

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

JULY 2018

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"If your efforts are earnest and
selfless, there is nothing
you cannot achieve."*

The key to success in any
endeavor is your relationship with
others.

While some professions, like
artists, work alone, even they are
helped and supported by others in the
performance of their activities.

In companies and
organizations, the earnest leadership
at the head of the organization is
important. But without other's
cooperation and teamwork, nothing
can be achieved.

Each person contributes a
different view and thought. If you
insist on having your own way, you
cannot accomplish anything. When
you carefully listen to others and help
one another, you will be led to a
successful outcome.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Wed	4		Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sun	8	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Graduates Honored / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	15	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Obon</i> Service
Thu-Sun	26-29		Summer Youth Camp

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Wed	4		Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sun	8	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Sun	22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation "Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Thu-Sun	26-29		Summer Youth Camp in Sacramento
Sun	29		Church Closed

AUGUST 2018

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	4	8:00 am	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> (TBD)
Sun	5	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	19	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	26	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Clean-up for Festival

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	5	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	12	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	15	10:00 am	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	26	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / <i>Ajikan</i> Meditation "Life in Your 20s" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.



July “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, July 1, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Yukie Ota, Charlie Zenzo Tagawa, Steve Morio Taketa, Keisuke Tateishi, Yukio Tateishi, Keiichi Takemura, Tsuma Kino, Kimiko Yomogida, Yukio Jim Ide, Kazue Ando Kotabe, Alan Yoneo Oshima and Mother Kenyu Kiyota.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, July 8, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Mitsuru Amabe, Hideko Arakawa, Iku Arakawa, Masao Arakawa, Chester Bennington, Nathan Capross, Kazuma Fukunaga, Kathryn Christina Howe, Tomoko Imai, Kazuo Inouye, Yoshino Kawamura, Shige Kumashiro, Maria Antonia Lechuga, Ellen Hatsuko Mori, Hiroko Murakami, Stanley Muronaka, Yoshiichi Muronaka, Tazu Nagura, Tomoyoshi Naito, Kyoko Nakaguchi, Shigeo Nakamura, Halen Nakano, Eddie Kinya Ogura, Nancy Yoshie Ogura, Setsu Sakuma, Malayka Jane Sexton, Thomas Gray Sexton, Yukio Shimada, Grace Akemi Shimahara, Jack Shimatsu, Michiye Shimohira, Nobuyoshi Shimohira, Yoshinori Takamine, Genpachi Tanji, Riichi Tomita and Kazuma Toyama.**



Saito Goma Applications

Apply now for plaques for the *Saito Goma* ceremony at the Fall Festival on September 2. An application form is inserted in this newsletter and is available at your church branch. Deadline for application is August 19.

Japan Tour Group

More than 40 Gedatsu USA members will be attending the church’s 90th anniversary celebrations in Japan in October – thanks in part to the generous offer of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito** to pay all or part of the airline fare.

The tour will leave from Los Angeles and San Francisco on October 11. The basic tour includes a three-day stay in Saitama, and a Kitamoto Tour – from the hotel to *Goreichi*, escorted by either **Rev. Taki** or **Rev. Yamada** – the day before the Fall Festival. An optional 10-day tour package includes sightseeing to various areas, including Kanazawa, Takayama and Kyoto. Contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church for application forms and additional information.



2018 Graduates to Be Honored

If you have a student in the family who will be receiving a diploma this year from elementary school, middle school, high school, college or graduate school, let us honor him or her at our graduate recognition program.

Under the sponsorship of our Sunday Schools, all graduates and their parents will be honored in July:

- Sacramento Spiritual Center: Sunday, July 8
- Los Angeles Church: Sunday, July 15

Complete the application form, which is available at your branch office and return it by July 1.

WANTED: 70 Years of Gedatsu Memories

As part of next year’s 70th anniversary celebration of Gedatsu USA, we are collecting old photos, 35mm slides and 8mm film of the people and activities that illustrate our church’s history over those 70 years.

