



GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA

www.gedatsu-usa.org

FEBRUARY 2020

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Gedatsu Kongo's
Thought for the Month

*"Those who are loving and
compassionate are needed most
in today's world."*

Humankind has been seeking
peace in the world, but it has yet to
be attained.

Many philosophers and
politicians have advocated various
roads toward peace, but there is still
no direct path toward world peace.

Mother Teresa said, "Never
worry about numbers. Help one
person at a time and always start with
the person nearest you."

We must remember that
peace always begins with an
individual.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	9	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	16	1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Tue	18		Church Closed (In lieu of Presidents Day)
Sun	23	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	9	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	16	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) Sun Spirit Service
Tue	18		Church Closed (In lieu of Presidents Day)
Sun	23	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / "Brunch with Youth" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.

MARCH 2020

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	8	9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	22	9:30 am	Appreciation Service / <i>Higan</i> Service Regional Board Meeting
Sun	29		Church Closed

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	8	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Fri	13	10:00 am	Propagation Meeting
Sat	14	10:00 am	Board of Directors Meeting
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Higan</i> Service
Sun	22	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / "Brunch with Youth" / L.A. Regional Board Mtg.
Sun	29		Church Closed



February “Never Forgotten” Memorial Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who have passed away during that particular month. People of all faiths are welcome, so invite your friends and family members to attend. Even if you are unable to attend, you may still honor the soul of a loved one.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 2, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Ted Sekikawa, Helen Sekikawa, Karl Kaoru Tanaka, Noboru Tateishi, Hisaye (Kino) Ide, Roku Kino, Yoritaro Tsuboi, Kaneko (Ide) Hatae, George Hughley and Yasuko (Noritake) Tsuboi.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, February 9, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kimiye Akiyoshi, Masue Akiyoshi, Hideo Fujii, Mariko Fukumoto, Masato Fukumoto, Scott Hamamoto, Tadayoshi Ishida, Nancy Michiyo Ito, Morio Kaku, Fumiko Makishi, Kofuku Makishi, Kimiko Matsugami, John Seiki Mitsuuchi, Tadashi Mochida, Horace Kazumori Nakamura, Chikajiro Nishi, Koto Nishi, Miyo Linda Okayama, Michi Okita, Masanobu Sakuma, Yoshinosuke John Sakuma, Sayoko Dorothy Shiroishi, Karl Tanaka and Hiroko Yamada.**

Notice of General Membership Meeting

General membership meetings will be held at the Los Angeles and Sacramento churches in February. The purpose of the meetings is the election of the slate of directors for the Board of Directors of Gedatsu Church USA. The elections will be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Sunday services. All members are invited to participate.

Minister Schedules

- **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** will remain at the Los Angeles Church through February, pending **Rev. Naoya Okano's** anticipated return from Japan in February.
- **Rev. Hisakazu Taki's** tentative U.S. schedule is February 27 through April 30 and July 23 through October 7.

Attend Sun Spirit Services in February

In February 1940, on the grounds of the *Goreichi* Sanctuary in Kitamoto, Japan, **Gedatsu Kongo** erected the Sun Spirit Monument (shown below) as a symbolic expression of the spiritual significance of the sun. The Founder stated that the sun reflects Truth, which, together with Goodness and Beauty, exemplifies the harmony of the human character.



Gedatsu Kongo regarded this monument – with its large circular sun image carved in its center – as a symbol of the sun's expression of selflessness, fairness and endless compassion. The everlasting light and heat from the sun are attributed as the sacred source of life, which the sun gives freely to all living things on earth without taking anything in return.

Members are encouraged to join in the Sun Spirit services in February to recognize and give thanks to the sun for its gifts and significance in our lives.

Apply for Fire Ceremony *Saito Goma* Plaques

Apply now for plaques for the Fire Ceremony to be held in conjunction with the Spring Grand Festival on the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds in Sacramento on Sunday, April 12. An application form is enclosed with this newsletter.

Obituary

The L.A. Gedatsu Church mourns the loss of member **Glen Naoya Hiram**, who passed away unexpectedly on December 11, 2019 at the age of 49. Glen is survived by his wife, **Aileen**, and his parents, **Tomishi** and **Ikuyo Hiram**.

