

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA

www.gedatsu-usa.org

FEBRUARY 2018

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Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

"When you truly feel grateful for everything in life, you will naturally become eager to benefit the world."

Everything in your life is provided by all people and all things in the universe. Your physical body, your food, water, air sunlight, etc., are all received from the universe. The language you speak and the knowledge you acquired were learned from your parents, teachers and others.

Your present life is the fruit of the efforts of generations of people. If you truly become aware of this fact, you will naturally feel grateful for those blessings, and become eager to benefit the world in appreciation. This is man's most natural feeling.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	11	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	18	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Tue	20		Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents Day)
Sun	25	9:30 am	Appreciation Service

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	11	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	18	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
			Sun Spirit Service
Tue	20		Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents Day)
Sun	25	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation
			L.A. Regional Board Mtg. / "Life in Your 20s"

MARCH 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	11	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	25	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	11	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Fri	16	10:00 am	Propagation Meeting
Sat	17	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
Sun	18	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
			<i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	25	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation
			L.A. Regional Board Mtg. / "Life in Your 20s"



February “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 4, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Karl Kaoru Tanaka, Hisaye (Kino) Ide, Kaneko (Ide) Hatae, Yasuko (Noritake) Tsuboi, Roku Kino, Yoritaro Tsuboi, George Hughley, Ted Sekikawa, Hiroko Yamada and Kenji Matsuhashi.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 11, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kimiye Akiyoshi, Masue Akiyoshi, Hideo Fujii, Scott Hamamoto, Tadayoshi Ishida, Nancy Michiyo Ito, Morio Kaku, Kofuku Makishi, Kimiko Matsugami, John Seiki Mitsuchi, Tadashi Mochida, Kesao Naito, Kikuko Naito, Shoichi Naito, Tomokata Naito, Horace Kazumori Nakamura, Chikajiro Nishi, Koto Nishi, Miyo Linda Okayama, Michi Okita, Masanobu Kakuma, Yoshinosuke John Sakuma, Sayoko Dorothy Shiroishi, Karl Tanaka and Jennie Shimako Tenma.**

Those who applied for a Never Forgotten memorial service in 2017 will be sent a reminder (via email and/or post) that the soul of their loved one(s) will again be remembered and honored in 2018 and every year thereafter.

Guest Minister Schedules

Gedatsu USA welcomes **Bishop Teruo Okano**, who will visit the L.A. Church to attend the Propagation and Board of Directors meetings on Friday and Saturday, March 16 and 17. He will meet the L.A. congregation and present the sermon on Sunday, March 18, as part of the English and Japanese Appreciation Service.

The 2018 visiting schedule for **Rev. H. Taki**, guest minister from Japan, is as follows:

Los Angeles, February 16 – April 25
Honolulu, March 6-13
Sacramento, April 6-20
Los Angeles, July 25 – October 9
Honolulu, September 6-13
Sacramento (TBD)

Apply for *Saito Goma* Plaques

Apply now for plaques for the *Saito Goma* fire ceremony to be held in conjunction with the Spring Grand Festival on the *Goreichi* grounds in Sacramento on Sunday, April 8. An application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Replace Your Holy Paper Plaques

Have you renewed your holy paper plaques for placement around your home for protection and blessing? See your local church branch for details on types of plaques and prices.

Office Assistants in Sacramento, L.A. Churches



Judy Tsuboi, left, and Marylin Nakamura

Long-time church member **Judy Tsuboi** has joined the Sacramento Church office staff as Office Assistant, reporting to **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**. In her new part-time position – 9 am to 1:30 pm, two days a week – Judy will be responsible for general clerical and administrative work. As a paid office staff member, Judy will ensure consistent administrative support and enhance the effective operation of the Sacramento Church.

Marylin Nakamura has served as Office Assistant at the L.A. Church since 2013. Reporting to **Rev. Naoya Okano**, Marylin’s part-time schedule has been changed to Wednesday through Sunday, 9 am to 2:30 pm.

Notice of General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings will be held at the Sacramento Church on Sunday, February 11, and at the Los Angeles Church on Sunday, February 18.

The purpose of the meetings is the election of the slate of directors for the Board of Directors of Gedatsu USA. The elections will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Sunday services. All members are invited to participate.

NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Japan Tour Group

In celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Gedatsu Church, a special tour group from America is being organized to participate in the anniversary event this fall.

The tour will leave from Los Angeles and San Francisco on October 11, with a three-day stay in Saitama, Japan, where tour participants will attend the Grand Fall Festival in *Goreichi* on Sunday, October 14.

Sightseeing activities to various areas are being planned. Ten- and four-day tour packages are available. Contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church if you are interested in participating. Additional details will be communicated in coming months.



Sun Spirit Services in February

On February 11, 1940, Gedatsu Kongo dedicated the Sun Spirit Monument (shown above) on the grounds of the *Goreichi* in Japan. The monument – with its large circular sun image at its center and Japanese characters for *seishin*, or “spirit” – was erected to impress upon the minds of people everywhere the importance of cultivating the spiritual qualities of the sun: selflessness, fairness and endless compassion.

Members are encouraged to attend the Sun Spirit services in February to recognize and give thanks to the sun for its gifts and significance in our lives.

DEAR REVEREND

Q

As I age and experience health issues, how can I overcome my feelings of guilt that I am a burden to my spouse and children?

A

At age 76 and approaching that condition myself, I have also thought about that issue.

First of all, we need to express appreciation to God, our ancestors and guardian angels for our lives until now.

As to relying on your spouse for help, consider this: When you married, you married “for better or worse, ‘til death do you part.” When you made this vow, there was no way of knowing whose health would decline first. If your spouse is in a better position to help you, accept that help gratefully, and express your appreciation each time assistance is offered. While it still takes effort to help you, it lessens their burden by knowing they are constantly being appreciated.

“If your spouse is in a better position to help you, accept that help gratefully, and express your appreciation each time assistance is offered.”

If you must depend on your children for help, think: Did you do the same for your parents when they reached your condition? If you did, I am sure that your children noticed this, and having learned by your example, they will gladly do the same for you. Also, when your children were young, did you give them the support they needed? If so, their support for you now is simply repayment for what you did for them. So, accept their assistance with gratitude, and you need not feel guilty.

However, not feeling guilty does not mean the help you receive is an entitlement. You still need to express your appreciation and do as much as you can for yourself to minimize dependence and burden upon others. Encourage your helpers to take some time off for themselves. Tell them that you have lived your life and you want them to live theirs, too. Think ahead and anticipate what assistance you may require over the next few hours or days, so they can have some free time for themselves without worrying about leaving you temporarily.

Even if you are an invalid or may not be as mobile as you like, as long as you are still alive, you can still pray and continue to grow spiritually until you are re-united once more with your parents and ancestors.

Senior Deacon Jackson Ito

AROUND OUR CHURCH



Los Angeles Church Annual Christmas Service and Music Program

Good cheer abounded at the annual holiday party at the L.A. Church in December. Outside musical groups, friends and special guests joined members in a festive celebration filled with holiday music and carols, good food, friends and lots of expressions of appreciation. The music program included members singing “The Twelve Days of Christmas,” aided by cue cards and electronic monitor. They were followed by the “Church Trio,” singers Mallory Soto, Dylan Fujioka and Patrick Shiroishi; Mel Ogata’s Hawaiian Ukulele Group; and the Mark Keppel High School Holiday Band. A special appearance by Santa (aka Brian Waldman) thrilled children and families. Then, everyone – all 100 members and 60 guests – packed the kendo hall, where a tasty buffet was enjoyed by all.

A Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Translated and Condensed by Rev. H. Taki

Chapter 2 Great Ambitions

In 1895, 15-year-old Eizo (Gedatsu Kongo) returned home from his apprenticeship in Tokyo to assist his father, Makitaro, in establishing the Okano family in the textile weaving business.

Makitaro planned to enter the subcontract weaving business, called *Chinbata*, a popular method of textile production in which cotton yarn was purchased from a spinning company, processed and then subcontracted to designated households to weave white cotton cloth. The woven cloth was then collected and sold to a wholesaler.

At first, the business was run only during the farming leisure season, but by the second year, the operation was running full scale. With Eizo's older brother, Shinzaburo, called up for military service, Eizo was put to work immediately upon his return. His first assignment was the delivery of yarn, then the collection of the finished white cotton cloth. Eizo mastered these business assignments rapidly.



