



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA

www.gedatsu-usa.org

FEBRUARY 2019

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Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

*"Gedatsu is to make God's Will
a reality on earth."*

The Universal Law has been operating constantly from time immemorial. All living things on earth, including humans, are allowed to live according to the Law of the Universe, which prevails over all things, regardless of any times, cultures or regions.

All true religions in the world must be based on this great Universal Law. However, many religions have fought with one another because of doctrinal differences, unable to find common ground.

When we realize the foolishness of these conflicts, we naturally respect those traditions that comply with the Universal Law and work together for world peace.

This is Gedatsu.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	17	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Tue	19		Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)
Sun	24	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	10	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	17	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Sun Spirit Service
Tue	19		Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)
Sun	24	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service Regional Board Meeting

MARCH 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	24	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service Regional Board Meeting
Sun	31		Church Closed

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	10	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Fri	15	10:00 am	Propagation Meeting
Sat	16	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
Sun	17	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	24	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sun	31		Church Closed



February “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. Even if you are unable to attend, you may still honor the soul of a loved one.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 3, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Ted Sekikawa, Karl Kaoru Tanaka, Hisaye (Kino) Ide, Kaneko (Ide) Hatae, Yasuko (Noritake) Tsuboi, Roku Kino, Yoritaro Tsuboi, George Hughley and Hiroko Yamada.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 10, 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, Kesao Naito, Kikuko Naito, Shoichi Naito, Tomokata Naito, Horace Kazumori Nakamura, Chikajiro Nishi, Koto Nishi, Miyo Linda Okayama, Michi Okita, Masanobu Sakuma, Yoshinosuke John Sakuma, Sayoko Dorothy Shiroishi, Karl Tanaka and Jennie Shimako Tenma.**

Focus on Safety, Security



A project manager from the Central California Intelligence Center / Critical Infrastructure Protection recently met with members of the Sacramento Spiritual Center (John Horner, Deacon June Tanaka, Dave Ide, Scott Taketa and Rev. Yamada) to raise awareness of potential safety and security vulnerabilities around the church and provide information on measures to improve safety.

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 of the Sacramento Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 14. An application form is enclosed with this newsletter.



Our Own Gedatsu Song!

Have you submitted your ideas for song lyrics yet? Our Church Song Committee is reviewing entries through the end of February with the goal of creating lyrics for our own Gedatsu song.

Great news: **Tatsuyuki Sugimoto Sensei**, *Gedatsu-kai* member and musical composer, will be visiting the L.A. Church in mid-March to “experience the American atmosphere” before composing the melody for our song. Please come out to greet and thank him.

Notice of General Membership Meetings

General membership meetings will be held in February at the Sacramento Spiritual Center and the L.A. Church. The purpose of the meetings is the election of Regional Board officers for new two-year terms. The elections will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Sunday services. All members are invited to participate.

Guest Minister Schedule

We welcome **Bishop Teruo Okano**, who will visit the L.A. Church to attend the Propagation and Board of Directors meetings on March 15 and 16. He will meet the L.A. congregation and present the sermon following the English and Japanese *Higan* Service on Sunday, March 17.

2019 schedule for **Rev. H. Taki**, guest minister:

February 20 - April 30 – primarily L.A. Church
 March 1 - March 12 – Church of Hawaii
 July 19 - October 8 – primarily L.A. Church



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.

In his book, *The Character and Doctrine of Gedatsu Kongo*, **Archbishop Eizan Kishida** wrote: “Everything in Nature has two aspects expressing its inherent quality, the material and the spiritual. The sun is materially a gaseous formation. The everlasting light and heat from the sun are attributed as the sacred source of life for all living things on earth. The unceasing occurrence of natural phenomena on earth is centered on the force that is radiated from the sun. No matter how much scientific knowledge advances, this fact will remain to be unchanged.

“From its spiritual standpoint, the sun may be described as the expression of selflessness, fairness and endless compassion. The sun, which only gives forth its energies and takes nothing in return is the embodiment of the great universal love. The spirit of the sun is analogous to the truth, which pervades the Universe.”

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.

Q

“I attend church regularly. Why don’t I feel a spiritual connection to anything?”