AROUND OUR CHURCH

L.A. Church Christmas Service, Music Program and Potluck Luncheon

Making Spirits Bright

Good cheer abounded at the annual holiday party at the L.A. Church in December. Outside musical groups – Mel Ogata’s Hawaiian Ukulele Group and the Mark Keppel High School Holiday Band* – and the church’s own “Gedatsu Make Any *Kine* Band (featuring **Rev. Yamada**, **Marylin Nakamura**, **Naomi Takara** and **Cookie Barthel**) created a festive atmosphere. A special appearance by Santa (aka **Brian Waldman**) thrilled children and families. Then, everyone packed the *Kendo* Hall, where a tasty buffet – organized by the December Hospitality Group – was enjoyed by all. Thanks, too, to **Mark and Marie Ishida** for chairing the holiday program, and to **Bonnie Shimasaki** for the Christmas tree and decorations.



* Members of the Mark Keppel High School Holiday Band marched in the 2020 Tournament of Roses Parade on January 1 as part of the Alhambra Unified School District Band.



Mark Ishida displays a portion of the gift items that were purchased for Maryvale teen girls as a result of the outstanding response by L.A. members and friends to the Gedatsu Angel donation drive.

Gedatsu Angels Make a Difference

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

“This year, we focused on teen girls and were able to give them everything on their Christmas wish lists and more,” said Mark. “Donations – in particular, gifts from members **Rich** and **Donna Allum** – allowed us to give and purchase sweatshirts, backpacks, board games, sporting equipment, radios, CD and MP3 players, blankets, headphones and beauty products and appliances, as well as gift cards to some of the teens’ favorite stores.

“Maryvale staff told us that our gifts were so plentiful, they will extend beyond Christmas morning into the new year, so that newly admitted teens will receive our gift items and cards.

“Thank you to everyone who participated in our Gedatsu Angel Program.”

“Welcome to Gedatsu”

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Chapter 8:

Learning from the Heart Sutra – Part 1

The Boundless Universe

The Heart Sutra*, or *Hannya Shingyo*, is the best-known and most popular of the Buddhist scriptures. Because it is very brief and easy to chant, it is often recited at religious gatherings and meditation sittings. While the sutra contains the essential concepts of Buddhism, its enlightening message speaks to people of all faiths and religious backgrounds.

There have been a variety of religions in the world from ancient times. Among them, they may have many elements which contradict each other. But looking into them more deeply, you may find a common ground among them, which is the Universal Truth.

The Universe is boundless expanse. We humans divide this boundless expanse into many parts through our different views and values. These divergent viewpoints are the cause of wars and conflicts between people of different nations, cultures, religions, etc.

However, when we become aware of the common ground among all religions – the Universal Truth – we will be able to respect and understand other traditions, values and viewpoints. This inclusive attitude will lead to world peace. The Heart Sutra encourages us to become aware of the boundless Universal Truth.

As Gedatsu members, we recite the Heart Sutra when we pray and when we perform *Amacha Kuyo* blessing. While it is not necessary to understand the words of the Heart Sutra to derive benefit from it, we will be able to chant it with greater sincerity and purpose when we understand its meaning.

Repentance

Before we recite the Heart Sutra, we always offer our words of *Repentance*:

“For all the wrongful deeds I have committed in the past through greed, anger, and ignorance by the actions of my body, speech, and mind, I now most sincerely repent.”

In the Buddhist tradition, greed, anger and ignorance are called “Three Poisons,” which pollute people’s lives. These three poisons accumulate within us through generations of ancestors and drive us to various wrongful deeds such as jealousy, hate, conflicts and wars.

Master Gedatsu Kongo said, “Our mind expresses itself through our speech and bodily actions.”

This statement implies that, if you become aware of your speech and actions in your daily life, and try to correct your wrong attitude, your mind will change positively according to the change of your attitude.

Our life consists of three elements: speech, thought, and action. We are always creating our life through our speech, thought, and action. Therefore, you can change your life by observing your speech, thought, and action in daily life.

(Continued on page 5)

* (See translation of the Heart Sutra on page 6.)

