



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"When you sincerely pray before
the Three Sacred Monuments,
you will feel the essence
of Gedatsu."*

Master Gedatsu Kongo said,
"The Three Sacred Monuments
symbolize the Gedatsu teaching."

These monuments – the Sun
Spirit Monument, All Souls
Monument, and Monument of
Encomium – in *Goreichi*, Japan are
made of stone. Stone cannot speak –
so, what did the Founder mean by
these words?

By sincerely praying before
these monuments, the heart of
Gedatsu is revealed to us. By
awakening to the Universal God's love
and blessings, we recognize our
obligation to work for the betterment
of society in appreciation.

Master Gedatsu Kongo
encouraged us to walk this Gedatsu
path for everyone's happiness and
world peace.

APRIL 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	7	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service Clean-up for Spring Grand Festival
Sat	13	9:30 am	Preparation for Spring Grand Festival
Sun	14	9:30 am	139th Spring Grand Festival <i>Saito Goma</i> Fire Ceremony
Sun	21	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	28	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	7	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	14		139th Spring Grand Festival
Sun	21	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	28	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting

MAY 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Mother's Day Service
Sun	19	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	26	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Plaque Burning (<i>Joan-no-gi</i>) Regional Board Meeting
Mon	27	9:00 am	Inter-religious Memorial Day Service (<i>Nikkei</i> Pioneer Monument – Odd Fellows Cemetery)
Tue	28		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	12	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	19	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Mother's Day Service
Sun	26	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Tue	28		Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

Spring Grand Festival – Sunday, April 14

The Spring Grand Festival will be held at the Sacramento Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 14, beginning at 9:30 am.

A chartered bus from Los Angeles will leave the L.A. Church at 10 pm on Saturday night, April 13. Once again, through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, bus riders will be able to ride to Sacramento free of charge.



April “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, April 7, 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.**

The “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service will be held at the L.A. Church on **Sunday, April 7, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Maria Lechuga Covos, Sameko Hamaoka, Ted Tadashi Hayashi, Kazuye Ito, Will Karger, Fumiko Kawamura, Karen Mineko Kawamura, William Masami Kawamura, Yoshimi Richard Kikuchi, Masaichi Richard Kikuta, Mokubei Kumashiro, Shikazo Kumashiro, Thomas Mahoney, Clifton Mizokami, Haruko Nagura, Yoshinobu Nakamura, Harry Odama, Otomatsu Odama, Tomoyo Ogura, Akiko Okazaki, Emiko Okimura, Helen Shiroishi, Hidemi Pat Shiroishi, Dayna Slotnik, Tsutako Sherrie Takimoto, Bobby Kiyoshi Tanji, Shigeno Tomita, Henry Tsujimura, Alice Tsukamaki, Joseph Harold Wessman, Jr., and Dr. Tsuyoshi Yamashita.**

Note: To accommodate growing attendance at the memorial services, the L.A. Church announces that the “Never Forgotten” Services will be held monthly. (Last year, scheduling conflicts prevented services from being held for in April and December.) Also, you may submit a digital image of your loved one for inclusion in the memorial presentation by sending it to **Rev. Naoya Okano** at least one week prior to the service.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Room Reservations and Banquet to Change to New Hotel Location

Gedatsu USA celebrates its 70th anniversary this year. Mark your calendars for the Labor Day weekend for our Celebration Banquet on Saturday, August 31, and the Grand Fall Festival on Sunday, September 1.

As the *Companion* was going to press, our 70th Anniversary Planning Team was advised that the **Marriott Hotel banquet room will be closed this summer for renovations. Therefore, a block of guest rooms and banquet facilities will be reserved at a new Sacramento-based hotel.**

In the coming weeks, the church will announce details concerning the new hotel location and room arrangements, including instructions for contacting the new hotel and canceling your current reservations.

In addition, the price for ALL guest rooms at the new hotel will be limited to \$95 per night, plus tax (the La Quinta Inn rate for room and breakfast). Breakfast will be free for all guests. Any room/breakfast charges above this \$95 rate will be paid by the Gedatsu Church.