During Eizo's teens, the amateur *sumo* tournament was the most popular event of the Kitamotojuku village annual festivals. Strong and solidly built, Eizo was a village favorite in the *sumo* competitions.

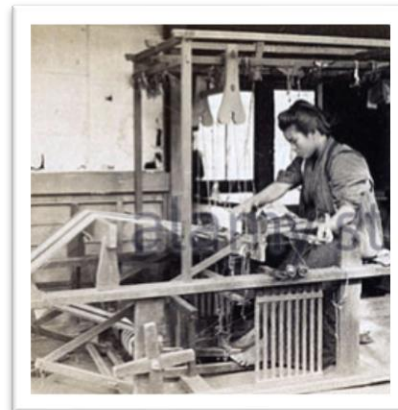
Determination to fulfill the family's dream

When Eizo's grandmother Yu died in 1898 at the age of 82, his heartbroken grandfather retired to his bed. Thin with loss of appetite, he called Eizo to his bedside, telling him, "Man's destiny is determined by how well he handles adversity. Never give up even when you have a hard time, and make every effort. You will then surely be able to profit by success. Don't forget this."

Grasping his grandfather's hands and nodding deeply, Eizo said with a soft smile, "Thank you for your kindness. You must be tired. Take a good rest." The following day, Eizo's grandfather entered a comatose state and passed away, just two months after his grandmother's passing.

Later that year, Shinzaburo came home after his three years' absence. Makitaro told his sons solemnly, "Listen to my words as your grandfather's will. We will start the weaving business on a full scale." He explained how they would buy a new machine and weave cotton cloth throughout the year, gradually increasing the number of weaving machines until they could build a factory.

So, in the spring of the following year, at the age of 19, Eizo went to the home of an established subcontracting textile business, and Shinzaburo went to a textile factory, where they would each serve their apprenticeships in order to learn the business.



Japan's textile industry in the 1890s depended on weaving districts, in which weaving was subcontracted to rural households that wove cloth on hand- and foot-powered looms.

The following spring, Eizo and Shinzaburo returned home and started the weaving business under the name "Okano Weaving Company."

Eizo devoted his efforts to persuading the farmers to do the subcontract weaving throughout the year. However, a civil war in China was causing exports there to cease, resulting in the over-production of cotton yarn. The textile industry fell into a depression as factories reduced operations, and the production of cotton cloth for domestic consumption was reaching a ceiling.

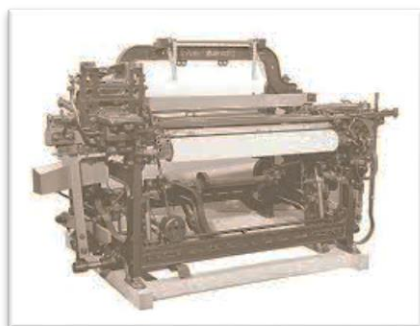
(Continued on page 6)

Eizo and Shinzaburo were devastated by the bad news. They decided to continue the weaving factory but reduce the scope of the subcontract weaving business. Eizo kept busy by canvassing prospective weaving subcontractors. In August, he finished making annual contracts with the farmers.

Operating in a volatile, changing industry

In January of 1901, an unprecedented financial crisis became the turning point of the Japanese economy. A new industrial development in the textile industry directly affected Eizo's business.

Home-made power looms were increasing in number, spreading gradually into the weaving industry and reducing the cottage industry of subcontract weaving businesses in various districts. Wholesalers began to organize the subcontractor producers, who theretofore had woven as a side job. The producers under the wholesalers bought power looms and specialized in weaving.



The homemade narrow-range power loom, invented in 1897, heralded a revolution in Japan's textile industry.

It was impossible for the Okano family to adjust to this new situation at once. After serious considerations, Eizo decided to lower the wage and minimize the profit for the Okano family.

Even with these austere measures, their weaving business finally went into the red. Eizo decided to change his current wholesaler for another. After making inquiries at several wholesalers in Tokyo, he found one who offered an exceptionally good arrangement.

So he changed wholesalers, purchasing all the cotton cloth without condition. He was able to do business much easier. Eizo saw a bright light in the future.

