



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

## NOVEMBER 2019

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 News and Announcements
- 4 Autumn Moon Festival  
– Photo Gallery
- 5 The Making of the “Celebrating  
70 Years” Video
- 6 “Welcome to Gedatsu” –  
The Gedatsu Teaching
- 8 “Knowing Yourself” by  
Archbishop Eizan Kishida
- 9 Offerings and Upcoming Events

Gedatsu Kongo’s  
Thought for the Month

*“You feel greater joy  
by giving than by receiving.”*

What is happiness? We may  
feel happy when we get what we  
want, but that alone is not happiness.

Life has its ups and downs,  
and things do not always go the way  
we expect. Where, then, is the source  
of true happiness?

Carefully observe the  
workings of Nature. The sun, for  
example, shines upon everything  
equally without demanding anything  
in return. Thanks to its light and  
energy, all living things on earth can  
grow.

When we follow the example  
of the sun and strive to benefit  
others, we ourselves feel greater joy  
and happiness.

Please learn this through your  
own experience.

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	10	9:30 am	Appreciation Service Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun	24	9:00 am 9:30 am	7-5-3 Children’s Celebration Appreciation Service / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
Thu – Fri	28-29		Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	3	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese and English) Gedatsu Kongo’s Service
Sun	10	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	17	10:00 am	7-5-3 Children’s Celebration
Sun	24	10:00 am	English Appreciation Service L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Thu – Fri	28-29		Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

## DECEMBER 2019

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	8	9:30 am	Last Sunday Service of the Year / Archbishop Kishida’s Memorial Service / Regional Board Meeting / Church Clean-up
Sun – Tue	22-31		Church Closed for Holidays

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	1	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese and English) Archbishop Kishida’s Memorial Service
Sat	7	10:00 am	Church Clean-up
Sun	8	10:00 am	“Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun	15	10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese and English) Christmas Program
Sun – Tue	22-31		Church Closed for Holidays

### Autumn Moon Festival Raffle Winners

The Los Angeles Church's Autumn Moon Festival fundraiser was held on October 5 and 6. (See photos, page 4.) Thank you to our Festival volunteers. And congratulations to the following raffle winners:

1 <sup>st</sup>	<b>Natalie Serna</b>	\$500 Disney Gift Card
2 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Lyna Ung</b>	Apple iPad
3 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>Tracie Woo</b>	Ring Video Doorbell Pro
4 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Tina Hamada</b>	Apple AirPods
5 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kensuke Yoshihara</b>	\$50 Cash
6 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kari Kuritani</b>	\$50 Cash
7 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Dylan G. (Mustang Samurai)</b>	\$50 Cash
8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Kyoko Muronaka</b>	\$50 Cash

We thank these firms/organizations for prize donations: Aijo Nippon Kenpo Foundation, Monterey Park Mustangs Basketball Organization, Gedatsu USA Kendo Dojo, J. Morey Insurance Company, Inc.



### November "Never Forgotten" Memorial Services

"Never Forgotten" Memorial Services are held monthly at the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who 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, November 3, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Dorothy Tomita, Harold Horner, Toshiko Kushuhara, George Akiyoshi, Yasuno Niiguma Tsuboi, Hirohide Obu, Kaoru Ide Kotabe, Maio Kino, Tracy T. Takahashi and Sho Akira Wakabayashi.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service on **Sunday, November 10, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Kakujiro Arakawa, Moto Arakawa, Ibo Roque Chaves, George Imuta, Ikuko Inoue, Seiji Inoue, Fumio Ishida, Hitoshi Ishida, Seitaro Kawamura, Fude Kikuta, Masaji George Kikuta, Ken Kimura, Tomio Kubo, Emiko Kumagai, Patsy M. Matsumoto, Robert Miyamoto, George Joroshi Miyasako, Harukichi Miyazaki, Masao Roy Mizokami, Kiyoko Mochida, Yukimi Mochida, Yataro Nagura, Emiko Okimura, Manabu Okimura, Nami Sakuma, Tracy Tooru Takahashi, John Nobuyuki Tanji, Dorothy Kiyoko Tomita and Henry Urada.**



### Children Ages 7, 5 and 3 to Be Celebrated

In November, Gedatsu Church members in L.A. and Sacramento will observe the *Shichi-Go-San* Festival, the traditional Japanese celebration for the well-being and healthy futures of children.

