



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

"When you put forth your best effort with gratitude and without demand, you will prosper."

Circulation is the Law of Nature. Clouds create rain, which penetrates the ground. Trees and plants absorb the groundwater through their roots. As they grow, they create oxygen, which we breathe to live. The rain also falls into rivers, ponds and oceans, sustaining fish and shellfish. The water in the ocean evaporates, forming clouds in the sky again.

Thus, everything on earth exists because of this natural circulation – just as our life is possible because of the circulation of blood throughout our bodies.

When you truly understand the importance of circulation, you will know how to live. Instead of expecting something from others, be thankful for what you have, and think about giving to others. This is the secret to creating happiness and prosperity in life.

APRIL 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service Clean-up for Grand Festival
Sat	7	9:30 am	Preparation for Spring Grand Festival
Sun	8	9:30 am	137 th Spring Grand Festival <i>Saito Goma</i> Service
Sun	15	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	29		Church Closed

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	8		Spring Grand Festival (in Sacramento)
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation L.A. Regional Board Mtg. / "Life in Your 20s"
Sun	29		Church Closed

MAY 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	6	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	13	9:30 am	Sunday Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	20	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	27	9:30 am	Appreciation Service <i>Joan-no-gi</i> (Plaque Burning)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	6	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	13	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	20	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother's Day Service
Sun	27	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation L.A. Regional Board Mtg. / "Life in Your 20s"



April “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who have passed away during that particular month. People of all faiths are welcome, so invite your friends and family members to attend.

The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, April 1, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Norma Tellez, Natsuko Nakatani, Masashi Russell Ota, Arthur Sakamoto, Susumu Suyeyasu, Henry Toshio Tateishi, Tsutomu Ben Tsuboi, Sally Yukiko Tsuboi, Keiji Tsuboi, Chiyoko Suzuki, Katherine Kazue Tanaka and Thomas Taro Takahashi.**

Because the Spring Festival is scheduled on the second Sunday in April, the “Never Forgotten” service will not be held at the L.A. Church in April.

Spring Grand Festival – Sunday, April 8

The Spring Grand Festival will be held at the Sacramento Church on Sunday, April 8, beginning at 9:30 am.

Attention parents: Fun activities are planned for children and teens during the Festival program.

A chartered bus from Los Angeles will leave the L.A. Church at 10 pm on Saturday night, April 7. Once again, through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, bus riders will be able to ride to Sacramento free of charge.



Attendees at the 2017 Spring Festival participate in the *Saito Goma* Fire Ceremony.

Sign Up for the Japan Tour Group

It's not too early to start planning to attend the 90th anniversary celebration of the Gedatsu Church in Japan this fall. A special tour group from America is being organized to attend the Grand Fall Festival at the Japan *Goreichi* and all U.S. members are encouraged to participate.

And here's a big incentive: **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito** has offered to pay one half of the airline travel fare for every attendee – and the *entire* fare for young people under the age of 25, or those not yet working full time.

The tour will leave from Los Angeles on October 11, with a three-day stay in Saitama, Japan, where tour participants will attend the Fall Festival on Sunday, October 14 (see photo below).

Four-day and optional 10-day tour packages are offered. Contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church if you are interested participating.



Board Directors Elected

Members of the Board of Directors of Gedatsu USA were elected in general membership meetings at the L.A. and Sacramento Churches in February. Elected to serve for a two-year term through 2019 are: **Joyce Reid**, chairman and secretary; **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**, vice-chairman; **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, treasurer; **Dave Ide**; **Tetsuya Matsumoto**; **Bishop Teruo Okano**; **Allen Shiroishi**; **Calvin Tanaka**; **June Tanaka**; and **Hisato Tsujimura**.

General Membership Meeting

In conjunction with the Spring Grand Festival in Sacramento on April 8, the Board of Directors will report highlights of its March Board and propagation meetings.



Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp July 26 – 29

Attention Gedatsu members!

If you have teenage children, grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews, urge them to participate in the Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp. Let them experience a wonderful opportunity to meet and bond with other Gedatsu youth, as they enjoy activities and deepen their faith together.

The Gedatsu Church is offering an exciting opportunity for our youth – ages 13 through 20 years – to participate in the Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp, which will be held over four days – from Thursday through Sunday, July 26-29 – based at the Sacramento Church.