Email your digital images (identified with names, dates, events, etc.) to **Cindy (Beana) Tsujimura** at abbeana@gmail.com. Or bring or mail your photos, etc., to your respective branch church. Be sure to include your name, address and email address.

AROUND OUR CHURCH



L.A. Church Holds Successful Rummage Sale

The L.A. Church held its annual rummage sale in May, finding new homes and satisfied customers for hundreds of donated items – everything from household goods and decorative items to jewelry and books.

“Bundle of Joy”



Nanami Emily Okano

Born May 9 to parents
Yuko and Naoya Okano

Our wish for our daughter: *“A girl who plays on a global stage and has wide, deep and open mind like the ocean.”*

(Nanami means “seven seas.”)

Gedatsu USA Teen Participates in Spring Festival Ceremonies in Japan



Avalon Akashi, 19, of San Francisco, was invited by the *Gedatsu-kai* Youth Group to participate in the *Mambu Kuyo* floral processional of the Grand Spring Festival, held in May at the *Goreichi* in Japan.

Avalon is a sophomore at the University of Tokyo, studying Environmental Science in the Programs in English at the Komaba campus. She is the daughter of Alaric and Pauline Akashi.

Avalon says of her experience: “That day when I offered flowers, I opened myself up to receiving support from the universe and from other people. I am very thankful.”

Gedatsu Youth Wins Robotics Competition

L.A. member, Andrew Shaklan, 15, took home the first-place prize in his school district’s robotics competition in May. More than 110 students from five middle schools in the Pasadena Unified School District programmed their robots to follow a course, touch two targets, and return home with the fastest time.

The robot created by Andrew (in the photo, at right) and his partner, Ryan Tokumoto, performed successfully three times, averaging less than 19 seconds, besting the second-place finisher by three seconds.

“The pressure was on, but after taking a couple of Robotics classes through the years, I was hopeful I would do well,” says Andrew. “Thank you to my Robotics teacher for the opportunity and to my parents for their support!”

Andrew is an 8th-grade student at Sierra Madre Middle School. His parents are Pam and Stuart Shaklan.



Q

Our kids are grown, and my wife and I seem to have drifted apart. How can we recapture the loving, trusting bond we once had?

A

First of all, in these days when divorce is all too common, you and your wife raised your children to adulthood as a couple. You should be proud of what you have accomplished together. For me, after only three years of marriage and raising two small kids, I respect and admire you for that.

At the same time, be aware that you were able to perform your role as parents thanks to the blessings of God and your ancestors. Therefore, please show your appreciation to God and ancestors for the guidance and safety they provided. And, importantly, please say “thank you” to your wife, who has been your partner in the rearing of your children. These will be your first steps in improving your relationship.

The Japanese have a saying: “Children bind a married couple together.” This means that couples often stay together for the sake of rearing their children and separate once their kids have grown. Little by little, the gap between you and your wife was created and widened as a result of the hectic pace of parenting and a lack of communication.

“Putting yourself in your partner’s position – in other words, empathizing – can go a long way.”

Just as small changes in lifestyle – such as regular exercise and a healthy diet – can improve one’s health, small changes can improve the relationship between a husband and wife. For example, do you converse frequently with your wife? Do you say, “good morning” and “good night”? Do you ask her how she feels, how she is doing? These are small things, but good communication is very important in maintaining the love and trust within a marriage.

There is no magic or miracle medicine that can instantly bridge the gap that you created over years. But making an honest effort to fix the relationship by putting yourself in your partner’s position – in other words, empathizing – can go a long way. By continually doing so, I believe you can begin to repair and rebuild the bridge between you. You can then recapture the loving, trusting bond you once enjoyed. I hope for your success!

Rev. Naoya Okano

Gedatsu Is about Practice, Not Knowledge

Excerpt from Sermon
by **Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya**

The basic motto of Gedatsu is to practice what we have learned. Then we should learn from experience, self-reflect and change ourselves for the better. That way, we can not only study the theories of Gedatsu, but also apply the teachings to real life. We can truly cultivate our mind and become a better person. That is the biggest characteristic of Gedatsu.

