



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

## MARCH 2019

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"Our ancestors are always  
watching and guiding us  
with love."*

Parents' love for their children is a natural human emotion. When we see a baby's innocent smile, we cannot help loving him or her. Just as we love and cherish our children, our parents and ancestors love and cherish us all the time.

Knowing that your ancestors are always watching and guiding you from the spiritual world gives you the hope and energy to live, no matter the difficulties that you encounter.

Show your respect and appreciation to your ancestors each day and sincerely ask for their guidance. You will then be guided in the direction that is best for you.

Ancestors are our best and closest guide in life.

### 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

## APRIL 2019

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

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



### March “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, March 3, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **John Chin, Sumiko Sebe, Takeo Sekikawa, Eleanor Ikesaki, Fred Shigeru Tanaka, Muneo John Hatae, Rin Ide, Kotsuru Noritake, Mary Mitsue Tsuboi, Toyota Kino, Tanimasa Tsuboi and Richard Shinichiro Kitasoe.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, March 10, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Meiko Arakawa, Vincent Giroux, Ayako Hamamoto, Shikazo Hamaoka, Ernest Hirayama, Naoe Kimura, Lily Yuriko Kuritani, Bill Long, Norma Long, Jean Emiko Matsune, Hisano Miyashita, Masao Mori, Chisato Naito, Shigeru Nakamura, Shigeru Nakamura, Hiroshi Nakatani, Tong Hon Nghe, Kazuyoshi Okazaki, Masao John Onishi, Antonio Palumbo, Giulia Palumbo, Joe Sanchez, Joseph Sanchez Jr., Terry Fumio Shiroishi, Shigeru Fred Tanaka, Tokutaro Tsujimura, Yoshio Wakasa and Hiromi Whitaker.**



### Organizational Change for Gedatsu-kai Japan:

**Bishop Okano  
Re-elected Chairman**

Gedatsu Japan announced in January the re-election of **Bishop Teruo Okano** to the position of Chairman of the Board of Directors for *Gedatsu-kai* Japan for a two-year term (2019 – 2020). Bishop Okano previously served as chairman for a 10-year term ending in 2016. In addition to his executive duties, he continues to serve as bishop for Gedatsu USA.

### Spring Grand Festival – Sunday, April 8

The Spring Grand Festival will be held at the Sacramento Spiritual Center on Sunday, April 14, beginning at 9:30 am. A chartered bus from Los Angeles will leave the L.A. Church at 10 pm on Saturday night, April 13. Once again, through the generosity of **Senior Deacon Jackson Ito**, bus riders will be able to ride to Sacramento free of charge.



*Sakura* cherry trees beautify the *Goreichi* grounds in Sacramento each spring. The trees were given to the Gedatsu Spiritual Center by Mr. and Mrs. Shoji Kato of Japan in April 2005.

### *Saito Goma* and *Manbu Kuyo* Applications Due

Please submit your prayer applications for *Saito Goma* and *Manbu Kuyo* services by March 18. The *Manbu Kuyo* service is explained below. Application forms are available at your local church.

### *Manbu Kuyo* Service

Twice a year, as part of the Gedatsu Spring and Fall Grand Festivals in Japan, a memorial rite for spirits is conducted on the *Goreichi* holy grounds. Called *Manbu Kuyo* – literally meaning ten thousand expressions of respect – the ceremony is performed to liberate all spirits from suffering and to transform them into protective spirits who benefit the living.

Members who would like to apply for *Manbu Kuyo* should complete the application form (inserted in this issue) and are urged to consult with one of the ministers, who can explain the significance of the service and various categories on the form.

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Join the Celebration!

Labor Day weekend –  
**Celebration Banquet**  
**Saturday, August 31**  
**Grand Fall Festival**  
**Sunday, September 1**

The banquet will be held at the Marriott Hotel in Rancho Cordova, near the Sacramento Spiritual Center. There will be no charge for the banquet dinner. Also, at our Grand Fall Festival, we will have a catered luncheon for everyone.