(Heart Sutra – Continued from page 4)

Our happiness or unhappiness is all up to us. By saying “Repentance” before chanting the Heart Sutra, we become deeply aware of selfishness in us and correct our wrong attitude. We can then transform ourselves to live according to the Universal Law, which the Heart Sutra explains.

Interconnectivity of all things

“The Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara, while practicing deeply with the insight that brings us to the other shore, suddenly discovered that all of the five skandhas are equally empty, and with this realization he overcame all ill-being.”

This first passage of the sutra explains the essential teaching of the Heart Sutra. *Bodhi* means being awake, and *sattva* means a living being, so *bodhisattva* means an awakened being.

Avalokiteshvara is the name of the bodhisattva in this sutra. In Japanese, this bodhisattva is called *Kannon*, which means the one who listens and hears the cries of the world in order to come and help. Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara gives us the gift of non-fear, because he himself has transcended fear.

Understanding is like water flowing in a stream. In Buddhism, knowledge is regarded as an obstacle for understanding. If we take something to be the truth, we may cling to it so much that even if the truth comes and knocks at our door, we won’t want to let it in. We have to be able to transcend our previous knowledge to let the truth come in.

The five *skandhas*, which may be translated into English as “five heaps,” or “five aggregates,” are the five elements that comprise a human being. These five elements flow like a river in every one of

us. In fact, these are really five rivers flowing together in us: the river of form, which means our body; the river of feelings; the river of perceptions; the river of mental formations; and the river of consciousness. They are always flowing in us.

So, according to Avalokiteshvara, when he looked deeply into the nature of these five rivers, he suddenly saw that all five are empty of a separate self. That means none of these five rivers can exist by itself alone. Each of the five rivers is connected with each other.

In our bodies we have lungs, heart, kidneys, stomach, and blood. None of these can exist independently. They are all connected with each other. Your lungs and your blood are two things, but neither can exist separately. The lungs take in air and enrich the blood, and, in turn, the blood nourishes the lungs. Without the blood, the lungs cannot live, and without the lungs, the blood cannot be cleansed. Lungs and blood support each other. The same is true with kidneys and blood, kidneys and stomach, lungs and heart, blood and heart, and so on. This is how we exist.

In daily life, you eat meals, drink water, breathe the air, live in a house, drive a car, and consume various things. None of them is your creation. They are all provided by many people and things in the universe. You cannot live a single second without them. Your present existence is totally due to their blessings. This is the basic teaching of the Heart Sutra.

Once we understand that everything in this world is interconnected and that nothing can exist by itself, we become aware of our own relationship to everyone and all things. We see that all beings and teachings are mutually supportive – and that we, ourselves, are able to live and survive only through the support of other beings, things and natural elements around us.

(Continued on page 6)

(Heart Sutra – Continued from page 5)

The sutra's fundamental concept of interconnectivity of all things parallels the Gedatsu teaching of unconditional appreciation and requital for the blessings we receive in our daily lives. As Gedatsu members, we give thanks to the Universal Life Force for the immeasurable blessings we receive from our country, parents, teachers, society and all creation in the universe.

In other words, the Heart Sutra explains the interconnectedness of all things, and Gedatsu teaches us how we should conduct our lives with the knowledge that we are blessed through the support of other beings and things.

(Next issue: Learning from the Heart Sutra – Part 2)



Editor's Comment:

Since the first English translation of the Heart Sutra was published in the mid-nineteenth century, dozens of English translations have been published from Chinese, Sanskrit and Tibetan languages.

Of these, one of the most widely read and popular versions of the modern translations is by Thich Nhat Hanh, a Vietnamese Zen master, poet and activist for peace, who is globally revered for his pioneering teachings on mindfulness. At left, his translation of the Heart Sutra is from his 1988 publication, *The Heart of Understanding*.

Translation of the Heart Sutra by Thich Nhat Hanh

The Bodhisattva Avalokita, while moving in the deep course of Perfect Understanding, shed light on the five skandhas and found them equally empty. After this penetration, he overcame all pain.

"Listen, Shariputra, form is emptiness, emptiness is form, form does not differ from emptiness, emptiness does not differ from form. The same is true with feelings, perceptions, mental formations and consciousness.