At the beginning of March, Eizo went to Tokyo after the settlement of accounts and received payment from the wholesaler by check for the business during the winter. He was very happy.

Business setbacks

However, one week later, a clerk from a fellow weaving business came breathlessly, exclaiming, "The wholesaler whom you deal with went into bankruptcy!" Numb and speechless, Eizo went immediately to Tokyo, and found the wholesaler's premises closed and vacant. He went to the police. They explained that the wholesaler had been operating in the deficit, and that, just before they passed a bad draft, they sold all the cotton cloth in their inventory and fled into the night with the money.

Discouraged and dispirited, Eizo returned home late at night. He reported everything to Makitaro, and bowed his head, saying, "I am very sorry. I don't know how to apologize to you."

Makitaro answered, "What's done cannot be undone. The important thing is what you should do now." Eizo could only say, "I understand." He could not suppress his tears of mortification.

Disappointment and despair

Early next morning, Eizo left home for Tokyo. Arriving at the wholesaler, he put forth his last effort, went down on his knees and asked the wholesaler to postpone the payment. The wholesaler finally understood him, but the manager told him, "Since this happened, there will be no other way than to break off business relations with you." Eizo was surprised, and asked the manager to sell yarn. But the manager said only, "I'll think about it."

Later that month, Eizo left home for Okegawa station with the money which Makitaro had given him to buy yarn. At the station, he found the train had already arrived, so he asked a station attendant to check if his goods had arrived. The attendant answered, "There is nothing for you, Mr. Okano." Eizo was disappointed by his words and was driven to despair.

Eizo then left for Tokyo to buy yarn, but it would be two long months before his family heard from him again.

(Continued on page 7)

Desperately seeking success

In Tokyo, Eizo tried to do some business in order to attain some material success, but things did not go as he had expected. Entertaining the last hope for success, he went to Korea and worked as a live-in employee for a cotton cloth store.

At that time, the Japanese Army was confronting the Russians in the Russo-Japanese War. Needing furs and charcoal to withstand the winter in Manchuria, the army ordered one of Eizo's friends to collect 20,000 furs. The friend asked Eizo to help him – a job offer that got Eizo's blood pumping.

It was just before the second all-out attack on Port Arthur when Eizo and his friend left for the village that produced furs. Eizo returned to Seoul after they finished collecting furs in the end of the year. The Baltic Fleet was supposed to have reached near the Japan Sea soon, and private ships would not be able to traverse the Japan Sea. If the Japanese Army lost, the Japanese immigrants had to remain in Korea.

Plea from home

Eizo received a letter from Makitaro, urging Eizo to return home before the battle of the Japan Sea began. Eizo shared the letter with his friend, who said, "You should go home. You have family waiting for you." Eizo thanked him and nodded deeply.

So, in March of 1905, after receiving half of the profit from the fur business from his business partner, Eizo thanked the man for everything, and said farewell.

At the age of 25, Eizo left Korea to return home to Japan.

(To be continued next month)



Holy *Hiho* Meditation – A Sacred Gift from Our Founder

Holy *Hiho* meditation is one of the three unique, sacred practices of the Gedatsu Church. [The other two are *Amacha* blessing, which was explained in the January of the *Gedatsu Companion*, and *Goho* practice, which will be explained in a future issue.]

Meditation as a general practice is widely promoted today for its healthful benefits for the body and mind, including reducing stress, lowering blood pressure and improving concentration.

Hiho meditation has these same benefits, as well as spiritual cultivation. In this regard, *Hiho* meditation shares similarities to Zen meditation in the Zen Buddhist practice, especially in its emphasis on the quieting of the mind, proper posture, focus on the breath, and deep, peaceful introspection. By faithfully practicing Zen meditation, it is said that one is able to reach a high spiritual level – a sublime goal, which requires years of practice and is difficult to achieve.

The primary, and essential, difference between Zen meditation and *Hiho* meditation is that the latter uses the Holy *Hiho*, a sacred amulet, which our Founder, Gedatsu Kongo, inscribed with his great spiritual power. This amulet is imbued with the mysterious energy of the Universal Life Force that gives life to all things.