To make this generous offer, the Gedatsu Church will use funds from the Heizaburo Kobayashi Fund, which was established to promote goodwill and cultural exchange between Japan and the U.S. Therefore, please express your gratitude and prayers to the Kobayashi family and ancestors, whose generosity benefits so many in this 70th anniversary year.

Obituary

The Gedatsu Church is saddened to announce that long-time L.A. member, **Tomiko “Jean” Inouye Mizokami**, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 5, at the age of 100. Mrs. Mizokami was a beloved, enthusiastic volunteer-interpreter, who, for many years, helped spread the Gedatsu teaching among English-speaking members and visitors. She is survived by her children, **Victor, Janis, Gwen, Martin, Michael and Bruce**, their spouses, 14 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. A “Celebration of Life” service for Mrs. Mizokami will be held at the L.A. Church on Saturday, April 27, at 10:00 am.



Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp 2019 Thursday, July 25, to Sunday, July 28

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.

Our second Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp will be held over four days – from Thursday through Sunday, July 25-28 – based at the Sacramento Spiritual Center.

The camp provides teens (ages 12 and up) and young adults with a variety of enjoyable experiences – like rafting down the American River and other outdoor adventures, group activities and games – designed to create an atmosphere of friendship and fun, while deepening their faith and understanding of Gedatsu. It's a great opportunity to interact in fun activities and discussions with **Rev. Naoya Okano** and other youth counselors.

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.

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

Questions can be directed to **Janet Hirayama** at jhirayama@roadrunner.com or (626) 330-8768.

Q

"Isn't it enough to believe in a "higher being" and appreciate one's blessings? Why do I need Gedatsu?"

A

The necessity of practicing a faith or religion is up to the individual person. I can only tell you what Gedatsu can offer. You must decide whether it is necessary to practice Gedatsu or not.

In order to understand the true essence of the Gedatsu teaching and benefit from it, Gedatsu must be practiced daily and experienced through daily life. Only through daily practice can your level of sincere appreciation deepen within yourself.

The human ego and intellect block a person from connecting with one's guardian deity, which is the energy flow of the Universal Life Force. Daily life experiences give you opportunities to set aside your intellect and practice heartfelt gratitude and acceptance of your guardian deity's guidance.

"Only through daily practice can your level of sincere appreciation deepen within you."

For example, say you are stressed about a project deadline at work. You are also responsible for taking care of your children. So, you have many worries - focusing on your work, figuring out how to finish it in time to pick up the kids, the traffic you will run into, etc. The normal way of dealing with all these issues is to rely on one's own self, one's own intellect, to manage these daily challenges. This reliance on oneself can cause stress, worry, possibly irritation and resentment. But if you have developed absolute trust in your guardian deity, when you ask for its guidance it will help you accomplish what you need to. If you can accept its guidance without question and express deep thanks, you will get through that day without worry or stress.

The acceptance I am talking about is your moving beyond the intellectual belief in the Universal Life Force and its blessings. It is a feeling of gratitude felt deeply within you towards your guardian deity, which takes time to cultivate. Daily practice and patience. However, once you have attained a deep level of understanding, you will notice a change in yourself. You will feel calmer and less troubled by life's everyday problems. Your mind will be peaceful, and you will naturally feel happier. It is up to you whether you would like to achieve this state of mind.

Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe

The True Source of Healing

By **Bishop Teruo Okano**

Los Angeles Church, March 17, 2019

Today, I would like to talk about understanding the nature of healing.

A leader of a Gedatsu branch in Osaka used to receive spiritual training before he became a Gedatsu member. Every month, in his free time, he would spend four to five days at a temple deep in the mountains. Gradually, over time, his spiritual training bore fruit. He developed psychic abilities to the point that he could just look at people and detect illnesses and diseased areas of their bodies. Moreover, he could cure them by holding his hand over the affected areas.

