

GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA

www.gedatsu-usa.org

SEPTEMBER 2019

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*“When you benefit others,
you eventually will be
benefitted by others.”*

There is a well-known proverb that says, “He who gives to the poor, lends to the Lord.”

This is true, because everything in the world is connected with each other. When we become deeply aware of this universal principle, we will rid ourselves of selfishness and strive to benefit others in the world.

Other people's happiness and ours are one. We cannot have true peace and happiness as long as someone else is not happy. When you sincerely pray for others' happiness and try to benefit the world, you will become truly happy and peaceful.

This is the path to our coexistence and co-prosperity.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	9:30 am	70th Anniversary Grand Fall Festival
Tue	3		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	8	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	15	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service
			Regional Board Meeting
Sun	29		Church Closed

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1		Grand Fall Festival (in Sacramento)
Tue	3		Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sun	8	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
			<i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service
			L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sun	29		Church Closed

OCTOBER 2019

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat-Sun	5-6		Church Closed for Festival at L.A. Church
Sun	13	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
			“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Tue	15		Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun	20	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	27	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / All Souls Service
			Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	5	11am-6pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Sun	6	11am-5pm	Autumn Moon Festival
Sun	13	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Tue	15		Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Sun	20	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English)
			<i>Ujigami</i> Service
Sun	27	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service
			L.A. Regional Board Meeting



70th Anniversary Celebrations

Celebration Banquet – Saturday, August 31

Crowne Plaza Hotel in Northeast Sacramento
Reception at 5 pm. Banquet at 6 pm.

140th Fall Grand Festival – Sunday, September 1

Sacramento Spiritual Center – 9:30 a.m.

Our Fall Festival includes the celebration of the 70th anniversary of the Gedatsu Church in America, as well as the 50th anniversary of the Gedatsu Memorial Tower. We anticipate more than 300 members and guests at our festivities, including about 70 members from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan, who will be participating with us in our *Saito Goma* fire ceremony for the first time.

To accommodate the increased attendance and the travel schedules of those who need to leave immediately after our luncheon, we have streamlined our morning programs. You can help by:

- Being patient in finding a parking space as the parking areas may be crowded.
- Picking up your *Saito Goma* plaques early and making sure that others do, too.
- Moving promptly from one program to the next (from *Gochi* Sanctuary to Memorial Tower to *Saito Goma* area to luncheon area) within the allotted break time.
- Helping to guide or escort the Japanese guests to each area, to restrooms, etc., as needed.
- At the *Saito Goma* ceremony, quickly throwing your plaques into the fire, as well as providing guidance to Japanese guests on throwing their plaques.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Reminder: smart, casual attire for banquet and Festival. For men (suit/tie or dress pants/sports coat) and women (summer dress or dressy skirt/pants and blouse).

2019 Memorial Tower Enshrinements

This year marks the 50th Anniversary of the Gedatsu Memorial Tower. In conjunction with the Grand Fall Festival on Sunday, September 1, the following souls will be enshrined in the Memorial Tower: **Goro Kawamura, Fumiko Makishi, Kiyoshi (Kie) Maruyama, Mariko Michiuye, Tomiko Mizokami, Joe Nakamura, Steven Ikuzo Nakatani, Shizuye Shiroishi and Sumie Suyeyasu.**

Because of the accelerated time schedule of the Festival programs, only family members and relatives of the deceased are requested to participate in the enshrinement processional and offering of incense and *amacha* blessing. All others, including members and friends: please join them in front of the Memorial Tower in offering prayers and blessings for the enshrined souls.