"Hear, Shariputra, all dharmas are marked with emptiness; they are neither produced nor destroyed, neither defiled nor immaculate, neither increasing nor decreasing. Therefore, in emptiness there is neither form, nor feeling, nor perception, nor mental formations, nor consciousness; no eye, or ear, or nose, or tongue, or body, or mind; no form, no sound, no smell, no taste, no touch, no object of mind; no realms of elements (from eyes to mind-consciousness); no interdependent origins and no extinction of them (from ignorance to old age and death); no suffering, no origination of suffering, no extinction of suffering, no path; no understanding, no attainment.

"Because there is no attainment, the bodhisattvas, supported by the Perfection of Understanding, find no obstacles for their minds. Having no obstacles, they overcome fear, liberating themselves forever from illusion and realizing perfect Nirvana. All Buddhas in the past, present, and future, thanks to this Perfect Understanding, arrive at full, right, and universal Enlightenment.

"Therefore, one should know that Perfect Understanding is a great mantra, is the highest mantra, is the unequalled mantra, the destroyer of all suffering, the incorruptible truth. A mantra of Prajnaparamita should therefore be proclaimed. This is the mantra: Gate gate paragate parasamgate bodhi svaha."



*The Goreichi holy grounds of Gedatsu Church USA encompass approximately 20 acres south-east of Sacramento, California. They were established 70 years ago on land purchased by a handful of dedicated Gedatsu followers. Those early pioneers believed wholeheartedly in the vision and leadership of **Archbishop Eizan Kishida**, who, in 1950, at the age of 45, relinquished his post as head of the Gedatsu Church in Japan and moved to the U.S. to propagate Gedatsu.*

Almost immediately after his arriving in California, Archbishop Kishida and the Sacramento members established a small shrine of the Universal Life Force on the corner of farmland owned by members and erected a wooden tower for the spirit of all races next to the shrine. In August of 1950, the first Fall Festival was held in the U.S.

Archbishop Kishida established the land as holy grounds, where the spiritual forces of the Universal Life Force and guardian spirits are invited to reside and actively bestow the blessings of the universe on all who pay homage there. Over the ensuing years, a number of shrines, monuments and edifices were erected on the grounds, further establishing the sanctity of the site, which today is called the Gedatsu Spiritual Center.

*Archbishop Kishida, in his lectures and writings, explained the meaning of the Holy Grounds and the various shrines and monuments that are enshrined there. The Gedatsu Companion is pleased to re-publish excerpts from a series of those writings, translated by the late **Shoji Takimoto**. We begin with the following article, which was published in 1979.*

(Note: The original writings referenced the Japanese names of the various shrines and entities. We have replaced those names with descriptive titles, which are more familiar to our largely English-speaking members today.)

The Sanctity of the Holy Grounds – Goreichi as Symbol of Universal Laws

By Archbishop Eizan Kishida

The name *Goreichi*, in conformity with the *Goreichi* in Japan, was given to the 20-acre grounds of the Sacramento Church and have been consecrated as the spiritual sanctuary of the Gedatsu Church of America [now Gedatsu Church USA]. It is where the Spirit of the Supreme Creator is enshrined and the resting place for all spirits.

The entire Holy Grounds overflow with the spiritual power of the great Universal Life Force, or God. Consequently, by just visiting the Holy Grounds one receives a cleansing of evil and malicious thoughts.

At right, a small shrine of the Universal Life Force was erected in 1950 on Sacramento farmland, which would later become part of the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds.

Spiritual Power Penetrates the Mind, Heart

Those who have paid homage to the Holy Grounds have experienced feelings of being refreshed – having a sense of relief, as if a heavy load were taken off their shoulders. After completing the ritual of one



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(Holy Grounds – Continued from page 7)

hundred penance on the grounds, illnesses have taken favorable turns. When worshippers come in contact with the purified spirits that fill the Holy Grounds, they temporarily attain such state of mind and body.

Feelings of appreciation and gratitude are experienced by everyone in early visits to the Grounds. However, after a while, as members grow accustomed to visiting, they may continue to visit simply from force of habit. Then, when they become further accustomed to visiting, they may start to think that even if they don't pay homage as frequently, as long as they show their respects in their minds, it should be all right.