If you have children, grandchildren, nieces and/or nephews who are seven, five or three years old, urge them to participate in the Festival, which will be celebrated, as follows:

Los Angeles – Sunday, Nov. 17, 10:00 am

Sacramento – Sunday, Nov. 24, 9:00 am

Please complete the "7-5-3" application form available in your local church office.

### Renew Your Church Membership for 2020

Gedatsu Church USA is supported through pledges, donations and membership dues. Please renew your annual membership dues now.

Individual Fee	Annual: \$45	Lifetime: \$450
Family Fee	Annual: \$70	Lifetime: \$600
Additional Women's Club Fee	\$6	

Mail or deliver your check – made payable to Gedatsu Church USA – to your nearest church branch.

### Year-End Membership Roster – Any Changes? Email Addresses Requested

Did you move, change your phone numbers or add an email address in the past year? The 2020 annual "Seasons Greetings" membership roster is currently being updated.

Please check the 2019 roster and advise **Rev. Naoya Okano** at the L.A. Church if you have any changes to your mailing address, phone number and/or email address. All changes must be received by December 1. Rev. Okano's email address is: [naoya.okano@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:naoya.okano@gedatsu-usa.org).



### **"MAD" for Maryvale**

Be a Gedatsu Angel and **M**ake **A** Difference. Together, we can brighten the Christmas season for the children of Maryvale by making a charitable donation to the Gedatsu "MAD for Maryvale" Angel Fund. Donations will purchase Christmas gifts for children of Maryvale, a local agency that cares for orphaned, abused, abandoned and neglected children in the foster care system.

Donations in any amount are welcome and will be collected through December 8 at the L.A. Church. Please make checks payable to Gedatsu Church USA, earmarked for the Gedatsu Angel Fund.

The Gedatsu Angel program is a community outreach project promoted by the L.A. Regional Board and spearheaded by L.A. members **Mark** and **Marie Ishida**.

Many thanks to everyone who supported last year's successful drive, which enabled us to purchase Christmas gifts for more than six dozen children and youths. Let's fill the truck again!

### **Ministers Schedule**

**Rev. Naoya Okano**, who is in Japan awaiting issuance of a green card for U.S. permanent residency, has been notified that his immigrant petition has been approved. He hopes to be issued a green card in the next few months.

Schedules for Revs. Yamada and Sebe through year-end are as follows:

<b>Rev. Kazuo Yamada</b>	Los Angeles Church October 31 – December 20
<b>Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe</b>	Sacramento Spiritual Center Through December 18

### **Become a Donor to the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund**

Gedatsu Church USA is supported through membership fees and the donations of members and friends. Many years ago, the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund, or *Hosankai*, was established to allow members to demonstrate a higher level of commitment, appreciation and support for the church.

Participation in the Fund requires an annual pledge of \$600 a year, which is in addition to the general membership dues. This \$600 may be paid in a single lump sum; two biannual payments of \$300; or 12 monthly installments of \$50. Donations to the Fund are tax deductible.

If you would like to support the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund, complete and submit the application form that is available at your local church office. A list of donors to the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund is published annually in the *Gedatsu Companion*.

---

### **Obituaries**

The Los Angeles Gedatsu Church mourns the loss of long-time member **Linda Sanchez**, who passed away unexpectedly at her home in Monterey Park on September 29 at the age of 72. Linda is survived by her brother **Tony** and her nieces **Danielle, Jaime, Jennifer, Kimberly, Stephanie** and nephew **A.J.**, as well as grand- and great-grand nephews/nieces. A Celebration of Life Service was held for Linda in October.

Long-time L.A. Church member **Takashi Okazaki** passed away peacefully on October 9 at the age of 96 years. He is survived by his son, **James (Linda) Okazaki**; daughters, **Sallie (Terry) Kuwahara, Nancy (Jerry) Burks**; four grandchildren and many nieces, nephews and other relatives.



