

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Tenrikyo Scriptures Study Seminar

The two-day Tenrikyo Scriptures Study Seminar was successfully held at the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America on August 30th and 31st. 62 participants studied the Ofudesaki, Mikagura-Uta, and Osashizu with the instruction of Dr. Ikuo Higashibaba and Rev. Takahiko Hayashi.

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org

September 2025

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- The Season -

At the end of last month, we held a Scripture Study Seminar and were able to conclude it successfully. I extend my deepest gratitude to both Dr. Ikuo Higashibaba of Tenri University and Rev. Takahiko Hayashi, the head minister of America West Church, who served as the lecturers, and to all those who contributed to the preparations and hinokishin.

September is the Tenrikyo “All Church Missionary Promotion Month.” I would be delighted if church ministers as well as all followers would consciously spend each day mindful of doing missionary and salvation work and striving to spread even a bit of the teachings.

Furthermore, the Autumn Grand Service will be held at Church Headquarters on the 26th of next month. The Tenrikyo Young Men’s Association Convention will be held the day before, on the 25th. I sincerely hope that as many people as possible will return to Jiba to attend the Autumn Grand Service and the Young Men’s Association Convention.

Now, we sometimes hear about the Anniversary of Oyasama referred to as the “season of salvation” or the “season of spiritual growth.” I believe the “season” used here means “period.”

However, wanting to understand the religious

meaning more clearly and precisely, I looked into the word “season.”

Before proceeding, I should apologize in advance to the translator, as I suspect translating this opening statement will prove difficult. My apologies.

The term “旬” (*shun*), season, does not appear in the Ofudesaki. While the character arrangement “しゆん” (*shun*) appears in verse 11:60, this is part of the phrase “たのしゆんでみよ” (*tanoshun de miyo*), meaning “enjoy and see,” and thus has no relation to “旬”.

Furthermore, neither “旬” nor “しゆん” appears in the Mikagura-uta, The Songs for the Service.

The term “旬” is used in the *Divine Direction*. Therefore, to understand how “旬” is used in the *Divine Direction*, I searched the *Divine Direction* index for entries containing the character “旬”.

There are a total of 212 entries containing the character “旬” in the *Divine Direction*. Within the *Divine Direction* index, there are a

(continued on page 18)

Coming Up

* Interpreter’s Workshop

@ Mission HQ 10/18 @ 1PM

* Annual Yoboku Gathering

@ Mission HQ 11/15 @ 2PM

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August Monthly Service Prayer

August 17, 2025

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, who is enshrined in this altar, I, Hiroshi Fukaya, Bishop of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Dear God the Parent, desiring our Joyous Life, You provide Your constant and unchanging protection day and night. Due to this, we are able to live each day safely and peacefully and we are deeply grateful. Expressing our gratitude each morning and night, we joyously strive to follow the path of single-heartedly helping others be saved in our respective roles and responsibilities.

Today, we are gathered to conduct our August Monthly Service. From now, we will connect our minds to Jiba, offer our sincerity with various offerings, and we service performers shall perform the seated service and the Teodori service dance with united minds.

Looking forward to today, Yoboku, followers, and many members of our Boys and Girls Association have gathered here to express our gratitude for Your daily blessings. Asking for Your continued protection, we shall sing the service songs in high spirits. In witnessing this, we ask that You, God, become spirited as well.

We are also truly thankful that yesterday, we were able to smoothly complete our Boys and Girls Association service performance convention. We humbly ask for Your continued guidance so that these future successors of the path, may grow into exemplary Yoboku who do salvation work.

Furthermore, on August 30 and 31, we are scheduled to hold a doctrinal study seminar. We pray that this seminar becomes nourishment for the spiritual growth of all participants and that it may proceed smoothly.

Next month is the “Missionary Work Month for All Churches.” In the final year of our pre-anniversary activities, we pray that many Yoboku and followers spread the fragrance of the teachings and expand the path within their communities.

In this remaining period leading to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, we pledge to unite our hearts and devote ourselves in realizing the Joyous Life world. We will fulfill our respective roles through spreading the teachings and salvation work, striving to embody spiritual growth that is worthy of this seasonable time.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our sincerity and grant us Your free and unlimited blessings, guide and nurture us in our shortcomings, and lead us along the path so that, even one day sooner, all people in the world may live in accordance with Your teachings. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

August Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Hamilton Niwa

~You Are the Difference~

Good afternoon. I hope you are all well. We have just completed the performance of the August monthly service of the Mission Headquarters in America. I always enjoy it when we perform it in unison. We definitely generate a great synergy! Until Oyasama took Her last breath upon this earth, She greatly urged the performance of the Service. Now, we can perform it without any threat of incarceration. How fortunate we are!