Our founder, Gedatsu Kongo, used to emphasize, “Our life is supposed to be based on religious faith. Religious faith is supposed to be applied to our life.”

We cannot understand Gedatsu by reading books or listening to sermons. We can understand Gedatsu by practicing the teachings in our life. To practice and learn Gedatsu is to try out what we have learned at the church or from books. That is the only way to confirm the teachings. If we can continue to practice, we can develop a confident faith and lifestyle.

Our founder said, “Gedatsu is not about accumulating knowledge” in his writings. However, he did not mean that accumulating knowledge is not good. He appreciated the value of knowledge, but he encouraged us not to be stuck in studying only with our head. He told us to move on to the next level, where we practice the teachings, experience and learn the real teachings.

Even though the teachings are great, if we don’t practice them, they are useless. They are not helpful to create a happy life. That is why the founder kept saying, “You cannot understand Gedatsu by listening or reading by head. You can only understand Gedatsu by practicing the teachings in your real life.”

It is not easy to change our bad habits or our ways of thinking, which we have been doing for years. However, nothing is impossible. If we follow the teachings and continue to practice what we have learned in our daily life, we can do it.



Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 7 House Number 6

In the early 1930s, President Okano began formulating the foundational religious elements and activities of the Gedatsu Church. In 1933, he prepared the wording for the prayer, using simple, ordinary language. At the same time, he urged members to enshrine altars within their homes. He did not prescribe any fixed form for enshrinement, except for *Tenjinchigi*, or the Universal Life Force, as the central object of prayer. Otherwise, members could enshrine objects related to their personal family and ancestors.

That same year, President Okano purchased a two-story building at Araki-cho 6, Yotsuya, Tokyo. Called "House Number 6" by members, this facility became the teaching center where members went to learn from President Okano.



President Okano at House Number 6 in Tokyo.

In May, President Okano enshrined *Tenjinchigi*, or the Universal Life Force, in a small shrine at the solitary pine tree on the *Goreichi* grounds in Kitamotojuku. Here, the Gedatsu Spring Festival was held for the first time.



In the early years of the Gedatsu Church, the Grand Festivals were held on the grounds of the Tamonji Temple (shown above) in Kitamotojiku. Members would visit the various shrines, then attend the celebration at the temple. The image inset in the upper left is the temple's *Hokyojin-to Stupa*, in which Gedatsu Kongo found the sacred *Dharani* scroll of the Holy *Goho*.

In September, President Okano received good news that the Daigo-ji Temple would allow him to be a resident teacher of a branch church under the Daigo school of Shingon Buddhism. He purchased a house in Kitamotojuku and applied to the Saitama Prefecture government to establish it as a branch church. It was officially approved as the Gedatsu Branch Church of the Daigo School of Shingon Buddhism.

Branches flourish, monthly services begin

New Gedatsu branches were established one after another throughout Tokyo. President Okano decided to divide the branches in Tokyo into five districts: central, eastern, southern, western, and northern. They subsequently developed their activities as a group of each district. Each branch had a gathering once a month on a certain date. Their gatherings were called *Kanshakai*, or the monthly appreciation service. On the first and 15th of each month, all branch managers and other leaders gathered at House Number 6 to learn from President Okano.

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At the Spring Festival in May 1934, President Okano announced the Five Laws – the essence of the Gedatsu teaching. He recorded it on a disk and published it widely.

