



# GEDATSU COMPANION

GEDATSU CHURCH USA  
www.gedatsu-usa.org

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Gedatsu Kongo's  
Thought for the Month

*"Whether you carve a saint or a  
devil out of a block of wood  
depends on your heart."*

Kind words spoken to someone  
who is in the depths of despair may  
give that person hope and the will to  
live.

On the other hand, cold,  
heartless words may drive that person  
to further feelings of hopelessness.

Consider the words you have  
spoken to others – as well as the  
attitude you adopted toward them.

Whether our world is full of love  
and compassion or filled with cold-  
hearted people, we ourselves are  
ultimately responsible for the world  
we create.

We should remember that our  
hearts create our world.

**COVID-19 NOTICE:** To safeguard the health of our members and the public, our churches are closed, and all regularly scheduled in-person services and activities are suspended until further notice. Read more on page 2.

## JULY 2020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	4	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sun	5 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	12 9:30 am	Appreciation Service / Graduates Honored <i>Obon</i> Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun	19 1:00 am	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Thu-Sun	23-26	Summer Youth Camp

**CANCELED**

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sat	4	Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sun	5 10:00 am	Japanese <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	12 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	19 10:00 am	Appreciation Service (Japanese & English) <i>Obon</i> Service / Graduates Honored
Sun	26 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting

## AUGUST 2020

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	2 10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	9 9:30 am	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service
Sun	16 1:00 pm	San Jose Branch <i>Kanshakai</i> Service
Sun	23 9:30 am	Appreciation Service
Sun	30	Church Closed

### 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	<i>Benzaiten</i> Service (Japanese & English)
Sun	23 10:00 am	English Appreciation Service / Regional Board Meeting
Sun	30	Church Closed

### COVID-19 Update

As this newsletter went to press in mid-June, government directives and health authorities were allowing churches to gradually reopen, with strict guidelines for social distancing, sanitizing, etc.

Gedatsu Church is carefully considering whether or not to resume in-person gatherings at our churches. At this time, the church is taking the following steps to ensure the health and safety of our members and the public:

- Our churches remain closed
- All regularly scheduled in-person services and activities are suspended until further notice
- Exception: Personal consultations with ministers and special services – such as ancestor/family blessings and memorial services – are permitted under the following conditions:
  - Gatherings are limited to no more than 10
  - Services/consultations by appointment only
  - Participants complete a health-screening questionnaire and comply with health rules
- No final decision yet on Fall Festival and Autumn Moon Festival

Remember, high-risk populations remain those who are:

- Older than 65
- With a compromised health condition
- Ill, have a temperature, cough, etc., or
- Caring for the sick in any way

Gedatsu Church is continually monitoring the situation and will share the latest information with you as decisions are made.

Also, as situations change, watch for announcements from the L.A. and Sacramento regional boards concerning your local branch church.

If you have any concerns or questions, contact:

- L.A. Church (626) 288-1212 / **Rev. Naoya Okano** email: [naoya\\_okano@gedatsu-usa.org](mailto:naoya_okano@gedatsu-usa.org)
- Sacramento Spiritual Center: (916) 363-6054 / **Rev. Kazuo Yamada** or **Mica Rodriguez** email: [gedatsuchurchsac@gmail.com](mailto:gedatsuchurchsac@gmail.com).



### Participate from Home in Online July “Never Forgotten” Services

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services are held monthly by the Gedatsu Church to honor the memory of those who have passed away during that particular month.

Because our churches are currently closed, our “Never Forgotten” services are conducted online, enabling you to participate by praying from home.

The services are video-recorded and viewable at the time of each service on the Gedatsu YouTube site: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIbbFt3XLuWin8OGPmifGw>. The videos will remain viewable from the date and time of each service.