September “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, September 8, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Jeffrey Tellez, Robert Katsumi Fukushima, Soichi Nakatani, Masako Sakamoto Tagawa, Shigetaro Kino, Tetsuo Yomogida, Linda Carol Kashiwagi and Glenn Shuji Hatae.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, September 8, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **David H. Dyson Jr., Kazuko Endo, Ann M. Ghazarians, Nancy Kikuchi, Misako Kobata, Liam Mikael Kowal, Hitoshi Matsumoto, Yasuko Matsumoto, Frank S. Miyamura, Nancy Mizuki, Charles Migiwa Nishi, Rod Tetsuya Nomura, Tomitaro Okada, Jacobus Johannes Reckers, Ruth Muriel Reckers, Kiyoshi George Sakuma, John Takeshi Sangen, Yuri T. Sangen, Hiroshi Sato, Setsu Shiroishi, Yoshio Fred Shoga, Norio Tanaka, Himeko Tanji, Itsuya Frank Tanji and Moto Tanji.**

AROUND OUR CHURCH

Members Honor Recent Graduates

Congregations in Los Angeles and Sacramento honored recent graduates in June in special recognition programs sponsored by their respective Sunday Schools. We congratulate the following students on their achievements.

Los Angeles Church

Evan D'Asero, 22, is the son of **Kris Kuritani** and the grandson of **Ken** and **Ikuko Kuritani**. Evan graduated *cum laude* from California State University, Fullerton, with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. He enjoys blogging and playing video games.

Caden Kuritani, 14, is the son of **Kevin** and **Camille Kuritani** and grandson of **Ken** and **Ikuko Kuritani**. A California Junior Scholarship Federation recipient, Caden graduated from the eighth grade and will attend high school this fall. He enjoys playing water polo and hanging out with friends



Left to right,
Evan D'Asero and
Caden Kuritani

Sacramento Spiritual Center

Vivian McSwain, 13, was promoted from eighth grade and is starting her freshman year. Vivian is the daughter of **Sally** and **Chris McSwain** and granddaughter of late members, **Steve** and **Sadako Taketa**. Enjoying drawing, baking, writing and *anime*, Vivian aspires to own her own café or work in a bakery. (Vivian is shown below with her mother, Sally, and brother, **Everett**. She and the other graduates were celebrated with a cake.)



Kaylee Mullins, 18, is the daughter of **Sherri** and **Mark Mullins** and the granddaughter of the late **Steve** and **Sadako Taketa**. Kaylee graduated from high school outside of Seattle, Wash., and will be attending San Diego State University, majoring in Television, Film and New Media. She wants to write and direct movies or become an actress.

Christopher Ide, 25, is the son of **Penny** and **Dave Ide**. His grandparents are **Buster** and **Reiko Ide**. Christopher graduated with humanities honors from San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nutritional Science. His career goal is to work as a physical therapist

Autumn Moon Festival – L.A. Church **Saturday, October 5 – 11 am to 6 pm** **Sunday, October 6 – 11 am to 5 pm**



Poster design by **John Hayashi**

The L.A. Church's annual celebration and fundraiser will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 5 and 6. Open to the public, the event features ethnic foods – including the church's famous *huli-huli teriyaki* chicken, *chow mein*, *sushi*, fried wonton and other culinary favorites – as well as a farmers' market, cultural demonstrations, entertainment and guided tours of the church.

Raffle Tickets Now on Sale

Please support the event by volunteering your time, encouraging family and friends to attend, providing donations and purchasing raffle tickets for great prizes.



Clockwise from upper left, campers get ready for their rafting adventure; in *sayonara* photo, group displays a signed portion of their *somen* bridge; Kpop dance stars pose; sharing "happy thoughts" about each other; plate-jumping icebreaker kicks off camp.

Summer Camp 2019 – Best Camp Ever!

Experience inspires campers through creative play, field activities, social interactions and lessons in faith.

"River rafting, fun activities and Jackson's meals."

"Learning new things about Gedatsu."

"Opportunity to make new friends and memories."

"Mica's amazing tour of the shrines."

"Rafting!" "Morning and evening prayers."

"No cellphones all day!"

These are some of the ways the seven teens and young adults described what they enjoyed at this year's Gedatsu Summer Youth Camp, which was held over four days in late July at the Sacramento Spiritual Center. The participants included **James Akashi** (17) and **Avalon Akashi** (20) from San Francisco; **Vivian McSwain** (13) and **Pop Vargas** (13) from Sacramento; and sisters **Carolann** (26), **Kady** (19) and **Kayla** (16) **Hirayama** from Los Angeles.