Five Laws Translated by **Louis K. Ito**

1. The Way of God
The Divine Universal Life Force permeates the Universe and settles wherever a prayer is invoked. When one lives daily with a deep sense of gratitude, he will experience salvation from all forms of physical and psychological problems and attain happiness and peace of mind. This phenomenon is truly amazing.
2. Natural Universal Law
The daily and seasonal movements of the planetary system are precisely regulated by the Universal Law. Each day is divided into morning, noon and night. Each month is divided into three phases. The four seasons of spring, summer, autumn and winter occur precisely on schedule each year. This schedule cannot be altered by science or mankind's efforts. It is strictly controlled by the Universal Law.
3. Levels of Ethical Conduct
It is important to strive for attaining the highest level of ethical conduct. The three levels of ethical conduct are as follows:
 - A. Making a demand for benefits without working for it (unethical conduct)
 - B. Seeking benefits by working toward it (normal conduct)
 - C. Working toward the common good without seeking benefits in return (highest level of ethical conduct)Appreciating the natural blessings of the Universal Law constitutes the highest level of ethical conduct.
4. Self-reflection
Selfishness and egotistical attitude will destroy the individual, family and country. Observe the current condition which exists in the global community. The reason for the turmoil is because the scope of selfishness and egotism is endless. Survival becomes possible when selfishness is suppressed. This is because one will receive the natural blessings from God in the absence of desire for earthly gains. Please reflect deeply on this statement.
5. Five Principles
The Universal Law is based on the following five principles: *Chu* (Integrity), *Ko* (Filial Piety), *Jin* (Compassion), *Gi* (Duty), and *Rei* (Gratitude).

The foregoing constitutes the Five Laws of the Gedatsu Church, which was adopted from ancient Japanese theology.

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With the release of the Five Laws at the Spring Festival of 1934, the foundation for the Gedatsu teaching was established. The Gedatsu Church had the Five Laws as its nucleus, the prayer book, *Goho* study, *Amacha Kuyo* blessing, repentance and other practices.

Propagating within hometowns

President Okano now believed that it was time to propagate Gedatsu widely. He developed a strategy that involved members sharing the Gedatsu teaching with as many people as possible within their hometowns.

He believed that the hometown is the place where we should appreciate our ancestors' efforts, inherit the spirit and traditions of our native land and endeavor to work for the betterment of society. President Okano felt that without this love for our home, we could not work for the benefit of our country.

Thus, by the latter half of 1934, Gedatsu was propagated to various parts of Japan, and the teaching spread through the establishment of home-based branches, led primarily by the heads of households. In this way, following President Okano's plan, branch leaders guided people to Gedatsu in their hometowns.

Manbu Kuyo blessing established

One day, a branch leader came to see President Okano. She related the following story.

While she mediated a member's *Goho* study, the member received a message from her ancestor, who had been a Buddhist monk. The spirit was anxious to receive *Manbu Kuyo* blessing. The branch leader was not familiar with this term, so she asked the spirit, "Do you mean *Amacha Kuyo* blessing?"

The spirit answered, "No. I want *Manbu Kuyo*." He explained that, after he entered the spiritual world, he realized the holiness of *Manbu Kuyo* blessing.

President Okano was aware of the sacredness of this blessing. So, upon learning of the request from the monk's spirit, he readily agreed. He immediately prepared for the first performance of *Manbu Kuyo* blessing and urged members to apply for the service. In this way, the *Manbu Kuyo* service became an important spiritual tradition of the Grand Festival celebrations.

Publication of monthly bulletin

In 1935, Takeo Kishida, who was a printer by trade, asked President Okano's permission to publish a Gedatsu bulletin for his rapidly growing branch. He reasoned that new members could learn Gedatsu through President Okano's writings, share their experiences and keep current with the branch schedule.

President Okano replied, "That's a good idea, but instead of a branch bulletin, why don't you publish the monthly bulletin for the entire Gedatsu Church? I will write something for the bulletin each month."

Thus, the Gedatsu monthly bulletin began publication under Takeo Kishida. The first issue, which included the Five Laws, was published that same month. After that, President Okano serialized the "Gedatsu Teaching" in the bulletin every month.

Although he was very busy, President Okano never forgot to visit Kitamotojuku on the eighth and 25th each month, usually taking some members with him. After visiting shrines in *Goreichi* to pray, he went to the Okano home and spoke before the villagers.