Faith, friendship and fun – all for free!

The camp provides teens with a variety of enjoyable experiences – including outdoor adventures, group activities and games – designed to create an atmosphere of friendship and fun, while deepening their faith and understanding of Gedatsu.

The camp is free for participants. The church will provide all meals, transportation to outings, and sleeping /shower accommodations. Youths provide their own sleeping bags. All activities will be under the supervision of church leaders and youth counselors.

An investment in our youth, future

“Our Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp is an investment in our youth, who represent the future of our Gedatsu Church,” says **Rev. Naoya Okano**, who will serve as youth minister at the camp.

“The camp provides a unique opportunity for teens in our L.A. and Sacramento churches to gather with those who share their faith. Through a variety of fun activities, outings and team-building experiences, we hope they create lasting bonds to form a strong Gedatsu community for the future.”

Further details will be announced at the Spring Festival on April 8, at Sunday services and in future *Companion* issues.

A registration packet (including contact information, consent forms, camp rules, transportation needs, health questionnaire, etc.) must be completed.

The camp registration deadline is May 15, 2018.

Questions can be directed to:

- **Pauline Tomita**, 2018 youth camp coordinator, at patomita58@gmail.com or (415) 640-7123
- **Janet Hirayama** at jhirayama@roadrunner.com or (626) 330-8768 or
- **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church at la-branch@gedatsu-usa.org or (626) 288-1212.



A Parent's Love

Sermon by **Bishop Teruo Okano**

Los Angeles Church – Sunday, March 18, 2018

I would like to talk about a personal experience of some Gedatsu members in Japan.

One day, a young couple came to see me. Their 10-year-old son was suffering from depression and a condition called agoraphobia, in which he would panic or become anxious in certain situations or places. He refused to leave his room all day, only leaving to use the bathroom or to eat. He showered only once or twice a week. Needless to say, he refused to go to school.

Naturally, the parents were very concerned. They asked me, “What can we do to fix our son’s problem so that he can return to a regular life?”

I intuitively felt the cause of their son’s suffering was related in some way to their ancestors. So, I asked them to describe the personalities of their parents and grandparents, and the kinds of lives they lived.

The looks on the couple’s faces showed me their disappointment. Why was I asking about their parents and grandparents, when they were concerned about their son? However, I patiently asked them again and again. Gradually, they began telling me about their parents and grandparents.

The wife said that her grandfather owned a large farm and was very strict. In her grandfather’s time, it was common for multi-generational families to live together on the ancestral farm. The farms were run by the grandparents, and usually the eldest son, his wife and their children lived together with the grandparents. The grandfather managed the household finances, so the son and daughter-in-law needed his permission whenever they needed any money.

This sounds ridiculous – especially to Americans – but such traditions existed in Japan in that era.

The wife who came to see me was the eldest daughter of the farming son and his wife. When she was a child, she heard her mother often complaining to her father about the inconvenience of having to ask the grandfather’s permission to use money. Her father would listen quietly without looking up, as her mother complained to him. Those scenes were planted in her mind from childhood, leaving her with the belief, “My father was disgraceful and not trustworthy.” Her father had since died, but this negative image of her father remained seared in her memory.

After the wife related her story, I said to her, “Your father must have suffered and had a very difficult time. All fathers want to make their wives and children happy. They want to see their smiling faces. If your father complained to the grandfather, your parents and family might have needed to leave the farm and move elsewhere. If so, you probably would have never seen your grandparents again.”

I continued, “Your 10-year-old son is a reflection of your father’s regret and sadness. Please give deep appreciation to your son’s guardian angel for allowing him to show this to you. And sincerely apologize to your father’s spirit for misjudging and resenting his actions. Thank him for his great efforts as a father to care for his family and ensure their comfort and security.”

When I said these words, the wife was surprised at first, but soon after, she sincerely understood what I said and burst into tears. After she cried for a while, she repented to her father’s spirit for her attitude of contempt and disrespect toward him.

After the couple left, they went home. When they opened the door, their son greeted them at the entrance, saying, “Mommy and Daddy, *okaerinasai* – welcome back.” They hugged each other with great joy. They happily told me about this later.

We cannot solve our problems if we forget our obligations to those who are important in our lives.