There is no difference as far as the sacred spiritual atmosphere of the Holy Grounds, which welcomes everyone equally. However, there is a vast difference in the amount of virtue each worshipper's mind is capable of receiving. In the final analysis, the sacred spiritual power deeply penetrates the hearts of those worshippers who believe in paying homage with good grace, abiding from their original intentions to the last.



The Grand Festivals in Sacramento are celebrations of appreciation and joy that strengthen relationships among members. The member-built main hall (shown above) was dedicated in April 1952, coinciding with Spring Festival.

Volunteers Offer Service to God

The Grand Festivals at *Goreichi* would not be possible without the voluntary services and efforts of the Gedatsu members. Rendering service is no easy task because a few days prior to and after these events, to help one another, they have to find time to give free services over and above their own family needs.

Since this voluntary service is not a business service, but an offering of service to God, it may involve some physical hardships, but over a lifetime, this will result in blessings of good fortune.



Worshippers express their prayers of appreciation in the Gochi Sanctuary during the Spring and Fall Grand Festivals.

This is because, in rendering free services at the Holy Grounds, you are not only serving God, but you are engaged in purifying your own soul. Therefore, when you visit the Grounds, your primary intention must be to express gratitude for being given the chance to visit.

(Continued on back page)

DECEMBER 2019 OFFERINGS

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, S. Taketa, P. Tomita, J. Yep

\$50–\$99: M. Fukushima, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M D. Ide

\$100+: M/M S. Sekikawa, K. Schubert, P. Tateishi, K. Tateishi, Rev. A. Sebe, M/M J. Horner

\$200+: J. Ito, *Senkakukan*, N. Burks, Rev. A. Sebe

\$300+: R. Ito

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

\$5–\$49: M/M K. Chinen, M/M V. Mizokami, K. Murata, M. Nakamura, Y. Naruko, A. Okimura

\$50–\$99: J. Kaku, M/M S. Mukai, T. Nakamura, E. Ogawa, M. Okada, P. Tomita, C. Tsujimura, M/M P. Young

\$100+: M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, M/M B. Hamamoto, M. Kimura, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M C. Morioka, T. Murakami, Y. Oishi, T. Okimura, De. Shiroishi, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada

\$200+: M/M R. Allum, N. Burks, T. Ishida, J. Ito, M/M A. Nishino, T. Oyanagi, Do. Shiroishi

\$300+: M/M M. Ishida, M/M M. Tsujimura

\$500+: M/M T. Fukushima

Special Acknowledgment

Tadao Ishida	Never Forgotten service (\$100)
M/M S. Mukai	Never Forgotten service for Tomota Tateishi (\$100)
Janice Tomita	Tomita/Katako ancestor blessing (\$150)
Flo Sueyoshi	Never Forgotten service for Thomas Sueyoshi (\$100)
Yokota Family	Tomita/Katako ancestor blessing (\$200)
Arlene Tsujimura	Appreciation for successful surgery (\$100)
JoAnn Shiroishi	Year-end appreciation (\$100)

2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Apr 12 (Sun) 141st 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 (*Joen-no-gi*)
 May 25 (Mon) Sacramento Inter-religious Memorial Day Service
 May 26 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

Jun 7 (Sun) Sac'to Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
 Jun 21 (Sun) L.A. Mother Kiyota Memorial Service
 Jun 27-28 (Sat-Sun) *Rokujizo* Bazaar Sacramento 11 am

Jul 4 (Thu) Church Closed (Independence Day)
 Jul 12 (Sun) Sacto *Obon* Service/Graduates Honored
 Jul 19 (Sun) L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored
 Jul 22-26 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp in Sacramento

Aug 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)
 Aug 16 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service

Sep 6 (Sun) 142nd Fall Grand Festival 9:30 am
 Sep 8 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
 Sep 13 (Sun) Hawaii Church 40th Anniversary
 Sep 20 (Sun) L.A. *Higan* Service