I have been asked to deliver the sermon this month and I accepted with great honor, so I ask for your attention for a short while.

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge Mr. Grant Inouye for always recording the sermons and other important events that we have here at the Mission Headquarters in America. We are very fortunate to have him here with us doing all of this hinokishin. Not only does he do the recordings, but then he makes any necessary edits to the video and audio. Thank you so much Grant.

Last month, Rev. Kay Morishita delivered an amazing sermon. I have been passed the baton for this month. I hope that I can come even somewhat close to what Rev. Kay delivered. Once, Rev. Kay told me that before her husband Jiro passed, he told her to look for him in

butterflies. I always looked up to him and that statement landed in my heart. Fast forward to the day that I was to meet my future father-in-law for the first time. I was in Tenri after finishing up as an instructor for Shuyoka, the spiritual development program. That morning, I was already scheduled to give a talk at my friend's church in Kyoto. Initially, I was very excited to go and give the talk, but once I met my soon-to-be wife and was to meet her father that day, I was not as excited to go. All I wanted to do was focus on meeting my father-in-law. However, I took the train to Kyoto and my friend met me at the station and took me to his church. As I got out of the car and started walking towards the gate, there was a bush to the left and there were many blue butterflies flying about. I knew that was Jiro telling me that everything was going to be fine. The talk went well, we had lunch and my friend dropped me off back at the train station to go back to Tenri. I was back in the mode of just focusing on my meeting with my father-in-law. I was a bit excited, but also anxious.

When I arrived at Tenri station, I went down to the underground bicycle parking lot to pick up my bike. This is a completely concrete structure without any vegetation whatsoever. As I was pushing my bike up the ramp, a blue butterfly flew up from behind me, which was the inside of the parking lot, and started flying next to me. The butterfly then landed on my handlebars as I pushed the bike up the ramp. It stayed there for



Rev. Hamilton Niwa, head minister of
Hope of the Pacific Church (SF)

a while before it flew off. I knew it was further reassurance from Jiro that everything was going to be fine. I hope this sermon can be the blue butterfly for you who may be going through something a bit anxious at this time in your life.

So, what are we doing here? We are human beings living on this earth. Oyasama taught us that the purpose of our life is to live a joyous life. This is why in our faith, we are always talking about moving towards the Joyous Life World. We are all brothers and sisters, sons and daughters of God the Parent.

Both my son and daughter play basketball. My daughter was playing on a particular club team which has tournaments regularly. A little after one of the games got underway, my daughter Kailani, who had been sitting on the bench, suddenly came running over to us. The game had started, but she had not played at all yet. She was covered in sweat and had a very distressed look in her eyes. She said that she was not feeling well, and I asked her what does

not feel well. She said that she did not know, but she just wanted to go to the car. She was almost in a panic and she had fear in her eyes. My wife took her to the car and I went to her team's bench to gather her stuff. She was having a full-on anxiety attack. She had been thinking about what would happen if she did something wrong. One of her coaches was a yeller and not in a good way. She would yell at the kids when they made a mistake, get quite upset and even berate them. Kailani was afraid of making a mistake because the coach would yell at her. When I realized what had been transpiring in her mind, I felt really bad. I am her father and I am supposed to protect her, but instead, I had placed her in a situation that was causing mental anguish. I had failed my little princess. That was her last game with the team. In fact, we did not have her go back to any practices either. Initially, she wanted to play on that team because she had a friend there. She just wanted to have fun and learn a bit more basketball along the way. Kailani was not having any fun at all. The coach was attempting to teach her and the other girls how to play basketball, but did it in such a way that was very negative. Kailani was more worried about making a mistake and thus causing her to be anxious and not play well at all when she actually got into the game. Although I do not agree with the manner in which the coach went about her business, I am not trying to vilify her. There was a large turnover in personnel for these girls' teams, and now I knew why. However, there was always a group of girls who stayed and still played well. For them, they did not take the actions of the coach so negatively.

Some probably did not let it bother them at all. There was a different conversation going on in their minds than that of my daughter's. What happens on the outside matters, but what matters even more is what you say on the inside. God the Parent gave us free use of our minds to use as we wish. There are two kinds of people in this world. There are those who believe they can and those who believe that they cannot. Here's the thing, they are both right.