Gedatsu Kongo taught us that we cannot solve our problems if we forget our obligations to those who are important in our lives. We cannot fully experience God’s presence or receive His blessings if we neglect to appreciate our parents. However, God will always support and guide us as we realize our wrongful thinking and take steps to correct it.

This is why it is so important for us to recite in our prayers: “I shall reciprocate the profound and immeasurable blessings I receive from My Parents.”

You are here today thanks to your parents. Sincere appreciation toward your parents will ultimately guide you to true happiness in your life. I hope you remember this important life lesson.



Q

I continue to mourn the death of my spouse. How can I cope and overcome my feelings of grief and loneliness?

A

I speak honestly from my own experience of loss when I say that I know of no way to easily

overcome your grief. Despite my years of Gedatsu study – as well as consoling members on the death of their loved ones – I deeply mourned the death of my wife six years ago, and I continue to miss her every day.

The death of a loved spouse can feel as if a heavy, dark cloud has hidden the sun from your life. The sky is only grayness. The once-green trees are dark brown. The darkness may seem to last forever.

The truth is, although you feel surrounded by darkness, the sun is always there, shining above the cloud. The sun is the unconditional love of the Universal Life Force, continually bestowing its boundless blessings. Unfortunately, when you are consumed with grief, you are unable to realize this divine grace from the universe. It is only through the love and guidance of this higher power, however, that you are able to slowly emerge from the darkness.

“The unconditional love of the universe is always there, guiding you to emerge from the darkness.”

This divine intervention is different for each person. As Gedatsu students, we have *Amacha* blessing and *Goho* practice, which allow us to spiritually connect with our loved ones and be consoled knowing that the closeness we had with our loved ones in life continues after their death. Sometimes, it may be a comforting vision of the loved one in a dream. These connections are blessings from guardian spirits and are an important part of the healing process.

The love of your family – as well as meaningful work, like a job or volunteering – helps you to cope with loss and focus on others, and not yourself. Even simple daily rituals, like washing dishes, cooking a meal or tidying the house, help to heal your heart.

In the end, no amount of logical reasoning, or even spiritual guidance, can help you to easily overcome the emotional impact of great loss. It is a slow, deeply personal process . . . but take heart. The unconditional love of the universe is always there, gently guiding you to emerge from the darkness.

Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe

A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 4 The World of Shipping

In the beginning of the year 1911, Eizo Okano (Gedatsu Kongo) was employed by the Uchida Kinzo Store. In June, the storeowner told him to work at the receiving dock of the Shimizu Shipping Company. The work was very hard, but Eizo acquired a knack for it, soon becoming a highly regarded employee. Even the director trusted him without reservation, saying, “The matter is safe in his hands.” The storeowner then decided to appoint Eizo as a manager – less than a year since he was apprenticed.

A solemn vow to his parents, ancestors and God

Eizo began to visit Kitamotojuku, his hometown, at midnight on a fixed date every month. Going first to the Tenmanten Shrine, he stood before the shrine and apologized with his entire heart for his misdeeds. He then walked to the grave of the Okano ancestors. He bowed deeply and apologized for his past impiety with tears in his eyes.

Eizo then went to the Okano home but did not enter. At the front gate, he knelt on the ground and bowed deeply, shedding tears and apologizing to his parents from the bottom of his heart. He silently promised his parents, “I’ll become a new man and will stake my life to succeed. I’ll surely be successful and practice filial piety as much as possible. Until then, I’ll see you from here every month.”

Eizo’s younger brother, Shoji (see photo, page 7), occasionally came to see him. Through Shoji, the Okano family received regular reports about Eizo and was relieved to learn about his situation.

Opportunities and aspirations

Eizo’s business at the receiving dock proceeded favorably. One day, he was invited to dine with the director of the Shimizu Shipping Company. The director said, “The owner of our company thinks highly of you and would like you to work for us.”

(Continued on page 6)

(Biography – Continued from page 5)

Although it was a great shock for the Uchida Kinzo Store, as a subcontractor, they could not refuse Eizo's request to leave. The storeowner reluctantly consented to Eizo's transfer to the Shimizu Shipping Company. Thus, Eizo took his first step into the shipping business.

Filled with high aspirations, Eizo started working at the Shimizu Shipping Company. He put his full effort into his job and mastered the work with remarkable speed. By New Year 1914, Eizo was promoted to manager – an exceptional accomplishment.