The Sacramento Spiritual Center will hold its virtual “Never Forgotten” Service on **Sunday, July 5, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Yone Yuno, Tsuyako Yuno, Yukie Yuno, Miyoko Nakamura, Steven Ikuzo Nakatani, Yukie Ota, Charlie Zenzo Tagawa, Steve Morio Taketa, Keisuke Tateishi, Yukio Tateishi, Keiichi Takemura, Tsuma Kino, Kimiko Yomogida, Yukio Jim Ide, Kazue Ando Kotabe, Alan Yoneo Oshima, Shizu Sebe and Mother Kenyu Kiyota.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, July 12, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Mitsuru Amabe, Hideko Arakawa, Iku Arakawa, Masao Arakawa, Chester Bennington, Nathan Capross, Kazuma Fukunaga, Kathryn Christina Howe, Tomoko Imai, Kazuo Inouye, Yoshino Kawamura, Shige Kumashiro, Maria Antonia Lechuga, Ellen Hatsuko Mori, Hiroko Murakami, Stanley Muronaka, Tazu Nagura, Tomoyoshi Naito, Kyoko Nakaguchi, Shigeo Nakamura, Helen Nakano, Eddie Kinya Ogura, Nancy Yoshie Ogura, Setsu Sakuma, Malayka Jane Sexton, Thomas Gray Sexton, Yukio Shimada, Grace Akemi Shimahara, Jack Shimatsu, Michiye Shimohira, Nobuyoshi Shimohira, Yoshinori Takamine, Genpachi Tanji, Riichi Tomita and Kazuma Toyama.**

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Let's Celebrate Our 2020 Graduates!

We want to honor all graduates and their parents in July. If you have a student in the family who will be graduating this year from elementary, middle or high school; college; or graduate school, submit their name to be honored. Request an application form from your branch office and submit it by July 1.

### Fire Ceremony Plaques

Because the Fall Festival remains uncertain at this time, plaque applications for the Fire Ceremony are delayed until a date is set.

### Stay Informed and Connected – Online and Off

Even though in-person services and activities are suspended, you can still stay connected with your Gedatsu faith and the church through our IN TOUCH emails, YouTube videos, social media and our new website. Please share these with members who aren't digitally connected.

And if we don't have your email address, please advise **Rev. Naoya** at the L.A. Church. If you don't have access to a computer or internet, request **Rev. Naoya** to mail you a DVD containing church videos and other online communications.

## AROUND OUR CHURCH

### A Family Tradition – Three Generations of Scouting Excellence

The Gedatsu Church recognizes the outstanding achievement of **Colin Fujikawa**, who is being awarded the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, the highest award in Scouting. Colin is the son of **Derek** and **Mari Fujikawa**, the grandson of **Stan** and **Joan Fujikawa**, and the great-grandson of the late **Edward** and **Tokiyo Uyesugi**, long-time Gedatsu members in Stockton, CA. He is also the grandnephew of member **George Kaneko**, whose late wife, **Marie**, was Joan's sister.



Colin carries on a proud family Scouting tradition, becoming the latest Eagle Scout across three generations to be honored. His father, Derek, and uncles **Keith Kaneko** and **Glen Fujikawa**, as well as his cousins **Andrew** and **Kevin Uyesugi**, all achieved Eagle Scout rank, which is required to be completed before the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.

At left, Colin is pictured in his scout uniform and with his grandparents, **Stan** and **Joan Fujikawa**, and sister, **Miya**.

"Colin's great-grandparents would have been so proud to see what he has achieved," says Joan.

For his Eagle project, Colin designed, purchased materials for and organized the construction of a 12 x 16-foot pergola for a daycare playground area at The Minds Alzheimers Center in San Jose, CA.

His Court of Honors ceremony, at which he receives his Eagle Scout badge, was scheduled for June, but is postponed until later this year because of the pandemic.

Congratulations, Colin!



## AROUND OUR CHURCH

### How Our Holy Tea Blessing Plaques Are Produced

#### Preserving a Sacred Practice

Our founder, **Gedatsu Kongo**, introduced the practice of holy tea blessing a year after founding the Gedatsu Church in 1929. He instructed his followers to pour holy tea over plaques on which he inscribed the Holy *Goho* and the names of departed souls. By doing so, he said, the spirits could be consoled and rest peacefully.

Today, more than 90 years later, the *Cho-satsu-bu*, or Plaque Manufacturing Department, at the *Gedatsu-kai* Headquarters in Tokyo carries on the sacred tradition. A dedicated team of nine men and women is responsible for producing the wooden holy tea plaques, which totaled nearly 90,000 last year.

For decades, the plaques, milled from fir trees in the Kansai region of Japan, were laboriously written and stamped by hand. In 2003, the entire process was transformed and automated through computer technology and digital printing – enabling a single plaque to be produced in just 15 minutes.

The peak production period for plaques is in November – in anticipation of the New Year, when members replace their plaques. Other busy periods are in July, prior to the Japanese *Obon* tradition, as well as in April and September, when the staff produces *Manbu Kuyo* plaques and certificates.



