

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA
www.gedatsu-usa.org

JUNE 2018

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 News and Announcements
- 4 "Memories of Myanmar" –
Wataru Matsumoto
- 5 Sermon and Presentation –
Rev. Hisakazu Taki
- 6 Dear Reverend: *"We're stressed
out. What can we do?"*
- 6 A Brief Biography of Gedatsu
Kongo: The Beginning
- 9 Offerings and Upcoming Events

Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"Women should be aware of
their important role
for the future of our world."*

The future of our world is made possible by learning from the past and passing on our heritage to future generations. Without children, however, no future would be possible.

While both mothers and fathers are responsible for raising their children, only women can give birth. Thus, women have a very important role in establishing the future of the world.

Women's role is not limited to bearing children, of course. Each person has a unique role on earth. However, all of us – men and women – should be aware that, without taking good care of younger generations, a prosperous future will not be possible.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Sunday Appreciation Service Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	17	9:30 am	Clean-up / Setup for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Fri	22	9:30 am	Preparation for <i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sat	23	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar
Sun	24	11:00 am	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar

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) Mother Kiyota Memorial Service Father's Day Service / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sat-Sun 23-24			<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar in Sacramento

JULY 2018

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



June “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, June 3, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kinuyo Nakatani, Mihoko Tanaka, Aida C. Tiqui, Suyeko Hada Takemura, Motokichi Ide, Mine Kino Hirose, Isamu Yamada, Masaru Yamamura, Bettie Yamamura and Mother Kenyu Kiyota.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, June 10, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Harry Hidejin Arakawa, Kimiko Hirano, Kiyo Iwaki, Mitsuko Kaku, Masa Kikuta, Tsuchinojo Kimura, Nancy Hitoye Kono, Kazumi Matsunami, Kameyoshi Michiuye, Manabu Mukai, Mutsuno Nagura, Yazo Nagura, Phillip Nakamura, Robert Nakamura, Mary Anne Nolan, Ken Numata, Hideyo Okada, Masakichi Okada, Kay Miyoko Okazaki, Michael O’Leary, Lawrence Sasano, Hidekichi Shiroishi, Tsuna Shiroishi, Hironobu George Terakawa, Ben Seiroku Toguchi, Yoshitow Tomari, Geraldine Waldman, Carolyn Wong, Isamu Yamada and June Tsuyoko Yamamisaka.**



2018 Graduates to Be Honored

Do 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?

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

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

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



Poster design by **Delphine Sebe**

Annual *Rokujizo* Festival and Food Bazaar

will be at the Gedatsu Spiritual Center in Sacramento on Saturday and Sunday, June 23 and 24. The public is welcome to the event, which features:

- Japanese Food Bazaar with delicious teriyaki BB chicken, tempura, sushi, udon, Japanese-style chow mein, snow cones, baked goods, beer, soda and many other treats
- Entertainment and martial arts demonstrations
- Guided tours of the sanctuary and grounds
- A rummage sale, raffle and games for children

➡ Volunteers are needed in all areas, so contact the Sacramento Spiritual Center if you can help.

Memorial Tower Enshrinement 2018

Applications for enshrinement in the Gedatsu Memorial Tower at this year’s Fall Grand Festival in Sacramento will be accepted until June 17. Fee is \$300 per application. Application forms are available at your church office.

Exchange Ambassadors to Visit This Summer

Gedatsu USA will be hosting two Gedatsu-kai members from Japan this summer. They have been selected to serve as Exchange Ambassadors, who will visit the U.S. in late June to experience American culture and familiarize themselves with Gedatsu USA. Both Ambassadors are employed by Gedatsu-kai.



Ritsuko Sato, 37, is a member of the Yokohama Hiyoshi Branch. She works in the Publishing Department of the Gedatsu Headquarters in Tokyo. Her hobbies are swimming, driving, walking and massage – both giving and receiving. She writes:

“Nice to meet you! I look forward to seeing how Gedatsu is taught in America. I hope this experience will expand my horizons.”



Satomi Takahashi, 35, is a member of the Niigata Aoyama Branch. She is employed at *Goreichi*. Her hobbies are swimming, listening to music and *karaoke*. Her message: “This is my first trip outside Japan. I’m a bit nervous, but I want to experience and learn as much as possible.

My English is poor, but I will try my best to communicate. I look forward to meeting you.”