A Short-cut to Purifying the Heart and Mind

The *Hiho* amulet acts essentially as a short-cut to purifying our hearts and minds by disentangling ourselves from delusions and earthly desires.

At the same time, various spirits – likened to particles of dust that cause delusions – are also purified. Thus, there are those whose destinies have changed through the practice of *Hiho* meditation alone. Such is the power of the Holy *Hiho*.

Continued on page 8

Holy Hiho Meditation – Continued from page 7



*By receiving
the Holy Hiho –
with proper
posture and
breathing and
putting the
hands together
in a prayerful
pose – your mind
naturally
becomes serene,
effecting the
purification of
your mind
and soul.*



Performing Hiho Meditation

Hiho meditation is practiced by sitting on a chair with your spine erect and feet flat on the floor. (You may also sit on the floor.)

As shown in the above photos, the Holy *Hiho* is received with palms up, and then both hands are put together in a prayerful pose.

By receiving the Holy *Hiho* in this manner – with proper posture, breathing and prayerful attitude – your mind naturally becomes serene, effecting the purification of your mind and soul. This proper physical form strongly affects your mental condition and feelings.

Naturally, various thoughts and feelings may enter your consciousness while performing the meditation. The *Hiho* meditation has important significance at this point. When a thought arises in your mind, do not attach yourself to that thought.

Instead, let it go and return to concentrating on your breath. Repeat this again and again as thoughts arise. Neither concern yourself with arising thoughts – this is natural – nor try to suppress thoughts, but let them flow.

In the course of the meditation, the spiritual power of the Holy *Hiho* brings your body and mind into harmony according to the Universal Law. This is accomplished by unconditionally trusting the Holy *Hiho* you are holding between your palms.

Trusting in the Universal God

When thoughts dissolve and you are deep within the state of meditation, you have reached the point where you are one with the Universal God. Because you become one with God, regardless of the delusions and earthly desires you may possess, these thoughts gradually disappear. This is no fanciful idea, but a valid outcome of *Hiho* meditation when performed sincerely.

Over time, as you practice Holy *Hiho* meditation regularly, the absence of thoughts will come easily and naturally. Gradually, you will be able to grasp the mystery and beauty of meditation, which is to leave your thoughts and totally trust in the Universal God.

Everyone, including children, can benefit from the positive benefits of *Hiho* meditation. It is important to practice *Hiho* meditation regularly under the supervision of a minister. Therefore, come to church as often as possible and ask one of the ministers to allow you to perform the practice.

As Gedatsu members, we are sincerely appreciative to Gedatsu Kongo for bequeathing to us this sacred, priceless practice. Let us take advantage of this wonderful gift.



[Editor's Note: The Companion is indebted to the late Archbishop Kishida and Rev. Arthur Sakamoto, as well as Rev. Hisakazu Taki and Rev. Kazuo Yamada, whose writings and/or sermons were referenced in this article.]

DECEMBER 2017 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M. Rodrigues, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide
\$50–\$99: M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M R. Reano, M/M B. Ide
\$100+: M/M D. Tsubok, T. Wakabayashi, K. Gibson, J. Sebe / J. Detwiler

Special Acknowledgment

S. Nishino Gedatsu Kongo birthday (\$590)
 A. Sebe Appreciation for Noah study (\$250)
 J. Ito Appreciation for safe Japan trip (\$300)
 Sebe Family Appreciation for 2017 blessings (\$500)
 Kitasoe Family Richard's 33rd memorial (\$3,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: H. Kumashiro, R. Leung, M. Nakamura, Y. Naruko, Y. Oishi, A. Okimura, J. Tanji
\$50–\$99: M/M M. Hamada, J. Kaku, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, M. Okada, M/M S. Shalkan, D. Shiroishi, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M P. Young
\$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima, M. Kimura, M/M T. Matsumoto, T. Nakamura
\$200+: T. Ishida, J. Ito, M/M N. Okano, T. Okimura, D. Shiroishi
\$300+: S. Okimura

Special Acknowledgment

M/M M. Ishida Year-end appreciation (\$500)
 J. Ito Appreciation safe trip to Japan (\$200)
 M/M N. Okano Appreciation for year-end (\$100)



Majestic Half Dome in winter, Yosemite National Park, Calif.