The Plaque Manufacturing Department at Tokyo HQ is under the direction of Manager, **Manabu Sakuma**, standing third from left. To his left are employees **Masataka Sato** and **Koji Mukudai**, who visited the U.S. as Exchange Ambassadors in 2016 and 2019, respectively.



Above, left to right, the plaque manufacturing process begins with data entry of the various plaques requested from the application forms. The data is then printed on the wooden plaques. The Holy *Goho* – copied from the Founder's original writing is stamped in red ink onto each plaque by a member of the Okano family.

Bottom, left to right, before the plaques are shipped out, a special prayer ceremony, called *gohoraku*, is performed to sanctify the plaques as holy instruments of blessing. The ceremony is performed twice a month – and three times a month during the busy production season. In bottom right photo, each plaque is respectfully blessed one by one.

### New Series: **Gedatsu Q&A**

I am pleased to introduce a new study series entitled “Gedatsu Q&A.” As its title implies, this series will present the basics of Gedatsu in simple question-and-answer format. Its purpose is to demonstrate the application of Gedatsu doctrine and principles in our everyday activities.

Although the Gedatsu teaching was originally established in Japan for Japanese citizens nearly a century ago, I believe the Gedatsu teaching is universal and relevant for everyone, regardless of culture, tradition or nationality. I hope to convey my understanding of Gedatsu to Americans today. Along the way, if you have any questions, please send them to me and I will try to answer them.

I hope this new series will help you to deepen your understanding of Gedatsu and will aid you in living a fulfilling and positive life.

**Reverend Hisakazu Taki**

### **Q** *Who established the Gedatsu Church?*

**A** Gedatsu Church was established in Japan in 1929 by **Gedatsu Kongo**. Gedatsu Kongo is the posthumous name of the founder of the church, **Seiken Okano**, who was born in 1881, the second son in the Okano family. Prior to establishing the Gedatsu Church, he worked in various stations in life – apprenticeship with a liquor store, textile business, shipping business, etc. – experiencing many ups and downs.

After these experiences, at age 48, he underwent the awakening of his religious consciousness. He established the Gedatsu faith to embrace a nonsectarian spiritual philosophy, which advocated the practical application of religious principles to promote the happiness and welfare of all people. Gedatsu Kongo passed away in 1948.

The seed of Gedatsu was planted in American soil during WWII, and Gedatsu Church U.S.A. was established in California in 1950. The propagation of Gedatsu in America is primarily attributed to the pioneering efforts of two dedicated disciples of Gedatsu Kongo: **Kenyu Kiyota** and **Eizan Kishida**.

### **Q** *What was the Founder’s intention in establishing the Gedatsu path?*

**A** When Founder Gedatsu Kongo established the Gedatsu Church in 1929, there were myriad religions throughout the world, and religious scriptures and doctrines had been thoroughly studied and discussed by that time.

Then why did Gedatsu Kongo establish the Gedatsu path under those circumstances? Simply stated, it is because he was not satisfied with the status quo of religions at that time. Although a variety of religious teachings were available, many religions were dogmatic and in conflict with one another. Religious teachings were not fully practiced for people’s happiness and welfare.

Master Gedatsu Kongo’s earnest desire was to break the walls of religions and open the universal truth to all people for their happiness and welfare. For that purpose, he established the Gedatsu path as a non-sectarian religious study.

### **Q** *What does “Gedatsu” mean?*

**A** *Gedatsu* is originally Buddhist terminology, literally meaning “to undo” or “to be freed from.” We humans are usually bound by our egos, thoughts, values, ideologies or concepts. Our biased thoughts and attitudes create conflicts with others, sufferings, anxieties, etc.

By self-reflection and “undoing” these egotistical thoughts and attitudes, we can create harmony, peace of mind and well-being in our lives and achieve a more harmonious, peaceful and compassionate world for everyone. This is the basic teaching of Gedatsu.

Founder Gedatsu Kongo also used the word “Gedatsu” in a broader sense of “*appreciation and gratitude*.” This is because, when you discard your egotistical thoughts and attitudes in life and live with appreciation and gratitude, you will be able to attain peace and happiness.