Cherishing the mother-child bond

In those days, his 83-years-old mother, Kise, always sat beside him smilingly. Because President Okano had troubled her in his youth, wanted to do whatever he could do for her. On his visits, he always brought something for her. Once, he brought a set of silk futon bedding for her. Although she was pleased and thanked him, he later learned that she could not sleep well on the soft silk, so he replaced it with her old bedding. Because she felt bad about that, he apologized to her, saying, "My thoughtlessness caused you to worry about it. Please forgive me, Mother." He continued to regret the trouble he had caused her.

In 1936, the Gedatsu teaching was introduced to Manchuria and Korea.

One day, around that time, President Okano was teaching some members at House Number 6, when a man suddenly came into the room and stabbed him in the throat. He was a member's husband, who thought that his wife was seduced by a heretical religion. Despite his wound, President Okano never blamed the man for the attack.

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Also, in 1936, the All Souls Monument was established in *Goreichi*. Its unveiling ceremony was held at the Fall Festival on November 10.

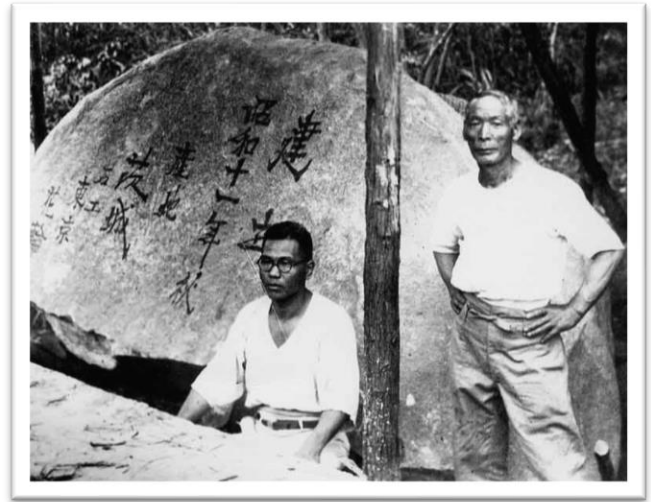
The founder's writing preserved in stone

The monument was made of granite from Ibaraki Prefecture. It was very hard work to transport the massive stone, which measured 18 feet high, five feet wide and a foot thick.

After the stone reached the appointed place safely, the stone masons worked to finish the surface of the stone. President Okano then prepared to write the name of the monument on the stone face.

He first made a huge writing brush like a broom, using a bamboo pole and fresh new straw. He then told the trainees to make a bucketful of ink.

When the ink was prepared, President Okano, dressed in formal Japanese attire, stood erect on the face of the stone. He closed his eyes for a while. Then, after soaking the huge writing brush in the ink bucket, he placed the bamboo pole of the writing brush on his right shoulder, pressed it lightly with his left hand and held the pole firmly with his right hand.



The stone masons who engraved the All Souls Monument

President Okano wrote the characters “All Souls Monument” in one breath. He then requested the master mason to engrave the characters into the stone as deeply as possible.

After they finished engraving the characters onto the stone, the stone masons lifted the stone with wire cable. Everyone watched with bated breath as the monument was erected onto its stone foundation.

A lasting monument to world peace

Thus, the All Souls Monument was established. President Okano called the monument the great symbol of world peace. By establishing the monument, he hoped members would thank all spirits for their immeasurable blessings and, to demonstrate their appreciation, work for world peace.

When the unveiling ceremony of the All Souls Monument was held, President Okano regretted one thing. His 84-years-old mother could not attend the ceremony because she was ill in bed. A few days later, she passed away peacefully in the presence of her family and relatives. Sorrow beyond words flowed from the bottom of President Okano's heart. However, it was a sorrow enveloped in the warmth of hearts.