2018 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Apr 8 (Sun) Apr 28 (Sat)	Spring Grand Festival 9:30 a.m. L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD)
May 13 (Sun) May 20 (Sun) May 26 (Sat) May 27 (Sun) May 29 (Tue)	Sacramento Mother's Day Service L.A. Mother's Day service L.A. Rummage Sale (TBD) 8 a.m. Sacramento plaque burning (<i>Joen-nogi</i>) Church closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)
Jun 10 (Sun) Jun 17 (Sun) Jun 17 (Sun) Jun 23-24 (Sat-Sun)	Sacto Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Sacto Set-up for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar L.A. Mother Kiyota's Memorial Service <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar Sacramento 11 am
Jul 4 (Wed) Jul 15 (Sun) Jul 22 (Sun) Jul 26-29 (Thu-Sun)	Church Closed (Independence Day) L.A. <i>Obon</i> Service/Graduates Honored Sacramento <i>Obon</i> Service Youth Camp in Sacramento
Aug 4 (Sat) Aug 29 (Sun)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> Service (TBD) L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Sept 2 (Sun) Sept 4 (Tue) Sept 15 (Sun) Sept 23 (Sun)	Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m. Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day) L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service Sacramento <i>Higan</i> Service
Oct 6-7 (Sat-Sun) Oct 9 (Tue) Oct 20 (Sat) Oct 21 (Sun) Oct 28 (Sun)	L.A. Autumn Moon Festival Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day) Sacramento Trip to Apple Hill (TBD) L.A. <i>Ujigami</i> Service Sacramento All Souls Service
Nov 4 (Sun) Nov 11 (Sun) Nov 17 (Sat) Nov 18 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Nov 22-23 Nov 25 (Sun)	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday) Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Dec 2 (Sun) Dec 9 (Sun)	L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service Sacramento Last Service of Year Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up
Dec 9 (Sun) Dec 16 (Sun)	L.A. Church Clean-up L.A. Christmas Service Last Appreciation Service
Dec 23-31	Church Closed

2 月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

4 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
11 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
18 日 (日) 10:00A	日英・感謝会 太陽精神日建立記念祭
20 日 (火)	振替休日 (プレジデントの日)
25 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

4 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
11 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・リージョナル委員会
18 日 (日) 1:00P	サンノゼ支部感謝会
20 日 (火)	振替休日 (プレジデントの日)
25 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会

2 月度みさとし

「真に感謝に徹する生活は、
真に施しに徹する生活である」

われわれの生活は、その一切が「いただきもの」である。肉体生命そのものも、日々食している魚や肉や野菜なども、水も空気も太陽光線も、その中の何一つとしてわれわれ自身が生み出したものはない。また、日々の生活に不可欠な言葉や文字も、さまざまな知識や常識も、それらすべてが親や学校の先生をはじめさまざまな人々から教わったものであり、さらには太古以来の先人たちによって培われた伝統や習慣のおかげで身につけることができたものばかりである。この事実をかみしめるならば、誰しも限りない感謝をおぼえることだろう。そして、自分が被った無限のおかげさまに対する報恩として、世のため人のために精一杯お使いいただきたいと願うようになるにちがいない。感謝報恩は、無限のおかげさまを深く自覚したとき、おのずから生まれてくる人間のもっとも自然な生き方なのである。

解脱人生相談

不妊ですごく悩んでいます

【質 問】 友達が結婚して5年以上が経ちましたが、不妊ですごく悩んでいます。何かアドバイスはないでしょうか？

回答者： 岡野 尚也

まず、不妊というのは、女性が1人で問題を抱え込みがちですが、ここで断言したいのは、あなた自身は何も悪くないということです。そして、決して自分自身を責める必要がないということです。また、これは夫婦の問題であり、夫がいかに自分のこととしてとらえら

れるかが重要だということです。ここではそれらをふまえた上で、過去に同様の相談に対してのアドバイスで良い結果がでたものをいくつか紹介させていただきたいと思います。

1つ目は、夫婦そろって氏神様に日参すること。日本ではよく、子どもは”授かりもの”と言います。これは、神様からお許しを得られて初めて子どもが与えられるものだと考えられているからです。夫婦そろって氏神さまに日参することによって、神の心に自分たちをあわせていく。その結果、神様のお許しを得られ子どもが授かった方がいらっしゃいます。