Oct 3-4 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival
 Oct 13 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
 Oct 18 (Sun) L.A. *Ujigami* Service
 Oct 25 (Sun) Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 1 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Service
 Nov 8 (Sun) Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Service
 Nov 15 (Sun) L.A. 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
 Nov 22 (Sun) Sac'to 7-5-3- Children's Celebration/ Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
 Nov 26-27 Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Dec 6 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
 Dec 12 (Sat) L.A. Church Clean-up
 Dec 13 (Sun) Sacramento Last Service of Year / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
 Dec 20 (Sun) L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program
 Dec 24-31 Church Closed

2 月度 教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会

2 日 (日) 10:00A	日本語感謝会
9 日 (日) 10:00A	祥月追善法要
16 日 (日) 10:00A	日英・感謝会 太陽精神碑・建立記念祭
18 日 (火)	振替休日 (プレジデントの日)
23 日 (日) 10:00A	英語感謝会 ユースランチ / リージョナル委員会

サクラメント教会

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



2 月度 みさとし

「慈眼愛民の人物を切に求めるのが
今日の日本である」

人類は昔から世界平和を希求し続けてきたが、いまだにその願いは達成されていない。古来、多くの哲学者や政治家たちが世界平和に至る道を提唱してきているが、一挙に世界に平和をもたらす道など存在しないというのが、真実なのかもしれない。しかし、平和への道はたしかに存在するのである。それは、一人ひとりの相手の心に愛を注ぎ続けるという道である。マザー・テレサはいつも、「私はいつも一人の人だけを見えています。私には一度に一人の人しか愛することができません。いま目の前にいる人が、私にとって、いま世界中でただ一人の人間なのです」と語っていた。彼女の愛の言葉と実践が世界にもたらした奇跡を見ると、誰しもが心底力づけられるのではないだろうか。

誌上講話

— 千支で見る今年の運氣 —

物事の始まりの年、新たなチャレンジを！

山田 一雄

今年は「庚子(かのえね)」の年

2020 年は十二支(じゅうにし)でいう「子(ねずみ)」の年で、千支(えと)でいうと、「庚子(かのえ・ね)」の年です。

千支(えと)とは、十干(じゅうかん)と十二支の動きの組み合わせで、60 年で一周し「還暦」となる天地の巡りを示した年ごとの暦です。「十干」とは太陽の運行を基準にした天の動きで、「十二支」とは月の満ち欠けを基準にした地の動きです。

この天地の巡りの組み合わせで万物の循環の摂理を表わす「天干地支」が、いわゆる千支(えと)という年の暦なのです。その千支で言うと、2020 年は、「庚(かのえ)」と「子(ね)」の組み合わせの年になるということです。

新しいことを始めるのがいい

「庚(かのえ)」は、「改める」「改まる」という意味があり、進化するという力強いイメージがあります。

「子(ね)」は、「増える」「始まる」という意味があり、物事の始まり、繁栄のイメージがあります。

「庚子(かのえ・ね)」は、変化が生まれる状態、新たな生命がざし始める状態なので、全く新しいことにチャレンジするのに適した年と言えるでしょう。

逆に言えば、変化し進む勢いの中で後戻りはできませんので、現状にしがみついても勢いに押し流されてしまうというイメージもあります。

一言で言えば、庚子(かのえ・ね)の年は「大きな変化が生じる」一年だと考えられています。

ですから2020 年は、現状にしがみつかず、変化を受け入れるなど、柔軟に対応することが、この年の流れに沿って進むことになります。また、新しいことを始めるのに適した年ですので、新たなことにチャレンジするのも成長や成功に向かうことになると思います。

良くも悪くも変化が生じる

ここまでは十二支と陰陽五行説から、一般に言える抽象度の高い年の流れを示してみました。ですが、具体的には「大きな変化が生じる」と一



五行(木火土金水)に陰陽を加えた十干の図。本年は五行の金と水の関係で「相生(そうせい)」の陽の年

況によっては、その劇的な変化で苦しむ場合もあれば、展望が一気に開けてゆく場合など、必ずしも望ましい変化ばかりではない多様な展開があることでしょう。

たとえば、東アジアや中東の不安定な国際情勢にどのような変化や進展があるのか、あるいは、第5世代の移動通信システムの導入が社会にどのような変化を及ぼすかなど、具体的な情勢や状況に引き合わせて考えるとき、より敏感に、より柔軟に、あるいはより積極的に対処していけるくらいに身構えておくのが必要な時なのだと思います。