*Today, as we offer prayers for the peaceful repose of unrested spirits related to the pandemic, we can find particular relevance to our current situation in the following article, which was written by Bishop Kishida 65 years ago.*

### **Neglected and Unrested Spirits of the Universe** By **Bishop Eizan Kishida**

Excerpted from  
*Dynamic Analysis of Illness through Gedatsu*  
Translated by **Louis K. Ito**

Neglected and unrested spirits tend to drift unpredictably like an air current without any relationship to time and place. If the psychodynamics of these spirits were examined more closely, it may be revealed that these forces drift into an area according to certain sequence, but my present findings do not indicate this.

Rather, I believe that when a multitude of people perish from the effects of a natural disaster or a major war, the prevalence of a disease or illness affecting the remaining populace is often the manifestation of the sufferings of the unrested spirits of those who died in such disasters.

Immediately following the conclusion of World War I, the virulent epidemic of influenza, which started in Spain and spread throughout the world, tragically accounted for many deaths. The number of people who died from this virulent influenza, known as the Spanish flu, greatly outnumbered those who died in the war.

#### Spiritual Source of Pandemics, Crises

In this instance, it is quite clear that this pandemic, which engulfed the nations of the world, was the manifestation of the unrested spirits of those people who perished in the war.

As long as medicine progresses in its research for bodily cures, it may be possible to counteract and prevent the spread of germs and bacteria, thus saving mankind from such virulent illnesses.

But even if the illness is checked from the aftermath of wars and natural disasters, various unexplainable social incidents and problems may occur as if they were provoked by unusual stimulus. When this phenomenon is analyzed from an international viewpoint, the reasons for the Korean conflict, the Indo-French problem, and the regimented way of life imposed upon the people of China by the Communist regime, can easily be imagined.



The Spanish flu of 1918 was one of the deadliest pandemics in human history. Seeming to come from nowhere in the waning days of World War I, it spread through a war-ravaged world like wildfire. In a matter of months, a third of the world's population was infected, and 50 to 100 million people died.

*(Continued on page 7)*

The crisis of East and West Berlin in Europe, and even in areas of the world which did not directly participate in World War II, like parts of Africa and South America, is accounted for by the tense war-like feelings prevailing in these parts of the world, which consequently produced many innocent casualties.

This was the world situation immediately following World War II.

These situations may be briefly explained as the outgrowth of natural and international political conflict and evolution, but why must there be such tensions in the world today?

Modern man and the present-day politicians acknowledge the fact that they are civilized people, but nevertheless, they often create irrevocable situations in states of anger and uncontrolled emotions.

#### Lack of Sincere Tribute, Prayer for War Dead

If we were to analyze the cause of these actions, it lies in the unrested and neglected spirits of the war dead who perished in the name of their country. They are manifesting their disappointments and objects to the surviving people who have forgotten the sacrifices of the war dead.

It is not surprising to find that once people have survived the perils of wars, their personal greed will return and their instincts for self-preservation will direct their normal thoughts and actions.

There is nothing wrong with these actions, but what one should not forget to do is the sincere offering of a memorial service to the unfortunate war dead. The fulfillment of this memorial service should not just be in the form of an elaborate public ceremony, but rather in the personal offering of the memorial service from deep within one's heart. When an individual can cultivate such a spiritual state and render proper tribute to the war dead, the mind and heart of man can possess more beauty.

It is often thought that the war dead have all received elaborate funeral services and are all interred in their native land. However, this is only a mere formality. There is only a small percentage of the war dead whose actual remains have been interred in a proper cemetery.

In the midst of war, there are many casualties whose bodily remains are lost and unrecoverable and those who were given sea burials. In such cases, some personal article left by the deceased is interred in place of the actual bodily remains at the cemetery. Under the circumstances of war, such conditions are unavoidable.

#### Spirits Remain Unrested, Neglected

However, the spirits of the soldiers who have died in battle, resigned to the fact that they must kill or be killed, remain largely as spirits possessing vindictive feelings. In such manner, the neglected and unrested spirits of the war dead drift in a strong force.

Beside the spirits of these war dead, there are other innumerable spirits, which are unidentified and unrested. These spirits roam through the universe and are not quite discernible as to their origin.

If we consider all the countries in the world from time immemorial, there are countless numbers of such neglected and unrested spirits. These spirit forces are constantly in motion like atom particles and whenever a person comes into direct contact with one of these forces, he inevitably feels the effect.

This effect is in the form of a cold or flu. This type of flu is not just an ordinary flu, which is the direct result of an extreme climatic change but is a flu of a virulent nature accompanied by very high fever.