## AROUND OUR CHURCH

**"Thank you, Volunteers!"**

**Autumn Moon Festival – Los Angeles Gedatsu Church, October 5 and 6**





### The Making of “Celebrating 70 Years” Video

#### Our Story in Images, Memories

*When banquet attendees gathered in Sacramento on Saturday, August 31, to celebrate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Gedatsu Church, they were moved to tears – and cheers – by a 15-minute video that was the highlight of the evening’s program.*



*Created by L.A. member **Beana Tsujimura**, the video, “Celebrating 70 Years,” is a nostalgic look back on the people, activities and events that comprise our church’s seven-decade history.*

*Here’s how that video was created.*

In early 2018, Beana was asked by the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Planning Committee if she would consider producing a video to commemorate the church’s 70-year history.

“Yes, of course,” she responded without hesitation. “It would be an honor.”

Beana began the project by soliciting old photos, 35mm slides and 8mm film from members through the *Companion* newsletter, announcements at Sunday services and word of mouth. Over the next year and a half, she collected approximately 300 photos/slides and 40 8mm-film rolls. She scanned all the photos to create higher-resolution images, then grouped them by decade, black and white versus color, image quality, and event or type of activity—e.g., processions, bonfires, anniversary celebrations, etc.

“There were so many images to choose from,” explains Beana, “keeping the video to a viewable length became my biggest challenge. Seeing images of members who have passed – especially my grandparents when they were young – brought tears to my eyes.”

As a scheduler/planner for Disney Imagineering (the creative arm that designs and builds Disney theme parks and attractions), Beana is well versed on keeping complex projects moving and on schedule. Also, her prior work with editors on various projects impressed on her the importance of “telling a story.”

“I kept that in mind when building the video,” says Beana.

For the music, Beana selected about a dozen songs that she felt would be emotionally evocative – some upbeat, some nostalgic – then matched the songs to the images.

The images ultimately drove the “story” of the video, says Beana. For example, the many images of Sacramento members building their own church became a story on its own (set to the music of “Whistle While You Work”). And the film archive of post-Festival games and races (shown against the driving beat of Fatboy Slim’s “Because We Can”) was an exciting find that recaptured the rivalry between Northern and Southern California members of a generation ago.

From start to finish, the project was propelled forward through Beana’s enthusiasm, can-do spirit and professional expertise.

The result, for members who viewed the video, was a highly entertaining and emotional retelling of our history. For Beana, it was, she claims, “a labor of love.”



### “Welcome to Gedatsu”

By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

#### Chapter 5: The Gedatsu Teaching



### Five Principles of the Gedatsu Church

Master Gedatsu Kongo established the Gedatsu Church in 1929. In 1934, he published the “Five Principles of the Gedatsu Church,” which summarizes the Gedatsu teaching. The “Five Principles” consist of the following five parts.

#### 1. **The Great Path of God**

*The Universal God is present when and wherever sincere prayer is offered. How wondrous it is that, when you live with sincere appreciation, any human sufferings – physical or spiritual – are completely resolved through the grace and compassion of God.*

[**Comment:** We human beings and all living things on earth are allowed to live by the Universal Life Force, which permeates throughout the entire universe. Our existence is totally due to the Universal Life Force. When we are truly aware of this, we will be hugely grateful for the blessing from the Universal Life. This sense of appreciation will heal our sorrows and sufferings and give us a peaceful state of mind.]

#### 2. **The Law of Nature**

*Each day consists of morning, noon and night. Each month has its beginning, middle and end. The four seasonal transitions are spring, summer, fall and winter. Modern science – no matter how advanced – can neither alter nor conquer Nature.*

[**Comment:** The Law of Nature is accurate and unchangeable. No matter what happens, the universe works constantly. We are all allowed to exist according to this unchangeable Law of the Universe.]