立春から本格始動

ちなみに昨年2019年の干支は「己亥(つちのと・い)」。五行でいう「相剋(そうこく=相手を打ち滅ぼす関係)」が示され、ステップアップする充実したタイミングであると同時に、絶好調の中にも落とし穴があると暗示された年でした。そうした中、米国解脱教会では創立70周年を迎え、喜びの中で式典を遂行できたことはステップアップした意義ある年になったと思います。

ところで、毎年干支の話をするので、時折、「新しい干支の切り替わりは新年か立春か？」という質問をいただきます。新暦を採用した日本においては一般的には新年から新たな干支を用いますので、一般的には新年から新たな干支になるとして差し支えないと思います。

しかし、気学などの占術や神社暦では、干支の変わりを旧暦に従い立春(2月4日)から数えます。それが正式な

のだと思います。そこで、私としては、節分までは旧年の気も残って入り交じり、新しい気が完全に始まるのが立春からというイメージを抱いています。

いずれにせよ、干支で示される年の運気を知って、今後の計画への参考の一助にされればいいかと思います。また、事故や災害はいつでもあり得ることですので、常に心して生活する必要があることは言うまでもありません。さらに言えば、「感謝報恩」が開運の大道であることも、常に心しておきたいことです。

掲 示 板

● LA教会では「若者の昼食クラブ」が始まります

本年よりLA教会では、毎月第4日曜の英語感謝会の直後、リフレッシュメントを兼ねて「若者の昼食クラブ」(Brunch with Youth)が剣道ホールで開催されることとなりました。ティーンエイジャーや二十代の若い人たちを中心に、若者同士でディスカッションやゲームなどをしながら親睦をはかります。解脱を学ぶ青年を育成する目的で、ファシリテーターはキャロラン平山さんが務めます。どうかお子様方の参加をご推奨ください。

● 「理事会」および「布教会」の日程について

本年度「理事会」が3月14日(土)午前10時からLA教会で開催されますので、理事の方々は出席ください。北加および州外からの役員には旅費が支給されます。なお、本年度「布教会」は3月13日(金)午前10時からLA教会にて開かれます。日本からは岡野総長、瀧先生が出席されます。

訃 報

- ロサンゼルス教会の会員・平見グレン直哉さん(49歳)におかれましては、12月11日に逝去されました。ここに謹んで哀悼の意を表します。



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Donna Shiroishi**, the second of four children of L.A. Gedatsu pioneers, **Terry** and **Shizuye Shiroishi**.

Donna was born into the faith, and in the past, has served as Sunday School teacher, *Companion* staff member and L.A. Regional

Board member. A retiree of Southern California Gas Company, Donna enjoys watching Japanese and Korean dramas and variety programs. She is grateful to **Archbishop Kishida**, **Mother Kiyota**, her parents, ancestors and guardian angels for their continual spiritual guidance, but most importantly, to **Master Gedatsu Kongo** for establishing the Gedatsu teaching.

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(Holy Grounds – Continued from page 8)

When you freely render your services for the Grand Festivals and other events, you must possess a sense of absolute appreciation for being given a chance to serve. But when you get too accustomed to these events, you are apt to think that you attended enough events and offered enough appreciation and free services.

Such thoughts arise from the viewpoint of social service, and do not align with true pious feeling. Consequently, in certain cases, impiety or disrespect to God may occur.

Gedatsu Kongo's gave these words of advice concerning the attitude of those who pay homage to *Goreichi*: "If you attempt to get yourself on the true path, repent your shortcomings and pray with all sincerity. You will then purify yourself, and your prayers will be answered."

The Holy Grounds in Sacramento were acquired through Gedatsu Kongo's guidance. Gedatsu Kongo expounded a doctrine of self-reflection, piety, respect for ancestors and absolute gratitude and appreciation.

If you can truly deepen your understanding of the spirit of Gedatsu Kongo's teachings and can practice this in your daily life, you will be able to receive unlimited virtues whenever you pay homage at the *Goreichi* Holy Grounds.

(Next issue: The Sanctity of the Holy Grounds – Part 2)