Ritsuko and Satomi’s U.S. schedule:

Arrive San Francisco – June 19

Sacramento – June 20-24

Las Vegas – June 25-26

Los Angeles – June 27-July 2



Apply Now for 90th Anniversary Japan Tour Group

A tour group from America is being organized to participate in the 90th anniversary event in October at the *Goreichi* in Japan, as well as in sight-seeing activities. Contact **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church for application forms.



WANTED: 70 Years of Gedatsu Memories

In 2019, we will be celebrating 70 years of Gedatsu in America. As part of our celebration, we have begun collecting images of the people and activities that illustrate our church’s history over those 70 years.

Do you have any images, like old photos, 35mm slides or 8mm film? E-mail us a scan or a digital image of your photos. Or send them to us, and we will copy and return them to you. Include as much information about the images as possible – names, dates, events, etc.

Email your digital images to **Cindy (Beana) Tsujimura** at abbeana@gmail.com. Or bring or mail your photos, etc., to **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church, or to **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** at the Sacramento Spiritual Center. Be sure to include your name, address and email address.

Internment Camp Donor Wall Opportunity

You can preserve your family’s history as part of the Japanese-American internment camp experience by donating a plaque that will be placed on the newly installed Camp Donor Wall of the MIS Historical Learning Center* in San Francisco. Families are offered the opportunity to name their family and the camp in which they were interned. Families from the same camp can donate a single plaque, or a loved one can be honored. Various-sized donor plaques are available. Prices start at \$2,500. The fully tax-deductible donations will be used towards construction of a horse stall in the Center’s camp wing.

If you are interested, contact Gedatsu member, **Pauline Tomita**, a board member of the National Japanese American Historical Society, at patomita58@gmail.com.

* During World War II, the U.S. Military Intelligence Service (MIS) Language School in San Francisco secretly trained Japanese-Americans as military interpreters and translators. A number of Gedatsu members, now deceased, served in the MIS. Gedatsu Church USA is a donor to the MIS Historic Learning Center.

In March, Los Angeles member, Wataru Matsumoto, traveled to Myanmar as a participant in the week-long Myanmar Study Tour. The tour – composed of 12 young adult Gedatsu members – was organized by the Gedatsu-kai Youth Group in Japan as part of its international philanthropic program to better understand and support areas of the world experiencing conflict and unrest. Gedatsu USA sponsored Wataru's participation. Below, he writes about his experience.

Memories of Myanmar By Wataru Matsumoto

On our first day in Myanmar, as our bus drove through the streets, I saw many skinny stray dogs. I also saw a bicycle with a side car and a lot of Japanese older-model cars, even a Japanese light truck that was converted into a taxi.

When we reached the Dream Train,* the first thing our men's group did was scrub clean the men's bathroom. It was an outdoor bathroom, so it was easy for fungus to accumulate. Bathroom water was limited, so we could only use water that was already available.

After cleaning the bathroom, our group gathered in the dining room for lunch, which was rice, curry and soup. The children ate their meals without drinks. I felt bad because there were bottles of water lined up only on the Tour Study tables. The children ate on dishes and with Chinese spoons made of plain stainless steel, which they washed for every meal.



* The Dream Train Children Development Center provides a nurturing environment for orphaned children, who are protected from abuse and human trafficking.

** Wachet Charity Hospital in central Myanmar provides low-cost (free for children), safe health care services.



Wataru at play with the Dream Team children: "We had fun talking with the children, using a translation book. They boldly asked us questions. Because of frequent electrical blackouts, the questions couldn't be printed out, so I helped the staff to write them down."

On our second day at the Dream Train, our Study Tour members performed simple Japanese songs and dances to entertain the children. The children surprised us by cheerfully singing a Japanese song to thank us. We were impressed and moved, and a few of us shed happy tears. We had a fun time with the children, finally taking a group photo together.



During our tour around the Dream Train area, we saw a lot of vacant land and hovel dwellings. We were surprised to see an apartment building under construction, being built with walls of concrete blocks. Our guide explained that because earthquakes commonly occur in Myanmar, buildings of that kind will easily collapse.

The remainder of our days were spent at the Wachet Charity Hospital.** The beds in the hospital have no mattresses, so patients sleep only on blankets. Patients' families often stay, as well. The basement of the hospital is also a patient ward. Whenever there is a heavy rain or squall, the water from the river, which is some distance from the hospital, floods the basement.