The conversation that goes on in our mind is the only thing that matters in terms of our experience of life. When people talk about reality, it's only about their interpretation of how things are. One person may say, "There is always so much work to do, I hate it." Another who may work with that same person may say, "There is always so much work to do, I love it because they will always need me!" Maybe the second person had an experience of getting fired and maybe even more than once. We all have life experiences. That's called our past. Most of us are not living our now, present life. We are living in the past. The thing is, we are living from our negative past. Instead of creating our life into the future that we want, we live with the negative past as a ball and chain strapped to our ankles. We get emotionally hurt, so in order to not experience that again, we create ways of being that supposedly protect us from that past experience.

For example, we get our heart broken by someone as a teenager and because that hurts so much, we put up a figurative wall around our heart. We do not allow people to get too close to us so we cannot get hurt again. The irony is



that love is so important to us, which is why it hurt so much in the first place. Yet it gets worse because we are the kind of person that really wants love, but since we chose to put a wall up around our heart, we do not let people in fully. If you do not let others in fully, how can you get true and deep love? You cannot because you are not letting people in completely. How do you think the other person feels? Again, that's all the past, but you are putting your past into the present and having it get in the way of what you truly want in your life! If you keep doing this, the future will only be more of the past.

If you want change, YOU have to change. There is no way around it. We often get upset with people in our lives because we believe that they should have done this or that or have done things this way or that way. You want them to change, then there would not be any problems. Well, the biggest mistake about that is that you think that you should not have problems in your life. The reality is that the problems that come

about in your life are opportunities for you to grow. They come into your life only when YOU are ready for them. Life does not happen to you, it happens for you. You are the only one who can define anything in your life. It's when you can appreciate all that comes about in your life whether most may view them as good or bad that you start to live life joyously. That's called "tanno." Tanno is the joyous acceptance of the things in your life. When you can look at the challenges that come about in your life as great opportunities, then your mind becomes more spirited. Oyasama taught us,

Buds sprout from knots.

The Shinbashira writes in Instruction Four, She(Oyasama) encouraged those around Her by saying that whatever happens is God's arrangement for guiding people to spiritual maturity.

I would like to share a little story. There was a mother who was noticing that her three-year-old son was scratching his head from time to time as he was playing with his toys. He kept scratching enough that she became curious. She had him come to her and she started checking his scalp. To her horror, she could not see his scalp at all because his head was completely covered in eggs. It was as if he were wearing a helmet. To make things worse, while she was going through his hair, one of the bugs actually crawled out of his hair and onto his forehead. She screamed!

How many of you could actually feel that too? How many of your heads got itchy? How many of you got goosebumps? It does not matter if this story is real or not, but thinking about it actually has your body produce the feelings in your body. This is how powerful your mind is! Forget about the past that makes you feel bad and instead live the future of how you actually want your life to be.

Are you happy? If not, why? You have a mind that can think about anything you want. Think thoughts that make you happy. Appreciate all that happens in your life as an opportunity that God the Parent and Oyasama have given you. If you are not happy, do something about it!

There is a chiropractor acquaintance I know who lives in Australia. He also does coaching and keynote speeches. He is someone who chooses to do something about it. He had some business cards made which simply read, "Expect a miracle!" He did not have his contact information or anything like that on there. He would give these cards away to any and everyone. One time, he was traveling back to his country from here in the United States. After he had checked in, he went to one of the restaurants in the airport. There was only one other customer there sitting at a table. The chiropractor went to the counter to order his food. Like he does quite often, he handed his card to the woman taking his order. She got a bit excited and started to call a number of her colleagues to come out front from the back of the kitchen. They looked at the card and got excited. The chiropractor proceeded to give

cards to every worker. They all started smiling and laughing and were having a good time.

The other customer observed all of this and was curious about what was going on. He asked the chiropractor what was going on and was promptly given a card. They sat together and spent some time talking and eating before going their respective ways to their gates. A few weeks later, the chiropractor received an email from the man in the restaurant. They had exchanged information along with the “Expect a Miracle” card. The man proceeded to write:

That night when we met at the airport, you saved my life. See, my wife had died over a year ago and no matter what I did, I was miserable. However, when I saw what that one card did for all of the workers and how excited they got, I just had to see what you were about. You gave me hope. You gave me some joy. That day, I was going back home after I had gotten all of my things in order. I was going to go home and take a gun to my head and end it all. The pain of being without my wife was too much. However, meeting you shifted something within me. The joy that you brought to those workers who were strangers was amazing. You saved my life.

The chiropractor was extremely grateful for the email, but even more so for having been able to serve a purpose for that man.