The L.A.-to-Sacramento bus will leave the L.A. Church on the morning of Saturday, August 31, arriving in time for the banquet. Again, bus riders ride free of charge.

Hotel accommodations for bus riders on Saturday night will be reserved as a group at the La Quinta Inn, across the street from the Marriott. Those driving on their own are requested to make their own room reservations.

Special Gedatsu room rates are available at the La Quinta Inn (\$95) and at the Marriott Hotel (\$109). Call the Marriott Hotel at (916) 638-1100 or La Quinta Inn at (916) 638-1111. Ask for the “Gedatsu Church rate.”

### Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund (*Hosankai*)

The Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund was established to allow members to show their appreciation to Gedatsu Kongo and demonstrate a higher level of commitment and support for the church. Participation in the Fund requires an annual pledge of \$50 per month, or \$600 a year, which is in addition to the general membership dues.

#### 2018 Appreciation Fund Donors

Katsuo / Kazumi Chinen  
 Dan / Mary Harada  
 Tadao Ishida  
 Jackson Ito  
 Mary Kimura  
 Tetsuya / Sachiyo Matsumoto  
 Victor / Marian Mizokami  
 Rei Nakamura  
 Teruko Nakamura  
 Minae Okada

Tom Okimura  
 Paul / Joyce Reid  
 Sam / Harriet Sekikawa  
 Sadaye Tanaka  
 Dennis Tsuboi  
 Judy Tsuboi  
 Howard / Carole Tsujimura  
 Kazuo Yamada  
 Yoko Yamada

## AROUND OUR CHURCH

### U.S. Member, Avalon Akashi, Celebrates a Memorable Twentieth Birthday in Japan



Northern California member, Avalon Akashi, participated in *Seijin no Hi*, Japan's traditional Coming of Age Day in January at the *Gedatsu-kai* Japan headquarters in Tokyo. The holiday celebrates young adults upon reaching the age of 20. In photos, (1) Avalon is formally presented with other 20-year-old celebrants, (2) wears traditional *furisode*, a style of *kimono* with long sleeves, (3) receives congratulations from Chairman and Bishop Teruo Okano, and (4) celebrates the happy occasion with the congregation.

## DEAR REVEREND

Q

As my children grow older, how can I encourage them to attend church?

A

Have you attended church regularly with your children since they were little?

Our founder, Gedatsu Kongo, said, “Practicing religion is developing good habits on a regular basis.”

If your children attended church with you regularly, they developed a good habit. However, if they didn’t attend regularly, or have begun to say, “I don’t want to go to church,” please think twice before you force them to go to church.

One of my Gedatsu teachers used to tell me not to say to my children, “Do this” or “Do that,” because children are not the private property of their parents. He taught me to respect my children’s feelings and opinions, even if they are little. Another teacher said, “You can’t force people to drink water if they are not thirsty. Just enjoy drinking water by yourself and wait until they become thirsty. They will drink water naturally.”

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***“If you tell your children, ‘Do this’ or ‘Do that,’ they will not listen. They will do what you do.”***

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I know a family in Hawaii who belongs to another Japanese religious organization. Both parents, as well as their three children, are ministers of their same faith. I noticed that the mother is always smiling and saying, “*Kamisama* (God) is always watching us. I feel blessed and happy.”

I previously mentioned our founder’s quote: “If you tell your children, ‘Do this’ or ‘Do that,’ they will not listen. They will do what you do.”

If you ask your children, “Will you attend church with me this Sunday?” and they say “No,” I recommend that you focus on living your life with love and gratitude. If you always say, “Thanks to the Gedatsu teachings, I feel blessed and grateful,” “Thank you,” and “I love you” and stay happy at home, your children will naturally think that the Gedatsu teachings is great and attend church naturally.