Six months later, Eizo resumed an intimate relationship with Aki Kumashiro, the *geisha* he had fallen in love with eight years earlier. A year later, Eizo became chief manager. Being financially self-sufficient, he decided to redeem Aki, but they mutually agreed not to formally marry. He also decided to establish a home of his own in Kagurazaka, Tokyo.

A rising star in the shipping business

The Shimizu Shipping Company ran briskly in a booming era for shipping. Eizo began to spend half a month at the Yokohama branch office, and the other half at the main office in Nihonbashi, Tokyo. He played a leading part in every department of the company, with seventy or eighty percent of the business under his control. During that time, Aki began operating a *geisha* house business in Kagurazaka, a venture that was more prosperous than expected.



These photos, taken in 1916, show a stylishly outfitted 35-year-old Eizo Okano, denoting his status as a leader in the Shimizu Shipping Company.

In 1916, Eizo started to rearrange the business, giving priority to domestic lines, and focusing efforts to build up the Northern Sea Route. Eizo bet on the profitable possibilities of Hokkaido.

One day, Eizo was introduced to Tatsuzo Hamada, owner of the Hokkai Shipping Store. Eizo sensed great character in Hamada, and their compatible spirits drew them close from their first meeting. Eizo promised Hamada to cooperate with each other hereafter. He made efforts to establish the Northern Sea Route business in cooperation with Hamada.

A grand dream to serve country and business

Eizo strongly desired to serve his country, and he felt he could do this through his shipping business. This was his great dream.

The first step to implement this idea was to distribute the Hokkaido products widely. He would promote the business with Sakhalin (an island north of Hokkaido, now owned by Russia) and, in the future, transport goods from Siberia. To expand Japan's economic influence in the world, Eizo felt it was absolutely necessary to transport as many goods as possible from the continent to Japan.

New business dealings

With the business of the Northern Sea Route thriving, Eizo was largely allowed to do anything at his own discretion, as long as there was no conflict of business interests. He then started his own business of dealing stone material with the money he earned during the war boom.

Once his stone-dealing business was on track, Eizo was invited to a meeting by a local businessman, Mr. Kuga, and a number of Kuga's close friends and business associates. They wished to have Eizo join them in a business venture: to establish a financial company together to safeguard their assets in a potential economic depression and to serve as a money lender.

With everyone agreeing, the Keika Trust Company was established in March with 500,000 yen as capital and 10,000 total shares of stock.

(Continued on page 7)

In March of 1920, half a month after the establishment of the Keika Trust Company, a great stock crash occurred on the Tokyo Stock Market, creating serious postwar panic.

High risk, high reward

Eizo saw a way out of the difficulty through the transportation of explosives to a coal mine in Hokkaido, but the freight charges were very high because of the danger. If Eizo's shipping company were to undertake this business, it could tide them over the depression years.

Eizo approached the company's owner and management with this plan, but they stubbornly opposed it, refusing to listen to him. Finally, Eizo asked, "Do you have any good plan to tide us over this crisis? I venture my life on this plan. If you don't accept my plan, I will leave the company. If you accept it, I'll bear all the responsibility for it."

The owner replied, "Are you sure you will take it upon yourself to bear the whole burden?"

Eizo replied, "I never go back on my word."

The owner closed his eyes, contemplated, then said, "Because of your strong endorsement, I won't say anything more. I will leave it up to you."

A few days later, Eizo met the ship captain and crew to obtain their consent to transport the explosives. They were very concerned at first. But Eizo had thoroughly researched the safety operations, and once they were assured about the safety of the work and their high wages, the crew eventually agreed with him. Thus, the first transportation of explosives was undertaken and safely completed.



Eizo, at age 37, at right, shown in 1918 with his youngest brother, Shoji.

In the period that Eizo secretly visited his family home, Shoji regularly met with his older brother, relaying reports to the Okano family of Eizo's situation.



In this family gathering in 1920, Eizo, far right, is seated with his father, Makitaro, and younger brother, Kakutarō. In the rear is Takenori, his nephew.

On December 22, 1920, Eizo's father, Makitaro, passed away at the age of 69. After his father's funeral, Eizo had a feeling of emptiness in his heart. Although he remained very busy at the office, he felt unwell, and his physical health declined.