Here is a story which is not quite as dramatic, but to me quite miraculous. One night, when I was the chairman of the Young Men’s Association here in the US and Canada, I was talking to a young man who actually lives in the San Mateo area, near San Francisco. Our association used to have a little barbecue and

gathering on the Saturday nights before the Mission HQ monthly services right across the street at the East Hall. We would do various things, but the main thing was to get together. So, as I was talking to this young man, Roger, not his real name, he introduced me to a friend of his that he had brought from San Francisco. We will call his friend Jerome. They were both about twenty years old. As Jerome and I started talking, his eyes suddenly lit up and he said, “I know you! You saved my life!”

I thought, what is he talking about? He continued, “You used to talk to me all the time in Japan Town. Thank you so much!”

Then, I recognized him. So, I spent a lot of time in the Japanese American community in San Francisco. There were many events where children would go and have a good time. Some of these events included Children’s Day, Cherry Blossom Festival, Nihonmachi Street Fair, and the like. Many times I saw Jerome there. Most of the time I would also see his mother leaving him in a particular area and giving him instructions and the like. He would often look at his mother with only a half-listening face if he would look at her at all. Most of the time, she would walk off a bit disgusted as he would not show her much respect and would seem to be mostly annoyed. He must have been eight or nine years old when I first started seeing him around the community. I guessed that his mother was a single mother and was having a tough time connecting with her son. After she would walk away, I would explain to Jerome what his mother meant by what she said. I often told him how I could tell how much she cares about him.



She always wanted him to be safe and wanted him to have a good time. He would look at me without a smile, probably thinking, “Who the heck is this guy?!” I did not even know if he was listening to me or not, but it did not matter. I made it a point to keep talking to him whenever I saw him. I would ask how he was doing and he would often not reply.

However, that one Saturday night across the street at the East Hall, he told me that he used to listen to what I say and it helped him understand his mother and her viewpoint. He told me that it saved his life and I said that’s just exaggeration, but he was extremely happy either way. Not only was he extremely happy, but I was extremely happy. Here we were, four hundred miles away from home at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters and we happened to meet again. He was now an adult. I had no idea if that little kid that I used to talk to so often ever listened to what I was saying or if he just found me annoying. However, I knew that he did not

understand his mother and how difficult it was for her, so I just kept talking to him. I knew he needed to hear it, so I just kept at it. Most of the time as I talked, he would not even look at me and still I kept talking. You never know when God the Parent and Oyasama will put people in front of you, so that They, God the Parent and Oyasama, can work through you. I was ecstatic! I was extremely thankful that They had used me as Their vessel.

This is the middle of August in 2025. There is barely half a year left before the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama. We all have tools and gifts that we can share that can be to the benefit of others. Let us be the timbers of God the Parent and Oyasama and help build this world into the Joyous Life World. The Shinbashira states in Instruction Four,

God the Parent will accept our true sincerity and provide free and unlimited workings accordingly.

Let us bring out the joy that we have inside ourselves and pass it on as a baton to those around us. Let us be the butterfly that brings reassurance to others that all is going to be well. Be the miracle that you are and share yourself with our brothers and sisters to create the Joyous Life World!

Thank you so much for your attention!



On September 1st, the annual “Tenrikyo BBQ Picnic” was held, jointly sponsored by the Sacramento and San Francisco districts. Over 50 people attended this year’s picnic, which has been continuing since 2002. Of those in attendance, many young families came with small children and enjoyed the picnic with one another. This year was especially memorable as the food brought by participants was a treat, and was particularly well-received by all.

Important Notices

Regarding Japanese Passports for the Oyasama’s 140th Anniversary Ojibagaeri

(Below is a copy of the notice from the Consulate General of Japan)

1. In order to strengthen measures against counterfeiting and alteration, we plan to start issuing “**2025 passports**” that use plastic base material for the photo page from applications accepted on **March 24, 2025**.
2. Currently, it takes about one week from application to issuance of a passport, but for applications accepted after March 24, 2025, the passport will be produced at the National Printing Bureau in Japan and shipped to our Consulate, so **it is expected to take about one month from application to issuance**.
3. We will provide more information on our website in the future, but since **it will take longer to issue a passport than it does now, please take this opportunity to check whether your current passport is still valid and consider applying for a new passport as soon as possible (passports with less than one year of validity can be applied for)**.
4. For those who live far from our Consulate and wish to apply in writing, we have previously offered a service that allows passports to be issued on the same day as application, but this service will end on March 24, 2025.
5. For this reason, **we encourage those who live far away to consider applying online**. If you apply online in good time, we can issue your passport during a consular service visit. Even if you wish to have your passport issued at the time of your visit, you will only need to visit the Consulate once to receive your passport. **For more information on online applications, please refer to the Consulate’s website.**

Please also check the Consulate General’s website for any other important information regarding stricter alien registration requirements in the United States (such as the requirement to carry your green card at all times).

1) SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SERVICE (9/21)

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Junjiro Nakatomi, Zen Yukimoto

Director: Toshikiyo Yukimoto

Attendants: Mitsuharu Ito, Kinpei Ito

Offerings Officiant: Robert Shimizu

Sermon: Tomoyoshi Tanaka (J)

2) CHURCH AFFAIRS

- Illinois Church: Church Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction (Scheduled): July 26, 2025 Successor: Hiroaki Takagaki

- Seatac Church: Church Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction (Scheduled): End of November, 2025

Prospective Successor: Teruaki Nagao

Installation Service: December 14, 2025

3) TLI OYASATO FUSEKOMI DEPARTMENT APPLICATION

- Eligibility: Must meet all of the following criteria (education, status, Japanese language ability, career path):

1. Those who completed formal education or equivalent recognized schooling for a minimum of 12 years in their home country.

2. Those who are children of overseas church head ministers or fellowship heads, or someone equivalent, and are/will be Yoboku at the time of entrance.

3. Graduates or expected graduates of this school's Japanese Language Department, or persons who possess Japanese language proficiency equivalent to N3 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test prior to enrollment.

4. Upon graduation, those who are going to engage in Tenrikyo activities in their home country in the future.

- Application Fee: Available at the TLI Office (500 yen per application form)

- Application Acceptance Period: October 1 ~ October 31, 2025

*Excluding Sundays and holidays (applications will be accepted on October 26, from the afternoon)

**Other exclusions may unexpectedly arise

4) HEAD MINISTER QUALIFICATION COURSE

Please contact the Mission HQ immediately if you are interested in attending the Head Minister Qualification Course beginning from September 27. This course does not have 5 applicants, therefore, students will be provided simultaneous interpretation and "pull-out instruction."

5) AMERICA ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, Mr. Genichiro Jason Iwahashi (Honjima GC, Marina), will be receiving the American Ichiretsukai scholarship.

6) AUTUMN MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's Mission HQ autumn memorial service was held on September 20 (Sat), from 7 PM. On this occasion, we enshrined the spirit of the late Rev. Sachiko Nakatsuchi, fifth head minister of the Central Coast Church.

7) REPORT FOR RETURNEES OF THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OYASAMA

The Mission Headquarters has created a 140th Anniversary of Oyasama



Returnees Report. If you are planning to return, please submit this form by October 1. You may also access this report via Google Form by using the following QR Code.

8) 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OYASAMA “SPECIAL EXHIBITION”

- From this fall, a 140th Anniversary of Oyasama commemorative exhibition centered around mementos related to Oyasama will be opened.

- Dates: Oct. 25 & 26, Nov. 8, 9, 15, 16, 22~26, 29, 30, Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 25 & 26

o Exhibit opens at 1PM on the 26th of each month; morning only on Oct. 25

o Dates for 2026 will be announced in the future

- Time: 10AM ~ 3 PM

- Place: South Right Wing 2 of the Oyasato-yakata building-complex

- Please refer to the Tenrikyo website (Japanese only): <https://www.tenrikyo.org/se140/>

9) JANUARY 2026 LAY MINISTER PREPARATORY COURSE / HEAD MINISTER QUALIFICATION COURSE DATE CHANGE

- Application Submission Date: January 23 & 24 (as usual)

- Dates:

Lay Minister Preparatory Course	[Normally] Jan. 27 ~ Feb. 10	[Updated] Feb. 1 ~ 15
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Head Minister Qualification Course	[Normally] Jan. 27 ~ Feb. 16	[Updated] Feb. 1 ~ 21
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10) HEAD MINSITER RECEPTION PARTY FOLLOWING THE 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OYASAMA CELEBRATION

- Eligibility: All church head ministers*, excluding directly supervised church (DSC) head ministers
*As of reception party date

- Date & Time: Jan. 28 ~ Feb. 1, 2026, from 12 PM ~ 1:30 PM *Attend once on one of the listed dates

- If you require language interpretation, plan to attend on Jan. 28

- If you do not require interpretation and are assigned a date, you may attend on a day other than Jan. 28

- Invitations are scheduled to be distributed to DSC representatives on Aug. 25

11) 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OYASAMA JR (JAPAN RAILWAY) TENRIKYO GROUP RATES

Apart from the Tenrikyo Group Pilgrimage tickets, there are new discounted tickets for groups of 8 or more, which will be available from September 1, 2025 ~ January 31, 2026. Please contact your directly supervised church or the Mission Headquarters secretaries for more information.