At first, he treated in this way several friends, who suffered from physical ailments. One of them had an internal disorder, and another complained of back pain. He was able to cure them completely. Because of these cures, it was no wonder that he became well-known and in demand. Day after day, scores of people waited in front of his home for him to return from work.

Because he was not a licensed doctor, he asked his patients to become members of the temple where he had practiced. Then, he treated them as a kind of healing minister.

"Healing" from the Gedatsu perspective

In the meanwhile, a series of unfortunate events began occurring within his family. He and his wife divorced, his children left him, and all his family members separated from each other. He could not understand why this had happened.

While he was suffering in despair, he had a chance encounter with a Gedatsu member. The member told him, "If you continue your psychic treatments, the outcome will not be good."

This statement shocked him, compelling him to earnestly study Gedatsu. As he learned the Gedatsu teaching, he began to understand the meaning of the member's words. He became aware that Gedatsu was the true way to heal lives. After he fully realized this, his ex-wife and children returned to him, and the family reunited as before.

Because of his experience and new-found awareness, he no longer offered psychic healing to his patients. Instead, he encouraged them to learn the Gedatsu teaching, but almost all of them left him. He also lost his psychic powers, but he did not regret the loss.

You may wonder, why did this man and his family suffer such misfortunes, even though his intentions to help people were positive? Why did his psychic abilities disappear when he was trying to treat the illnesses of others?

Aligning thoughts, action with the Universal Law

Certainly, it is very important to relieve someone from pain if we can do so. However, we must realize that mishaps such as illnesses and accidents are created when thoughts and actions are not in accord with the Universal Law. In other words, adversities are lessons given to us by the Universe.

Just like children are able to build stamina and strength when they are exposed to colds, fever and injury, the problems we experience in life actually aid us. We learn valuable life lessons from troubles, when we struggle to overcome them.

Just treating one's pain and suffering is depriving that person of an opportunity to learn and improve from a God-given lesson. Unless we remove the root cause of the problem, the problem recurs over and over and often becomes even worse. We need to search for God's love behind the pain.

Addressing the source of suffering

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and in the future. In a global partnership, they developed 17 goals that address the world's major problems to improve the health, happiness and well-being of all people forever.

Learning the Gedatsu teaching is the same. It is a teaching to fix all the causes and obstacles that prevent us from living a happy life.

Daily prayer and visiting the church are important parts of the solution. So, with great joy and hope, please come to our Gedatsu church to create a happier life for you, your family and the world.



A Brief History of Gedatsu Church USA – Part 4

Gedatsu Expands in Northern and Southern California

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

In October 1954, **Archbishop Eizan Kishida** returned to Japan for three months. The main purpose of his visit was to attend the dedication ceremony of the Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Tower in the Sennyuji Temple in Kyoto and to report on the progress of Gedatsu propagation in the United States to *Gedatsu-kai* Japan headquarters officials.

At the same time, however, he wanted to learn more about religion, especially Buddhism, in order to aid him in directing Gedatsu propagation in America.

Archbishop Kishida strives to adapt Gedatsu for American culture

During his four years in America, Archbishop Kishida discovered that Gedatsu propagation required many efforts and approaches, which differed from those of Gedatsu propagation in Japan.

For example, he found Americans to be pragmatic and more likely than Japanese members to value immediate results from the teaching. They also valued simplicity. He felt that Gedatsu should respond to those needs.

He also found that the Gedatsu Church in the United States, like other American churches, was required to provide ceremonial services for members' weddings, funerals, etc. The Gedatsu Church in Japan does not conduct funeral services, because families rely on their family temples to conduct such services. This is a Japanese tradition that is quite different from American tradition. Gedatsu in America has responsibility for taking care of members from the cradle to grave. This is one of the most important elements of Gedatsu in the United States, which gives members peace of mind.

While in Japan, Archbishop Kishida stayed at Daigoji Temple in Kyoto for three months to study and practice esoteric Buddhism for the purpose of enhancing propagation in America. Immediately upon returning to the United States, he started to practice what he learned in Japan.