Our founder emphasized the importance of passing down the Gedatsu teachings to our children. Patience and love are the key words. Good luck!

**Rev. Tatsunori Kamiya**

## OUR GEDATSU STUDY

### A Brief History of Gedatsu Church USA – Part 3

#### GEDATSU PROPAGATION IN AMERICA

##### Gedatsu Extends to Los Angeles

**Yukichi Sakai** of San Francisco was one of the pioneer members of Gedatsu in America. After World War II, he was a wholesale dealer of Japanese products. In 1950, on a business trip to Southern California, Mr. Sakai drove **Archbishop Eizan Kishida** to Los Angeles. From a rented hotel room in L.A., Archbishop Kishida called **Yozo “Joe” and Sumiko Tsujimura**, who were among the Gedatsu followers in the Tule Lake camp during the war.



**Archbishop Kishida in 1951, a year after his arrival in America.**

The Tsujimuras were happy to visit Archbishop Kishida at the hotel, bringing with them some of their friends. From then on, Archbishop Kishida regularly visited Los Angeles to hold Gedatsu meetings at the hotel. After a time, the Tsujimuras generously offered the use their home for Gedatsu meetings. With a permanent L.A. base, attendees gradually increased as Gedatsu expanded in Southern California.



**Howard (left) and Rudy Tsujimura** in the mid-’50s in front of the L.A. Gedatsu Church, which was also the Tsujimura home – with church services conducted on the first floor and the family of six residing upstairs. The sign reads: ***“Gedatsu Center of Los Angeles. Study of attainment of peace, joy and hope through man’s deliverance from all earthly sufferings.”***

*(Continued on page 5)*

### Establishing the Church on a Promise

Gedatsu Church of America was officially approved by the State of California in March of 1951. Archbishop Kishida explained its process as follows.

“When I visited **Yukio Tanaka** in Sacramento in January 1951, a half year after my arrival in America, he stated, ‘A property next to mine went on sale. Don’t you want to purchase that property?’

“I replied, ‘But I have no money. How can I purchase it?’

“He responded, ‘If you have a keen desire to get that property, we will chip in money for it.’

“I said, ‘Then please purchase the property.’

#### *“Yes, this is life.”*

Yozo “Joe” Tsujimura contributed the following article to the *Gedatsu Companion* in January 1962. This story reveals how Archbishop Kishida and Mother Kiyota lived in the early days of establishing the Gedatsu Church in America – and how earnestly members followed Gedatsu.

*“It’s been 11 years since Revs. Kishida and Kiyota began to come to Los Angeles to teach us. They lived in reduced circumstances in those days – beyond the reach of our imagination. When I went to San Francisco on vacation with my family and visited the church there, I found them eating a frugal lunch. Only a weenie, rice and some tsukemono pickles. They were eating with appreciation.*

*“Seven or eight years ago, the San Francisco-to-L.A. train on which Revs. Kishida and Kiyota were riding had an accident. They took a bus from Santa Barbara and arrived in Los Angeles at 3:00 in the morning. It was really cold and heavily raining that night. They were all wet, but cheerfully said to me, ‘We had a very good study. Yes, this is life.’*

*“Listening to these words, I thought that I would have complained about rain and the accident in that case. This was true Gedatsu. We were grateful to be able to learn Gedatsu.*

*“As a token of appreciation, we tried to guide our friends and neighbors to Gedatsu. Members of Gedatsu increased gradually. We bought our present house and moved there. This is because we wanted to make our old house the church for everyone to learn Gedatsu. I believe this is all Gedatsu Kongo’s blessing. We are really grateful.”*

“Tanaka-san then said, ‘You have to accept a condition for that. If you stay in America permanently, we will willingly purchase the property for you.’

“I was grateful to be thus trusted by members, even though I had been in America a short time. I believed it was God’s will and Gedatsu Kongo’s guidance. I replied, ‘I sincerely accept your request. I will live in America until I die.’”