Grave illness . . . and recovery

In April of 1921, Eizo developed a bad cough and high fever, and was diagnosed with acute pneumonia. Despite careful nursing, his fever rose higher, causing him to be delirious and barely conscious. His sweat soaked through his bedding to the tatami mats. The "stench of death" hung over his sickroom, ending with Eizo groaning in pain and vomiting bloody pus. A doctor was summoned. "While his condition is inconclusive," said the doctor, "we can say that he has turned the corner."

Soon after, Eizo regained consciousness, and grew stronger each day. From his window, he saw trees with fresh green leaves and colorful, sunlit flowers. He felt the vividness of life throughout his body. He felt happy to be alive from the bottom of his heart.

In June, Eizo went to the Shiobara Hot Springs in Nasu for a hot-spring cure. During that stay, he became eager to become independent and work with Mr. Hamada of the Hokkai Shipping Store.

Eizo made up his mind. "As soon as I return to Tokyo, I will discuss my plan with Mr. Hamada."

(To be continued next month)





My Life of Gedatsu Blessings

By **Shelley Silverman**

Honolulu, Hawaii

A psychotherapist by profession, Shelley Silverman is also an artist, who enjoys making ceramic and seashell jewelry, drawing and crafting. Her essay, appearing below, was published last year in the Japanese Gedatsu monthly magazine.

I was raised in the South. My family is Jewish, but we are not very observant. I have always been interested in learning about other religions, and even studied them some in college. My beliefs have changed over the years.

I moved to Hawaii in 1988. I met **Kamiya Sensei** and his wife **Tomoko** many years ago at a ceramics store in Honolulu. I was very happy to meet some Japanese people who liked art. It was only later that I learned that Kamiya Sensei was a professional ceramicist.

When I met them, I had no idea that they and Gedatsu would become an important part of my life. They were very kind to invite me to the church.

The first time I attended the Gedatsu Church, I was struck by a sense of peace during meditation. I liked being at the Gedatsu Church, because the building is open to nature. When you are inside, you can feel the breeze from the ocean, the air is fresh, and you can hear ducks and ducklings from the nature reserve.



The lush, expansive view from the rear of the Gedatsu Hawaii Church in Honolulu.

The first time I listened to a teaching, I liked the simplicity and positive approach. I had not thought much about the concept of gratitude, and I realized

that was something I needed to add into my thoughts. Through Gedatsu, I learned that we must live with gratitude.

Our ancestors gave us life, our country provides us with a peaceful place to live freely, our teachers provided us with knowledge and skills. The land of Hawaii is generous, providing us with clean air, water, breezes, food, trees and animals.

We are truly blessed to be alive in these surroundings. We owe much to our parents and teachers. We must show our appreciation by listening, being respectful, and honoring them by leading a meaningful life.

Gedatsu teaching and practice have taught me how the seen and unseen worlds are our reality. We recognize this when we perform property blessing. It is such a nice feeling to give the trees, flowers, and grass *Amacha*. We pour *Amacha* on the tires of the member's cars to say thank you for allowing our fellow members to arrive safely.



Shelley, with Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya at the Gedatsu Hawaii Church, serves on the church's board of directors.

The Holy *Hiho* Meditation is my favorite part of the service. I am among my Gedatsu family, and together we enjoy the peace and serenity of the moment. The meditation helps us to quiet our minds and recharge our batteries so that we can be more mindful in our living.

During the memorial part of the service, I have come to appreciate how communicating with our ancestors through offering *Amacha* is very soothing. To remember and recognize ancestors helps a person to accept death more easily. When I hear the names called of my friends, their families, and my own relatives, I am happy they are not forgotten.