#### 3. **Highest Moral Conduct**

*May you live according to the highest moral conduct. There are three types of morality:*

- 1. To demand compensation without putting forth effort is immoral.*
- 2. To put forth effort and ask for compensation is average moral conduct.*
- 3. To put forth effort and ask for nothing in return. God’s blessings will then be naturally bestowed upon you. This is the highest moral conduct.*

[**Comment:** When we observe the natural movements of the sun, we gain insight into the nature of the Universal Law. The sun continually shines upon all alike and gives its energy equally to us, and yet it never demands anything in return. This is the Universal Law. Therefore, when we live according to this law, we will be able to live happily. In other words, when we sincerely do our best to perform our daily duties, we will be naturally bestowed with the blessings of nature. That’s why we can say the highest moral conduct is the path for everyone’s happiness and prosperity.]

#### 4. **Self-reflection**

*Egoism destroys self, home, country and the world. When you observe the present condition of the world, you see that egoism knows no bounds. If you self-reflect and abandon egoism, you can enjoy happiness and prosper. This is because, when you make no demands, blessings are bestowed naturally upon you. Please think deeply on this truth.*

(Continued on page 7)

[**Comment:** The world does not revolve around you. You are a part of the world. Therefore, when you live selfishly, you will not be able to live happily. When everyone lives selfishly, the world will be ruined eventually. But when we self-reflect and throw out selfishness, we will become considerate to others. The world then will be where everyone can enjoy happiness and prosperity. It is because this is the path to live according to the Universal Law.]

### 5. The Universal Law

*The Universal Law consists of Integrity, Filial Piety, Compassion, Fidelity and Gratitude. These five virtues are national treasures from ancient theology.*

[**Comment:** *Integrity* is to revere God with appreciation. *Filial Piety* is to respect parents and ancestors with appreciation. *Compassion* is to respect others and have consideration for them. *Fidelity* is to sincerely perform one's duty. *Gratitude* is to express sincere appreciation. When we try to live each day with these five virtues, we will be able to create a world of everyone's happiness and prosperity.]

### The Gedatsu Prayer

One of the most essential practices for Gedatsu members is daily prayer. The Gedatsu Prayer compactly represents all the essential teachings we should learn and practice. Therefore, it is very important to say this prayer each day. You will then gradually become able to learn how you should live each day as a human being.

Following is the Gedatsu Prayer:

*"Let us put our hands together in prayer.*

*"We join in giving reverence to the Universal Life Force, all guardian angels and the souls of our ancestors.*

*"We give thanks for the infinite blessings we receive. We resolve to live each day with appreciation and gratitude."*

[**Comment:** The Universal Life Force is the very source of all living things including human beings. Guardian angels always protect and guide us from the spiritual world. Our ancestors are our roots and our best guide in life. Therefore, we should pay respect to them first of all. We receive infinite blessings from them knowingly and unknowingly. Therefore, we should be thankful for them, and as a token of appreciation, we should benefit the world through our daily duties.]

### Aspiration:

*"May peace reign over the world and all people enjoy prosperity and happiness.*

*May we unite and cooperate in the salvation of mankind.*

*May we pray for the peaceful rest of all spirits.*

*And may divine grace bless all things equally."*

[**Comment:** These four lines identify what we as Gedatsu members should always keep in mind and aspire to fulfill. Our goal in studying Gedatsu is everyone's happiness and world peace. In order to attain this goal, we should cooperate with each other.

Physical matter does not constitute everything in this world. We should be aware of the spiritual world. When we feel thankful for the blessings and support of the spiritual world, we will receive spiritual protection and guidance.]

### Appreciation and Gratitude:

*"I shall reciprocate the profound and immeasurable blessings I receive from my country, my parents, my teachers, society and all creation in the universe."*

[**Comment:** Our daily existence is possible due to the infinite blessings we receive from many people and everything in the universe. This awareness and thankfulness for all will lead to our living happy and prosperous lives.]

*(Continued on back page)*

### Knowing Yourself

By Archbishop Eizan Kishida



Knowing your true self may appear to be very simple but, actually, it is not. It is absolutely necessary to know oneself before real happiness can be attained.