The *Saito-goma* ceremony begins

One of the results of Archbishop Kishida's religious education was the *Saito-goma* fire service. He performed this ceremony for the first time at the Spring Festival in Sacramento in April 1955. The ceremony



was well accepted by the American members, because it addressed practical concerns, such as family's safety and well-being, traffic safety and recovery from illness, together with ancestor blessing. The symbolism and power of the fire service also strongly appealed to Americans. Thus, the *Saito-goma* fire ceremony continues today as one of the main events of the festivals.



As membership grew, the Clay Street Church in San Francisco became overcrowded. A new church building on Baker Street was purchased in 1957, becoming the headquarters of Gedatsu Church of America.

Further changes for American Gedatsu are adopted

Once the Baker Street Church in San Francisco was established, Archbishop Kishida put several new ideas for American Gedatsu into practice.

First, he changed the primary prayer symbols. Originally, two symbols were enshrined in the Gedatsu altar: *Tenjinchigi* (Universal Life Force) and *Gochi Nyorai* (Creative Principle). Archbishop Kishida enshrined only *one* symbol, which was the integration of *Tenjinchigi* and *Gochi Nyorai*. That was a bold move, but an important step, he believed, for the further propagation of Gedatsu to American people who wanted simplicity.

(Continued on page 6)

Next, Archbishop Kishida introduced *Ajikan* meditation. The Gedatsu Church originally did not have this method of meditation, but he felt it was an effective means to cultivate character for the American people.

In this way, Archbishop Kishida stepped up efforts to adapt Gedatsu to American culture.

Propagation in the Los Angeles area

Archbishop Kishida resided at the San Francisco Church and visited Los Angeles once a month for propagation in Southern California. Because there was no church building in the Los Angeles area at that time, **Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tsujimura** allowed him to use their home as a church. When Archbishop Kishida visited L.A., he stayed at the Tsujimura home and held *Kanshakai* service and other meetings there. Gradually, Gedatsu meetings were established at members' homes one after another. An apartment was later purchased in L.A.'s Little Tokyo, which became the Gedatsu branch church for propagation in Southern California.



Deaconship program established

As circles of Gedatsu study expanded, Archbishop Kishida thought it necessary to foster a deaconship program to help the ministers propagate Gedatsu more widely in the United States. He appointed some leading members as deacons. These leaders helped Archbishop Kishida and Reverend Kiyota to propagate Gedatsu. They happily and willingly visited their friends and acquaintances to guide them to Gedatsu almost every evening after daily work.

The first deaconship ceremony was held in 1958 (see photo in left column) when 36 members were assigned as deacons. Thereafter, 19 members were appointed as deacons in 1966 (photo below), and another 14 members became deacons in 1969.



Circles of Gedatsu study expanded to Monterey, San Jose, Stockton and elsewhere in Northern California, too. There were many home meetings established, and Archbishop Kishida and Reverend Kiyota visited the meetings to teach Gedatsu.

Every month, Sacramento members continued to drive the four-hour-plus round trip to the San Francisco Church to attend *Kanshakai* service and learn Gedatsu from teachers after working hard in the fields during the day. They studied well into the night, but members found great joy in Gedatsu.

Gedatsu fills basic needs of members

Most members at that time were Japanese *Isseis* and *Niseis*, who lived in poor-to-modest economic conditions after the war. For Japanese members who left their hometowns in Japan and were living a hard life in the United States, Gedatsu offered them a guideline to live in America and nurture their Japanese identity.

Archbishop Kishida responded to their needs through the Gedatsu teaching. He published "The Character and Doctrine of Gedatsu Kongo" in 1959. This book became the basic textbook for American members to study Gedatsu.

(Continued on page 7)



Festivals continue to grow

Meanwhile, the Grand Festivals, which were held each spring and fall in Sacramento, were celebrations of appreciation and joy that strengthened relationships among members. Members from Southern and Northern California enjoyed the celebration day, which included entertainment, musical and comedic performances and athletic events.