2つ目は、両親への感謝です。私たちを木に見立てたときに、私たち自身は枝や幹であり、両親やご先祖様は根といえると思います。私たちがたくさんの花を咲かせ、実を結ぶには、根っこを大切にし、しっかりと栄養を与えることが重要です。そのためにも、ご先祖様に天茶供養をして、両親に対して無条件の感謝の気持ちを持ち、行動にあらわすと良いでしょう。

確かに子どもの存在は、人生の中の大きな喜びの1つと言えるでしょう。しかし、子どもがいないからと言って、その人生が子どものいる人生より劣っているわけではありません。外に目を向ければあなた自身が社会に貢献し輝く方法はたくさんあります。仕事を一生懸命することも素晴らしいですし、ボランティア活動などをするのもあなたの人生を豊かにすると思います。

いずれにせよ、夫婦が足並みそろえて、取り組むことが大切です。夫婦という違った環境で育った2人が手を携えて、正しい道を進んだ時、思いがけないパワーや結果につながると信じています。幸運をお祈りいたします。

講 話

新たな文明への移行期に魂の覚醒を

山田 一雄

本年 2018 年の干支（えと）は「戊戌（つちのえいぬ）」になります。陰陽五行説（いんようごぎょうせつ）で言えば、戊（つちのえ）は「草木が盛大になる様」で、戌（いぬ）は「草木が枯れる様」を表します。枯れる側面と、生い茂る側面があるということで、「変化」とか「二極性」とか「変わり目」を象徴しています。

また戊戌（つちのえいぬ）は五行の「土」同士の組み合わせで、これを「比和（ひわ）」と言い、比和は「勢いが増す」という関係です。ちなみに前年の丁酉（ひのととり）は、「火」と「金」の組み合わせで、「相剋（そうこく）」と言い、調和せず争う関係でした。

これらのことから、戊戌（つちのえいぬ）の本年は、「昨年からの流れの勢いが増し、変わり目となる年」と言うことができます。

昨年は、これまで成熟してきたものが、新たな動きとぶつかる年。すなわち在来の勢力に対し、新しい勢力が衝突する年でした。本年もこの動きの延長にあるわけですが、国際情勢で言えば、グローバリズムとナショナリズムとの葛藤がさらに激しくなるでしょう。

したがって、「すべてのこととバランスをとる」「自然と調和して生きる」ことを学ぶべき年だと言えるでしょう。

現在、この地球上ではネガティブなことがたくさん浮上してきています。

米国と北朝鮮の間でも戦争が起こりうる危機にあります。暴力的な事件もいたる所で目立ちました。

世界各地では、自然災害も頻発しています。

昨年、メキシコでは地震による大きな被害があり、フロリダやテキサスには2つの大きなハリケーンが上陸しました。また、カリフォルニアは北でも南でも大規模な山火事が起きて、多くの被害をもたらしました。気候変動による自然災害は、年々巨大化しており、その勢いもさらに増していくと考えられます。

今まで溜め込まれていたネガティブなエネルギーがここ数年、噴出してきているのです。

ハリウッドの映画界で、セクハラ問題が次々噴出してきたのも同じことです。ネガティブなものや、隠されていたもの、古いシステムの垢や毒素が、表面化し、ごまかし切れなくなっているのです。宇宙との調和がとれてない物事は、どんどんあぶり出されています。

「神」の淘汰（とうた）はいつも行なわれている」と、金剛さまは申されました。淘汰とは、適応性のいいものと良くないものが進化の過程で選り分けられること。そうした意味で、一種の浄化作用が地球上で加速度的に起きているのだと思います。これによりポジティブな世界とネガティブな世界、幸せと不幸せ、上昇と停滞といった二極の差がより鮮明となってくるでしょう。

金剛さまは、「世の変革のような非常重大な時機に、魂の覚醒（かくせい）を得ねば、ついにその機を永遠に逸（いつ）するであろう」とおっしゃられました。

「人世の過去の罪惡も、社会、国家の苦難も、世界の禍乱も、皆神より離脱したる所から来る。神に復帰することは絶対の要件である」と言われました。

地上における気候変動や災害の激化は、人類に霊性への目覚めを促すサインです。人類の意識がもう一段階深まらなければ、現在の文明は、やがて地球環境を破壊し人類を滅ぼすところまで来ているのです。