Under the planning and organization of **Pauline Tomita** and **Alaric Akashi** and assistance of camp

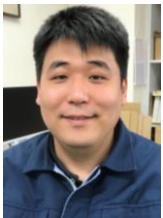
staffers **Janet Hirayama**, **Mica Rodriguez, Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito** and **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**, the campers bonded over river rafting, activities and games (like indoor volleyball, stretches/yoga, playing Jenga and Taboo) and delicious food – including the *somen* bridge and a sugar run to Leatherby's ice cream parlor. The popular highlight was practicing a Kpop dance routine and presenting it to camp staff on the last night of camp. Faith discussions centered around the theme of fire, guardian deities and humankind's relationship to the universe.

The camp was made possible through the funding of the Rev. Shinji Matsushashi and Rev. Akira Sebe Youth Propagation Expense Fund, which was established in 2018 expressly for the purpose of covering all expenses for camp participants. We thank the donors for their foresight in providing funds for Gedatsu youth and their future.

PERSONAL EXPERIENCES – JAPAN EXCHANGE AMBASSADORS



In late June, Exchange Ambassadors from *Gedatsu-kai* Japan – Koji Mokudai and Takahiro Saito – spent two weeks in the U.S. hosted by Gedatsu USA. They met with members in Sacramento and Los Angeles, helped at the *Rokujizo* Bazaar and enjoyed sightseeing in San Francisco, Yosemite National Park, Las Vegas, Grand Canyon and Los Angeles. They express their appreciation to American members and describe their experiences below.



Koji Mokudai: During the *Rokujizo* Bazaar, I was impressed that everyone worked so hard together – without boundaries of age or rank. When **Rev. Sebe** was asked about this, he said, “It is following the example of **Archbishop Kishida**,” who took the initiative in working for the church.

Members’ humor and warmth made me feel comfortable and very happy. For example, when I introduced myself to members, I said that I was a big L.A. Dodgers fan. The L.A. members cheered, but **June Tanaka**, who was wearing a Giants cap, booed me.

In Los Angeles, I was grateful to visit the Japanese-American National Museum, where I learned about the history of Japanese-Americans and their hardships. During our two-week travel, Americans warmly welcomed us wherever we went. Thanks to them, I learned a lot, created a lot of memories and received many souvenirs. I know it is never enough to just say “thank you,” but thank you very much. I would like to visit the U.S. and see you again. By the way, Dodger Stadium was great!



Takahiro Sato: Thanks to all of you, I really enjoyed our travels. I learned a lot, but three things impressed me most. First, the kindness of U.S. members. At the *Rokujizo* Bazaar, even though there was a language barrier, everyone was so kind, so I didn’t become too nervous, and I could enjoy the bazaar. Second, the importance of volunteer spirit. American members and friends happily volunteered, talking and laughing all the time. I was so happy that I could work together with such people in such an atmosphere. I want to bring this volunteer spirit and harmony to my own surroundings.

Lastly, the importance of praying and showing appreciation to God and ancestors. After the bazaar, when we went to pray and show our appreciation at *Benzaiten*, the smiles of those who came to the bazaar sprang to my mind, and I was deeply moved. I want to recall this feeling often and pray and show my appreciation to Nature. In addition to these three things, I remember **Rev. Yamada’s** sermon about the chain reactions of both kindness and unkindness. I want to do my best to create a positive chain reaction of kindness. I hope to see you someday soon!

“Welcome to Gedatsu”

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Chapter 3: Appreciation and Gratitude

The *Amacha* Blessing

The Gedatsu altar represents the Universal Life Force, which permeates throughout the universe and allows everything, including human beings, to exist.

In addition to the three symbols of worship in our altar, we have an important practice in our daily prayer – the *Amacha* blessing.