Thus, the Sacramento property of 20 acres was purchased with members’ financial contributions. At the same time, they applied to the State of California for permission to establish the church. On March 30, 1951, Gedatsu Church of America was officially approved and established. The Sacramento property was then purchased and registered. *Goreichi* in America was born.

### Construction of the Sacramento Church

After they purchased the *Goreichi* property, members got busy planning and building the church facilities, beginning with the main church building. Key members, like **Yukio Tanaka, Mitsugu Matsuda, Kanzaburo Ide, Unosuke Furuta, Nobuo Sakamoto, Genko Umeshiki, Yukichi Sakai** and **Yozo Tsujimura**, raised money for the construction of the church building.

Construction started in November 1951. Because funds were limited, the building was designed primarily for durability and capacity, with appearance only a secondary concern. Thus, a barrack-type church building was constructed.



Sacramento members worked together, alongside Archbishop Kishida, to construct every aspect of the church building.

(Continued on page 6)

The construction was accomplished wholly through members' dedication and hard work. After they purchased construction materials, Sacramento members built the structure themselves, under the direction of those who had construction knowledge and experience. Even electrical distribution and sewer work were done by members. Nobuo Sakamoto was the leading figure of the construction.

Sacramento members came to church every day after they finished their day's work and worked half the night. Not only men worked, but women and children, too. And on Sundays, members from Stockton, San Jose and San Francisco came to help.

The construction work moved ahead at a fast pace so that the dedication would coincide with the Spring Festival. Members worked overnight on the eve of the festival, finishing the work at dawn.

The dedication ceremony for the newly built church, together with the Spring Festival, was held on April 12, 1952. Members were overjoyed to complete the church building by themselves and were moved to tears. Los Angeles members chartered a bus to attend the festival. They shared the joy of the occasion with Sacramento members, pledging their united efforts in the future. Thus was forged a trusting relationship between ministers and members, and solidarity among members.

The new building was used as the main hall for all church events until the completion of the *Gochi* Sanctuary in 1983. Today, the member-built structure continues to be used as a social hall.



**Construction of the church building was completed in time for the April 1952 dedication.**



**The member-built structure served as the main church hall for Gedatsu activities in Sacramento for more than three decades.**

### **Enshrinement of the *Rokujizo* Deity**

Mr. and Mrs. Yukichi Sakai donated the statues of *Rokujizo* deity in 1951 for the consolation of their deceased daughter. The statues were enshrined temporarily on the Tanakas' property, because the *Goreichi* property was not yet purchased yet. The statues were moved to the *Goreichi* grounds in 1953 to be enshrined after the completion of the church building.



The enshrinement ceremony was observed in June 1953. Since then, the *Rokujizo* Festival has been held each June, together with a food bazaar. The event has become an opportunity to share members' joy and appreciation with their friends and neighbors.

(Next issue: *San Francisco Church, propagation in L.A.*)



The *Gedatsu Companion* is indebted to **Rev. H. Taki** for the translation and images for this series of articles on the history of Gedatsu Church USA. Rev. Taki wrote the articles, which were published in *Gedatsu Magazine* in 2008 to explain to Japanese members how Gedatsu was propagated in America. – Editor

**“Although I cannot see,  
I am trying my best to do what I can.”**

By **Teruko Nakamura**  
Translated by **Rev. H. Taki**

Excerpted from *Gedatsu Magazine*,  
September 2018

I met my husband in Japan. He was a Japanese-American *Nisei* and in the U.S. military service at that time. We married in 1951, when I was 22 years old. Two years later, we came to the United States with our two-year-old daughter.



**Teruko Nakamura and her husband, Horace,  
in the early 1950s.**

When I was 40 years old, my husband suffered from depression and went to a mental health clinic. While there, he met a woman who introduced him to Gedatsu.