Improvement of Sacramento Goreichi

Improvement of Sacramento Goreichi grounds advanced steadily through the work and dedication of members and teachers alike.

The *Fudo* deity statue was dedicated at the Fall Festival in 1965. Since then, *Saito-goma* service has been performed in front of the statue at every festival.

The Gedatsu Memorial Tower was built in 1969. Every Fall Festival since then, souls of deceased members have been enshrined in the tower. These were followed by the dedication on the Goreichi grounds of *Bato Kannon* (1969), All Souls Monument (1972) and *Benzaiten* (1974).



After the giant stone *Fudo* deity was erected on the Goreichi grounds, the *Saito-goma* fire ceremony was conducted in front of the statue.



A ceremonial procession honors the souls of deceased members, who have been enshrined in the Gedatsu Memorial Tower.

(Next issue: Ministers from Japan, death of Archbishop Kishida, Gochi Sanctuary, Gedatsu annual events)





Open Secret

Sermon by **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**

The truth is always in front of us, but because of our egos, it is hard for us to see it. The same is true for happiness. The seeds of happiness are always available before us, but most of the time, we cannot see them and lament over our misfortune.

Thus, truth and happiness are “open secrets” – self-evident, but often obscure.

Renowned Vietnamese Zen monk, Thich Nhat Hanh, whom I greatly respect, stated:

“The ocean of suffering is immense, but if you turn around, you can see the land.

“The seed of suffering in you may be strong, but don’t wait until you have no more suffering before allowing yourself to be happy.

“When one tree in the garden is sick, you have to care for it. But don’t overlook all the healthy trees.

“Even while you have pain in your heart, you can enjoy many wonders of life – the beautiful sunset, the smile of a child, the many flowers and trees.

“To suffer is not enough. Please don’t be imprisoned by your suffering.”

Gedatsu is the path to being aware of the seeds of happiness that are always available before us.

No matter what difficulties you may have in life, realize that you are alive in this moment.

Your heart keeps beating constantly. This is because God loves you, and you have received immeasurable blessings from your ancestors, parents, families, friends, everyone and everything around you.

Be aware of the unconditional love and compassion of God, as well as the immeasurable blessings you have already received from everyone and everything in the universe.

If you have experienced hunger, you know that having food is a miracle. If you have suffered from the cold, you know the preciousness of warmth.

When you have suffered, you know how to appreciate the wonders of life that are present. If you dwell only on your suffering, you will miss the wonders of life. Don’t ignore your suffering, but don’t forget to enjoy the wonders of life, for your sake and for the benefit of many beings.

Without suffering, you cannot grow. Without suffering, you cannot appreciate the peace and joy you deserve. So, please don’t run away from your suffering. Embrace it and cherish it. Learn something important for your life from the suffering.

Pray to the Supreme Spirit of the Universe and express your pain. Through the divine love and compassion of the Universe, you will be shown how to look deeply into your suffering and embrace it. With understanding and compassion, you will be able to heal the wounds in your heart and, in turn, help others to heal their wounds.

No matter what happens to you, realize that you are always loved unconditionally. Please remember this.

Gedatsu is the path for everyone to live a happy, peaceful life.



FEBRUARY 2019 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M B. Ide, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka,
M/M R. Tateishi, F. Mabara, P. Harada, J. Kayser,
K. Tsukamoto
\$50–\$99: M/M D. Ide, S. Taketa, J. Tanaka, M/M Tsuboi,
M/M C. Tanaka
\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, J. Sebe/J. Detwiler,
M/M P. Tateishi, K. Schubert, Rev/Mrs. Yamada
\$200+: S. Nishino
\$300+: M/M J. Horner
\$1,200+: Rev. A. Sebe