Through the *Amacha* blessing, we dedicate our sincere prayers and service to the peaceful repose of the souls of the deceased, especially our ancestors, and other spirits related to us, and express gratitude to the spirits. We accomplish this by pouring the *Amacha* holy tea over *kuyo* memorial plaques or *kuyo* stupa, on which souls and spirits are invited to receive the blessing.



Amacha tea is derived from the *Amacha* plant, grown and harvested in Japan. *Amacha* leaves have been used as herbs and for medicinal purposes since the Middle Ages. They are

believed to improve the condition of the body organs and purify the blood. The term *Amacha* is commonly translated as “sweet tea,” because the tea contains a natural sweetener that is many times sweeter than table sugar. Instead of “sweet tea,” however, the Gedatsu Church writes *Amacha* as “heavenly” or “holy” tea in the belief that it is conferred by God for holy purposes.

The *Amacha* blessing can be done by anyone, even young children. Yet, while simple to perform, the blessing is profound in its effect. When done with complete sincerity and faith, *Amacha* blessing can bring peace and salvation for unrested spirits, no matter how dire their suffering.

Among the spirits of the departed, there are many who cannot rest peacefully in the spiritual realm, often because of karmic influences or earthly attachments. They cannot be purified or find repose through our recitation of prayers and offerings alone. To purge negative karma, and/or to be purified and freed from their suffering, *Amacha* blessing is necessary.

The practice of *Amacha* blessing was discovered by our Founder Gedatsu Kongo through his divine inspiration and spiritual power.

The performance of *Amacha* blessing is a central practice in our daily prayers --- not only to purify deceased souls, but as a means to purify our own minds, souls and bodies. The miraculous ability of *Amacha* blessing to bring relief to suffering souls and purify negative karma results from the combination of three essential elements: the power of the holy *Goho*, the intrinsic qualities of *Amacha* holy tea and the performer's sincerity and faith.

(Continued on page 7)

(*Appreciation* – Continued from page 6)

The Holy Goho

The term *Goho*, as used in the Gedatsu doctrine, contains no less than the dynamic concentration of cosmic forces: the infinite and inexhaustible Universal Life Force, or God, and the representation of its activities. These forces are symbolized in the combination of five Sanskrit characters – representing five aspects of universal wisdom or enlightenment – which were written by Gedatsu Kongo, while in a state of divine revelation. Thus, activated with the Founder's spiritual power, they are inscribed on *kuyo* plaques and stupa and on holy amulets issued by the church.

The dynamic power of the Holy *Goho* dissolves negative karma and ignorance. It effects spiritual purification of the individual, renders salvation to the unrested spirits and frees humankind from sufferings.

Gedatsu followers believe that there is no blessing more effective and powerful than *Amacha* blessing in bringing peace, comfort and purification to the souls of the departed. The daily performance of *Amacha* blessing is truly joyful and transformative – a sacred gift beyond value.

Amacha Blessing for Our Ancestors

Among various *Amacha kuyo* plaques, the most important is that for our ancestors. It is because everyone has her/his parents and ancestors. Our life is not possible without them. We all have received immeasurable blessings from them. The spirits of our ancestors are always watching over us with compassion. We are always together with our ancestors.

Master Gedatsu Kongo stated: "Our real miseries and joys are, at the same time, our ancestors'. Likewise, their sufferings and delights are instantly transmitted to us. We are, ever, one with ancestors. It can be said that we are the crystallization of our ancestor spirits."

When we are aware of our ancestors' guidance and protection, and express gratitude for their blessing through our daily *Amacha kuyo* practice, our ancestors will be happy and protect us more strongly.

Amacha Blessing for Other Spirits

Besides the *kuyo* plaque for our ancestors, there are many kinds of *kuyo* plaques, such as that for the soul of the deceased, for unrested spirits connected to the family and ancestors, for the spirits of all living things, for the spirits of customers, etc. We have received infinite blessings from everything and many people in our everyday life knowingly or unknowingly. It is important to be aware of their blessings and express gratitude to them through our *Amacha kuyo*.