(Continued on back page)

FEBRUARY 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M B. Ide, M. Fukushima, S. Tanaka, K. Gibson,
M/M R. Nakatani, J & A Kayser, K. Tsukamoto

\$50–\$99: M/M D. Ide, S. Taketa, J. Tanaka, M/M Tsuboi

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M C. Tanaka, J. Sebe /
J. Detwiler, S. Bush, H. Graham, Rev./Mrs. Yamada,
M/M J. Horner, A. Sebe

\$200+: S. Nishino, J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

S. Nishino Appreciation for plaque burning (\$100)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M M. Hamada, L. Hoeft, J. Kaku,
M/M V. Mizokami, M. Nakamura, R. Nakamura,
A. Okimura, M/M A. Shiroishi

\$50–\$99: M/M K. Chinen, M/M K. Kuritani,
M/M C. Morioka, T. Murakami, E. Ogawa, Y. Oishi,
M/M S. Shalkan, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura,
M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M P. Young

\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima,
M/M B. Hamamoto, L. Ito, M. Kimura, M/M T. Matsumoto,
M/M S. Mukai, M. Okada, T. Okimura, H. Taki, T. Tsujimura

\$200+: M/M R. Allum, K. Fujii, T. Ishida, T. Nakamura,
M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi

\$300+: J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Sally Kaku “Never Forgotten” Morio Kaku (\$100)
Jackson Ito “Never Forgotten” Nancy M. Ito (\$200)
Jo Ann, Allen, Uzuko
Shiroishi “Never Forgotten” Sayoko Shiroishi (\$100)
Paul & Joyce Reid “Never Forgotten” Tomoyo Ogura (\$100)
Watau Matsumoto Myanmar Study Tour appreciation (\$100)

Goreichi Care Fund

The Fund is established to pay for repairs, upgrades and ongoing maintenance of structures and property of the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds in Sacramento.

H. Graham (\$100)

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 10 (Sun) Sacto Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
Jun 17 (Sun) Sacto Set-up for *Rokujizo* Bazaar
Jun 17 (Sun) L.A. Mother Kiyota’s Memorial Service
Jun 23-24 (Sat-Sun) *Rokujizo* Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Wed) Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 15 (Sun) L.A. *Obon* Service/Graduates Honored
Jul 22 (Sun) Sacramento *Obon* Service
Jul 26-29 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp in Sacramento

Aug 4 (Sat) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)
Aug 29 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service

Sept 2 (Sun) Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
Sept 4 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sept 15 (Sun) L.A. *Higan* Service
Sept 23 (Sun) Sacramento *Higan* Service

Oct 6-7 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival
Oct 9 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Oct 20 (Sat) Sacramento Trip to Apple Hill (TBD)
Oct 21 (Sun) L.A. *Ujigami* Service
Oct 28 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 4 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70th Memorial Service
Nov 11 (Sun) Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70th Memorial Service
Nov 17 (Sat) L.A. Casino Bus trip (TBD)
Nov 18 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and
7-5-3 Children’s Celebration
Nov 22-23 Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Nov 25 (Sun) Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and
7-5-3 Children’s Celebration

Dec 2 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 9 (Sun) Sacramento Last Service of Year
Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service /
Church Clean-up

Dec 9 (Sun) L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 16 (Sun) L.A. Christmas Service
Last Appreciation Service

Dec 23-31 Church Closed

4 月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

1 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
8 日 (日) 9:30A	春季大祭 (サクラメント)
15 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会
22 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会 リージョナル委員会
29 日 (日)	教会休み

サクラメント教会

1 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要/大祭清掃奉仕
7 日 (土) 9:30A	大祭前日奉仕
8 日 (日) 9:30A	137 回春季大祭
15 日 (日) 1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
22 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・リージョナル委員会
29 日 (日)	教会休み

4 月度みさとし

「感謝の下に努力せば、
要求せずとも一粒万倍に生きて来る」

宇宙大自然の法則は「循環」である。大空に浮かぶ雲が地上に雨を降らせ、その雨が大地に沁み込み、それを木々や草花の根が吸い上げる。それによって草木が育ち、光合成によって空気中に酸素を供給してくれている。そのおかげでわれわれも空気を吸って生きていることができるのだ。また、川や湖や海に流れ込んだ水が魚介類を育て、ふたたび蒸発した水が雲をかたちづくる……という具合に、地球の万物は大自然の循環によって生かされているのである。また、われわれの肉体生命もたえざる循環によって保たれているのである。血液は体内を巡り、水や食物を摂り入れるばかりでなく排泄するからこそ生命が保たれているのである。このような生命の循環の法則を知るならば、われわれが生き生きと幸せに生きるためにどうすればよいかがわかるだろう。それは、得ることを考える前に、自分が生かされ恵まれていることに感謝して、与えることを考えればよいということである。世のため人のために、自分のもっているモノも体力も知識や能力も、どんどん使わせてもらおうことである。そのような生き方を心がけるならば、黙っていてもおのずから恵まれることは当然なのである。

