

GEDATSU COMPANION

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Gedatsu Kongo's Thought for the Month

"Pass on your Gedatsu faith to your children. This is the path for your descendants' ever-lasting happiness."

What is our purpose in studying Gedatsu? Each of us may have a different reason to study Gedatsu: to heal an illness, to resolve a difficult situation, to attain happiness, to rise above poverty, etc.

No matter what our purpose may be, we are truly fortunate to have an opportunity to study Gedatsu. By studying and practicing Gedatsu, we will surely be able to attain happiness. But if we are content to achieve only our *own* happiness through our Gedatsu study, we miss something important.

Gedatsu is not only for our own happiness, but also for our descendants' ever-lasting happiness.

Even if we have no children, we should share Gedatsu with our friends, neighbors, and others so that we can enjoy happy lives together with many people. This should be the first step toward world peace.

NOVEMBER 2022

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	6	10:00 am	Virtual – "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Tue	8	7:00 pm	Regional Board Meeting via Google Meet
Sun	13	10:00 am	Appreciation Service / Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service
Thu-Fri	24 – 25		Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sun	27	10:00 am	Appreciation / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday 7-5-3 Children's Celebration TBD

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	6		No Service
Sun	13	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Thu	17	5:00 pm	Regional Board Meeting via Zoom
Sun	20	10:00 am	Appreciation Service 7-5-3 Children's Celebration and Luncheon
Thu-Fri	24 – 25		Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sat	26	11:00 am	Steering Team Meeting via Zoom

DECEMBER 2022

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4	10:00 am	Virtual – "Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	11	10:00 am	Appreciation Service / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service / Church Clean-up
Tue	13	7:00 pm	Regional Board Meeting via Google Meet
Sat-Sat	24-31		Church Closed for Holidays

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun	4		No Service
Sun	11	10:00 am	"Never Forgotten" Memorial Service
Sun	18	10:00 am	Appreciation Service / Holiday Program and Luncheon
Thu	22	5:00 pm	Regional Board Meeting via Zoom
Sat-Sat	24-31		Church Closed for Holidays



November “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 YouTube on Sunday, November 6, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **George Akiyoshi, Henry Calderon, Harold Horner, Maio Kino, Kaoru Ide Kotabe, Toshiko Kusahara, Hirohide Obu, Tracy T. Takahashi, Dorothy Tomita, Yasuno Niguma Tsuboi, and Sho Akira Wakabayashi.**

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on **Sunday, November 13, at 10 a.m.**, honoring the souls of **Ibo Roque Chaves, George Imuta, Ikuko Inoue, Seiji Inoue, Fumio Ishida, Hitoshi Ishida, Seitaro Kawamura, Fude Kikuta, Masaji George Kikuta, Ken Kimura, Tomio Kubo, Patsy M. Matsumoto, Robert Miyamoto, George Joroshi Miyasako, Masao Roy Mizokami, Emiko Okimura, Manabu Okimura, Nami Sakuma, John Nobuyuki Tanji, Dorothy Kiyoko Tomita, and Henry Urada.**

Renew Your Church Membership for 2023

Annual Membership: Renewable annually

Individual \$45

Family \$70

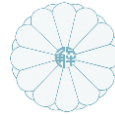
Lifetime Membership: Pay your membership dues just once, instead of paying annually

Individual \$450

Family \$600

Pay Online or by Mail

- To pay online – by credit card or ACH/bank payment – go to the Membership page on the church website at www.gedatsu-usa.
- Or mail your check – made payable to Gedatsu Church USA – to your nearest church branch.



Donate to the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund

Membership dues and donations help to ensure the day-to-day operations of our church. Donors to the Gedatsu Kongo Appreciation Fund give the church an additional boost – providing sustaining dollars that help us achieve our longer-range plans for growth and development.

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. Complete the application form that is available at your local church office.



Children Ages 7, 5 and 3 Years to be Celebrated

This month, Gedatsu members in Los Angeles and Sacramento will observe the *Shichi-Go-San* Festival, the traditional Japanese celebration for the well-being and healthy futures of children ages seven, five and three. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces/nephews of those ages, complete the application form available from your local church office to honor the children.

The 7-5-3 Celebration will be held on the following dates:

Los Angeles – Sunday, November 20*

Sacramento – Sunday, November 27 TBD

* For the L.A. Church celebration, children will receive the traditional *chitose ame* candy, protective amulet, and gift card from the Sunday School. Lunch will be served. A donation of \$25 is appreciated.

Renew Your Holy Paper Plaques

The new year is the time to renew your holy paper plaques for placement throughout the home for the protection of our dwellings and happiness of its inhabitants. See your local church branch for details on types of plaques and prices.