12) NEWLY EXPANDED AREAS FOR JR TENRIKYO GROUP PILGRIMAGE TICKETS

From September 1, 2025 ~ January 31, 2026, JR will be offering Group Pilgrimage tickets for Kyoto Station to Tenri Station, as a special promotion for the period leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama celebration. Please contact your directly supervised church or the Mission Headquarters secretaries for more information.

13) TENRI UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT JAPANESE COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

If you are interested in learning about Japan through the Tenri University International Studies Department Japanese Course (for international students), please explore the links below.

- Entrance Exam Information <https://www.tenri-u.ac.jp/ent/>
 - University Information, Application Guide <https://www.tenri-u.ac.jp/ent/request/>
 - Entrance Exam Outline for International Students in the Japanese Studies Department <Residing Outside Japan> https://www.tenri-u.ac.jp/ent/system/jp_int_etc/
 - Admissions Office: Tel +81-743-62-2164, Fax +81-743-63-736, E-mail nyushi@sta.tenri-u.ac.jp
- 14) REGARDING BESSEKI LECTURES DURING THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND APRIL, 2026

As the amount of expected Besseki Lecture attendees is anticipated to greatly increase during these months before and after the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, the days when live lectures are offered will be determined in advance. You may view this schedule by visiting the Church Headquarters homepage, as well as via the Overseas Department homepage. The QR Codes for both pages can be found below:



Church HQ Calendar



Overseas Department Calendar

15) MISSION HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL CHANGES

Mrs. Hiromi Hayashi (Myodo GC) withdrew from her role as joshiseinen on August 27, 2025. Ms. Motoko Nakata (Church HQ) arrived at the Mission Headquarters on September 2, 2025, to serve as joshiseinen.

16) 2026 MISSION HEADQUARTERS ACTIVITY SCHEDULE & BUDGET REPORT (See Attachment)

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

* We will replace a broken control panel of our sprinkler system.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

* We began the monthly service duty at the Mission Headquarters for church, fellowship, and mission center heads, from July. The duty calendar up to October is as follows
September: Junjiro Nakatomi, Koji Uesugi October: Kunihiro Fumioka, Kyoko Watanabe
November: Robert Kokuryo, Shino Hirai, Hamilton Niwa

* We will hold Corridor-Cleaning Hinokishin on October 25. For those returning to Jiba at that time, please assemble 45 minutes before the morning service (5:30AM) in the Rear East area of the South Worship Hall.

* We will hold our Yoboku Gathering in the afternoon on November 15 (Sat). We will listen to the lecture on the Ofudesaki from the Scripture Study Seminar held in August, and hold a discussion

afterwards. After evening service, we will hold a social gathering.

Registration: 1:30 PM Yoboku Gathering: Starts from 2PM (until 4:30)

In order to put together discussion groups, we will send you a Google Form beforehand, so please fill it out and submit it.

NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

* We are in the process of contacting students eligible for the preliminary session, which will be held in December. Tentative dates are December 28-30, so that students can participate in TSA as well.

* We are contacting male OS alumni to serve as counselor for this December's preliminary session and for next summer's Oyasato Seminar.

* The TSA Winter Conference will be held from December 26 (Fri) ~ 29 (Mon).

• Content: Lectures, mochi-tsuki Hinokishin, ski trip, and more.

• Application forms will be distributed soon.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

* We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight everyone's efforts and activities leading up to the 140th anniversary of Oyasama. Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity reports & pictures to us (Kawakami: kamishuyo@hotmail.com or Hayashi: takhayashi@gmail.com).

* We have created and are continuously updating the Mission HQ Homepage so that our congregation members may make use of it. Please visit our homepage, and let those around you know as well.

Also, the domain name has been changed from Tenrikyo.com to TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org .

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

* The Interpreter's Workshop will be held on October 18 (Sat), from 1-3PM, at the MP Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room.

FUTURE PATH

* We held our Scripture Study Seminar during the weekend of August 30-31, 2025, where we welcomed Dr. Ikuo Higashibaba from Tenri University and Rev. Takahiko Hayashi, Head of the America West Church, as instructors. 62 people attended.