Property Blessing

We have another way of performing *Amacha kuyo* besides through *kuyo* plaques or *kuyo* stupa. It is the property blessing by spreading *Amacha* on the ground of the property.

The property we use for our housing or business has various connections with many people and living things since ancient times. In America, many Native Americans used to live all over the country a long time before we moved here. Our lives today are due to their blessings in various aspects. Therefore, it is important to appreciate their blessings we receive from our properties by spreading *Amacha* on the ground.

Through this practice, our sense of appreciation towards our properties and all souls and spirits connected to the ground will be cultivated more deeply. When the souls and spirits receive the sacred *Amacha kuyo* and your sincere gratitude, they will rest in peace and protect you more strongly.

(Next issue: *Self-reflection and Self-awareness*)



All Things Have Meaning

Sermon by **Rev. Kazuo Yamada**

In the spirit of self-reflection and growth, I would like to talk about how our daily lives are our best source of study, and how we, as students, can develop the proper attitude to learn from life's lessons.

Gedatsu Kongo taught us that "life itself is religion." By this, he meant that the everyday events in our lives are experiences that can polish and elevate our souls. In other words, true religion is not some far-away, mystical belief. The cultivation and growth of our souls come from within ourselves and is revealed to us through the events of our daily lives.

That is why Gedatsu Kongo said, "There is no religion apart from your life." This is the heart of the Gedatsu teaching. It answers the fundamental question: "What is the purpose of our life?"

Looking from a bigger perspective, this vast universe is the manifestation of God's mind and the Law of the Universe. A divine power permeates this universe, generating and growing every soul. The universal truth is that "humans are born into this world in order to further the growth of their souls."

Therefore, if we look deeply into our lives from the perspective of our soul's development, we begin to see that all things have meaning. Every experience – big and small – is a teachable moment for our soul's growth. In other words, this world is a glorious spiritual school – a training place for the human soul.

Our wonderful life provides us with lessons large and small. The true purpose of life in this world is to refine and grow our souls through various experiences – some fun and happy, but others painful and sad.

The spiritual development of our soul is not aimless or haphazard. The Universal Law provides us with an orderly, logical mechanism that governs and regulates our soul's growth. This is the law of cause and effect, or the law of karma.

In brief, karma is the natural law by which each individual creates his or her own destiny as a result of their own thoughts, words and actions. When we think, speak or act, we unknowingly initiate a force in the universe. Our thoughts, words and actions are like seeds that are sown in the universe.

These seeds are our karma, and each seed naturally sprouts into the appropriate bud, or result. Thus, if you sow good seeds you will get good fruits. Sowing bad seeds will get bad results.

Karma is a divine law to uncover and teach the defects of our heart, lessons that allow our soul to evolve and mature. The law of karma is working behind all phenomena in our daily lives to make us aware of good and evil and to grow our souls. That is why, when viewed from the level of the soul, there is meaning in everything that happens to us.

This is true in our personal relationships, as well. For example, people who are closely connected with us – such as parents, siblings, children, friends, teachers, co-workers – are individuals with whom we are connected through the law of karma. Our relationships exist to encourage the mutual growth of our souls.

"The cultivation and growth of our souls come from within ourselves and are revealed to us through the events of our daily lives."

From that point of view, when you closely examine your relationship with others, you deepen your understanding and appreciation of them and how you affect your relationship. This can be a source of profound study for you, leading to your self-awareness and self-improvement.

If you discover problems in your relationship with others, be grateful. By looking at your relationship from the perspective of karma and correcting your thinking, these are opportunities to make the biggest improvements in your soul's growth. Problems in interpersonal relations are difficult because each relationship has its own karmic issues. The tendency is to blame others for problems or misfortunes.

Gedatsu Kongo said, "People don't reflect on their own shortcomings, but only point to the faults of others. This is wrong, because all are reflections of you. Whether good or bad – if you consider them your teachers, there will be no mistake."