Moreover, this type of flu usually spreads from one house to the next very rapidly just as a vagrant would go begging from house to house. When one is attacked by this type of flu, he should immediately take the proper measures to offer holy tea blessing and prayers for the peaceful repose and comfort of the spirits.



### The Grace of Being “Lucky”

By Hisato Tsujimura

I’ve often said, “Do you want to make God laugh? Then tell Him your plans.”

Well, God must have had a good laugh in 2016. Until that year, my wife, **Lori**, and I had lived in the Los Angeles and Orange County area all of our lives. Even after our children married, had children of their own and moved out of the area to Washington and Oregon, we remained in California. Our air flight bills became quite high, as Lori shared half the year with the grandchildren and the other half with me.

The year 2016 started no differently than previous years. I was working and had no plans to retire. Each week consisted of work, trips to the racetrack and church. Week in and week out for the past many years, this was our life, and I expected it to remain the same. Sure, my wife and I had many thoughts and words about moving near the grandchildren, but usually these thoughts would just come and go.

#### The Big Move

Then, in the middle of 2016, Lori suddenly said, “Let’s move.” Or . . . maybe it went, “I’m moving. If you want to come, put the house up for sale.”

Two months later, we were out of the house and on our way to Portland, Oregon, where my son and family reside. We planned on staying with them until we could find a place of our own. Our stay lasted longer than it should have, but we were finally able to purchase our house in April 2017.

While we were at my son’s house, sometime in late 2016, while playing with our grandchildren, Lori felt a little ball on her breast. She thought it was just a “fat ball,” and since she was scheduled to have a checkup the following month, she planned to talk to her doctor of this finding.

#### The Big “C”

Much to our surprise, this “fat ball” turned out to be cancerous. Lori had breast cancer!

She was lucky to have discovered this “fat ball,” since it may or may not have been found by the doctor during her checkup -- it was that small.

After our initial shock, the doctor laid out the schedule of treatments. Because it was found in its early stage, it would be about a year before Lori would be back to so-called “normal.”

Her schedule called for six chemotherapy treatments, followed by a few weeks of rest, surgery, rest then radiation to remove any remaining cancerous cells. Her first treatment was on May 30 and lasted six hours. Thereafter, each treatment lasted between 4-5 hours and took place in three-week intervals.

The treatments were not easy for Lori. She lost more than 15 pounds. She had no appetite, her strength had diminished, and she was afraid to leave the house for any length of time, because bathroom visits came far too often and at any time.

Lori has really been a trooper through all of what has been going on. Each time at a chemo treatment, she would say how lucky she was to find the cancer in its early stage. Only six treatments!

We saw other cancer patients having to undergo far more treatments, along with its sufferings. Lori and I often discuss how lucky we were to have discovered the cancer in its early stage. How lucky we were to find this “fat ball.” How lucky we were to find a place of our own. How lucky we were to find the doctors that treated the cancer.

#### Lucky? Or . . .

Looking back, I wonder about the “luck” involved. Why did we decide to move so suddenly, when we were so hesitant before? Why was my wife playing with our grandchildren when she discovered the “fat ball”? How was she able to feel something that was so tiny and hardly detectable?

Lori’s cancer was present, whether we lived in California or Oregon. But, if we had remained in California, who is to say whether we would have found this “fat ball”? Who is to say that she would have had the same treatment for this cancer in California as she had received in Oregon? Her anesthesiologist was an Asian, who understood that her needs for anesthetics were a lot less than most patients. Because of this, she was able to walk out of the recovery room an hour after her operation.

*(Continued on back page)*

## MAY 2020 OFFERINGS

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$50–\$99:** N. Tsuboi, R. Nakatani

**\$100+:** A. Cool, M. Rodriguez, M/M D. Tsuboi

**\$300+:** A. Sebe

**\$500+:** M/M J. Horner

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

R. Nakatani In memory of Roy Nakatani (\$1,000)

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

**\$5–\$50:** D. Monroe, M. Nakamura, T. Nakamura, E. Ogawa, A. Okimura, P. Tomita

**\$100+:** M/M K. Chinen, M. Kimura, M.M V. Mizokami,

M/M N. Okano, M/M P. Reid, F. Sueyoshi, M/M H. Tsujimura

**\$200+:** Y. Oishi

**\$300+:** T. Okimura

**\$600+:** D. Shiroishi

#### **Special Acknowledgment**

Naomi Takara “Never Forgotten” Joe Takara (\$100)