The individual human entity is made up of the life force and the physical body. The life force gives birth to the human entity through the following: (1) Universal Life Force (as innate divine nature commonly referred to as God in religion), (2) ancestors, (3) parents and (4) self.

Even when the human entity is an unborn child in the mother's womb, his/her life already contains the hereditary traits and karma of his/her ancestors. That is the reason for the close resemblance of the child's nature and qualities to his/her parents and ancestors.

The human body is said to be the harmonious union of four basic elements – earth, water, fire and air – meaning it the fusion of all the material substances in this universe.

When human life is first conceived, the physical elements of this new life are nurtured through the parent's body and after birth continues to receive nourishment for its growth from the mother's milk until the child is capable of consuming solid foods. Through the consumption of meat, vegetables, fruits, fish, grain, etc., the human body undergoes the process of becoming an adult individual being and possesses the homogeneous qualities of all animals and plants which have been consumed.

There is always some relation from the psychological standpoint. This is evident when we observe that people who consume meat as their main diet differ both physically and in their nature from the people who are vegetarians and grain eaters.

The human being composed in such manner of mind and body by nature possesses five basic impulsive desires. These are the desire for material wealth, desire for fame and prestige, sexual desire, craving for consumption of food and drink and the want to rest.

These craving are essential for human sustenance, but when these desires are directed solely for the satisfaction of oneself, one may go so far as to abhor and discriminate against others in the process of self-satisfaction.

Another important factor is the relationship of the individual to the area in which one lives, climatic influences and social environment. All members of a society are mutually aiding each other for their existence.

Those who truly know themselves will reflect deeply into their souls and purify their thoughts, freeing them from selfish desires, revere the Universal Life Force, the source of all life, and respect their parents and ancestors.

By doing so, all family members – husband and wife, brothers and sisters – will love and respect each other and their neighbors. They will not only live in the spirit of brotherhood with all races of people without prejudice but will also love and protect all forms of life.





## SEPTEMBER 2019 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** A. Okimura, T. Nakamura, M/M B. Ide, K. Gibson  
**\$50–\$99:** M. Fukushima, S. Taketa, M. Sakata, J. Kaku, M/M J. Takara, M/M S. Shaskan, Kari Kuritani, J. Arase, M. Nakamura, G. Hiram, M/M A. Shiroishi, S. Tanaka, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M R. Nakatani  
**\$100+:** Y. Oishi, T. Fukushima, J. Shiroishi, T. Murakami, M/M T. Harada, J. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide, T. Sato, S. Kaku, M/M K. Chinen, T. Hiram, M/M B. Hamamoto, T. Nagao, M/M N. Chodor, M/M S. Sekikawa, De. Shiroishi, M. Okada, R. Kageyama, K. Murakami, M/M K. Kuritani, K. Fujii, A. Cool, T. Okimura, J. Tomita, M/M R. Tsujimura, M. Sunahara, T. Wakabayashi, J. Detwiler/J. Sebe, A. Minamino  
**\$200+:** M/M P. Reid, D. Shiroishi, Y. Yamada, F. Miyamura, H. Taki, L. Sanchez, M/M H. Tsujimura, M. Kimura, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M A. Akashi, J. Horner, M/M C. Tanaka, Senkakukan  
**\$300+:** T. Ishida, M/M K. Yamada, M/M A. Kishida, M/M R. Ito  
**\$500+:** M/M S. Mukai, S. Okimura, M. Okada, A./G. Tomita, T./J. Kawamura  
**\$1,000+:** T. Yamada, Debra/Donna Shiroishi  
**\$2,000+:** J. Ito  
**\$17,000+:** *Gedatsu-kai* members and Headquarters