A

Perhaps attending church has become a ritual, a force of habit for you.

Whether or not you say your prayers in Japanese or in English, try this for a change. Instead of saying the entire prayer, just say one line or one phrase, then stop. Carefully think about only that one phrase for the entire day, then ask yourself, “What does it mean? How can I apply this teaching to my life today?”

The next day, add another phrase in the prayer and stop. Ask yourself again, “What do these *two* phrases mean? How can I apply *both* of these teachings to my life today?”

At a minimum, do this each day, starting with the “Morning Opening Prayer” and continuing until you have gone through the entire “Aspiration” and “Obligation and Requit.” Then, at the end of the day, give your heartfelt and sincere appreciation and gratitude for your day’s accomplishments.

That will be the beginning of your true gratitude to the Universal Life Force, your guardian angels, your parents and ancestors, and all the blessings provided to you by Nature, etc.

“The Universal Life Force is allowing us to live each day under the protection of our guardian angels . . . whether we are aware of it or not.”

It may seem natural for most people to assume that they are living each day through their own efforts. However, that is not the case. The Universal Life Force is allowing us to live each day under the protection of our guardian angels, which we are all born with whether we are aware of it or not.

These guardian angels are second in importance to your happiness only to the Universal Life Force. When we can finally understand their function and importance to our daily living, they will help lead us to receive the divine guidance for our happiness and prosperity.

Then, when you do attend church and say your prayers together with everybody, it will become meaningful, and you will begin to feel your spiritual connection to the entire universe.

Senior Deacon Jackson Ito

Making Spirits Bright

The Los Angeles Church welcomed more than 160 attendees to its annual Christmas service, music program and luncheon in December. Under the direction of event chair, **Deacon Jo Ann Shiroishi**, and with the contributions of dozens of volunteers, the holiday festivities were enjoyed by everyone. Thanks to the generosity of **Linda Sanchez** and the L.A. Sunday School, every child, guest and member family received a Christmas stocking filled with fruit and sweet treats. The music program included singers **Cookie Barthel**, **Marylin Nakamura** and **Naomi Takara**; Mel Ogata's Hawaiian Ukulele Group; and the Mark Keppel High School Holiday Band. The congregation sang along and used their hand-held bells throughout the program. And the children were delighted with a visit from Santa (**Brian Waldman**, carrying on the tradition begun years ago by his father, **Bill Waldman**). A spectacular and delicious potluck luncheon followed in the festively decorated Kendo Hall.



Gedatsu Angels Make a Difference

Contributions from L.A. Church members and friends made the Gedatsu Angel project a success, enabling the church to purchase Christmas gifts for children of Maryvale, a local agency that cares for orphaned, abused, abandoned and neglected children in the foster care system. Spearheaded by members **Mark** and **Marie Ishida**, the Gedatsu Angel Program is a community outreach project promoted by the L.A. Regional Board.

“Mark and I feel blessed to be part of the Maryvale gift project,” say Marie. “With everyone’s financial support, and the special help of two Gedatsu Angels, **Donna** and **Rich Allum**, we were able to donate all the items on the Maryvale ‘wish list,’ plus a TV and Wii system.”



Left photo, Hiro Ishida, the Ishidas' grandson, loved packing the truck and helping deliver the gifts to Maryvale – “feeling like Santa.”

Right photo, Roxxi Bartlett, Maryvale's development and volunteer manager, was “overwhelmed with the generosity and kindness of the Gedatsu members,” says Marie Ishida.

AROUND OUR CHURCH – GEDATSU CHURCH OF HAWAII

Aloha and Art at Autumn Fair

Gedatsu Church of Hawaii in Honolulu held its annual Autumn Fair in November, attracting the public to the fundraising event, which featured more than 130 ceramic items for sale and painting. The ceramics were the artistic creation of **Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya**, a professional ceramist. Church members donated baked goods, handmade craft items and jewelry. *Amacha* products (*Amacha* tea, extract and soap) were also introduced at the event. The visitors enjoyed ceramic painting, shopping and live Hawaiian music and *hula* dance. “It’s a small event,” says **Tomoko Kamiya**, Rev. Kamiya’s wife, “but we get many repeat visitors.”