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M K. Chinen, K. Fujii, M/M M. Hamada,
M/M V. Mizokami, M/M L. Muronaka, A. Okimura,
F. Sueyoshi, N. Takara, C. Tsujimura
\$50–\$99: M. Murakami, K. Kuritani, M/M K. Kuritani,
T. Murakami, Y. Oishi, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura,
M/M R. Tsujimura
\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima,
M/M M. Ishida, L. Ito, J. Kaku, S. Kaku, M. Kimura,
M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M C. Morioka, T. Nakamura,
M. Okada, M/M N. Okano, T. Okimura, L. Sanchez
\$200+: M/M R. Allum, M/M S. Mukai, M/M S. Shaklan,
D. Shiroishi
\$300+: T. Ishida
\$600+: J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Jackson Ito In memory of Nancy Ito (\$200)
Irene Kawamura “Never Forgotten” Memorial (\$400)
JoAnn, Allen, Uzuko Sayo Shiroishi memorial service (\$100)
Shiroishi
Teruko Nakamura In memory of Horace Nakamura (\$100)

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Jun 9 (Sun) Sacramento Mother Kiyota Memorial Serv.
Jun 16 (Sun) L.A. Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
Jun 29-30 (Sat-Sun) *Rokujizo* Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu) Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 14 (Sun) Sac'to *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 21 (Sun) L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 25-28 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp

Aug 3-4 (Sat-Sun) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)
Aug 18 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service
Aug 25 (Sun) Sacramento *Benzaiten* Service
Aug 31 (Sat) 70th Anniversary Banquet (Sacramento)

Sep 1 (Sun) 70th Anniversary Fall Grand Festival 9:30 am
Sep 3 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sep 15 (Sun) L.A. *Higan* Service
Sep 22 (Sun) Sacramento *Higan* Service
Sep 29 (Sun) Church Closed

Oct 5-6 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival
Oct 15 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Oct 20 (Sun) L.A. *Ujigami* Service
Oct 27 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 3 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo's Service
Nov 10 (Sun) Sac'to Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service
Nov 17 (Sun) L.A. 7-5-3-Year Children's Celebration
Nov 24 (Sun) Sac'to 7-5-3-Year Children's Celebration /
Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
Nov 28-29 Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Dec 1 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 7 (Sat) L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 8 (Sun) Sac'to Last Service of Year /
Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 15 (Sun) L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program
Dec 22-31 Church Closed



Our human compassion binds us the one to the other - not in pity or patronizingly, but as human beings who have learnt how to turn our common suffering into hope for the future.

Nelson Mandela

4 月 度 教 会 行 事 予 定

ロサンゼルス教会

7 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
14 日 (日) 9:30A	春季大祭 (サクラメント)
21 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会
28 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会 リージョナル委員会

サクラメント教会

7 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要/大祭清掃奉仕
13 日 (土) 9:30A	大祭前日奉仕
14 日 (日) 9:30A	139 回 春季大祭 柴燈護摩供法要
21 日 (日) 1:00P	サンノゼ感謝会
28 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・リージョナル委員会

4 月 度 み さ と し

「来りて大日本精神碑に額ずき、
来りて萬靈魂祭塔に跪け」

金剛さまは「三建碑が教えの対象である」と申された。三建碑とは、太陽精神碑、萬靈魂祭塔、頌徳碑のことであり、金剛さまはそのそれぞれを真・善・美の象徴となされたのである。何も語らぬ石の碑を「教えの対象」となされたそのご真意とは何か。それは、われわれ会員一人ひとりが、何度も御霊地に足を運び、永遠に朽ちぬこれらの石碑の前に額ずいて真剣な祈りをささげることによって、金剛さまが解脱立教にかけたそのご精神を声なき声として魂に感得せよ、との金剛さまの悲願であったに違いない。神によって生みなされ、国土・父母・師・社会・万物の限りないおかげを受けて生かされていることに深い感謝をささげ、日々、自分に与えられた役目を通して、世のため人のために精一杯お使いいただくという敬神崇祖・感謝報恩の人生こそ、万人にとって真の幸福の道であり、世界平和にいたる道であることを、金剛さまはお示しくくださったのである。