幸いにも、多くの人々が自然とすべての人々と調和して生きる必要性に目覚めています。多くの人々が自然エネルギーを研究しており、脱炭素社会を確立しようとしています。

現在の状況は、人類が新しい文明に移行する過渡期、

あるいは転換点であることを示唆する多くの兆候があります。

目に見える現象界の背後には、目に見えない宇宙の法則が働いています。自然の森や農家や果樹園でも、目に見えない根の状態は、目に見える花や野菜、果実の品質を直接的に支配しています。言い換えれば、目に見えない世界が、目に見える現象を支えているのです。これと同じ原理が、私たちの肉体的、精神的な世界にも当てはまります。

私たちは、通常、自らを肉体的な存在だととらえがちですが、実際は、それよりもはるかに偉大な存在なのです。私たちの本質は目に見えない靈魂であり、不滅の生命であり、さらに、魂の奥に神性を宿す存在だと、金剛さまは言われています。私たちの心と意識は無限なる霊的宇宙と結びついているのです。

金剛さまは、「人は神によって生かされている神の分身霊である。肉体が宇宙現象のまにまに生きているごとく、精神もまた神のまにまに生きなければならない」、「ゆえに神を意識し、神に通じ、神慮（しんりょ）のまにまに生きようとするのが、人間生活の根本道である」とおっしゃっています。

このようなことに気付くことが“魂の覚醒を得る”ことなのです。本来の自己の姿に気づくことによって、心は輝きを増し、自然に宇宙に調和して生きていくことができるのです。

金剛さまは「生活即宗教」を強調されました。私たちが直面する日常における課題こそ、心を磨くために必要な勉強として、それぞれに与えられたものだからです。日々、神を敬い先祖を尊ぶことによって、見えない霊的宇宙とのつながりを深めつつ、その導きと加護により、内なる高い心を発揮してまいりましょう。

本日は、年の初めにあたり、「神に復帰すること」「神を意識すること」「神に通じること」「神のまにまに生きること」など、「神」に関する金剛さまからのメッセージのいくつかを紹介させていただきました。

要は、常に「神」を意識するのが大切なのですが、「神を意識する」ということをあまり難しくとらえる必要は全くありません。神は、常に私たちそれぞれの心の奥座敷におわすわけですから、常に「内なる良心の声に耳をかたむける」「心から祈り、本当の心に従って生きる」ということでいいのです。

お互いさま、このことを改めて肝に銘じまして、この1年、解脱の教えに精進するとき、たとえ何があろうとも、必ずやふさわしい道が開けてくるものと確信いたします。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for Gedatsu members like **Katsuki Sato**, a third-generation Gedatsu member from Japan. Now living in the U.S., Katsuki is establishing the L.A. branch of GRACE Co., Ltd., a

Tokyo-based company that sells a variety of Japanese and other musical instruments. He's pleased that he can visit the L.A. Gedatsu Church, where he finds the atmosphere "very peaceful" and hopes to start studying Gedatsu. In his spare time, Katsuki enjoys listening to music, playing drums, baseball and the L.A. life.

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Gedatsu Angels Brighten Holiday for Children in Need



L.A. Church members and friends donated more than \$2,300 to purchase Christmas gifts for Maryvale, a nearby community agency that cares for orphaned, abused, abandoned and neglected children and youth in the foster care system.

Dollars donated to the Gedatsu Angel Fund purchased "Wish List" items for six dozen children and youths. Gifts included skateboards, scooters, helmets, board games, headphones, Mp3 players, sweatshirts and sweaters, backpacks, school supplies, body and bath lotions, blankets and more.

The Gedatsu Angel program is a community outreach project promoted by the L.A. Regional Board and spearheaded by L.A. members, **Mark and Marie Ishida**.



Mark and Marie Ishida, above, collected the donations, purchased the "wish list" items and delivered the gifts to Maryvale. At left, **Roxy Barlett**, development and volunteer manager at Maryvale, gratefully accepts the donated gifts from Marie.