(Continued on back page)

***“I am not always right.
You’re not always right,
either. We are all human.”***

Sermon and Presentation
By **Rev. Hisakazu Taki**

L.A. Church – April 15



I would like to try a little experiment. Please look at these images. What do you see?



The first image is known as “Rubin’s vase” or “Rubin face.” You may see it as either a white vase or two men facing each other. The second image is either a pretty young lady or an ugly old woman. You cannot say one or the other is wrong. Both perceptions are possible. However, when you see the first image as a white vase, you cannot see men’s faces. When you see the same image as two men facing each other, you cannot see a vase. When you see the second image as a young lady, you cannot see an ugly old woman. When you see the same image as an old woman, you cannot see a young lady. It’s a matter of perception and based on that, we believe we are right.

I had my own experience about perception. Fifteen years ago, **Stuart Shaklan** invited me to Palomar Observatory, an astronomical observatory located near San Diego. I drove down there together with **Rev. Ishida** and **Rev. Noguchi**. When we arrived, I was impressed by the hugeness of the observatory. Stuart showed us throughout the inside of the observatory and explained many things about the observatory and astronomy. While I don’t remember much about that, I still remember one thing vividly.

Palomar Observatory has a 200-inch telescope, which was the largest in the world until 1975. This huge telescope was located in the center of the dome. We stood on a flat space around the inside of the dome and looked down at the telescope from there.



Then Stuart said, “Are you ready? Here we go.” He flipped a switch, and the huge telescope started revolving. I was impressed and shouted, “Wow! That huge telescope is revolving!” Stuart said, “No, the telescope is not moving. It’s you who are moving.”

I could not believe that. Ishida Sensei insisted, “No, the telescope is revolving. Look at that!” Only when Stuart opened a window and I looked out, did I become aware that I was moving. Even after I understood that intellectually, I still felt as if the telescope were revolving. Since that experience, I do not trust my perception too much.

Through these experiences, we learn that our perception is not absolutely correct. However, once we have a certain impression about something, everything looks that way. Everybody insists their views are right. This causes conflicts among people and wars in the world.

Our **Founder Gedatsu Kongo** said, “Human beings are all near-sighted and have distorted vision.” He always emphasized the importance of self-reflection.

Gedatsu study is in our everyday life. When you have a problem or conflict with others, it is a chance to self-reflect. Before criticizing others, examine your past attitude and try to understand other people. Try to be considerate of others. You will then be able to find a way out of the problem. As long as you insist that you are right, you won’t be able to solve the problem.

Remember, we are not always right. We are all human. Everybody has a different view.

Gedatsu study is not to strengthen your belief, but to be open to other people’s thinking. This is the path to live together in peace and harmony.



Q

My spouse and I are stressed out with all the pressures of raising kids, managing time and paying bills. What can we do?

A

Many people feel as if they are constantly “chased” by the daily stresses of just

managing their lives. Others, in similar circumstances, seem to deal with these same stressors far more easily. What is the difference? A lot has to do with how we perceive life’s stresses.

If you focus on the negative aspects of living – or anxiously project into the future – you’re sure to feel stressed. So, it’s important to see where and why these negative thoughts are being formed.

Gedatsu Kongo, taught us that the “reality” we experience is a reflection of our mind. Therefore, he urged us, as the first step in any situation, to self-reflect. Whenever you are confused or troubled, remember that self-reflection is the basic attitude in our Gedatsu study.

“Self-reflection is the basic attitude in our Gedatsu study.”

It is said that we often feel stressed when we think that those things we want to protect are threatened. Therefore, I encourage you to write on paper what you think is the cause of your stress, a technique called “journaling.” In this way, you spell out all the troubles, fears or anxieties accumulated in your mind, so you can look objectively at your feelings and emotions. You may be able to spot the negative thinking that binds you. Often, just by doing this, your mind can be relieved.

This exercise points out an important fact: your thoughts determine your mood. When you honestly state your feelings, you can envision your true hopes and desires – “what you really want to do and be.” Your mood will follow your aspirations, so concentrate with all your heart on the positive picture of yourself and your future. By doing so, you will feel an uplifting energy fill your body and mind. A different, more positive reality now lays before you.

In addition, a partner who understands and shares your feelings is an irreplaceable blessing in your life. Freely share your feelings and thoughts with that person, while discussing future dreams and desires. Walk together toward a common goal, making each day exciting and hopeful.