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

H. Graham *Goreichi* care fund (\$100)  
 J. Ito Donation to build garage for new tractor (\$10,000)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$49:** M/M K. Chinen, M/M M. Hamada, G. Hiram, J. Mah, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M L. Muronaka, K. Nagao, M. Nakamura, A. Okimura, Y. Oya, N. Takara, M/M P. Young  
**\$50–\$99:** M/M N. Chodor, K. Giroux, M/M M. Murakami, J. Kaku, M/M Kev. Kuritani, M/M S. Mukai, M/M T. Hiram, T. Nakamura, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura  
**\$100+:** T. Abe, M/M F. Barthel, M. Fujira, Y. Fujita, M/M T. Fukushima, K. Harada/M. Nakano, M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, I. Kaji, M. Kimura, K. Kitajima, M/M Ken Kuritani, T. Murakami, M. Nogochi, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, T. Okimura, L. Sanchez, H. Taki, M/M G. Wood  
**\$200+:** M/M T. Matsumot, D. Shiroishi  
**\$600+:** J. Ito, *Gedatsu Kendo Dojo*

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Mukai Family Never Forgotten service (\$100)  
 Frank Miyamura Never Forgotten service (\$150)

## 2020 UPCOMING 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. *Higan* Service (Japanese & English)  
 Mar 22 (Sun) Sacramento *Higan* Service  
 Mar 29 (Sun) Church Closed  
 Apr 12 (Sun) 141<sup>st</sup> 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 (*Joan-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) Sac'to *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored  
 Jul 19 (Sun) L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored  
 Jul 23-26 (Thu-Sun) Youth Camp – Sacramento  
 Aug 1-2 (Sat-Sun) Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)  
 Aug 16 (Sun) L.A. *Benzaiten* Service  
 Sep 6 (Sun) 142<sup>nd</sup> Fall Grand Festival 9:30 am  
 Sep 8 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)  
 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

## 11 月度教会行事予定

### ロサンゼルス教会

- 3 (日) 10:00A 解脱金剛感謝祭 (日英両語)  
10 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
17 (日) 10:00A 七五三・感謝会 (日英両語)  
24 (日) 10:00A 英語感謝会・阿字観法  
リージョナル委員会  
28 (木) 29 (金) 教会休み (サンクスギビング)

### サクラメント教会

- 3 (日) 10:00A 祥月追善法要  
10 (日) 9:30A 解脱金剛 70 年祭  
リージョナル委員会  
24 (日) 9:00A 七五三サービス  
9:30A 感謝会・解脱金剛ご生誕祭  
28 (木) 29 (金) 教会休み (サンクスギビング)

## 11 月度みさとし

「喜びというものは、  
受くる身よりも送る感謝の身に多い」

人間の真の幸福とは何だろう。自分の欲しいものを手に入れたり、自分の望みがかなえられたりすれば、誰でも嬉しく思い、幸福感をおぼえるものである。しかし、それだけが人間の喜びだと思っているとしたら、真の幸福を味わうことは決してないだろう。なぜならば、この世界は自分のために巡っているわけではなく、したがって、何もかも自分にとって都合よく運ばれるとはかぎらないからである。それが、人間の人生なのである。では、人間にとって真の幸福とは何か。それは、大自然の運行を注意深く観察してみれば、わかるだろう。たとえば太陽は、常に地上の万物に平等に、惜しみなく熱と光を注ぎながら、一切要求することはない。そのおかげで、地上に生息するわれわれは生かされているのである。この太陽のように、「与えて求めぬ」生き方、他者のためにまごころを尽くす生き方に進むとき、人間は大きな喜びをおぼえ、真の幸福を得られるということを、ぜひ実践体得してもらいたい。

### 2020 年度・会費納入をお願いいたします

- ・個人会員費 \$45 (年)
- ・家族世帯会員費 \$70 (年)
- ・婦人会費 \$6 (年)
- ・「解脱誌」\$25 (年)

\*各教会にある会費シートをご利用ください。  
\*終身会費＝個人 450 ドル / ファミリー\$ 600

## 老人ケアホームにて講話

ACC, 9/17/19

死後にも生活があります。老齢期には  
次の世界への心の準備をしておきましょう

サクラメント教会 山田 一雄

解脱会の会祖・解脱金剛さまは、霊界の存在について真正面から説かれました。そして、「人が真に生きる意味を知らんと欲するなら、死後も生命は存続することを知る必要がある」と言われました。人間は誰でも、やがて死にます。これには例外はありません。いつ死ぬかは誰にもわかりませんが、普通、年老いて身体のすべての機能が止まれば、死を迎えます。でも、死後も私たちは魂として生き続けます。これにも例外はないのです。ですから、老い先長くないと思ったら、死の稽古、死への準備ということをしておくのが良いと思います。その意味で、本日は「死」ということについてお話ししてまいります。