講 話

ロサンゼルス教会

親に対する悪念が子供をやるせない状態に

総長・岡野英夫

日本でのある会員さんとの体験をお話いたします。
ある時、会員の若いご夫婦が私を訪ねて来ました。

そのご夫婦の 10 歳の息子が鬱病を患い、「引きこもり」といって部屋から外へ出ないようになってしまいました。食物を取りに来る時やトイレの時には部屋から出てきますが、シャワーを使うのも一週間に一度か二度だそうです。もちろん学校にも行きません。「どうしたら息子の病が治り、普通の生活が出来るようになるでしょうか？」というのが、相談内容でした。

私はそのご夫妻の先祖にその原因があると感じましたので、両親と祖父母の人柄と人生についてお聞きしました。そのご夫婦は「息子の事を相談しているのに、なぜ両親や祖父母の事を聞くのか？」といった疑いと不満な顔をされていましたが、何度も繰り返しお聞きしましたところ、少しずつお話しくださいました。

そのご夫妻の奥様の祖父は、厳格な方で大きく農業を営まれていました。日本では代々、同じ屋敷内に祖父母と息子夫婦とその家族が住み農業を営むことが、その当時は普通でした。その家では、財産の管理を祖父がされていまして、息子夫婦は何を買うにも祖父の許可がなければなりません。米国人には理解できないようなシステムが、日本には稀にはありますが、存在しました。

相談に見えた奥様は、その息子夫婦の長女でした。子どもながらに、お母さんがお父さんに不満をぶつけているのを幾度も見てきたと話してくれました。その奥様は、農業を営んではおりませんが、幼い記憶の中で父親は黙って母親の不満を聞きながら俯いていたといっています。その記憶が、自分の父親は信頼できない情けない男であるというイメージを、その奥様に植え付けてしまいました。その父親は、既に亡くなっています。

「奥さん、あなたのお父様は大変つらい思いをされたことでしょうね。どんな父親も妻や子供に喜んでもらいたい、笑顔を見たいと思っているのです。もし、その時、お父様が祖父にクレームをつけていたら農業をやめ、親を捨てて他の土地へ移り住まなければならなかったかもしれません。二度と祖父母の顔を見る事が出来なかったかもしれませんね。

あなたの 10 歳の息子さんの姿は、どうすることもできなかったお父様の悲しみの姿を見せてくれます。親に感謝できないことは、大変不幸なことです。あなたの育ててくれた父親に対する悪念が、子供をやるせない状態にしているのですよ。」

そう申し上げた時、驚いたような顔をされていましたが、何かを悟り理解されたようで、突然に泣き伏してしまいました。

しばらく泣いておられましたが、父親に対する今までの蔑みの心を亡くなられたお父様の御霊にお詫びされておりました。

その後に、帰宅されたご夫妻が玄関のドアを開けると、息子さんが「お母さん、お父さんお帰りなさい」と元気に出迎えてくれたそうです。親子で抱き合って喜ぶことができたという報告がありました。

金剛さまは、「大切な人の御恩を忘れていると様々な問題は決して解決しない。」と教えてくださっています。親に感謝できない人は、神に通じることができず、神の祝福を受けられません。神は気付いた時に、一切を許して下さいます。

「父母の御恩報じても報じ難し」。父母あればこそ自己の存在があり、父母に対する感謝の心が自身の人生を幸せに導いてくれることをしっかりと認識させていただきましょう。

米国解脱教会 青少年サマーキャンプ



解脱教会・サクラメントで
エキサイティングな夏休み！
サマー・ユース・キャンプ

解脱教会は、夏休み中の7月26日(木)～29日(日)の3泊4日、サクラメント教会で13歳から20歳の青少年を対象に「サマー・ユース・キャンプ」を開催いたします。

このキャンプでは、アウトドアの様々な活動、アドベンチャー、ラフティング、グループ活動、ゲームなどのエキサイティングな企画とともに、若い人たちに焦点を合わせた解脱の勉強が用意されています。