解脱教会は、夏休み中の 7 月 25 日 (木) ~ 28 日 (日) の 3 泊 4 日、サクラメント教会で 13 歳から 20 代の青少年を対象に「サマー・ユース・キャンプ」を開催します。アメリカン・リバーのラフティングなど楽しい活動と、若者に焦点を合わせた解脱の勉強がなされ、解脱の友との絆と信仰を深める機会を提供します。ぜひ、お子さんたちをお誘いください。詳細は決まり次第発表されます。

講 話

ロサンゼルス教会

解脱は病氣治しの道にあらず心直しの道なり

総長 岡野 英夫

皆さまこんにちは。私は、本年から再び日本解脱会の理事長に就任いたしました。会員の皆さまの幸せのために努力をさせていただきますので、どうぞよろしくお願い申し上げます。

今日は、解脱金剛さまの霊能力に関するご指導についてお話させていただきます。

日本の大阪に住んでいるある支部長は、解脱会に入会する以前に、毎月 4 ~ 5 日の休暇を取り山奥のお寺に籠り修業をされていました。次第に修業に依って霊能力を持つようになってきました。その支部長は、他の人の身体の病氣や不調な個所が見えるようになり、また、その個所に手をかざすと病氣や不調な状態が完治できるようになったのです。

数人の知り合いの方の病氣や不調を、そうした方法で治療いたしますと、内蔵の病氣や腰痛などが見事に治りました。その噂はまたたく間に評判になり仕事が終わる帰宅いたしますと治療を希望される大勢の方が自宅の前に並んでいたそうです。そうした状況が毎日続きました。支部長は医師の免許を持っていませんので、修業して霊能力を授かったお寺の信者として 50 名ほどの方々を入信させ、開教師として施術を施すようになりました。

そうこうしているうちに、支部長の家族に不幸な出来事が次々と起こるようになってきました。結果的に、夫婦は離婚し、子供たちは家出をしてしまい、家族はバラバラになってしまったそうです。なぜそのようになってしまったのかかわからず悲嘆に暮れていた時に、解脱会員の方とご縁があり「そんなことをしていると死んでしまうよ」と諭され、解脱の教えを学ぶようになりました。「今までしてきたことは間違いだった。今、学んでいることが本当の宗教の在り方なのだ」と理解するようになりました。そうしますと、離婚した奥様も子供たちもいつとはなしに戻って来て元の家族のように仲良く暮らせるようになったそうです。

そうした体験を、信者の方々にお話しして、一緒に解脱を学ぶように勧めましたが、2 名の方以外は皆去って行ったそうです。そればかりではなく、今まで身につけていた霊能力もなくなってしまいました。その方は「なくなってよかったんだ」と思ったそうです。

皆さまは、「何故、病氣を治して人の苦しみや悩みを解消してあげたのに不幸になってしまうのか」「何故、霊能力がなくなってよかったのか」と、思われているでしょう。

確かに人を悩み苦しみから解放してあげること

は、大変尊いことです。しかし、病気災難は、大自然の法則に反したり、叛いた思いや行いから起こってきます。神の愛から自らの自我で離れてしまったために遭遇する試練なのです。幼い子どもが風邪をひいたりケガをしたりしながら、免疫力を高めたり智慧を養うのと同様に、自らの力で困難を克服し、病気災難から何かを学び身につけなくてはなりません。ただ病気災難から解放するだけでは、神から与えられた人として成長するチャンスを奪ってしまうことになるからです。症状を改善しただけでは、原因そのものがなくなっていないために何度でも同じような状態や、さらに困難な事態に陥ることになるからです。それは、偉大なる神の愛を拒否し、神の心に叛くことになってしまうからです。

2015年に国連総会で採択されたSDGs（持続可能な開発目標）の目指す持続可能な世界とは、いつまでも続いていく幸福で平和な世界を構築することです。原因となるすべての事柄を改善し無くしていくことを目指していくのです。解脱の学びも同様です。幸福な人生を阻害する様々な悪しき思いや行いを根本からなくす学びをすることです。その為に、毎日の朝夕の祈りや教会に通い学ぶ必要があるのです。どうぞ喜びと希望をもって、さらに幸せになるために教会に通ってください。