* With cooperation from the Nurturing & Educational Development Committee and the Missionary Committee, we launched a survey on September 2 for all the church, fellowship, and mission center heads and their spouses, as well as their prospective successors (Online only). The results of this survey will help us put together more effective programs.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

* District Conventions:

- | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| • San Francisco | 9/27 (Sat) | 10:30AM | @ Taitan Church |
| • Los Angeles | 9/28 (Sun) | 10:00AM | @ Mission HQ |
| • Chicago (Change) | 10/26 (Sun) | 10:30AM | @ Midwest Church |

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

* Let's share stories about Oyasama with BGA members! Visit your churches as a family and engage in hinokishin together.

* Currently Recruiting Fife & Drum Corps Members: Fife & drum corps activities helps members learn the teaching of Unity of Mind with friends while acquiring a sense of pitch and rhythm that help with performing the service. Please join us.

* Please send an email to [moto1884@icloud.com] if there are any new BGA members, newborn or new to the North America congregation.

TYMANA

* The 99th TYMA Convention will be held in the Inner Courtyard of Church Headquarters on October 25 (Sat), from 1 PM. TYMANA is offering subsidies for any members that would like to attend. If you are interested, please email TYMANA (seinenkainorthamerica@gmail.com).

* Please send your ideas and suggestions for future activities to this email (seinenkainorthamerica@gmail.com).

NEW YORK CENTER

* September 28: Autumn Memorial Service

* October 19: Yard Sale

TENRIKYO
RELIGION OF HARMONY & ORDER

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www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

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携帯のカメラでQRコードをスキャンして、アメリカ伝道所ウェブサイトの最新情報をチェックしてください！

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tenrikyoamericacanada.org/events-calendar

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NEWSLETTERS

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SERMONS

tenrikyoamericacanada.org/sermons

OYASAMA-INSPIRED STORIES

tenrikyoamericacanada.org/serwis-inspired-by-oyasama

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarter in America successfully holds a Sacred Scripture Study Seminar in August 2025

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America held a two day Sacred Scripture Study Seminar on August 30-31, 2025 in Los Angeles. The seminar encompassed the study of the Ofudesaki, Mikagura-uta, and Osashizu. The purpose of the seminar was to (1) establish a basic understanding of the scriptures and (2) learn to apply the scriptures to guide our life decision and attitudes.

62 participants from across the United States came to attend the seminar. The seminar included a combination of lectures and discussions during the two day event. The lectures were given by Dr. Ikuo Higashibaba from Tenri University and Reverend Takahiko Hayashi, Head of the America West Church.

Due to the interest of the participants, the atmosphere of the seminar was full of enthusiasm and energy. After the completion of the seminar, a survey of the participants indicated a very high level of satisfaction with the seminar and interest to continue to study the scriptures in the future. The seminar was organized by the Tenrikyo Future Path Advisory Committee.

Sponsored by:
Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America



49th Annual Boys & Girls Assoc. Convention August 16, 2025



18 Bishop's Message

total of 182 entries using “旬”. While there are 334 instances where the character “旬” is used in the *Divine Direction*, upon investigation, several entries were found to overlap. For example, in 1888, there are two entries: “旬々道” (*shunshunmichi*) and “時々旬々道” (*tokitoki shunshunmichi*). Both appear in the Oshashizu for the night of May 8, 1888 (lunar calendar March 28), found on page 157, line 11 of the “Oshashizu Abridged Edition, Volume 1.” These two entries refer to the same passage. In other words, the difference is whether “*tokidoki shunshunmichi*” is listed as “*shunshunmichi*” or as “*tokidoki shunshunmichi*” in the index. After accounting for these overlapping entries, if I am not mistaken, the character “旬” appears a total of 316 times in the main text of the *Divine Direction* (excluding instances of “旬” in the footnotes).

Please be aware that the following will include duplicated sections as mentioned earlier.

The *Divine Direction* index contains several entries for “旬々” (*shun-shun*) [includes旬旬 (*shun-shun*)], but “*shun-shun*” appears a total of 124 times in the *Divine Direction*.

The character “旬” appears most frequently in the year 1890, with 50 instances. Next is in 1891, where it appears 45 times in the *Divine Direction*.

However, “旬” does not appear even once in the *Divine Direction* in 1905, and only appears once in 1906. In 1903, the character “旬” is used in two places, but since they are duplicates, it is effectively only one instance. In 1902, it appears only three times. Overall, the use of the character “旬” in the *Divine Direction* after 1902 has decreased.

The entry for *shun* in the Glossary of Tenrikyo Terms states:

As a Tenrikyo term, “season” is often used to mean a time in the history of Tenrikyo

when something significant arises, often as an issue to be addressed or a matter to be attended to. The term “knot” has a similar meaning.