Shown below, top left, ceramic painting; top right, a selection of painted and fired ceramics. Bottom, custom-designed ceramics created by, from left to right, Tomoko Kamiya, Tatsuhiko Kamiya (Rev. Kamiya’s father), Tadashi Kamiya (the Kamiyas’ son), Rev. Kamiya and Tadashi Kamiya.



“For the Ultimate Hawaii Wedding Experience...”

Weddings of Hawaii, a Honolulu-based wedding-planning firm, has selected Gedatsu Church of Hawaii’s lagoon front garden as one of its signature wedding venues. Their promotional materials read: “The combination of the majestic Koko Head Crater, serene water, and pristine garden make this private, oceanfront setting the perfect balance of all things that make Hawaii an amazing destination wedding location.” For more information: https://www.wedhawaii.com/hawaii-wedding-locations/#private_wedding_venues

“It’s an ideal arrangement,” says **Rev. Kamiya**. “The company pays us a fee for the use of our garden and parking, and it doesn’t affect our church operations.”

My Fuji-san Blessings

By Flo Dyson-Palumbo

Flo Dyson-Palumbo was one of the 57 American Gedatsu members who participated in the 90th Anniversary celebration in Japan last October. She shares her experience during that trip.

Three months prior to my trip to Japan, I was diagnosed with plantar fasciitis, a painful foot condition. At one point, I thought I might have to cancel the trip, but I prayed and even bought special shoes to alleviate the pain. So, although the pain was severe, I was able to make the trip to Japan.

The day before the Fall Festival, I joined the other U.S. tour members at *Goreichi*, and together we made the rounds of the sacred grounds, praying at each of the monuments. Suddenly, when we were directly in front of the *Fuji Sengen* monument,* I froze. I was unable to take a single step further. Shocked, I sincerely prayed, “*Namu Gedatsu Kongo*” seven times. Then, just as suddenly, I was able to move again.

The tour members and I then went into the main hall to take a group photo. As I posed for the photo, I looked up and saw on the wall a painting of Mt. Fuji. A thought flashed through me, “I’m supposed to go to *Fuji-san*.” But even with this thought, a side trip to Mt. Fuji made no sense to me. My friend Kathy and I were having a good time in Japan. Mt. Fuji was simply not in our plans, so we continued our trip.

Because we were walking everywhere, the pain in my feet was worsening. One day, it got so bad, I lost my footing and slipped, badly scuffing my hands on the ground. Tiny pebbles pierced my palms, creating a lot of pain.

When we were in Tokyo, two days before our return home, another friend, Keiko, asked me, “Flo, do you have any plans for tomorrow? I want to take you both to Mt. Fuji.”

“Oh my gosh! Did I hear her correctly?” My hands and feet were in terrible pain, but I answered immediately, “Yes, please take us!” So, the next day, we were off to Mt. Fuji.



Flo and the majestic beauty of Mt. Fuji is captured above.



At left, the stone monument at the Kitaguchihongu Fuji Sengen Shrine is inscribed with the history of the monument and includes the name of Gedatsu Kongo.

When we arrived at the Kitaguchihongu Fuji Sengen Shrine at the foot of Mt. Fuji, I bowed at the *tori* gate and felt my feet tingling. This tingling sensation crept up my legs as we walked the gravel path toward the temple entrance. I told my friends what I was feeling. I began reciting *Hannya Shingyo*, the Heart Sutra.

When we reached the temple, I prayed and expressed my appreciation for allowing me to visit the temple. Suddenly, the pain disappeared! I was shocked. My friends explained that the temple was a powerful place, and those with ailments were cured here. I gave my appreciation to the temple. We moved on to *Fuji-san*.

Our next stop was the nearby *onsen* hot springs – a welcome destination after walking miles that day. While we were soaking in the warm waters, I began itching everywhere – especially my injured hand! I immediately left the pool, thinking that I was experiencing an allergic reaction to the water. Instead, to my surprise, the hot springs had actually healed my hand. I removed the bandage and found that the cuts and scratches on my palm were completely closed. There was nothing there! I couldn’t explain it. If my friends hadn’t seen me fall, they would have never believed me. I have no doubt – *Fuji-san* had healed me.