随 筆

21 世紀ヴァージョンの解脱を！

瀧 久和

本年、米国解脱教会は創立七十周年を迎える。戦争中、強制収容所での生活を余儀なくされた日系一世・二世たちは、戦後ゼロからの生活をはじめた。白人中心の米国で激しい偏見・差別に堪えながら、彼らは懸命にはたらいたのである。清田・岸田両先生と共に米国解脱教会の基礎を築いたのは、このような人々であった。そんな彼らにとって、日本の伝統に深く根差した解脱の教えは、帰りたくても帰れない祖国日本とつながる依り処となったのである。

それから七十年。言葉も習慣も考えも日本人とはまったく異なった、米国生まれの、現在の会員にとって、初期の会員たちが心の依り処としていた、解脱の「日本的なもの」の多くが、かえって、違和感をおぼえる要素となっているのである。

パイオニア会員がほとんど霊界入りされた現在、会員たちは教会の現状について率直な意見を述べてくれるようになった。それは一言でいえば、「このままでは解脱教会の未来はない」ということである。この共通認識のもとに数年前から、「真にアメリカ人の

ための教会に！」をスローガンに、教会改革の動きがはじまった。

まず着手したのは勤行法則の改定である。最初この話をきいたとき、私は大変驚いた。勤行法則の基本は金剛さまが定められたものだという考えが、私にはあったからである。しかし、会員たちと真剣な話し合いを重ねるなかで、その認識は次第に変わっていった。勤行法則に謳われている神々にしても、四方拝礼・四拍手の作法にしても、日本人の信仰伝統に根差したものであり、アメリカ人にとっては馴染みがたいものだと考えるに至ったからである。かくして、四方拝礼・四拍手は廃止され、勤行法則の文言も、敬神崇祖・感謝報恩の教えを基調とした、シンプルで平易な表現に改めて、二年前から実施している。

正直なところ、この変更について、もしかしたら間違っているかもしれないという不安がないわけではない。しかし、会員たちとよく話し合って決めた現在のかたちを、私は尊重したいと思っている。万一そこに間違いがあったなら、そう気づいたときに改めればよいのだ。

絶対に間違わない道が一つだけある。それは何もしないことだ。しかし、それでは何の進歩も、改善もないだろう。私は、教会改革に真剣に取り組んでくれている米国会員たちを心から尊敬し誇りに思うと共に、彼らと共にはたらけることに深いよろこびを感じている。改革はまだはじまったばかりだが、この努力こそ、「よろしく現代語をもって現代人に接せよ」と力説された金剛さまが、真に望まれたことだと確信している。

だがこれは、単に米国だけの話ではない。立教九十年を迎えた今、「はたして、現代のチャレンジに真に応え得るわれわれであるか」と厳しく自問し、二十一世紀にふさわしい解脱をぜひとも確立しなければならない。——こんなことをしきりに思う今日この頃である。

掲 示 板

- **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13日土曜夜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。

訃 報

- ロサンゼルス教会会員・トミコ・溝上さん(100歳)におかれましては、3月5日に逝去されました。ここに謹んで哀悼の意を表します。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Henry Calderon** of Sacramento. With both his parents from Managua, Nicaragua, Henry is first-generation American-born. He and his partner, **Micaela Rodriguez**, are co-parenting their children, **Pop** (13), **Ami** (11) and **Mariana** (10).

Possessing a great passion for literature, Henry enjoys studying literary theory and language and sci-fi works.

"Gedatsu edifies my spiritual practice, which is rooted in day-to-day mindfulness, compassion and ancestral honoring," says Henry. "The *bato kannon* guardian deeply resonates with my goal to skillfully navigate adulthood and life in this fascinating cultural moment."

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