(To be continued next month)



MAY 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M. Rodriguez, Anonymous, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, L. Tanaka, K. Gibson, M/M D. Ide

\$50–\$99: D. Okamoto / D. Kuroko, S. Taketa, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M C. Tanaka, P. Tomita

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, Rev/M K. Yamada, M/M A. Akashi, A. Cool, J. Ito

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: P. Chen, M/M K. Chinen, R. Divestea, N. Takara, M/M M. Hamada, M/M L. Muronaka, K. Nagao,

M. Nakamura, C. Okano, A. Okimura, K. Sato, M/M P. Young

\$50–\$99: M/M B. Hamamoto, J. Kaku, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M S. Mukai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M/M S. Shiroishi, C. Tomai, T. Toyama, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M. Kimura, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M T. Matsumoto, M. Okada, S. Okimura, L. Sanchez, M/M G. Wood, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: T. Ishida, M/M N. Okano, T. Palelek, D. Shiroishi

\$300+: T. Okimura

\$400+: Y. Daiko, J. Ito

Special Acknowledgment

Sam Okimura	One-year memorial service for late Miyoko Okimura (\$1,000)
Gary Tomita	Appreciation for Dorothy Tomita Trust (\$1,000)
Gary Tomita	Appreciation for Tomiko Tomita and Aiko Tomita Trust (\$1,000)
Gail/Scott Shiroishi	School Acceptance for Holly (\$100)
M/M Howard Tsujimura	In memory of Yozo Tsujimura, Hiro & June Yamamisaka, John Kuritani, June Morioka (\$250)
M/M R. Tsujimura	Appreciation for memorial service (\$100)
Naoya/Yuko Okano	Appreciation for Nanami's safe delivery (\$100)

Goreichi Care Fund (Maintenance of *Goreichi* grounds)

M/M D. Harada \$100

2018 / 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

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. *Higan* Service

Sacramento *Higan* Service

Oct 6-7 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival

Oct 9 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)

Oct 20 (Sat) Sacramento Trip to Apple Hill (TBD)

Oct 21 (Sun) L.A. *Ujigami* Service

Oct 28 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 4 (Sun)

Nov 11 (Sun)

Nov 17 (Sat)

Nov 18 (Sun)

L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70th Memorial Service

Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70th 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

2019

(Events/dates subject to change)

Jan 1 (Tue)

Jan 2-3 (Wed-Thu)

Jan 13 (Sun)

Jan 20 (Sun)

Jan 22 (Tue)

New Year's Homage

Church Closed

Sacramento First Service of the Year

L.A. New Year's Service

Church Closed

(in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day)

Feb 17 (Sun)

Feb 19 (Tue)

L.A. Sun Spirit Service

Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents Day)

Mar 15 (Fri)

Mar 16 (Sat)

Mar 17 (Sun)

Mar 23 J(Sat)

Mar 24 (Sun)

Mar 31 (Sun)

Propagation Meeting 10:00 am

Board of Directors Meeting 10:00 am

L.A. *Higan* Service (Japanese & English)

L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD) 8:00 am

Sacramento *Higan* Service

Church Closed

7 月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

- 1 (日) 10:00A 日本語感謝会
4 (水) 教会休み (建国記念日)
8 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要
15 (日) 10:00A 日英感謝会・お盆法要
卒業生のお祝い
22 (日) 10:00A 英語感謝会・阿字観法
リージョナル委員会
26-29 (木)-(日) ユース・キャンプ(サクラメント)
29 (日) 教会休み

サクラメント教会

- 1 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要
4 (水) 教会休み (建国記念日)
8 (日) 9:30A 感謝会・卒業生のお祝い
リージョナル委員会
15 (日) 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会
22 (日) 9:30A 感謝会・お盆法要
26-29 (木)-(日) ユース・キャンプ

7 月度みさとし

「身を捨てて事に当たる真剣の涙が涌くならば、
出来ないことは何もない」

どんなことでも何か事業をなさそうとする場合、それを成功に導くための鍵となるのは、人間関係である。もちろん、芸術家の仕事のような、単独で行う事業もないことはない。しかし、そんな場合でも実際には陰でサポートする人々に支えられてはじめてその活動が成り立っているものである。ましてや会社をはじめさまざまな組織では、多くの人々が協同してこそ事業は成り立つのである。その際、リーダーの熱意とリーダーシップの大切さというまでもない。しかし、いくらリーダーが熱意をもって真剣に取り組もうとしても、それを周りの人間が理解し協力する姿勢をもたないかぎり、どんなよいことでもうまくいくはずはないだろう。熱意だけでは足りないのである。もっと大切なことは、他の人々の考えに耳を傾ける姿勢をもつということである。人間は各人違った考えをもち、それぞれが自分は正しいと思いがちなものである。しかし、自分の考えをあくまでも押し通そうとするのではなく、相手の考えに虚心坦懐に耳を傾ける姿勢を互いに持ち合うことによってこそ、何ごとにも成就することができるのだということを忘れないでおきたいものである。