Mizutani Family Memorial Service: Seichiro Mizutani (\$300)

Frank Miyamura “Never Forgotten” Kikuye Miyamura (\$175)

Ken/Ikuko Kuritani “Never Forgotten” service (\$100)

Greg/Akemi Wood “Never Forgotten” service (\$100)

Howard/Carol Tsujimura “Never Forgotten” service (\$150)

Ken/Mei-Ling Shiroishi Special donation (\$2,000)

Ernest Ogawa Appreciation for new car (\$100)

Craig/Jodi Morioka In memory of Yoko Tsujimura, Hiro Yamamisaka, June Morioka (\$100)

Ned Morioka In memory of June Morioka (\$100)

## 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Due to the indefinite suspension of in-person gatherings, the following services and activities are subject to change.**

**Sep 6 (Sun)**

Sep 8 (Tue)

Sep 13 (Sun)

Sep 20 (Sun)

**142<sup>nd</sup> Fall Grand Festival**

**TBD**

Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)

Hawaii Church 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

L.A. Higan Service

Oct 3-4 (Sat-Sun)

Oct 13 (Tue)

Oct 18 (Sun)

Oct 25 (Sun)

L.A. Autumn Moon Festival

**TBD**

Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)

L.A. Ujigami Service

Sacramento All Souls Service

Nov 1 (Sun)

Nov 8 (Sun)

Nov 15 (Sun)

Nov 22 (Sun)

L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Service

Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Service

L.A. 7-5-3 Children's Celebration

Sac'to 7-5-3- Children's Celebration/

Gedatsu Kongo Birthday

Nov 26-27

Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)

Dec 6 (Sun)

Dec 12 (Sat)

Dec 13 (Sun)

L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service

L.A. Church Clean-up

Sacramento Last Service of Year / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service

Dec 20 (Sun)

Dec 24-31

L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program

Church Closed

## Recipe for Foil-cooked Salmon

Contributed by Yoko Yamada

A healthy, delicious and easy-to-prepare meal. Ingredients are available in most Asian supermarkets.

#### Ingredients:

- ❖ Salmon fillets
- ❖ Onion
- ❖ Carrots
- ❖ Shimegi mushroom
- ❖ Enoki mushroom
- ❖ Butter
- ❖ Paprika
- ❖ Salt and pepper
- ❖ Aluminum foil



#### Directions:

- ❖ Cut foil in sizes to wrap each salmon and vegetables
- ❖ Sprinkle salmon fillets with salt and pepper
- ❖ Cut vegetables into bit-size pieces
- ❖ Place salmon and onion in center of foil
- ❖ Place remaining vegetables on top or beside salmon. Top salmon with butter and sprinkle with paprika.
- ❖ Wrap foil tightly around ingredients so no air can escape.
- ❖ Place foil pouches in frying pan. Add ½ cup of water and cover with tight-fitting lid.
- ❖ Cook on medium heat for 4 minutes, then low heat for 7-8 minutes. (Add water as needed to maintain steaming.)
- ❖ Remove foil pouches to plates and open foil carefully.
- ❖ Serve with ponzu or soy sauce.

## 米 国 げ だ つ 教 会 COVID-19 への対応について

政府の指令と保健当局は、社会的距離や消毒などの厳格なガイドラインのもとに、教会の段階的な再開を認めました。

げだつ教会では、教会での会員たちが対面する集会を再開するかどうか慎重に検討する中、現時点では、会員と公衆の健康や安全を確かなものとするため、次の段階的措置をとります。

- 教会は基本的に閉鎖を続けます。従来予定されていたすべてのサービスやアクティビティも、追って通知があるまで停止されます。
- 但し、ミニスターとの個人相談、および先祖/家族の法要などの特別なサービスは、以下の条件で許可されます。
  - 集会は最大 10 人以下の制限を守ります
  - 予約をしたサービス/相談のみ受け付けます
  - 参加者は健康スクリーニングの質問用紙に答え、健康に関する規則を遵守します
- 次の場合は家にいることが推奨されています。
  - 65 歳以上
  - 健康状態が損なわれている
  - 病気、体温、咳などがあるなど。
  - 何らかの形で病人の世話をしている
- サクラメントでの秋季大祭、およびロサンゼルス教会でのオータム・ムーン・フェスティバル開催については、まだ決定されていません。  
\*なお、引き続き状況を監視しており、新たな決定がされたときには最新の情報を共有します。状況の変化を見ながら、地元教会における地域委員会からの発表に注意してください。