解脱の友との出会い、友情の絆を深めつつ、信仰への理解を深める機会を提供します。

キャンプの参加は無料です。すべての活動は、教会指導者と青少年相談員の監督下で行われます。なお、教会はすべての食事、キャンプ中の輸送、宿泊室/シャワーの施設を提供します。若者たちは持参した寝袋を使用します。

ぜひ、13歳から20歳までのお子さんたちをお誘いください。

詳細は、4月8日の春季大祭、その後の日曜サービス、および解脱コンパニオン誌上で発表されます。その際、キャンプ参加の登録 PACKET (連絡先情報、同意書、キャンブルール、交通ニーズ、健康アンケートなど) が用意されます。

キャンプの登録締め切りは2018年5月15日です。お問い合わせは下記担当者までお願いします。

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掲 示 板

● 新・米国理事会メンバーが選出されました

2018年度の米国解脱教会の理事が、サクラメントおよびロサンゼルス教会でそれぞれ2月に開かれた会員総会で選出されました。下記11人。任期は2年です。

ジョイス・リード氏 (理事長兼秘書)、瀧久和師 (副理事長)、首席開教師補佐・ジャクソン・伊藤氏 (財務)、デーブ・井出氏、松本哲也氏、岡野英夫総長、アレン・城石氏、カルビン・田中氏、ジュン・田中氏、ヒサト・辻村氏。

● 90周年日本ツアーについて

本年10月、日本解脱会ご霊地において「立教90年」の祝典が開かれます。現在アメリカからの記念ツアーグループが組織されており、米国会員もお祝いに参加することが奨励されています。

この機にできるだけ多くのアメリカ会員が参加できるようにと、米国教会首席ディーコンのジャクソン伊藤氏から、「各出席者の航空運賃の半分。また、25歳未満の若者あるいはフルタイムで働いていない人には全航空運賃を支払う」との篤志奉納があります。

ツアーは10月11日にロサンゼルス空港を基点にとして出発し、10月14日の日曜日に記念式典に参加、その前後に埼玉県大宮市のホテルに3泊します。その後日本国内をめぐる10日間のオプションツアーもあります。

ツアー詳細および申し込みはLA教会・岡野尚也師にご連絡ください。多くの方の参加をお待ちします。

● LA教会から春季大祭の無料バスが出ます

ロサンゼルス教会からバスが4月7日(土)夜10時に出発します。バス代は、ジャクソン伊藤さんが寄付くださいますので、無料です。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Mary Masako Kimura** of the Los Angeles Church. A devout member for nearly 50 years, Mary was introduced to Gedatsu by her friend, **Kimiko Hirano**. She recalls her first Gedatsu teacher, **Rev. Sugita**, and is

grateful to all the ministers and fellow church members.

Mary and her late husband, **Ken Kimura**, have three children (**David, Amy** and **Naomi**) and three grandchildren. She enjoys taking daily walks and TV cooking shows.

Rev. Kazuo Yamada, Editor

Joyce Reid, Editor-in-Chief

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(My Life – Continued from page 8)

Two years ago, I lost my only brother. Gedatsu helped me to cope with the unexpected death. *Kamiya Sensei* gave me *Tsuyo Monkan**, and Tomoko instructed me how to perform Gedatsu prayers in English when I went to my brother's funeral in New Orleans. I felt like Gedatsu was with me at such a sad time.

During my trip to Japan in 2013, I visited the *Goreichi*. **Rev. Naoya Okano**, who was in Japan at that time, assisted me around the grounds. I wasn't sure how Japanese church members would feel about a *gaijin*, or foreigner, but I felt welcomed and included. I have enjoyed meeting members from Japan when they visit here.

Lastly, Gedatsu is making health an important part of the church. I work in healthcare, and love being able to do the "three-minute Gedatsu exercise" at the end of the service, together with the elder ladies and children.



Shelley's artwork reflects the vibrant colors and diverse images of Nature that surround her.

I feel fortunate that *Kamiya Sensei* and Tomoko came into my life. They are wonderful role models. They are well versed in Gedatsu teaching, are compassionate, and try very hard in their work. Also, *Kamiya Sensei* hosts the "Peace Prayer" almost every year at the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii, and it is well attended by so many different religions.

Thank you for the opportunity to write about Gedatsu.

* In Gedatsu, a paper talisman given to a departed soul to facilitate its entrance into the spiritual realm.