## 解

解脱金剛さまは、肉体が死という終わりを迎えたとき、魂は肉体から分離し、別の世界に行くことを説かれました。つまり、寿命が尽きたとき、私たちは古くなり、あるいは使えなくなった肉体を脱ぎ捨て、魂の存在として次の世界（霊界）へ行くというわけなのです。

ですから、この世で死を迎えることは、霊魂として次の世に生まれ変わるということです。この世（物質世界）での勉強を終え、あの世（霊的世界）に帰るということです。これが霊的真理なのです。

## 解

解脱金剛さまは、「死後も霊としての生活があることを知る者は幸せである」と言われています。なぜなら、死後の生活を思えば、悪いことをしないようにと心に歯止めもかかりますし、一日一日を明るいい心で生きていこう、何か人のお役に立つことをしようと意識的に努めることができるからです。

逆に、「死んだらすべてが終わる」と考える人は、この世でしてきたこと、またはしなかったことが来世に関係してくるということを考えませんから、自我を満たすことばかりに意識が向きがちです。そのような生き方をした人は、死んだ後に、自分が霊として生きている事実を知ってからではじめて驚くとともに、生きているうちにもっとなすべきことがあったと悔やむことが多いのです。

そのように、「肉体は滅んでも、霊魂は死なず、霊界での生活がある」ということを知っている人と知らない人とは、この世での生き方や心の持ち方に大きな差が出るばかりか、来世でのあり方にも大きな差をもたらすことになるのですから、解脱金剛さまは「死後も霊としての生活があることを知る者は幸せである」と言われたのです。

**そ**の意味では、死ぬということは悲しいことでも恐れるべきことでもありません。

考えようによっては、皆さんには新しい別種の未来があるということです。

死んだあとは、古く不便になった肉体の束縛（そくばく）から自由になって、若々しい霊の体に生まれ変わり、新たな生活に入るのですから、そのような死後の生活を考えてみれば、死は苦ではなく、むしろ楽しみに感じられるのではないのでしょうか。

ただし、死ぬ前に、一つだけ気をつけておきたいことがあります。

それは、「霊界は、心の浄化の程度により、様々な階層に分けられた世界である」ということです。つまり、その人の到達した心の高さや浄化された程度、あるいはまだ磨かれてない部分の程度により、住む環境や階層に違いがあるという多次元的世界が霊界なのです。

霊界は心の程度により多次元に分かれた世界であるがゆえに、より高次元の世界に入るためにも、私たちは生きている間に心を磨き高める努力が必要なのです。そのために宗教の教えがあり、私たちは、常に神仏に心を向けて、自らの心を清よく正しく整えていく必要があるのです。

**私**は、社会的役割を終えた「老齢期」は、次の世界、つまり霊界に入る準備をする期間であると思います。霊界は心を主とした世界であり、お金も家具も洋服も、この世からの物質は一切持っていくことはできません。自らの肉体すらも脱ぎ捨てて行かなければならないところです。

だから、老齢期は次の世界に備え、心の中から物質へのこだわりや物事への執着を洗い流し、心の純真さに帰っていく準備や稽古をする期間だと思うのです。

物質世界での出来事への囚われや執着心は、心の世界に入る時の重い足かせになります。ですから、死ぬときには、「心に残すものは何もない。ただただ感謝

あるのみ」という心境になるのが理想的だと思います。

解脱金剛さまは、「肉体は滅しても、魂は永遠である」と説きました。死後、若々しい霊の体になって新しい生活に入るのですから、そのことに希望を持って、清らかな心、感謝の心で旅立てるよう、残された日々心の修行を楽しんでいきましょう。