Because of **Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito’s** generous donation toward my trip, I was able to experience these lessons from Gedatsu Kongo. I am humbly grateful for everything that I experienced on this journey to Japan.

* From ancient times, the Japanese revered Mt. Fuji as a divine spirit. The Okano family respected this guardian spirit, and Gedatsu Kongo enshrined it at *Goreichi* in 1937.





A Brief History of Gedatsu Church USA – Part 2

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Gedatsu in America: After the War

After World War II ended in August 1945, the internment camps were closed, and Japanese in America were released to start their postwar lives. With the close of the Tule Lake Relocation Center, **Mrs. Ine Kiyota (Mother Kiyota)**, and those who studied Gedatsu in the camp with her, scattered in all directions.

Mrs. Kiyota moved to San Francisco and worked as a live-in domestic, resuming her Gedatsu propagation on her days off. She found some families who had studied Gedatsu in the Tule Lake camp – such as **Yukio Tanaka, Yei Takahashi, Wanosuke Matsuda** and their families – living in Sacramento and other areas in northern California. They started Gedatsu gatherings at their homes, and Mrs. Kiyota visited them to teach Gedatsu. In this manner, the Gedatsu circle widened gradually in northern California.

Most Japanese people had lost their properties when they were sent to the camps. They started their postwar life at the bottom of the ladder. Gedatsu brought rays of hope to those who suffered after the war.

Although Mrs. Kiyota worried about the health of Gedatsu Kongo, she could not know his condition because of the chaos of postwar Japan. She later learned that Gedatsu Kongo was ill and bedridden. She eagerly desired to go to Japan, but it was very hard to get permission to go to Japan right after the war.



Memorial services for Gedatsu Kongo were held at Soko-ji Buddhist Temple in San Francisco.

Gedatsu Kongo passed away on November 4, 1948. Mrs. Kiyota was deeply grieved at his passing. Because she could not get permission to go to Japan, she had his memorial service at Soko-ji Buddhist Temple in San Francisco with some American members (see photo).

In April of 1949, Mrs. Kiyota could finally visit Japan. She visited her master's grave and reported to him in tears what she had been doing in the U.S. She stayed in Japan for three months, during which time **Takeo Kishida (Archbishop Eizan Kishida)** kindly took care of her. He was in charge of *Gedatsu-kai* after Gedatsu Kongo's death. Mrs. Kiyota returned to the United States with a renewed determination for propagating Gedatsu in America.



Mrs. Kiyota (second from right) in *Goreichi*, Japan, with Archbishop Kishida. They are flanked on the left by Mrs. Kishida and on the right by Fumi Iguchi, who helped care for Gedatsu Kongo until his death.

Archbishop Kishida's Arrival in America

After she returned home, Mrs. Kiyota earnestly entreated Archbishop Kishida to come to the United States to teach Gedatsu. After much consideration, he accepted her request, handing responsibility of *Gedatsu-kai* to **Rev. Kimei Nagata**. Archbishop Kishida left Japan for the U.S. in June of 1950. He was 45 years old.

After he arrived in America, he rented a room at Fuji Hotel in Japanese Town in San Francisco. This place served as both his residence and the first Gedatsu church in America. Many people visited there to learn Gedatsu. Thus began the full-scale Gedatsu propagation in America.



Mrs. Kiyota (far right) and members attend a church meeting at the Fuji Hotel in San Francisco.

(Continued on page 8)

Beginning of Festival

Immediately after Archbishop Kishida's arrival in America, a small shrine of *Tenjinchigi*, the Supreme Spirit of the Universe, was built at a corner of the farm land owned by Yukio Tanaka and Yei Takahashi in Sacramento. They erected a wooden *kuyo* tower for the spirit of all races beside the shrine.