### 7 月 度 み さ と し

#### 「一つの木片から仏を刻むか鬼を作るかは 彫る人間の心次第である」

思いやりのこもった優しい言葉が、失意のどん底にある人に生きる希望と力を与えることがある。一方、冷酷で酷い言葉が、人を自殺にまで追い込むことがある。さまざまな日常の人間関係のなかで、われわれは一人ひとりの相手に対して、はたしてどのような言葉をかけ、どのような心で接しているだろうか。この世を疑心暗鬼に満ちた殺伐とした世界にするのも、愛と思いやりに満ちた温かい世界にする

のも、われわれの心次第であることを忘れてはならない。われわれの心が世界をつくるのである。

## 講 話

## ロサンゼルス教会

### 私の車が消えた

ロサンゼルス教会 岡野 尚也

今日は、私が現在、運転させていただいている

車、RAV4 を通して学ばせていただいたことをお話させていただきます。

妻の裕子がまだ七海を妊娠している頃でした。会員さんと教会の駐車場で話をしている時、その会員さんが運転しているトヨタのハイランダーを指して、「2 人目ができたらこういう大きい 3 列シートの車が欲しくなるよ」と言いました。

当時は「RAV4 で十分ですよ」と言いましたが、子どもが大きくなってきた今は、会員さんの言葉は正しかったと思います。サクラメントなどに泊まりで出かけるときなどは荷物が多く RAV4 には収まりません。

そういうときは教会のシェナを運転させていただいて、非常にありがたないな…と感じておりますが、そういうこともあり、以前、ルディさんに「私もハイランダーみたいな車がほしいな」と言ったことをよく覚えています。

そんなある日の朝、教会に行くために私たちが

住んでいたアパートの地下の駐車場に行った時、思わず「えっ」と、驚きました。前日に停めておいた場所に車がないのです。慌てて記憶を思い返しても、そこに停めたことは間違いなく、私の RAV4 はどこかへ消えてしまいました。

真っ先に盗まれたと疑いましたがどうすれば良いかわからず、ルディさんに電話をすると、警察に電話をするよう言われました。

こういう時に英語が堪能ではないため少し不安になるのですが、意を決して警察に電話をし、車がなくなったことを伝えました。「車のナンバーは？」と警察の方が聞いてきました。車のナンバーを暗記していない私は、「I don't know」と言いました。すると「What does it mean you don't know?」と言われ、最終的には、「車のナンバーがわかったらもう 1 度かけ直してこい」と言われて電話を切られてしまいました。私では事態の收拾が難しいと判断し、ルディさんに再度電話し、助けをお願いしました。

ルディさんが来るまでの間、駐車場には教会のプリウスもありましたので、プリウスでひとまず教会に向かい、RAV 4のピンクスリップなど必要情報をコピーし待っていました。ルディさんが来ると、ルディさんと一緒に私のアパートに向かい、近くの警察署に盗難車のレポートに行きました。

そこで、警察の方に言われたのは、私の車は盗まれたのではなく違反車として「Tow」（撤去）されたということでした。警察の担当者は車が保管されている場所と管理会社の電話番号を教えてくださいました。私はその時点では本当に「RAV 4が無事でよかった」と心から安心しました。そして、もらった番号に電話をし、ルディさんと一緒に引き取りに向かいしました。

## 管

理会社にて撤去費用と一泊の駐車代金計\$220を支払い、車を受け取りました。その時は、「盗まれたかもしれない」という最悪のケースを想定していたので、戻ってきてよかったという気持ちでした。

ところが、戻ってきた車をよく見ると、ワイパーに紙が挟まっていました。それは「駐車違反」の切符で\$58を支払いなさい…というものでした。

つまり、私の住んでいるアパートの地下の駐車場に車を止めておいたら、撤去されて、「違反切符」をもらい、合計\$278を支払ったということでした。

この時点で頭はだんだんと冷静になり、車が戻ってきたという喜びが薄れて、「なんで、アパートの駐車場に止めておいたのに Tow されて駐車違反でお金を払わなくてはいけないんだ」という怒りに変わってしまいました。