### A reluctant introduction to Gedatsu

When I accompanied my husband to the L.A. Gedatsu Church for the first time, we learned about appreciation to parents. I thought this was nothing special. I didn't feel like learning Gedatsu, so I told my husband, "I don't want to go to church." But he was crazy about Gedatsu and refused to accept my thoughts. So, I reluctantly followed him to church.

One day, I read an article in the monthly *Gedatsu Magazine* of someone's personal experience. It impressed me deeply, and I felt a strong attraction to Gedatsu. Since then, I attended all the Gedatsu meetings without fail. I also performed the *Goho* study each month. I became truly committed to the Gedatsu study.

I received many lessons through my *Goho* study and sincerely worked to dissolve the negative karma of the Nakamura family. Through this study, I was sternly admonished to correct my wrong thinking and attitude.

### Receiving spiritual guidance

One day in my *Goho* study, a Nakamura family ancestor told me to go to the *Ujigami* shrine at the L.A. Church to apologize for my selfishness. Suddenly, I could not move my legs. I did not understand why, but I crawled on my hands and knees to the shrine and performed repentance. Just as I finished repentance, I was able to walk as before. I believe God and my ancestors tried to awaken me to my selfishness through this mysterious experience.

### A pampered, selfish existence

I was born into an old family of a great landowner in Shinjuku, Tokyo. I was brought up with tender care and affection and lived in plenty. I always insisted on having everything my own way.



**Teruko and Horace regularly attended  
Gedatsu Church services and events together.**

*(Continued on page 8)*

***(Trying My Best – Continued from page 7)***

I was a woman with a sheltered life unable to do anything. Therefore, after the marriage and the war, I experienced difficulties.

My mother-in-law, who was a Japanese immigrant to Hawaii, had endured extreme difficulties. She often said to me, “You cannot have a money tree.” That made me think that I should work once I started living in the United States.

**Learning the value of hard work**

So, after moving to Los Angeles, I found employment in a shrimp-processing factory. It was arduous work, and at first, it was hard to shell the shrimp. But I kept working there for 45 years until the age of 70. After retirement, I planned to enjoy life by taking some form of enrichment lessons. But then, I was asked to cook lunch for the ministers at the L.A. Church, so I began to work again.

I had many things to do at church: cooking lunch, cleaning, changing water for flowers, and other small chores. I had no particular hobbies, but I was interested in cooking. I experimented by cooking a variety of foods: American, Mexican, Thai, Chinese, Italian, Korean, etc. The ministers liked the meals I prepared. I worked for the church for 14 years.

Then, at the age of 84, my life drastically changed.

**Overnight . . . darkness**

Years before, I had lost sight in my left eye because of glaucoma. Suddenly, my right eye began to hurt. I thought it would be fine after a good night’s sleep, but when I went to see the doctor the next day, he said, “It is too late.” Somehow, bacteria had infected my eye, causing me to lose my sight. I was blind. I was shocked and couldn’t say a word. I didn’t know what to do.

**Thankfully, I’m still useful**

My husband died many years ago. My younger daughter is married. I live with my eldest daughter. Fortunately, she began working at the church before I lost my sight, so every morning, she drives me to the church, where I am able to continue my work. If she had not been working at the church,

I would have had to remain home doing nothing, maybe losing my mind. Because I had worked at the church for many years, I know where everything is. I now clean the bathrooms and help someone to cook lunch every day.



**Teruko Nakamura with her daughters, Marylin (left) and Irene, continually at her side.**

**Appreciating my blessings**

My daughter says, “I feel that God arranged everything for you to be able to come to church after you lost your sight.” I do believe I have been able to overcome many difficulties because of divine guidance and protection.

It has been 65 years since I came to the United States. I have worked continuously until today. Every day I go to church and meet many members. I try to do whatever I can. This is what I live for now. Sometimes I become discouraged because I cannot do anything well. But as long as I can move, I want to come to church and do whatever I can for others.