誌 上 講 話

清田憲祐先生を偲びつつ
代々の親に思いを馳せる

サクラメント・山田一雄

6 月の感謝会ではサクラメント教会でもロサンゼルス教会でも、米国解脱教会創設者のお一人、清田憲祐先生の祥月命日法要をさせていただき、また父の日サービスとして、私たちの歴代の父たちに感謝のご供養をさせていただきます。

清田憲祐先生のご功績を思うとき、私たちは、当時の日系アメリカ人たちが経験した困難を偲ばざるを得ません。したがって、清田先生のご足跡を偲びながら、祖父母たちの苦労にも思いを馳せたいと思います。

1936 年、カリフォルニアにおられた清田イネ先生は、日本に商用に行って帰って来たご主人から、金剛さまのお話を聞きました。以来、どうしても金剛さまにお会いし直接お勉強をいただきたくなりまして、翌 1937 年 (昭和 12)、ご主人の許可を得て、清田先生は日本に行き、東京の四谷に家を借りることになりました。そして半年間、毎日のように金剛さまのもとに通いつめ、直接お勉強をいただいたのです。

金剛さまの直弟子となった清田先生は、米国に帰ったら教えを広めるよう、金剛さまから仰せつかりました。そして「あとのことは靈感で教えるよ」と金剛さまから言われ、御五法をはじめ、ご祭神、ご真筆、供養塔など、多くの諸札を授かって、1938 年 (昭和 13 年) にアメリカに戻られました。

アメリカでは日系人排斥の機運が高まっており、やがて日米での戦争がはじまり、日系人は皆各地に設けられた強制収容所に送られました。清田先生は最初の収容所からさらにツーリレー収容所に移されたのですが、その収容所に来てから、「解脱の教えを伝えるように」と金剛さまからの霊的な指示をいただいたのです。

清田先生は、収容所の自宅前にツーリレー弁財天を祭り、解脱の座談会を開いて人心救済活動を始められました。1942 年 (昭和 17 年) のことでした。

清田先生のもとには、瞬く間に多くの熱心な信者が生まれました。戦後、収容所が開放されると多くの会員がそれぞれの地に散りました。それでもサンフランシスコ、サンノゼ、サクラメントなど、北加に来た会

員たちは引き続き清田先生の指導を求め続けることができました。

1948年（昭和23年）暮れ、金剛さまご逝去の報に触れ、清田先生は悲しみに包まれ日本に渡りました。その折り、大岡山支部に3ヶ月滞在しながら、岸田英山先生にアメリカでの布教を手伝ってくれるよう懇願したのです。1950年、岸田英山先生は一大決心のもと



とアメリカに來られ清田先生と共に布教をはじめ、同年、米国解脱教会が正式な設立に至りました。

←日本の御霊地。岸田英山先生ご夫妻と清田先生(右)

ちなみに、日系人たちが強制収容所に送られる際、手荷物一つと定められましたが、一体、清田先生は、金剛さまから授かった多くのご真筆類等を戦後までどのように保持することができたのでしょうか。

この件について、清田先生よりお話を聞いていた会員がいました。その方によりますと、清田先生は当時、白人家庭でメイドをされており、収容される前、金剛さまから授かった諸札やご真筆類の多くを、その家の屋根裏にこっそり隠し、収容所から出たのち引き取りに行かれたそうです。