In August of 1950, the Fall Festival was held there for the first time in the U.S. The people attending there were all *Isseis* or *Niseis*, who had been released from internment camps and just started their postwar life with nothing. The Fall Festival was an occasion filled with joy and appreciation by the pioneer members, who found comfort and hope in Gedatsu in their hard life. They also found a bond with Japan in Gedatsu. Thus, although small, the festival was filled with their joy and happiness.

Gedatsu Church in San Francisco

An old house building on Clay Street in San Francisco was purchased as Gedatsu Church of America in September of 1950. A sign was placed at the entrance, reading: "Gedatsu Church, American Branch." This building became the center of Gedatsu propagation in the United States.



Archbishop Kishida welcomes a member at the entrance of the Clay Street church.

Archbishop Kishida asked Mrs. Kiyota to quit her job, and gave her a Buddhist title, *Ken'yu*. She was ordained as a minister of Gedatsu Church, engaging herself fully in Gedatsu propagation together with Archbishop Kishida.

Kanshakai services were held at the Clay Street church on the first Sunday each month. Archbishop Kishida visited Sacramento twice a month and attended meetings at **Wanosuke Matsuda's** and Yukio Tanaka's homes to teach Gedatsu. Rev. Kiyota mainly taught members at the church on Clay Street, and sometimes visited members in Stockton and other regions to teach.



Kanshakai service at the Clay Street church. The house had a capacity of about 100 people after renovations.

In those days, Sunday services and home meetings started at 8 p.m. and lasted until midnight. After the ministers' sermon, members always performed *Goho-shugyo*. Every month, many members came to the Clay Street church to attend the services and study sessions, traveling not only from the Bay Area but also from Sacramento. It took two or three hours to drive from Sacramento to San Francisco, because road conditions were poor. After a hard day's work on the farms, members drove more than two hours to attend the service, and then drove another two or three hours back home after midnight. This was the usual way for members to study Gedatsu in those days. Despite the difficulties, members were filled with joy and enthusiasm in their pursuit of Gedatsu.

(Next Issue: Gedatsu extends to Los Angeles, establishing the Gedatsu Church of America, and construction of the Sacramento Church)



DECEMBER 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: S. Taketa, S. Tanaka, M/M B. Ide, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi

\$50–\$99: M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M C. Tanaka

\$100+: D. Sebe, Rev. A. Sebe, J. Horner, Rev/M K. Yamada, J. Detwiler/J. Sebe

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M V. Mizokami, M. Nakamura, A. Okimura, N. Takara

\$50–\$99: M/M M. Hamada, M/M K. Kuritani, M. Okada, M/M T. Matsumoto, T. Murakami, E. Ogawa, Y. Oishi, L. Sanchez, T. Toyama, C. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima, J. Kaku, M/M C. Morioka, M/M S. Mukai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Nakamura, M/M C. Pinedo, De. Shiroishi, F. Sueyoshi, C. Tomari, M/M H. Tsujimura, H. Yamamoto

\$200+: M/M R. Allum, T. Ishida, M/M N. Okano,

M/M M. Palelek, M/M P. Reid, Do. Shiroishi

\$400+: M/M M. Ishida, J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Janis/James Peck Special acknowledgment for Tomiko Mizokami (\$1,500)

Yoko Oishi Japan trip and opportunity for daughter (\$150)



*Gedatsu is not far from you
but is always in front of you.
Imagine Gedatsu as part of
your everyday life.*

*As long as you sit back
as an onlooker,
you will never be able to get
at the heart of Gedatsu.*

Gedatsu Kongo

2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 14 (Sun) Spring Grand Festival 9:30 am

May 12 (Sun) Sacramento Mothers' Day Service
May 18 (Sat) LA Rummage Sale (TBD) 8:00 am
May 19 (Sun) L.A. Mothers' Day Service
May 26 (Sun) Sacramento plaque burning (*Joan-no-gi*)
May 27 (Mon) Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service
May 28 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

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

2 月 度 教 会 行 事 予 定

ロサンゼルス教会

3 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
10 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
17 日 (日) 10:00A	日英・感謝会 太陽精神日建立記念祭
19 日 (火)	振替休日 (プレジデントの日)
24 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