Selected Quotes of Master Gedatsu Kongo - #18

Selected and translated by **Rev. Hisakazu Taki** from
“The Teachings of Master Gedatsu Kongo”

- ☼ Before talking about tomorrow, look at yourself in the present moment. Live fully in the present.
- ☼ Don't complain. Be neither resentful nor jealous. You have no time to waste your precious life.
- ☼ Nothing is meaningless in our life.
- ☼ Gedatsu is the epitome of the universe.
- ☼ Never forget about ancestors for a moment. Our present existence is totally due to the great blessing from our ancestors. Preserving the legacy of our precious ancestors should be our prime responsibility.
- ☼ Gedatsu is to fulfill our daily duties.
- ☼ No matter how negative our lives may have been until today, we can turn over a new leaf today and mark the first step of our new life with appreciation and gratitude.
- ☼ Gedatsu is not an empty boast. Gedatsu is to make the best of everything and live fully each day.
- ☼ It is not possible to build a strong nation in one generation. A nation is developed over extended generations of ancestors.
- ☼ Our ancestors have endured hardships to feed their children and descendants. Therefore, if we live idly in wealth, we are spitting in our ancestors' faces.
- ☼ It is our duty to pay respect to our ancestors and remember them.
- ☼ Every day is a brand-new day. Gedatsu is to start afresh each day.
- ☼ Plants grow toward the sun. There is no place for negativity in Gedatsu. Moaning and sighing in complaint are the result of the lack of appreciation.
- ☼ Before praying for divine help, we should pray to our innermost self.
- ☼ Live with a wide perspective.
- ☼ Don't live defensively. Rather, create a new life each day.



Gedatsu Q&A - Part 29
By Rev. Hisakazu Taki

Q *I live an ordinary life and have no specific problems. Still, I don't really feel happy. What is happiness?*

A You may find the answer to your question in the following story.

A wealthy shopkeeper's son came to his father and asked when he could take over the business. His father said, "Leave. Return after you are wise. Then I will give you the business."

The young man set out to gain wisdom. He visited the house of a great philosopher and writer. He spent years studying Socrates, Galileo, and Plato. He learned poetry, literature, and art until finally, certain he had gained wisdom, he went back to his father.

"Father," the young man exclaimed, "I have returned very wise. I know all about the ways of the world."

"I am very proud of you, my boy," the father replied. "However, you are far from wise. You have seen, but still, you have no vision."

The son cried in desperation, "Father, then tell me, how will I know when I have acquired wisdom?"

The father told him, "When you have learned the meaning of happiness, then you will be wise."

The young man set out to find the meaning of happiness. For years he traveled. He sought wisdom in books, gurus, and classes, until one day without a penny left, he found himself begging for bread on the street and no closer to his goal than the day he left home.

Hungry and desperate, he hit his knees and prayed, "Master, please tell me, what is the meaning of happiness?"



The boy was shocked when there was a reply, "Tomorrow, I want you to put an egg in your pocket and make sure it does not break."

The next day the young man did just as he was told. All day long, wherever he went, he concentrated on not breaking the egg. At day's end, the boy hit his knees again and asked, "Master, I have done as you have asked. Now please tell me, what is the meaning of happiness?"

The reply was, "Did you notice the sun rise? Did you see the birds that hatched in the rosebush near your dwelling place? Did you hear the beautiful music coming from the church? Did you see the light coming from the stars and the moon as you walked home?"

The young man was embarrassed and confessed, "Master, I saw none of this. I was too busy making sure I did not break the egg."

Again, he was answered, "I suggest tomorrow you pay more attention to the beauty of the world around you and learn more about the works of the one you seek for answers."

(Continued on page 5)

(Gedatsu Q&A – Continued from page 4)

The next day he saw flowers, trees, mountains, streams, oceans, and animals playing. He heard the joyous cry of children, the church bells, and birds singing.

That night, he hit his knees and spoke, “Master, what a wonderful day. Your works are truly awesome and amazing.”

The Master replied, “How is the egg I asked you to keep?”

The boy looked in his pocket and saw that the egg was destroyed.



He returned to his father that same day and said joyously, “Father, the secret of happiness is to see all of the marvels of the world, but never to forget about your egg.”

We may learn two lessons from this story. One is the importance of appreciation. No matter what difficulties we may have in life, we are already blessed with many wonderful things. We all have life, which is the most precious gift from the Universe. When we really appreciate our life, we will be grateful for the blessings from everyone and everything around us. This sense of gratitude will make us feel happy.

The second point we may learn from the story is the importance of taking care of the egg. Sometimes, when we have difficulties or sorrowful events in life, we tend to be preoccupied with negative feelings and forget to perform our duties. But this attitude will not lead to success in life.