## JANUARY 2019 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

(Includes some December 2018 offerings)

**\$5–\$49:** A. Cool, K. Schubert

**\$50–\$99:** K. Tsukamoto, S. Taketa, M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M D. Ide

**\$100+:** M/M B. Ide, M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M J. Horner, Akashi family, Rev/M K. Yamada, J. Detwiler / J. Sebe, Rev. A. Sebe, T. Nagao

**\$200+:** J. Ito, T. O'Leary, *Senkakukan*

**\$400+:** S. Nishino

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** M/M V. Mizokami, Y. Naruko, A. Okimura, K. Reckers, S. Reckers, N. Takara, B. Ton

**\$50–\$99:** M/M K. Shinen, M/M N. Chodor, J. Kaku, T. Murakami, T. Nagao, M. Nakamura, M/M S. Shalkan, F. Sueyoshi, T. Toyama, M/M Hi. Tsujimura, M/M Ho. Tsujimura

**\$100+:** M/M F. Barthel, M/M T. Fukushima, M/M M. Hamada, M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M M. Ishida, K. Kuritani, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M C. Morioka, M/M M. Murakami, M/M L. Muronaka, K. Nagao, R. Nakamura, T. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M/M M. Okada, M/M N. Okano, L. Sanchez, M/M A. Shiroishi, M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M G. Wood

**\$200+:** M/M R. Allum, M/ Kimura, M/M K. Kuritani, D. Shiroishi, J. Shiroishi

**\$300+:** T. Ishida, Gedatsu Kendo Dojo, M/M S. Mukai, T. Okimura

**\$400+:** J. Ito

**\$500+:** Yuujou Daiko, K. Fujii

**\$1,000+:** F. Miyamura

### **Special Acknowledgment**

Naoya/Yuko Okano	New Year appreciation (\$150)
Jackson Ito	In memory of Nancy M. Ito (\$200)
Jackson Ito	90 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary donation (\$4,000)
Cindy Tsujimura	Thank you for 2018 (\$2,000)
Mike/Tina Hamada	3 <sup>rd</sup> year service for Dennis Toguchi (\$150)
Nestor Gonzalez	Noriko Yoshihara
	one-year memorial service (\$500)

### **Goreichi Care Fund**

(The Fund is established to pay for repairs, upgrades and ongoing maintenance of structures and property of the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds of the Sacramento Spiritual Center.)

H. Graham	\$200
S. Nishino	\$100
Anonymous	\$100

## 2019 UPCOMING EVENTS

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 ( <i>Joan-no-gi</i> )
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)	<i>Rokujizo</i> Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu)	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Jul 14 (Sun)	Sac'to <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Jul 21 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Obon</i> 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) 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet (Sacramento)**

**Sep 1 (Sun) 70<sup>th</sup> 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

### 3 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
15 日 (金) 10:00A	布教会議
16 日 (土) 10:00A	理事会
17 日 (日) 10:00A	日英感謝会・彼岸法要 *講話：岡野総長
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
24 日 (日) 9:30A	感謝会・彼岸法要 リージョナル委員会

### 3 月 度 み さ と し

#### 「父祖の霊は直系の子孫に対し 特に篤き加護を垂れて居られる」

親のわが子に対する情愛は、人間の自然な感情の発露だといえるのではないだろうか。無心に微笑む赤ん坊を見れば、誰もえもいわれぬ愛しさを覚えるものだ。われわれがわが子や孫を愛おしみ深く愛するように、親や先祖もまた、われわれに対して常に深い愛情と加護を垂れてくださっていることを忘れてはならない。先祖は目には見えないが、子孫のわれわれを常に見守り導いて下さっていることを知るならば、たとえどのような困難に見舞われようと、きっと生きる希望と力を取り戻すことができるはずだ。日々、ご先祖さまに感謝と敬意をささげ、まごころをもってご加護とお導きを祈るならば、かならずふさわしい道に導いていただけるであろう。ご先祖さまはわれわれにとってもっとも身近で力強い、人生の案内人なのである。