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

2 月 度 み さ と し

「天の心を地に布くをもって
すなわち解脱の教えとなす」

宇宙大自然は、太古以来、一寸の狂いもなく、また一瞬のとどこおりもなく、巡り続けている。その法則のまにまに、われわれ人間をはじめ宇宙に存する万物は生かされ、存在せしめられているのである。この法則は、時代や文化や地域の違いにかかわらず、あらゆる存在にもれなく及んでいる大法則であって、古今東西のさまざまな宗教はこの宇宙の大法則にもとづいて生まれたものだといえる。ところが実際には、宗教同士、互いに優劣を競い合い、他を貶し、挙句の果てに宗教の違いが原因となって戦争を起こしている現実がある。人類は、それがいかに愚かなことであることか思い知るべきだ。教義や儀礼や礼拝対象の違いがありながら、その根底に宇宙大自然法則という太古以来いささかも変わらぬ大法則が存していることを深く自覚するとき、われわれは違いを超えて、他宗を尊び、他宗から学び、共存共栄の世界平和実現のために互いに協力し合っていくことができるはずである。これが解脱の道である。



解 脱 人 生 相 談

親が私の気持ちを理解してくれません

【質 問】 私は高校生ですが、両親が私の気持ちを理解してくれず、いつも寂しく悲しい気持ちでいます。どのようにすればよいのでしょうか？

回答者：岡野 尚也

私には3歳の息子がいます。名前は龍之助。とても可愛く、私たち夫婦の宝物です。できる限りの愛情を注いであげたい。しかし、いつも「これで良かったのかな？」と悩んでいます。

例えば、夜寝る前、龍之助が好きな Youtube の動画を見たいと言います。見せてあげたい気持ちもあります。でも、息子の健康を考えたら早く寝た方がよい。けど、動画を見せた方がそのあとすんなり寝るかもしれない…。答えは出ません。そうやって悩みながらも、泣いて訴える龍之助をなだめて、部屋の電気を消します。

あなたが悩んでいるように、あなたの親もきっとどのようにしたらいいか悩んでいるんだと思います。わかってくれないのではないのです。その理解が少し足りないだけなんだと思います。

子どものことを考えていない親はいません。子どもの幸せを望まない親はいません。ただ、朝から夜まで働かないといけない。少しでも栄養のある料理を作ってあげたい。そうやって色々なことに精一杯すぎて、あなたの寂しさや悲しみに気づく余裕がないだけなのです。

たぶんあなたはこれまでも色々親に自分の思いを伝えてきたと思います。どうか諦めないで自分の思いをストレートに両親に伝えてあげてください。

もしかしたら「わかった」と口で言うだけで、何も変わらないかもしれません。それではあなたの心は満たされないかもしれない。でも、きっと続けていれば必ず親もあなたの求めているものが何かわかってくれる時が来ると思います。

お父さんもお母さんも完ぺきではありません。ティーン（高校生）のあなたならわかるでしょう。親もあなたたちと一緒に成長しているのです。あなたもいつかきっと親になるでしょう。その時に今のあなたの親の気持ちがわかったと思います。だから心配しないでください。あなたは十分ご両親に愛されていますよ。

この一年、神の心に心を合わせて 自らを高めていきましょう

サクラメント教会 山田 一雄

新年初感謝会おめでとうございます。昨年は、グローバリズムとナショナリズムとの衝突が激しかった年でした。本年もこの動きの延長にあり、世界はより激変してゆくことと思われます。

本年の干支は「己亥（つちのとい）」。陰陽五行説（いんようごぎょうせつ）で言えば、十干の己（つちの）は陰の土、十二支の亥（い）は陰の水で、土は水を濁したり、水を吸い取ったり、せき止めたりする「相剋（そうこく＝相手を打ち滅ぼす）」の関係です。

二極化の動きはより強まり、明暗、ポジティブ、ネガティブの差はよりはっきりし、あらゆる面で時代の分かれ目のような年になってくるでしょう。

これを個人のレベルに当てはめれば、幸せな人と幸せでない人、上昇する人と停滞したままの人との格差が広がり、二極に分化していく。つまり、ポジティブな意識の世界に住む人たちとネガティブな意識の世界に住む人たちに振り分けられていくと思われます。