Rev. Kazuo Yamada

Brief Biography of Gedatsu Kongo

Chapter 5

The Beginning

In 1928, once he had made up his mind to establish the Gedatsu teaching, Eizo had a divine revelation that the Supreme God of the Universe would be manifested in the world.

Also, in a mysterious dream, Eizo had another revelation concerning the *Hokyo-in-to* stone stupa, which was erected on the Tamonji Temple grounds of his hometown, Kitomotojuku. In his dream, a loud voice told him to withdraw the *Dharani*, which was contained within the stupa, and save people throughout the world. *Dharani* is a mantra, or mystic utterance. Villagers believed that, when they prayed before the stupa, their sins and sufferings would be removed.



Eizo did not fully understand the meaning of his dream, but he believed its source was divine, so he was resolved to obey without question. Thus, on November 1929, after receiving the permission of the Temple and in the presence of a huge crowd, the stupa was

opened, and the *Dharani* scroll was removed.

Rev. Kensho Shimada was asked to witness the scene, because the psychic was well-known and trusted.

The Holy Goho is revealed

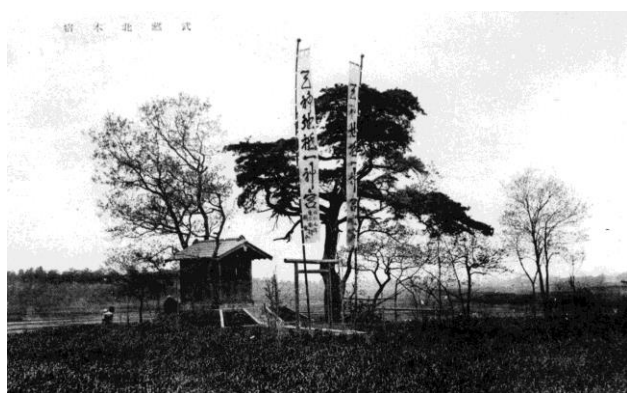
Even after two hundred years, the paper scroll was only slightly damaged, and the characters written in ink were still clear. Because he had to return the original scroll, Eizo copied the *Dharani* every day. One day, he had a mysterious experience. He suddenly and automatically started to write the Holy *Goho*, the spiritualistic Sanskrit characters representing the five aspects of the Universal Life. At the time, however, Eizo, did not know what he was writing.

When he became aware of the mysterious functions of the Holy *Goho*, Eizo called his younger brother to his home. Eizo showed him what he had written, saying, “This is the Holy *Goho* that I was allowed to write by the Divine Will. There are many things I still don’t understand, so I need your help to perform the spiritual practice (which was later called the *Goho* practice) to help me understand.”

(Continued on page 7)

(Biography – Continued from page 6)

One day, Eizo and Shimada set out on a spiritual investigation of the land of Kitamotojuko. As they walked through a thicket of small bamboos, they reached a solitary pine tree with a small shrine called *Atago-sama* at its base. Shimada suddenly was overtaken in a violent, possessed state. After Eizo and others were finally able to restrain him, they took him to the Okano home. Upon regaining consciousness, Shimada said, “I’m sure that a strong spiritual power exists around the solitary pine tree.” In later years, this place came to be called *Goreichi* or the Spiritual Ground.



***Goreichi* in its earliest years**

From that time, many people began to visit Eizo to learn from him. Eizo had them perform the *Goho* practice and *Amacha Kuyo*, which he had also discovered. He gained a growing reputation for possessing a remarkable psychic power. Several of his followers began to hold meetings in their homes and invited Eizo to teach. This was the beginning of the Gedatsu branches in the early days.

Around that time, Eizo’s relationship with Aki deteriorated. Active in her geisha house business, she could not understand Eizo’s interest in the religious world. So, in mid-1930, he divided his property with Aki and severed their relationship.

President Okano leads *Gedatsu-kai*

In December 1930, Eizo gathered a number of his devoted followers to discuss what they should name their study group. They decided on *Gedatsu-kai*, or Gedatsu Church. Eizo came to be called *Kaicho-Sensei*, or President Teacher, and the newly formed Gedatsu Church was composed of a small group of twenty-some members. (Hereafter, Eizo will be referred to as “President Okano.”)

Many people began to visit President Okano to learn and benefit from his guidance. He did not apply fixed principles to everyone. Rather, he guided each person in a way that best suited him or her. The *Goho* study was greatly helpful for that purpose. This was his basic attitude of teaching.