人種的偏見と世界大戦のあった厳しい時代、しかもその先どのような運命が待ち受けているかさえわからなかった収容所内にあって、靈性に目覺められていた清田先生は、人々に勇氣と希望を与えようと独り解脱の教を説かれていきました。それが今日にいたる米国解脱教会の始めとなったのです。

日系移民の苦勞から学ぶ親の恩

初期の日系移民、一世、二世たちは、人種的な偏見のもとに差別された当時の苦しさを、戦後に生まれた子供たちにはほとんど語ることがなかったと言われています。何よりも、子どもたちがアメリカ社会に溶け込んでくれることを優先させたかったからです。

日系二世たちは、収容所に入れられた自分がなぜ戦わなければならないのか、大きな矛盾を感じながらも、家族のために、自分たちが敵性人物でないことを見せねばなりませんでした。

日系人兵士たちはアメリカにとっては消耗品として扱われ、激しい最前線に送られました。その死傷率はアメリカの平均的な部隊の3倍に及びました。

そうした悲しい記憶から子供たちを守りたい。「子どもたちには自分たちより良い生活をしてほしい」。そういう一心だったのです。それが「親心」の本質であろうと思います。

本日は、父の日のサービスでもありますので改めて「親孝行」について若い世代の方々と共に考えてまいりたいと思います。

日本では古くから、「身体髪膚（しんたいはつぷ）父母に享（う）く。あえて毀傷（きしょう）せざるは孝（こう）の始めなり」と言われてきました。「自分の体は全て父母から授かったものだから、大切にしてい傷つけることのないようにするのが親孝行の始めだ」という意味です。

親は、子が怪我なく病気なく、健康に育つよう気を配ります。だから、まずは親に心配をかけないように、自分を大切にすることが親孝行の第一歩だということです。もちろん、自分を大切にすることは、体を傷つけないようにするだけではありません。心も生き方も大切にしなければなりません。

金剛さまは、「親孝行とは家名を落とさず、親名失わずということである」とも言われています。つまり、自らを汚したり、親の名を傷つけたりするような生き方を戒めつつ、「自分」に責任をもって自らの生を大切に生きることを親孝行としているのです。

「自分」とは代々の親の延長であり、計り知れない情愛の結晶です。ですから、親・先祖に敬意を払うことは、自分の人生を大切にし、生かしていくことです。自分を生かしていくということは、必然的に自分を他に役立たせる生き方につながっていきます。

さらに金剛さまは「親孝行とは、親の欠点を知って、これを繰り返さぬことである」と言われています。

つまり、子どもは親の欠点から学んで親より進歩していくことが親孝行であるということです。

代々の親たちの苦勞を偲びつつ、学び、感謝しながら、自分を大切にし、自分を生かし他にも喜ばれるような生き方をしていきましょう。

掲 示 板

● 柴燈護摩の申込み受け付け始まる

サクラメント秋季大祭で行なわれる柴燈護摩の申し込み締め切りは8月19日（日）です。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Steve** and **Jenny Mizokami**. Steve, a fourth-generation Gedatsu member, is a senior planner for the City of Santa Monica, and Jenny is a third-grade teacher. They're raising two sons, **Mason** (8) and **Ethan** (5).

They try to apply the teachings of Gedatsu – especially appreciation and gratitude – to help them with the daily challenges of work, parenting and social relationships.

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Sacramento Members Says "Thank You" to Moms and Dads

In recognition of Mother's and Father's Day, the Sacramento Sunday School honored moms and dads with words of thanks and special gifts.

Mothers shown above include (from left) Nancy Horner, Sadaye Tanaka, Sally McSwain, Mica Rodriguez, Ritsuko Nakatani and Harriet Sekikawa. Each mother received a gift tote bag, pen and note pad, green tea, cookies and tulips.

Honored fathers include (from left) Scott Taketa ("...because he's always helping his nephew and nieces"), Sam Sekikawa, John Horner, Calvin Tanaka, Dave Ide, Henry Calderon, Rev. Sebe and Rev. Yamada ("because he's like a father to us.") They were each given a Jamba Juice gift card and flowers.