Let me repeat Gedatsu Kongo's words: "Life itself is religion." Remember that behind the phenomena of your daily life, a Divine Law is constantly functioning with the purpose of encouraging your spiritual growth.

So, at the end of every day, quietly review the various things that happened to you. Especially if you experienced difficulties, ask yourself, "What does this mean for me?" "What is the lesson I need to learn?"

In this way, our everyday life becomes the source of continual spiritual cultivation, allowing us to live life with a positive, hopeful and grateful attitude.



JULY 2019 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, C. Umeda

\$50–\$99: M/M B. Ide, M/M D. Ide, M/M D. Tsuboi,

N. Nakamura, K. Kitasoe

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, A. Cool, J. Detwiler / J. Sebe,

J. Tanaka, Y. Ide, T. Okimura

\$200+: A. Sebe, S. Nishino, M/M J. Horner

\$500+: Senkakukan

Special Acknowledgment

K. Schubert	In memory of Yuki Ota (\$100)
S. Yabut	In memory of Yuki Ota (\$100)
J. Ito	Appreciation to <i>Bato Kanzeon</i> (\$300)
Donna Shiroshi	Appreciation to Bazaar 1 st prize (\$500)
J. Ito	70 th Anniversary donation (\$10,000)
J. Ito	U.S. Minister Endowment Fund (\$10,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M M. Choy, M/M M. Hamada, G. Hiram, M. Nakamura, A. Okimura, T. Sato, N. Takara

\$50–\$99: M/M K. Chinen, M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M T. Hiram, M/M S. Mukai, Y. Oishi, M/M A. Shiroishi, F. Sueyoshi, M/M R. Tsujimura

\$100+: J. Kaku, M/M K. Kuritani, K. Mokudai, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, T. Nakamura, E. Ogawa, M. Okada, T. Okimura, L. Sanchez, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada, M/M P. Young, M/M M. Ishida, S. Mizokami, C. Barthel

\$200+: K. Fujii, T. Ishida, L. Ito, M. Kimura, D. Shiroishi, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M T. Matsumoto, S. Okimura

\$300+: Yuujo Daiko, M/M R. Allum

\$500+: K. Kitasoe

\$600+: J. Ito, Gedatsu Kendo Dojo

\$2,000+: M/M K. Shiroishi

Special Acknowledgment

Naoya/Yuko Okano	Return to Japan (\$200)
Joyce Reid	"Never Forgotten" for Nancy and Eddie Ogura (\$100)
Tadao Ishida	"Never Forgotten" for Nobuyoshi and Michie Shimohira (\$100)
Tetsuya Matsumoto	7 th Anniversary service for Kyoko Nakaguchi (\$300)
Ken/Ikuko Kuritani	Appreciation for Evan D'Asero and Caden Kuritani's graduations (\$100)

2019 / 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

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

2020 Events

Jan 1 (Wed)	New Year Homage
Jan 2-3 (Thu-Fri)	Church Closed
Jan 12 (Sun)	Sacramento New Year Service
Jan 19 (Sun)	L.A. New Year Service
Jan 21 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
Feb 16 (Sun)	L.A. Sun Spirit Service
Feb 18 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)
Mar 13 (Fri)	Propagation Meeting 10 am
Mar 14 (Sat)	Board of Directors Meeting 10 am
Mar 15 (Sun)	L.A. <i>Higan</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Mar 22 (Sun)	Sacramento <i>Higan</i> Service
Mar 29 (Sun)	Church Closed
Apr 12 (Sun)	Spring Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
May 10 (Sun)	Sacramento Mother's Day Service
May 17 (Sun)	L.A. Mother's Day Service
May 24 (Sun)	Sacramento plaque burning (<i>Joen-no-gi</i>)
May 25 (Mon)	Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service
May 26 (Tue)	Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

JULY 2019 OFFERINGS (Cont.)