In April, he was ordained as a Buddhist priest at the Daigo-ji Buddhist Temple in Kyoto and was given the Buddhist name Seiken. Thus, he was officially qualified to perform religious activities.

The Grand Festivals begin

On May 8 of 1931, President Okano held the Spring Festival for the first time on the *Goreichi* grounds. The festival was performed with a focus on visiting the *Hokyojin-to* Stupa. His brother, Shinzaburo, and other villagers prepared for the festival. More than 100 people from Tokyo participated.

One day, President Okano was kidnapped by gunpoint by a group of right-wing extremists at Ueno Station. They took him to a secluded area and confronted him, saying, “You are preaching a dubious religion and deceiving people. Your heretical religion harms the country. Before we kill you as divine punishment for your wrongdoings, do you have any last words?”

President Okano replied, “I’ve devoted myself to working for the good of the country. If you think I am wrong, you may kill me. But, please deliver my body to my good friend, Shinkichi Kobayashi.”

These words made the men restless. They said, “If you are a good friend of Mr. Kobayashi, you must be speaking the truth. We were deceived. Please forgive us.” They then quickly fled.

Kobayashi and President Okano were indeed good friends since childhood. Kobayashi was a known as a broad-minded, patriotic man, who was respected by the so-called right wing.

Detained by police

Two months after this incident, when President Okano was teaching at a member’s home, police officers raided the home and arrested him together with other members. They were detained in the Nakano Police Station. They were arrested

(Continued on page 8)

(Biography – Continued from page 7)

because some people were displeased with Gedatsu Church's rapid development. President Okano was thoroughly interrogated and released after 29 days. After only a few days' rest, however, he invited the president of the Police Journal to his residence. President Okano thanked him for his support, and then asked him, "Could you please gather as many police station chiefs as possible? I want to thank them for my good experiences at the police. I'll bear all the expenses for the reception."

A gesture of goodwill

The police station chiefs were amazed at the reception that President Okano threw for them. They were treated to all sorts of delicacies and high-quality sake and entertained by geisha. The president of the Police Journal addressed the group, thanking President Okano and introducing him as "the owner of this restaurant Akizuki." They were all surprised.

President Okano then spoke. "Thank you very much for coming today," he said. "I was in custody for a month and interrogated about my religious activities. Through this experience, I sincerely convinced myself that I should bolster my spirits and take the right path in religious activities. At the same time, I felt respect for the police, who have tried to keep us on the right path. My one goal since I started these religious activities is to strive to awaken the national spirit. I am prepared to risk my whole life to attain this goal from now on."

His words impressed the audience. It was as if all the police station chiefs wished President Okano good luck.

A fateful encounter

In those days, it was usual for President Okano to visit various gatherings every day to teach members until midnight. Members gradually increased in number, and the meeting places were gaining reputation. One day, Takeo Kishida, the owner of a printing company, visited a meeting place through the introduction of his fellow businessman. After President Okano spoke briefly, they started the *Goho* practice, which Kishida observed. He had no idea what was going on, but he was strongly impressed.

On Kishida's third visit at the meetings, President Okano told him to perform the *Goho* practice. Kishida received the Holy *Goho* and closed his eyes. He then saw a golden flash sparkling like a firework and the *kanji* characters of *Shimizukubo-Benzaiten*. He opened his eyes in surprise. When Kishida described what he had seen, President Okano explained, "That is your family's guardian angel."

The next morning, when Kishida asked his mother about this, she replied, "It must be the *Benzaiten* of the paddy field on the hill.

When Kishida went there, he found a fountain gushing pure water in a thicket of trees. There was a small shrine. When he opened the shrine, he found a divine plaque on which the *kanji* characters of *Shimizukubo-Benzaiten* were written – exactly as he had envisioned in his *Goho* practice. Through this experience, Kishida strongly felt the mystery of the invisible world. From then on, he became eager to study Gedatsu. In later years, Kishida would found the Gedatsu Church in America.

Living by example

The manner in which President Okano lived his daily life served as an important study for members. He would tell his members:

"The first step of appreciation is to thank God for giving us precious life today each day."

"As long as man is fed, clothed and housed, he should be absolutely grateful."

"Not even a single day of the year can be relived. Therefore, don't waste a single moment."

"Tomorrow has tomorrow's business. Complete today what should be done today."

"Man should make every effort to accomplish his duty. When you constantly endeavor, you will never be in trouble."

