to lead the Joyous Life.