Goreichi Care Fund

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

H. Graham	(\$100)
D. Ide	(\$300)
Mizokami Family	In memory of Tomiko Mizokami (\$10,000)

9 月 教 会 行 事

ロサンゼルス教会

- 1(日) 9:30A 70周年・秋季大祭(サクラメント)
 3(火) 教会振替休日(レイバーデー)
 8(日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要
 15(日) 10:00A 日英感謝会・彼岸法要
 22(日) 10:00A 英語感謝会
 リーショナル委員会
 29(日) 教会休み

サクラメント教会

- 1(日) 9:30A 創立70周年・秋季大祭
 霊廟祭祀の儀 / 柴燈護摩供
 3(火) 教会振替休日(レイバーデー)
 8(日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要
 15(日) 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会
 22(日) 9:30A 感謝会・彼岸法要
 リーショナル委員会
 29(日) 教会休み

9 月 度 み さ と し

「世を益し人を益し国を益するは、
 畢竟(ひっきょう)自らを益するものである」

「情けは人のためならず」ということわざがあるが、これは真理である。なぜならば、この世に存在する一切は、互いに密接につながり合っているからである。一見、無関係に見えるようなことも、実は、すべて一つにつながっているのである。この宇宙の理に深く目覚めれば目覚めるほど、人間はおのずから自我を離れ、世のため人のために尽くすような生き方に進んでいくものである。それは、自他の幸福が一体のものであり、相手の幸福なくして自己の平安も幸福もあり得ないことがわかってくるからである。相手の幸せを心より祈り、世のため人のために尽くすことが、ひいては自己の安心と幸福にもつながる、という宇宙の理法をしっかりと体得して、世の人々と共に幸福な人生を歩んでゆこう。

ロサンゼルス教会・開教師スケジュール

9月以降のサービスおよび布教業務担当は下記の通りです。

- ◇ 瀧久和開教師 = 7月23日～10月8日、
 - ◇ 山田一雄開教師 = 10月2日～14日、
 10月31日～12月18日
- *10月第3・第4日曜のサービスは開教師補佐ルディ・辻村氏、ジャクソン・伊藤氏の予定です。

米国研修 感想文

年齢や立場に関係なく
 皆が奉仕される姿が印象的でした

解脱会調礼部 目代幸司



ドジャース・スタジアムでメジャーリーグを観戦
 左から齊藤隆浩さん、ルディさん、目代幸司さん

この度は、2週間にわたる米国研修におつかい頂きまして有り難うございました。この研修で感じたこと学んだ事を記させていただきます。

六地藏バザーは、瀬部先生やジャクソン先生が率先して奉仕をされ、会員さんが遠方各地から集まりご高齢の沖村さんが運転をされて来たとか、7時間かけて車でロサンゼルスから来たなど、日本ではなかなか聞かない出来事に変驚きました。瀬部先生やジャクソン先生、米国の会員さんたちは年齢や立場に関係なく本当に精一杯、奉仕をされていました。驚き齊藤さんが瀬部先生にそのことを尋ねてみると、「岸田英山先生がそうだったからだよ」と言われました。岸田英山先生が率先して奉仕をし示されていた姿に自分もやらずには、という瀬部先生が「自分はサクラメントのお庭番だ!」と嬉しそうに笑顔で言う姿に、自分も笑顔でお役目にお使い頂きたい、こうありたいと思いました。

また自己紹介のときにロサンゼルスドジャースが好きだと言ったらロサンゼルスみなさんが良い反応をしてくれ、サンフランシスコジャイアンツの帽子をかぶったジュンさんにブーイングを貰ったのは、興味を持ってくれているんだな、と実感し嬉しく思いました。ロサンゼルス教会でもサンデーサービスの時に歓迎会を開いて下さいまして有り難うございました。皆さんと交流ができて良かったです。松本さんから頂

いた剣道のシャツは帰国して日本で見せたら大変好評でした！

ロサンゼルスでは、観光で全米日系人博物館に連れて行ってもらいました。博物館は米国に移民された日系人の方々の歴史が展示しており、移民された方達の苦労や歴史やコミュニティのことが日本語での音声ガイドでとてもわかりやすく案内されていていました。米国に訪れる前に勉強していた物が、より深く理解する事が出来たように感じます。拝観できて良かったです。