This is what President Okano always said. This is how he lived.

(To be continued next month)



APRIL 2018 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M. Rodriguez, M. Okada, M/M V. Mizokami, K. Gibson, S. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, K. & B. Newton, M/M R. Nakatani, K. Tsukamoto, Anonymous
\$50–\$99: M/M K. Kuritani, M/M A. Shiroishi, N. Kishida, M/M K. Chinen, M/M P. Young, M. Fukushima, S. Taketa, M/M S. Shalkan, M/M Ke. Kuritani, M/M R. Tsujimura, K. Kuritani, M/M T. Harada, M/M D. Ide, S. Taketa, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M C. Tanaka
\$100+: Y. Oishi, T. Hiram, K. Fujii, M/M A. Kishida, T. Murakami, M/M R. Allum, C. Tsujimura, T. Fukushima, T. Nagao, S. Kaku, C. Tanaka, M/M C. Morioka, J. Detwiler, H. Taki, M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M P. Reid, F. Miyamura, T./M. Nakamura, M. Kimura, K. Schubert, T. Okimura, J. Kaku, M/M H. Tsujimura, T. Ishida, S. Yabut, D. Shiroishi, M/M N. Okano, M/M J. Horner, S. Nishino, S. Bush
\$200+: J. Tanaka, M/M R. Ito, D. L. Shiroishi, M/M J. Horner, M/M K. Yamada, M/M S. Sekikawa
\$300+: J. Shiroishi, G. Hass
\$500+: M/M S. Mukai, J. Ito, A. Sebe, Anonymous
\$1,000+: Gedatsu-kai Japan, Anonymous

Special Acknowledgment

J. Ito Purchase of projector/screen for
 Gochi Sanctuary (\$3,000)
 Nori Tagawa Three ukuleles for church (\$1,600)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M K. Chinen, M/M M. Hamada, S. Leve, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M L. Muronaka, M. Nakamura, Y. Oshi, A. Okimura, K. Sato
\$50–\$99: J. Kaku, M. Kimura, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, M. Okada, N. Takara, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura
\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M M. Ishida, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M S. Mukai, T. Nakamura, T. Okimura, M/M S. Shibata, H. Taki
\$200+: M/M R. Allum, T. Ishida, J. Ito, M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi
\$1,000+: M/M K. Shiroishi

Goreichi Care Fund (Maintenance of *Goreichi* grounds)
 H. Graham \$100

2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Aug 4 (Sat)	Lake Tahoe <i>Benzaiten</i> (TBD)
Aug 12 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Aug 29 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Sept 2 (Sun)	Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
Sept 4 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sept 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service
Sept 23 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> 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. <i>Ujigami</i> Service
Oct 28 (Sun)	Sacramento All Souls Service
Nov 4 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Nov 11 (Sun)	Sacto Gedatsu Kongo 70 th Memorial Service
Nov 17 (Sat)	L.A. Casino Bus trip (TBD)
Nov 18 (Sun)	L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Nov 22-23	Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Nov 25 (Sun)	Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday and 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Dec 2 (Sun)	L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 9 (Sun)	Sacramento Last Service of Year Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up
Dec 9 (Sun)	L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 16 (Sun)	L.A. Christmas Service Last Appreciation Service
Dec 23-31	Church Closed

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

*John F. Kennedy
 35th President of the United States*

6 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・清田憲祐先生法要
父の日サービス
リージョナル委員会
23(土) - 24(日) 六地蔵バザー (サクラメント)

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・清田憲祐先生法要
父の日サービス
リージョナル委員会
17 日 (日) 9:30A バザー設営準備・掃除
22 日 (金) 9:30A バザー前日準備
23 日 (土) 11:00A 六地蔵バザー・1 日目
24 日 (日) 11:00A 六地蔵バザー・2 日目



6 月度 みさとし

「女性の任務は実に国をあげての 大なるものである」

女性には、男性にはできない大切な役割がある。それは子供を産み育てるという役割である。もちろん子供の養育は両親が共にその役割を担わなければならないが、子供を産むという点に関しては女性のみがその役割を担うのである。先人が築いたものをわれわれが引き継ぎ、それをさらにこれからの若い世代が順々に引継いでいってこそ、明日の世界はあり得るのである。いくら素晴らしい伝統や文化を築いても、それを引き継ぐ若い世代が存在しなければ、未来へはつながらない。それ故、子を産み育てるという女性の役目こそ、世界の、国の未来を築くためにもっとも重要な鍵であるということができるのである。もちろん、子供を産み育てなければ女性としての役割を果たしたことになる、ということではない。この世に生を受けたかぎり、各人に大切な役目が与えられているということはたしかである。しかし、男性も女性も、この世のすべての人々は、次代の若い人たちをしっかりと育てていくことなくして、盤石な世界の未来はありえないということを、自覚しなければならないのである。