### 解 脱 人 生 相 談

#### 子供を解脱の感謝会に参加させたい

【質 問】 子供たちが大きくなってきましたので、感謝日に参加してもらいたいのですが、どうしたらよいですか？

回答者：神谷 龍典

子供さんたちが小さいころから支部感謝日に親子で参加されていましてでしょうか？会祖解脱金剛さ

まは、「宗教は万事、良い癖づけをして行くことだよ」とおっしゃっています。幼少期から親と一緒に支部へ足運びをするというのは良い癖づけになると思います。

もし、これまで子供さんを連れて感謝会にあまり参加していなかった、または子供さんが「支部に行きたくない」と言い始めた場合は、無理に支部へ行かせようとする前によく考えてみてください。

解脱会の先生から子育てについて「子供は親の所有物じゃないんだよ。たとえ小さい子供でも意思を尊重して、『指示、禁止、命令』の言葉は使わないように」とお勉強をいただいています。また、別の先生からは「喉が渴いていない人に無理に水を飲ませようとしなくていいんだよ。その人が飲みたくなるまでは『おいしい、おいしい』と自分が飲んでいればいいんだよ」というご指導もありました。

私の知り合いに解脱とは違う宗教をハワイで学んでいるご家族がいらっしゃいます。ご両親が共に開教師で、3人のお子さんも成人して全員が開教師となっています。私がひとつ気が付いたのは、お母さまがニコニコと朗らかで、いつも「神様のおかげで私は幸せです。もったいないです」とおっしゃっているということです。

以前の回答で「しろしろといっても、子供はしないよ。親のしている通りにするものなんだよ。」という金剛様のお言葉をご紹介しました。

子供さんたちに「今度の感謝日に一緒に来ない？」と声をかけることは良いですが、もし「行きたくない」と言われたら、まずはご自身が日々の生活を「感謝と思いやり」の気持ちで過ごされることをおすすめいたします。ご両親が「解脱のみ教えのおかげで私は幸せだ」「おかげさま」「ありがとう」「大好きだよ」と明るく朗らかに過ごしていれば、子供さんたちも「解脱って素晴らしいな」「支部に行ってみようかな」という気持ちになると思います。

金剛様は解脱のみ教えを次世代につなげていく大切さを説かれていました。あせらず、そして思いやりの気持ちを忘れないことが子育てには必要だと思います。



あなたに起こるすべてのことには意味がある

サクラメント教会 山田 一雄

**感**

謝会おめでとうございます。本日、神々さまに日々のお恵みを感謝させていただけたこと、大変有り難く幸せなこととお喜び申し上げます。この70周年の記念すべき一年を通し、私たちは神の心を心として、常に自己改善と自己成長のあらゆる努力をしまいたいと思います。

そのような意味で本日は、日常における学びの在り方についてお話ししたいと思います。

ご承知のように、解脱金剛さまは、生活が即宗教だと教えられています。私たちの生活における出来事そのものが、私たちの魂を磨き高めていく課題です。言い換えれば、魂の成長のためのテーマは、生活の中に常に与えられるのです。だから金剛さまは、「生活を離れて宗教なし」とも言われました。

その背景には「人間は魂をより成長させるためにこの世に生まれてきた」という真理があります。宇宙はあらゆる魂を生成化育しています。それが神の心であり、宇宙の法則であると言えます。

ですから、魂のレベルから見た場合、「あなたに起こるすべてのことには意味がある」と言えるのです。どんな意味かと言えば、「あなたの魂を修養するため」という意味があるのです。いわば、この世は人間の魂の修行の場であり、日常における様々な出来事や状況は、魂を修養するためのカリキュラムであるわけです。楽しいこと、嬉しいことばかりでなく、苦しいこと、悲しいことなど、様々な経験をすることによって魂を磨き、成長していくことが人生の真の目的なのです。そのことを支えるシステムとして、因果の法則があります。原因と結果の法則、カルマの法則と言ってもいいでしょう。