## 掲 示 板

### ● 新年度の供養札・諸札の申込みはお早目に！

古札にお礼を述べ、古い供養札は水洗いし乾燥させて教会にお納めください。

### ● 終身会費（Lifetime Membership）について

年会費の代わりに「終身会費」を支払うことができます。これは、毎年、年会費の小切手を書く代わり、一度で生涯の会費を支払う制度です。

個人＝450 ドル / ファミリー＝\$ 600 です。

### ● 御霊地ケアファンドについて

御霊地ケアファンドは、会員からの寄付によって、現在および将来にわたり、御霊地の土地施設および設備を維持するために必要な費用を賄う財源を構築するためのものです。すべての寄付は「解脱コンパニオン」に掲載されます。

1951 年、サクラメントの 20 エーカーの敷地が、米国解脱教会の「御霊地」（現・スピリチュアル・センター）として設立され、今日まで、解脱の会員にとって精神的に重要な意味を持つ聖地として維持されています。御霊地ケアファンドへの寄付を通して、御霊地を支え、将来の世代に聖地として精神的な中心を維持する「財施」の機会としてください。

### ● ロサンゼルス教会・七五三について

ロサンゼルス教会では 11 月 18 日(日)に、サクラメント教会では 25 日(日)に七五三行事があります。七五三に該当するお子さんがいらっしゃれば、教会にある申し用紙に記入し、教会の事務所までお早めにお申し込みください。

## 訃 報

- ロサンゼルス教会会員・リンダ・サンチェスさん（72 歳）におかれましては 9 月 29 日に逝去されました。

- ロサンゼルス教会会員・岡崎巖（たかし）さん（96 歳）におかれましては 10 月 9 日に逝去されました。ここに謹んでご冥福をお祈りいたします。





The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Janice Wakasa**, a second-generation Gedatsu member, who was raised in the Gedatsu faith by her parents, the late **Jane** and **Roy Wakasa**. Thanks to her mother's efforts and foresight, Janice has worked for many years at the San Gabriel

Regional Center, an occupational services organization and residence for people with special needs. There, she has developed the work/living skills that have given her independence and confidence. Janice enjoys attending church, says her older sister **June Kizu**, especially participating in L.A. Church fundraisers and craft/food-making workshops.

**Rev. Kazuo Yamada**, Editor

**Joyce Reid**, Editor-in-Chief

**Carolann Hirayama, Arlene Okimura, Yoko Yamada,**  
Photographers

Editorial contributors to this issue:

**Marie Ishida, June Kizu, Rev. Naoya Okano, Donna Shiroishi,**  
**Jo Ann Shiroishi, Rev. Hisakazu Taki, Calvin Tanaka,**  
**Beana Tsujimura, Janice Wakasa**

Gedatsu Church USA  
Los Angeles Branch  
7850 Hill Drive  
Rosemead, CA 91770

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
EL MONTE, CA  
PERMIT NO. 110

*(The Gedatsu Teaching - continued from page 7)*

**Supplication:**

*"With respectful and sincere hearts, we  
dedicate ourselves to the practice of Gedatsu.  
We ask Master Gedatsu Kongo to guide us as  
we follow his example to live with appreciation  
and gratitude and to be of service to all."*

[**Comment:** Master Gedatsu Kongo is our teacher. He teaches us the path of everyone's happiness and world peace. We pay sincere respect to Master Gedatsu Kongo and ask him for guidance. We then pledge every effort to follow his example to live with appreciation and to be of service to all.]

**Homage to our Founder Gedatsu Kongo:**

*"Namu Gedatsu Kongo" (seven times)*

[**Comment:** Thanks to the teaching and guidance of Master Gedatsu Kongo, we are leading a happy and meaningful life. We conclude our daily prayer by repeating his name as a token of appreciation.]

The Gedatsu Prayer is very simple, but it has profound meaning. By saying this prayer each day, the essence of the Gedatsu teaching will penetrate our whole body and soul. It will encourage us to live with appreciation and gratitude and to work for the good of the world.]

*(Next issue: The Path of Self-Awareness)*