LECTURE:

Jackson Ito, Sr. Deacon

《本稿は、日本の全国青年幹部研修会におけるジャクソン・伊藤師の昨年の講義の一節です。邦訳は瀧久和師によるものです》

子供に解脱を学んでもらうために

首席開教師補佐・ジャクソン・伊藤

昨年、私はいくつかの支部の感謝会に参加させて

いただきましたが、子供の頃に解脱を学んでいても大きくなるにつれて解脱への関心を失っていく人が多いというその理由を、その時すでに認識していました。

それは、日本でもアメリカでも同様に、若い人たちがすでに現在の生活に満足しており、それ以上生活を向上させるために宗教を学ぶ必要性を感じていないからです。そこに問題があると私は思いました。しかし、その解決の道はその時はわかっていませんでした。今年の秋の大祭の前に、木更津支部の杉本先生に勉強をいただいたおかげで、その解決の道がわかったのです。そのことをお話したいと思います。

私がキヤルテックに進学する際、岸田英山先生が、

目に見える物質世界と目に見えない精神世界が合わさって一つの宇宙ができていて、そして、目に見えない精神世界のことをよく知ることによって、目に見える物質世界をよりよく理解することができるようになるのだ、と教えてくださいました。しかし、その逆もまた言えるのではないかと私は思っています。目に見える物質世界のことを学べば学ぶほど、目に見えない精神世界の理解も深まっていくのです。

それは如何にして可能となるのか。過去 100 年間の

科学の進歩を見てください。ほんの 20 年前と比べるだけでも、科学の進歩は目覚ましいものです。一方、宗教はどうでしょう。過去 2000 年間でどれだけの進歩があったのでしょうか。比較にならないでしょう。それは何故か。それは、宗教がこれまで 2000 年前と同じことをくり返してきただけだからだと思います。それでは進歩も発展もあり得ません。しかし、修験道はそうではありません。私は岸田先生から、自分がこの世に生みなされたことについてはご先祖さまに感謝しなければならない、しかし、自分の人生においてどれだけ進歩していくかは自分の責任であり自分の努力次第である、と教わりました。そして、自分が学び

成長してきたことを子や孫に伝え、自分の子孫がさらに進歩していくようにしていくのがわれわれの務めなのです。そこに、宗教には進歩がない一方、科学は目覚ましい進歩を遂げてきたその理由があります。科学は、先人たちが辿った道をくり返すのではなく、先人たちが到達した成果を学び、それをさらに発展させていくというあり方をとるのです。宗教がそれと同様の道を辿ってきておれば、世界は最終的に「仏」のレベルに達していたでしょう。そして、金剛さまが願われた世界平和を達成することができたでしょう。

日々の勤行の中で、ただ「解脱金剛礼拝」「御守護大神礼拝」と唱えて礼拝するだけでは十分ではないのです。

御霊地には六地藏さまが祀られています。そのお地藏さまは物質世界でのわれわれの成長段階をあらわしています。それが六界（地獄、餓鬼、畜生、修羅、人間、天上）です。六地藏さまは物質界におけるわれわれの成長を導いてくださる菩薩さまなのです。しかし、もしも金剛さまが物質界での進歩だけを目指していたのだとすれば、金剛さまはすでにそれを達成されていたのだから、それ以上解脱の教えを説く必要はなかったはず。目に見える六地藏さまの左側に、目に見えない4体のお地藏さまが立っておられるのです。その4体のお地藏さまは、われわれの精神的成長の段階である声聞、縁覚、菩薩、仏をあらわしています。そのことを私は、岸田先生の修験道についての教えから学びました。そしてその学びをこれまでずっと続けてきたのです。