では、なぜ私の車がアパートの駐車場に止めておいたのに撤去されて駐車違反の切符をきられたか…ということを説明いたします。

実は、私の車が Tow されたのは早朝なのですが、その前日は駐車場の水洗浄が実施されていました。この水洗浄は駐車場を3つに分け、3つのうちの該当する1つのエリアの車は予定されている洗浄日には駐車することができません。私が帰宅したときにはまだ洗浄中だったため、残された2つのエリアのゲストパーキングに駐車をしました。

本当は洗浄が終わった後に本来の駐車スペースに戻さなくてはならなかったのですが、私の怠慢により、移動せずにそのままにしまいました。

後でわかったことですが、この「ゲストパーキング」は基本的に日をまたいで利用することはできず、日をまたぐ際は許可証をもらわなくてはなりません。その

ことを知らずに私は日をまたいで駐車してしまったため、駐車違反となったのでした。

これらのことを振り返ってみたときに私にも反省する点が多いことに気づかされました。

そもそも私はRAV 4を運転させてもらえることに対する感謝が足りていませんでした。

冒頭で「私もハイランダーみたいな車がほしいな」とルディさんに話したと言いましたが、最初にルディさんと警察に盗難の届けを出しにいったときに、ルディさんがからかいながら「これでハイランダーが買えるかもね」と私に言いました。

このときにルディさんは既に私がRAV 4を運転させてもらえることの感謝が足りていないことに気づいていたのだと思います。ルディさんからそのことを言われて私はハッとしました。

会員さんがよく私に岸田英山先生や清田先生がサンフランシスコの教会で解脱の布教をしていた時、ウイナー1本とご飯、そして少しの漬物を心からありがたいていただいていたという話を思い出し、それに比べて私は本当に未熟者だな…と痛感いたしました。

最初は、自分の住んでいるアパートの駐車場に止めておきながら違反で撤去されるのは理不尽な気もしましたが、知らなかったとはいえ、ルール違反をしたのは私です。これもすべて私の感謝不足とわがまま、つまり自我充実の心が作り出した結果だと受け取りました。すべては自業自得…。

人々は何か不幸が起こると、「神様が罰を与えた」と考えがちですが、そうではなく、自分自身が神様、大自然の法則から離れているから、このトラブルを招いたと捉えるところに解脱の教えがあるのだと思います。

## さ

さらに以前も車で人にぶつけてしまった経験もありますし、交通に関係する出来事は感謝不足だという話も聞いたことがあります。今回の出来事をきちんと反省して、ないものを求めるのではなく、今あるものに感謝をすること、その基本を忘れずに身を引きしめて頑張っていきたいと思います。





The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Jenna Sanchez** of the L.A. Church. Jenna is the mother of 19-year-old son, **Joshua**, and works as a paralegal and staff supervisor at a personal injury law firm. A huge L.A. Dodgers fan, she enjoys spending baseball season at Dodger Stadium with her dad and son.

Jenna is the granddaughter of late church members, **Joe and Adeline Sanchez**, and daughter of **Tony Sanchez**. She was especially close with her aunt, **Linda Sanchez**, who died last year. “Although I didn’t attend church, Gedatsu has always been a part of my life,” says Jenna. “Auntie Linda instilled in us an appreciation for all parts of life. She told us to take everything as a learning experience, to have patience and be kind to all.”

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*(Grace of Being “Lucky” – continued from page 7)*

Lucky? I believe not.

I know I made God laugh by the plans that I had. Each day I pray to God thanking Him for bringing us to Oregon. Each day, I ask for forgiveness for allowing this cancer to invade the body that was given by God. I know God did not give my wife cancer, but I do ask why He would permit it.

Do I thank God for this cancer? No. I haven’t gotten to that point yet. But I do thank God for giving us the strength to fight it.

After more than 70 years of Gedatsu study – reverence to and worship of God, respect towards our ancestors and practice of absolute gratitude – and I still a lot to learn. The more I see and read, the more I see the need of a stronger belief and appreciation of God.

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I thank God for life, for my wife and family. I thank God for giving the intellect to Gedatsu Kongo. I thank Gedatsu Kongo for the teaching. And I thank my parents for finding Gedatsu.



**When Hisato and Lori said good-bye to their fellow L.A. Church members in 2016, little did they know that they were embarking on a journey – not only in miles, but one that would deepen their belief in God and their Gedatsu faith.**