**カ**

ルマの法則とは、私たちに起こるいかなる出来事も、私たち自身の持つカルマによって引き起こされる結果であるという法則です。

お釈迦さまは、私たち自身の考え、言葉、行動が、私たち自身のカルマを生み出すのだと教えられました。あなたがクリスチャンであれば、イエス・キリストが言った「蒔いた種は刈らねばならない」という言葉をご存知でしょう。あなたが発した言葉や行いは、何であれあなたに戻ってくるということであり、これもカルマの法則を表しているのです。

私たちは、思い、話し、行動するとき、無意識のうちに宇宙に力を発動しているのです。 私たちがめぐらす思い、発する言葉、そしてその行ないは宇宙に蒔かれた種のようなものです。これらの種がカル

マであり、それぞれの種は縁によってふさわしく発芽し、結果となって生じてくるのです。

すなわち、善い種を蒔けば良い果実ができ、悪い種を蒔けば悪い結果となる。カルマの法則は、私たちの日常生活のあらゆる現象の背後で作用し、私たちに善悪を認識させてくれるのです。

したがって、カルマはあなたの心の欠陥を明らかにし、教えるための神の法則であると同時に、あなたの魂が進化し成熟することを可能にするレッスンであり、私たちの魂を育てる法則であるのです。

そのカルマの働きによって結果が生じるわけですから、魂のレベルから見れば、あなたに起こるすべてのことには魂を磨くための意味があるということがわかるのです。

それは人との関わり合いにおいても言えることです。たとえば、親、兄弟、恋人、夫婦、親友、恩師、職場の人など、何かしらあなたと深いつながりがある人たちは、前世からのカルマのシナリオを通して結びつき、お互いが魂の成長を促し合う関係にあるのです。

**で**

すから、そのような観点からもう一度、身近な人との関係を見つめ直してみれば、相手への理解もより深まり、自分自身のカルマへの気づきも促されるかもしれません。また、その関係において何か問題が生じていたとしても、あなたはそれを違った角度から見つめることができるかもしれません。

人間関係に生じる様々な問題は、お互いが超えていかなければならないカルマの学びがそれぞれにあるからこそ、時に困難な状況を引き起こしている場合も少なくありません。しかし、困難な状況に直面したときこそ、「これは私にとってどのような意味があるのか?」「これは何を私に気付かせようとしているのか?」ということ静かに問いかけ、自らの過去を振り返ってみることが必要なのです。

金剛さまは、「一切は自己の鏡」だとして、次のように言われています。

「人間は自分の欠点を考えないで、相手ばかりを悪く思うが、考えが違ふ。良きも悪しきも皆鏡であるから、相手を師とすれば間違いがない。」

あなたが見せられたこと、聞かされたことも、そこにまた自己のカルマが反映されているのです。ですから、他人事でなく自分の問題として物事を捉え、それをあなたの魂の成長の機会と捉えてください。そのような心の習慣を持つことで、自他に対する理解も有難味も深まってくると思います。

日常生活のすべての現象の背後で、神の法則は私たちの霊的な資質を進化させる目的で日夜機能しています。解脱は「生活即宗教」を説きます。私たちの生活における出来事を一つ一つ法則に基づきながら見つめ直し、どこまでも魂を磨いていきたいものと思います。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Theo (Tiffany) O'Leary**, who attends services at both the L.A. and Sacramento churches. From her first encounter with Gedatsu ten years ago, Theo has felt a deep connection to the spirit of Master Gedatsu Kongo. She has devoted her life to self-improvement and believes that contributing to the community is the answer to world peace. She has a deep sense of responsibility to help her ancestors and feels the Gedatsu teaching has greatly improved her life.

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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](mailto:la_branch@gedatsu-usa.org).