われわれが死んだ後は、肉体を養う必要がないのだから、物質的な満足の必要性はなくなるのです。死後、われわれが直面するのは、自分がどれだけ純粋に宇宙のありようを理解しているかということだけなのです。生前中の生き方が宇宙法則から逸れたものであればあるほど、死後霊界に入ってから後悔することになります。生前中の生き方が宇宙法則に沿ったものであればあるほど、死後霊界での安心につながるようになります。ですから、死後霊界に入ってから生活やご先祖さまのことを考えれば、人生において物質的な満足を追求することよりも、精神的向上を目指すことの方がずっと重要だということがわかります。これがご先祖さまに対する真の感謝であり、般若心経を唱え天茶供養をさせていただくことの目的なのです。

もしわれわれが子や孫に対して、現在の物質的

人生だけが大切なのだと言い聞かせるならば、子や孫は解脱を学ばなくなるでしょう。そして現在の解脱会員が死んでしまえば、解脱会もまた生滅してしまうでしょう。子供たちにずっと解脱を学ぼうという気を起させる唯一の道は、彼ら自身が精神的成長をすることの大切さをしっかり伝えることです。

私自身が解脱を学ぼうという気になったのも、この点にありました。子供たちに対してこの点をしっかり伝えることができたならば、解脱会はどんどん伸びていくことでしょう。

掲 示 板

● 立教 90 年日本ツアーの申し込みはお早めに

「解脱会・立教 90 周年式典・日本ツアー」への参加を募集しています。10 月 11 日にロサンゼルス空港またはサンフランシスコ空港を出発し、同 14 日の式典に参加します。式典後は、①帰国②オブショナルツアー③個人旅行の 3 つのプランが選べます。

特に、ジャクソン伊藤氏からの篤志奉納により、各自の航空運賃の大幅な補助があります。この機会に多くの方の参加をお勧めします。各教会にあるツアー申込書に記入し、できるだけ早くお申込みください。

● 解脱霊廟の斎祀申込み締切りは 6 月 17 日です

秋の大祭における解脱霊廟・祭祀申込の〆切は 6 月 17 日です。1 霊につき 300 ドルをそえて申し込み下さい。申込書は各教会にあります。

● 交換研修生の来訪 があります

六地藏バザーに向けて、日本本部から佐藤律子 さん（37・教育部出版教学係）、高橋里美さん（35・御霊地管理部）の 2 名が来訪します。（本紙 3 面に写真）

スケジュールは、6 月 19 日サンフランシスコ到着、20 日～21 日ヨセミテ国立公園、22 日～24 日六地藏バザー奉仕、25 日～26 日ラスベガス・グランドキャニオン、27 日～7 月 2 日までロサンゼルス教会に滞在の予定です。なお、ロサンゼルス教会では 6 月 27 日（水）午後 6 時半より「研修生歓迎会」を行います。1 人 \$ 10 の予定。サインシートにご記名ください。

● 2018 年卒業生祝賀が 7 月感謝会に開かれます

7 月の感謝会にてサンデースクール主催の「卒業生の祝賀」が行われます。サクラメント教会は 7 月 8 日（日）、ロサンゼルス教会は 7 月 15 日（日）です。小学校～大学校を卒業するお子様がいらしたら、申請書に記入し 7 月 1 日まで事務所にご提出ください。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like Deacon **Rudy Tsujimura**, who was in his teens when his parents, **Yozo** and **Sumiko Tsujimura**, opened their home to establish the Gedatsu Church in L.A. In the late '60s, Rudy – together with his wife, **Arlene**, and daughter, **Pamela** – relocated to Japan for eight years for his job, during which time he “learned a lot about Gedatsu.”

Rudy served as chairman of the board of Gedatsu Church USA for 10 years. He continues to actively volunteer with the church, serving as deacon and adviser. He enjoys spending time with his three grandchildren.

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(Memories of Myanmar – Continued from page 4)



While we were touring the operating room area, a hernia surgery took place in less than 10 minutes. The next day, we saw a mother (shown above), who had traveled four hours to bring her son to the hospital by taxi. I didn't know the son's medical condition, but it appeared that he had no muscle strength in his skinny legs and was mentally impaired, as well. The mother tenderly carried her son, and I felt an amazing love between them.



I want to thank everyone very much for this Study Tour. I was able to experience the kindness and gentleness of the people of Myanmar. I remember the warm smiles that the children from Dream Train gave us so heartily. I hope to see them again someday.

Photo at left: Wataru visits the Wachet Charity Hospital. Above, the Study Tour group poses before entering the famed Shwedagon Pagoda. A fellow Tour member, Suzuna Matsuhashi (top row, second from left), returned to Japan from Sacramento last summer.