今回米国研修で米国の方たちは、会員さんはもちろんですが行く先々の所で温かく迎え入れてくれました。沢山の方々にお世話になり勉強を頂き、思い出とお土産を頂きました。是非また米国に赴き皆さんとお会いたいです。それとドジャースタジアムは最高でした!! 本当にお世話になり有り難うございました。



この研修で多くのことを学ばせていただきましたが、私は3つのことが特に印象に残りました。

1つ目は、会員さん方の優しさです。私はお手伝いできることがあれば、なんでも喜んでさせていただこうと研修に臨みました。アメリカに着き、翌日から六地蔵バザーのお手伝いが始まりました。私がお手伝いできることがあるか伺うと、誰もが笑顔で返答して下さい、常に何かしらの作業を与えて下さり、喜んで下さいました。そのお蔭で、アメリカでは言葉の壁を多少感じながらも固くならず、楽しむことができました。その後に、日頃、そのような余裕がなかった自分を反省し、周りに優しくできる自分でありたいと感じました。

2つ目は、奉仕の心の尊さです。帰国後に振り返ってみて、上記のような気持ちになれたのは、させていただいて喜ぶ心、人の喜びを自らの喜びにできる心(奉仕の心)を解脱会により育てていただけたからだと感じました。アメリカの会員さん方は、終始笑顔で奉仕をされており、お互いにコミュニケーションを良く取り、笑い声が絶えない雰囲気でした。そんな方々と一緒に働くことができたことは本当に幸せなことだと感じました。そして、そのような奉仕の輪を自分の周りに広げていきたいと感じました。

3つ目は、神仏に感謝の祈りを捧げることの大切さです。今年の六地蔵バザーは例年になく涼しく、大勢の方が参加されました。会場の賑わいを大変嬉しく感じました。バザー後、ジャクソン先生より、このお恵みに感謝しようとお話があり、皆で教会にある天八大龍王神・天五色弁財天・水霊神に御礼参拝をさせていただきました。私は、バザーに来て下さった方々の笑顔が心に浮かび、胸が熱くなりました。今までの生活を振り返った時に、今後はこの場面を思い出し、大自然のお恵みに対して感謝の祈りを捧げていきたいと感じました。

この3つの大切な気付きに加え、研修の最後には、ロサンゼルス教会の感謝会にて山田開教師より、親切は連鎖する、不親切も同じであるという法則について勉強いただきました。このお話を研修のまとめとして胸に刻み、親切・思いやりの輪を今後活かせるよう努力していきたいと思います。皆様、大変お世話になり、本当にありがとうございました。またお会いできることを楽しみにしております。

* 解脱会・青年本部ホームページのご案内：

URL：<https://www.gedatsu-seinen.com/>

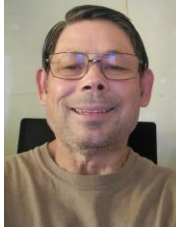
印象に刻んだ三つのこと

解脱会布教部青年係 齊藤隆浩



ロサンゼルス・エンゼルス・スタジアムにて。
大谷選手が座ったインタビュー席に座る二人

お蔭様で無事に2週間の研修を終了することができ、改めて御礼申し上げます。特に、瀬部先生・山田開教師ご夫妻・岡野開教師・ジャクソン先生をはじめ、会員の皆様にご大変お世話になり、元気にエンジョイすることができました。ありがとうございました。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **John Horner** of Sacramento. John was introduced to Gedatsu when he met his wife **Nancy (Taketa)**, when he was stationed at the Sacramento Army Depot as a soldier. They were married at the church in 1982, and later transferred throughout the U.S. and Germany. After his retirement, they returned to Sacramento and the Gedatsu Church, where he is currently employed to maintain the *Goreichi* grounds. A member of the regional board, John says he is impressed by the way Gedatsu honors our ancestors.

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A Snapshot in Time

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

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

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