そのような激しい変化の流れの中で自分を見失わないためにも、「自分自身が常に戻るべきところはどこか」と、自分の軸をしっかり持つておくことが大切だと思います。

私たちのすべきことは、まず、自分たちの心を努めて清らかに保つこと。そうすることによって、宇宙の法則に従い、為すべきことが自然に見えてくるはず。清らかな心に映ったポジティブな道に従い、喜びの光がある方向へと歩いていけばいいのです。

幸い、皆さまは年の初めの感謝会に来られ、神に感謝報恩の祈りを捧げ、御秘法による心のお浄めをされました。神に心を向けるということは、自分の心の中に神と交流する通路を開いたということであり、神の恵みと導きにより成長していける、幸先のいい新年のスタートをきったということです。

金剛さまは、「神を意識し、神に通じ、神の心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」とお教えてくださいました。

神はすべての源であり、すべてのものに神のお力が宿っているわけです。ですから、神に祈るということは、何か自己へのご利益をお願いするというこ

とではなくて、神に感謝し、神の心に心を合わせるということなのだと教えられています。そして、お恵みやご利益というものは、神の心を心として生きるという中に、求めずとも自然に与えられるものだという事なのです。

また、手を合わせるというのは「調和」を意味するのだと金剛さまは言われています。

「合掌というのは、神さまに拝んで何かを頼むというのではなくて、人に合わせ、物に合わせ、仕事に合わせていくということだ。左手を神とすれば、右手が自分。神に自分を合わせて生きる、ということです。たとえば、商売人は客に合わせ、お百姓は大自然に合わせ、家庭では、夫婦が互いに心を合わせていく。そのような調和の生活をしていくということが、神のみ心なのだよ」

と、お教えてくださったわけです。

私たちはこの一年、常に、神の心に心を合わせて暮らしていくことを決意したいと思います。そのためには毎日、家では神にご挨拶させていただく。教会では月々、感謝の祈りを捧げるということが大切になるわけです。

本年は立教 70 周年の記念すべき節目の年を迎えました。

私は、約 10 年前この教会に来た当初、何度か岸田英山先生よりメッセージをいただくことがありました。あるとき先生はこのような言われました。「今の会員たちは自分のことばかりしか考えていない。誰も教会のことを考えなくなった」

そのことで、私は自分のすべきことは何かを分からせていただきました。それは、会員たちが自分たちの足で立って自らの教会を支えていくようにリードサポートすること。それが私に与えられた役目なのだと悟らせていただいたのです。

ですから、現在の皆さまが自分たちの教会のことで立ち上がったことを、何よりも喜んでいるのは、創設者の岸田英山先生や第一世代の会員たちだと思います。

米国解脱教会の将来は、深く教えを信じ子孫の幸せを願った私たちの先駆者や先祖から、現在の私たち一人一人に託された課題です。

解脱は、霊性を磨き、心を高めてゆくことができる本当に素晴らしい教えです。その幸せを家族や友人たちと分かち合い、多くの方を教会にお誘いし、秋に行われる 70 周年の祝賀晩餐会と秋季大祭には共に参加させていただきましょう。

この一年、常に神の心に心を合わせて、神の導きを得ながら精進させていただきたいと思います。最後に、私たちを神に導き近づけてくださる私たちの先祖の霊に感謝し、真心からの天茶供養をさせていただきます。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Mika Magauran** of the Gedatsu Church of Hawaii. She, her husband **Edward**, and daughter **Momoko** live in Waikiki in Honolulu. Originally from Okayama, Japan, Mika has been a Gedatsu member for 32 years and a member of the

Hawaiian church since 2006. A massage therapist and aesthetician, Mika enjoys visiting her in-laws' large family gatherings in Connecticut. "They love the 'family harmony' of Gedatsu," says Mika, "and appreciate giving *Amacha* blessing to their ancestors."

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A Snapshot in Time

This photo was taken some time in our church's 70-year history.

Can you identify the date, activity and people in the photo?

If you can identify any of the details relating to this photo, email your answer(s) to la_branch@gedatsu-usa.org.