(A Glossary of Tenrikyo Terms, p. 367)

It is stated that “season” refers to “a time in the history of Tenrikyo when something significant arises, often as an issue to be addressed or a matter to be attended to.” However, I understand “season” to mean “the prime opportunity (time) for a person to achieve spiritual growth,” and I believe we should embrace this season positively.

As I mentioned earlier, it is often used as “旬々” (*shun-shun*), and the Tenrikyo Encyclopedia has an entry for this. There, it states:

In Japanese, the word refers to the times of the year when foods such as fish, fruit, and vegetables reach their peak flavor. The word may also refer to the most appropriate time for carrying out a given activity or undertaking. It is used with a similar meaning in Tenrikyo terminology. However, Tenrikyo places great emphasis on this concept, urging followers not to miss the ‘shun’—the optimal time for each matter—and to act accordingly. When “shun” is repeated (*shun-shun*), it signifies that each time the optimal period arrives, it carries the meaning of that specific time. (Tenrikyo Encyclopedia, Third Edition, p. 442)

Its meaning is “time” or “period.”

Additionally, the encyclopedia has an entry for “時旬” (*toki shun*). It states:

Since it is seen that things have their own inherent time, this is likened to the natural seasons and called “*shun*” (旬) [season]. From the human perspective, this is also

called “*toki*” (時) [time]. “*Toki shun*” emphasizes this point. It is generally called “*shun*.”

(Tenrikyo Encyclopedia, Third Edition, p. 704)

“*Toki shun*” specifically means “the appropriate time,” and I believe it can also be understood as “a crucial time” or “a time that must not be missed.”

In other words, I think we should understand “*toki shun*” as “the time granted to us by God the Parent,” signifying “a vital period for our spiritual growth.”

Now, I'd like to highlight several divine directions that caught my attention, all containing the word “*shun*” (season).

On July 31, 1889 (July 4th of the lunar calendar), at 6:17 AM, in regards to prayer for *Honseki*'s illness, it states:

...People come and sow seeds every day. They simply sow seeds. If they pay attention to the truth of the seasonable time and sow seeds accordingly, all seeds will bear fruits. If they sow seeds after the seasonable time has passed, the seeds will be swept away and their growth will be slow and limited. This will not do. This will not do at all.

An Anthology of Osashizu Translations, Second Edition, p. 159

This means one must not miss the season for sowing seeds. It teaches that if seeds are sown when the season aligns, all will bear fruit. Therefore, one must not miss the season.

Following this, the next words continue:

Listening to the daily teachings, how many years must pass before they become

unnecessary? If the truth of a single day is settled, it becomes the truth for a lifetime. It is best to properly record it with a brush and explain each point clearly.

Regarding this quoted passage, interpreting it alongside the preceding *Divine Direction*, the *Divine Direction* we receive may sometimes be difficult to understand or grasp. Yet, since it expounds the divine truth, it is crucial to settle it in one's mind at that moment. If you can do that, the *Divine Direction* you receive will become the principle for your entire life. And it seems to be advising us that you should carefully write down the *Divine Direction* and have the person who received it explain the principles to you.

In the *Divine Direction* of July 22, 1890 (Lunar June 6), in the “Masui Isaburō Construction Inquiry,” it states:

...Even if one says, “When the season comes, I'll let it be,” one cannot let it be. No matter how much one wishes to do something, it cannot be done unless the season arrives. (Omitted) The principle of each year is called the season. The circumstances of each season, each season comes. Once the season arrives, we must act.

This *Divine Direction* teaches us that even if we desire something, it will not progress or be achieved unless the season arrives. Conversely, even if we do not desire it, when the season arrives, it is crucial for us to act upon it. The “season” may come like the seasons of spring, summer, autumn, and winter. And it is vital not to miss the season and we must act when it arrives.

(to be continued)

(translation by H. Ryono)

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TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

TENRIKYO came into existence on October 26, 1838, when God the Parent, Tenri-O-no-Mikoto, became revealed through Oyasama, Miki Nakayama, to save all humankind. God the Parent is God of Origin and God in Truth who created this world and has nurtured and protected us ever since.



God the Parent created human beings so that by seeing us lead the Joyous Life, God could share in our joy. Leading the Joyous Life is, therefore, the purpose of our existence. Since God is our Parent, we are all God's children; thus, we should realize that we are all brothers and sisters.

“With human beings : the body is a thing lent by God, a thing borrowed. The mind alone is yours.”
Osashizu : June 1, 1889

We are taught that we borrow our bodies from God the Parent and only our minds truly belong to us; further, through the proper use of our minds, we will be able to lead the Joyous Life.