No matter what difficulties we may have, we should try our best to fulfill our duties. We will then attain peace and happiness. This is because everything we have now is a challenge for us to improve our life.

Appreciate our life and exert ourselves to perform our duties. This is the secret of happiness.

Q *Gedatsu always urges us to appreciate everything, but it is very hard for me to be thankful when I have a difficult time. How can I appreciate everything?*

A Please look back on the time when you were introduced to Gedatsu. You may have had a difficult problem at that time. But because of the problem, you had a chance for Gedatsu to enter into your life. If you had no problem, you may not have encountered Gedatsu.

We should understand that everything that happens to us has meaning for our life. Moreover, we could say that the difficult problem was the entrance to our true happiness.

When I was young, one of my Gedatsu teachers used to tell me, “*Appreciate what you are.*”

This is a very important lesson for me. Everyone has various experiences during his/her lifetime. Sometimes we have happy events, and sometimes we suffer from hardships. It may be hard to appreciate what we are when we have a difficult time. But, if we notice that we are still alive although we suffer, we will be able to accept and appreciate what we are.

Appreciate what we are, no matter what it is, and try our best in our present situation. If we have this attitude in life, we will surely be guided to the best way in life. This is the secret of true happiness.



2023 EVENTS CALENDAR

At right is the schedule of the major church events that are planned for 2023. Please add them to your calendar.

Changes to the schedule will be announced by the church and published in the *Gedatsu Companion* and other communications.



Sun Spirit Service



Rokujizo Service



Higan Service



7-5-3 Children's Celebration

Jan 1 (Sun)
Jan 15 (Sun)
Jan 17 (Tue)
Jan 22 (Sun)

Feb 12 (Sun)
Feb 19 (Sun)
Feb 21 (Tue)

Mar 17 (Fri)
Mar 18 (Sat)
Mar 19 (Sun)
Mar 26 (Sun)

Apr 9 (Sun)

May 14 (Sun)
May 21 (Sun)
May 28 (Sun)
May 30 (Tue)

Jun 11 (Sun)
June 18 (Sun)
Jun 24-25 (Sat-Sun)

Jul 4 (Tue)
Jul 9 (Sun)
Jul 16 (Sun)
Jul 23 (Sun)
Jul 24-27 (Mon-Thu)

Aug 4-6 (Fri-Sun)
Aug 20 (Sun)

Sep 3 (Sun)

Sep 5 (Tue)
Sep 17 (Sun)
Sep 24 (Sun)

Oct 7-8 (Sat-Sun)
Oct 10 (Tue)
Oct 15 (Sun)
Oct 22 (Sun)

Nov 5 (Sun)
Nov 12 (Sun)
Nov 19 (Sun)
Nov 23-24 (Thu-Fri)
Nov 26 (Sun)

Dec 9 (Sat)
Dec 10 (Sun)
Dec 17 (Sun)
Dec 23-31 (Sat-Sat)

New Year Homage
L.A. New Year Service
Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day)
Sacramento New Year Service / Gift Exchange

Sacramento Sun Spirit Service
L.A. Sun Spirit Service
Church Closed (in lieu of Presidents' Day)

Propagation Meeting 10 a.m. (TBD)
Board of Directors Meeting 10 a.m. (TBD)
L.A. *Higan* Service
Sacramento *Higan* Service

Spring Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.

Sacramento Mother's Day Service
L.A. Mother's Day Service
Sacramento plaque burning (*Joen-no-gi*)
Church Closed (in lieu of Memorial Day)

Sac'to Mother Kiyota Memorial / Father's Day Service
L.A. Father's Day Service
Rokujizo Bazaar Sacramento - Canceled

Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sacramento *Obon* Service
L.A. *Obon* Service / Graduates Honored
Appreciation Service / Graduates Honored
Youth Camp – Sacramento (TBD)

Lake Tahoe *Benzaiten* Service (TBD)
L.A. *Benzaiten* Service

Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.

Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
L.A. *Higan* Service
Sacramento *Higan* Service

L.A. Autumn Moon Festival (TBD)
Church Closed (in lieu of Indigenous Peoples Day)
L.A. *Ujigami* Service
Sacramento All Souls Service

L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Service
Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Service
L.A. 7-5-3 Children's Celebration
Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday / 7-5-3 Celebration

L.A. Church Clean-up
Sac'to Last Service / Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
L.A. Last Service / Christmas Program
Church Closed

SEPTEMBER 2022 OFFERINGS

Northern California Total: \$12,080

General Donations: J. Tanaka, A. Nishio, Anonymous, B. Ito, M/M C. Tanaka, M/M D. Ide, M/M D. Tsuboi, D. Letoto, D./E. Onodera, M/M Ho. Tsujimura, J. Detwiler/J. Sebe, J. Scott, M/M J. Horner, K. Kuritani, K. Tateishi, M. Fukushima, R. Ide, R. Nakatani, S. Tanaka, S. McSwain, S. Taketa, M/M S. Shaklan, Y. Hirai

Special Acknowledgments

Fall Festival	M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M A. Akashi, M/M N. Okano, M/M C. Morioka, V. Matsuura,
Appreciation:	M/M D. Ide, A. Tsujimura, M/M K. Kuritani, M/M D. Tsuboi, J. Tanaka, M/M P. Reid,
	T./I. Hiram, K. Fujii, Y./C. Oishi, T. Ishida, T. Murakami, M/M N. Chodor, M/M M. Ishida,
	M/M S. Sekikawa, M/M K. Chinen, P./D. Tateishi, T. Okimura, J. Detwiler/J. Sebe,
	M/M R. Ito, T. Kawamura (\$500), M/M S. Mukai (\$500), J. Ito (\$1,000), M/M C. Tanaka (\$3,000)
M/M N. Chodor	Appreciation for Memorial Tower dedication for Aaron Hitoshi Chodor
M/M D. Ide	Appreciation for Higan service
J. Tomita	Appreciation for house remodel
J. Tomita	Appreciation for office remodel
S. Taketa	Appreciation for Mark Mullins enshrinement
Kapulli Telpochkalli	Donation for use of Goreichi grounds (\$500)
M/M K. Kuritani	Enshrinement of Edward Kuritani
M/M D. Tsuboi	Appreciation and gratitude
M/M C. Tanaka	In memory of Suzie Tateishi (\$500)
J. Mah	In memory of Tomoki and Margaret Oyanagi (\$500)
M/M S. Sekikawa	Appreciation for Higan service
T./J. Kawamura	In memory of Louis Ito
A. Sebe	In memory of Louis Ito

Southern California Total: \$5,620

General: M/M F. Barthel, Y. Elvin, K. Fujii, M/M B. Hamamoto, M/M T. Hiram, H. Inouye, M/M M. Ishida, T. Ishida, J. Ito, J. Kaku, S. Kaku, K. Kuritani, M/M K. Kuritani, C. Marx, M/M T. Matsumoto, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M S. Mukai, T. Murakami, M/M L. Muronaka, P. Muronaka, M. Nakamura, Y. Oishi, M. Okada, M/M N. Okano, S. Okimura, T. Okimura, M/M A. Shiroishi, De. Shiroishi, Do. Shiroishi, N. Takara, M/M S. Tashiro (\$500), A. Tsujimura, M/M H. Tsujimura, C. Uchida, T. Yamada

Special Acknowledgments

A./R. Tsujimura	In memory of Louis Ito
De. Shiroishi	Fall Festival
D. Mukai	In memory of Misako Kabata
Do. Shiroishi	Fall Festival
J. Shiroishi	In memory of Linda Sanchez and Setsu Shiroishi
H./C. Tsujimura	Marriage of grandson Mason Morioka
V./M. Mizokami	In memory of Louis Ito
J. Kaku	In memory of Louis Ito

Online Donations: Total: \$574

General: S. Matsumoto, S. Shiroishi, H. Tsujimura, J. Reid, G. Hass

Special Acknowledgments

A. Kishida	Fall Festival
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7850 Hill Drive
Rosemead, CA 91770

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
ONTARIO, CA
PERMIT NO. 574



The *Gedatsu Companion* is published monthly for members like **Uzuko Shiroishi** of the L.A. Gedatsu Church. Uzuko and her husband, **Allen**, reside in Rosemead and are the parents of **Patrick** and **Andrew**, who were raised attending the L.A. Gedatsu Sunday School.

Uzuko has been an elementary school T.A. in Special Education for 23 years and a Japanese-language-school teacher for 25 years. She enjoys cooking, gardening, reading, sewing and taking care of her three dogs and a cat. Her work with children and enjoying her hobbies, she feels, have kept her active and healthy.

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Uzuko Shiroishi, **Deacon June Tanaka**

Lots of Fun for Young and Old



During the September *Ohigan* Appreciation Program, the L.A. Church honored grandparents and seniors, who tried their luck, and were awarded prizes, on the “Wheel of Fortune” game. Everyone enjoyed the musical program and the taco-catered lunch of Mexican specialties. The Mexican theme carried over to the pinata party for Sunday School kids. The activity-filled program is part of the church’s dynamic propagation efforts to attract new members – especially young families – to the church.