

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Missionary Work Month For All Churches ~ Advancing the Path of World Salvation in Unity of Mind ~

Previously, September was designated as “the month to focus on nioigake, but from last year, in anticipation of the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, Tenrikyo followers throughout the world engaged in missionary work efforts under the new heading of “Missionary Work Month For All Churches.”

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org

October 2025

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- *The Season (2)* -

This month, the Autumn Grand Service will be held at Church Headquarters to commemorate the day of origin of the founding of the Teaching. I would like you to look back on the day of origin of the founding of our faith once again and reaffirm why and for what purpose God the Parent descended and chose Oyasama as the Shrine of God.

With renewed resolve, the “Fifth All Yoboku Action Day” is scheduled to be held in each district next month, so I would like you to participate at a venue near you and promote activities leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama.

In addition, on November 15th, we will hold our annual “Yoboku Gathering” at our mission headquarters, so we would like as many people as possible to attend. I ask for your kind attendance.

Now, I will continue where I left off in my previous article. I think this translation will be difficult, so I would like to apologize in advance to the translator.

In the “Timely Direction” of May 15, 1891 at 11:25 pm:

...If you think that spring is always spring, and that it is spring, that is utterly wrong. You do not understand because you think that flowers will bloom at any time. You do not know what kind of wind blows nor from where, what kind of wind you will face, what

kind of wind blows and what kind of rain falls...

The season of flowers blooming, flowers will not bloom if it is not the season. The wind blows, we wait for the rain and the weather, but no one is waiting for the wind if it is a strong wind. I have properly explained because there are dangerous paths...

*

We think that flowers bloom if “spring” comes, but we are told that this is not the case. It may not bloom due to the influence of rain or wind blowing from somewhere. It does not mean that flowers bloom just because the “season” has arrived. Proper preparation is needed.

“Wind” and “rain” should be understood as “dangerous roads.” It is said that such “dangerous roads” have been warned about in advance.

In a Divine Direction, August 19, 1891, “an inquiry was made after Shobei Masuno fell ill for three days with diarrhea and rectal cramping”:

...The problems that are arising, are a problem of the season. Everything grows when it is the right season. If it grows, then comes the weeding ...It is said that the season

(continued on page 22)

Coming Up

* Annual Yoboku Gathering

@ Mission HQ 11/15 @ 2PM

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Autumn Memorial Service Prayer

September 20, 2025

Before the spirits of the Nakayama family and pioneers who served our Mission Headquarters for many years, I, Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya, Bishop of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Through wondrous causalities, you became followers of this Path from long ago, and with God the Parent's blessings and Oyasama's Divine Model as your guide, you walked through many difficulties with joy and in high spirits. Devoting yourselves to the work of the Path in America and Canada, you offered your utmost sincerity in single-heartedly helping others be saved.

Needless to say, we are able to follow this Path today due to the free and unlimited blessings of God the Parent and the parental love of Oyasama. At the same time, it is thanks to the seeds of sincerity that you pioneers planted over many long years. For this, we express our deep gratitude each morning and evening.

As we observe our Autumn Memorial Service today, we have placed various sincere offerings before you. Together with those gathered here, we have reflected upon your legacies, praised your many merits, and just performed the Yorozyu and the Twelve Songs of the Service before God the Parent.

From now, we shall conduct the Autumn Memorial Service to express our heartfelt gratitude for the great legacies of your lives.

On this occasion, we have enshrined the spirit of Rev. Sachiko Nakatsuchi, who served as the fifth head minister of the Central Coast Church, so that she may be revered and remembered for all time.

We pledge to convey your achievements to future generations, and building upon them, to strive further for the growth of the Path and to move forward toward the realization of the Joyous Life World, where all people everywhere join hands in mutual help.

We humbly ask you pioneers to accept our sincerity and, now and always, watch over not only the continued prosperity of our Mission Headquarters but also the families of our pioneers, our Yoboku, and all our followers.

Please guide us so that we may advance our spiritual growth and spiritedly engage in our work for the Path. In unison with all present, I humbly pray that this may be so.

September Monthly Service Prayer

September 21, 2025

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

Dear God the Parent, You created human beings and the world in order to see us lead the Joyous Life and to share in that joy. Upon the arrival of the promised time, You revealed Yourself through Oyasama, as Your shrine, and taught us the ultimate Teaching. You have watched over the spiritual growth of all humankind and have given us unlimited blessings and constant guidance over the many years. For this, we are truly grateful.

Seeking to repay You for our blessings, day and night, we walk on the path of single-heartedly helping other be saved in our respective roles. As this fine day is our September Monthly Service, receiving the truth of the Jiba, we service performers will unite our minds to joyously perform the seated service and Teodori service dance.

Looking forward to this day, we Yoboku and followers have assembled before You to give thanks for our daily blessings and to ask for Your unchanging protection. God the Parent, please observe our spirited singing and become spirited as well.

Last night, we successfully held our Autumn Memorial Service. Thank You very much. We will continue to make efforts to further the path, whose foundation was laid by the hard work of our pioneers.

This is the month for “Missionary Work for All Churches” in the final year of our pre-anniversary activities leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama. Please guide us so that each follower in this diocese can engage in missionary and salvation work with the self-awareness that they are Yoboku, so that these teachings spread further.

We pray for a resolution to the wars and conflicts around the world and salvation for those affected by natural disasters and those burdened with illnesses or troubles. Aiming for the further growth of our path, we will spread these wonderful teachings to the world and to the next generation, as we engage in our pre-anniversary activities toward Oyasama’s 140th Anniversary.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our sincerity, repeatedly guide us where we may be lacking, and provide us with Your unchanging Parental love so that, even one day sooner, this world will be transformed into one of the Joyous Life, in which we all help each other. I humbly pray that You bless us so.

September Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Tomoyoshi Tanaka

~Following Those Who Paved the Path~

With the Bishop and Mrs. Fukaya serving as our lead for all who came to worship today, we have successfully performed and completed the September monthly service without incident. While I may end up being a bit lacking, I have been asked to give the sermon today, so I humbly ask for your kind attention.

Yesterday, this year's autumn memorial service was held. In Tenrikyo, these are held twice a year, once each in spring and in autumn. In Japanese society, there is the Buddhist holiday of "higan," which people pay respect to their ancestors. There is also a saying that says "Hot and cold weather switches over when it is higan," which some people refer to as a turning point for the weather changing in Japan. However, depending on the year as well as which region you are in, this ends up being an inaccurate method of gauging the weather. In San Francisco, where it lies along the coast of the Pacific Ocean, summers end up being cooler more often than not.

Today, I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the predecessors of the path of the U.S. and Canada, so I ask for your kind attention. Please be advised that I will also be

touching on some darker subject matter today.

Even within just the realm of Dendocho, there are countless elders, ministers, women, and wives that rest in this memorial shrine that are watching after us as we speak. Showing our gratitude and giving thanks for all the hardships they went through is what I believe the spring and autumn memorial services are all about. The 90th Anniversary of the Mission Headquarters in America was held here in June of last year, and with the efforts of the members of the Public Relations Committee, we were able to put up a photo collage of Mission Headquarters over the years for everyone to see. Once again, I felt gratitude for our predecessors and head ministers, who were the reasons why we have everything that we do today.

There may be some people here today who are too young to know of this; in fact, I also did not know about this either, but when Mission Headquarters had Hawaii under its jurisdiction, strictly speaking, Hawaii was only a territory of the United States at that time. Hawaii officially became the 50th State of the U.S. in 1959.

With U.S., Canada and Mexico under its jurisdiction, this was quite the area to take charge of. As an aside, I've heard that the lighting for the lanterns on the walls of the sanctuary above the windows was hand-made and donated by a certain fellowship head in



Rev. Tomoyoshi Tanaka, head minister of
San Francisco Church (SF)

Mexico.

Rev. Tsunetaro Kanzawa, who served as the first head minister (I am currently serving as the head minister of San Francisco Church), was the treasurer at a small church in Yamanashi. After he had settled all debts at his church, he left his wife and children and travelled to the U.S. by himself, a place that spoke an unfamiliar language and had differing customs, encountering a great deal of hardships along with his fellow countrymen who also came along on this journey. His first time living outside his home would end up being the United States. Even now, the fact that a lot of young people came over to the U.S. and made ends meet while learning English all the while is something that came up in the news.

As he left home to go to the U.S., naturally, he was eventually looking to move back to Japan once his work was done, but God the Parent's intention had led him to find

a place, and receiving the words, "You should have a church there," from the head minister of his grand church, he received the blessing to establish Tenrikyo San Francisco Church in 1927.

When the second Shinbashira went to Chicago in 1933 to attend the World Religious Conference, he also made visits to churches while here in America. Sensing that there was a need for an American diocese, the Mission Headquarters was established here in Los Angeles the following year in 1934.

The very first group pilgrimage to Jiba sent by Mission Headquarters in America occurred in 1936, for the 50th Anniversary of Oyasama, with head ministers and others totaling close to 100 participants to worship at Jiba. Since it was a long journey by ship, as well as many of them were returning to Japan for the first time in a long while, the people who made the trip were said to have been away for almost half a year.

After the elder ministers had returned home from the Anniversary, the discussions they had while there for the construction of a sanctuary (this very sanctuary that we have now) made way for the groundbreaking ceremony to be held in August of the same year. Three years later, in May of 1939, the Main Sanctuary Completion ceremony was held. At that point in time, the state of affairs in the world during this period was very tense, and these uneasy times continued for a while, particularly among the emigrants who had come to the States.

Soon after the sanctuary was newly built,

Japan and the U.S. went to war with each other, and all Japanese Americans on the West Coast were forcibly evicted from their homes. This property was loaned to an African American church and was used in such manner during the war.

When the war between Japan and the U.S. began in December 1941, I heard that there were some head ministers who were taken in for interrogation by the FBI. There were also some ministers who were drafted for Japanese military duty who were severely investigated, which led to some of them being sent off to detention camps. In February of next year, the Presidential order for all people of Japanese descent to be forcefully evicted from their homes was sent down. From what I heard from other ministers, any Japanese in the city were told to gather at horserace tracks. They were only permitted to bring two suitcases worth of their belongings. They were then branded as enemies of the nation and thrown into stables that only yesterday were used to keep horses, which reeked of horse urine, defecate matter, and animal fodder. I could only surmise that everyone there was nervously wondering what fate tomorrow would have for them. After arbitrarily being detained at racecourses and the like, they were moved to impromptu internment camps. Around a hundred thousand Nikkei Japanese were divided and detained at various internment camps, with them being hastily built in desert areas where the summers were hot and the winters were bitterly cold, and the simple wooden floors full of gaps; making for very difficult conditions at these



camps. These would certainly be considered human rights violations today.

Innocent people were fenced in with barbed wire, while armed guard soldiers with guns kept strict watch. People could not hide their bewilderment at how their lives were now rigidly managed. Of the 100,000 people in these camps, two-thirds had U.S. citizenship or were born here.

Although I cannot speak for other internment camps, however, the people who were in this particular internment camp were fed a diet of potatoes and pickles, a far cry from what a Japanese person would normally eat. However, after a year, there were detainees that were skilled in agriculture and farm work, so with them at the lead, they were able to cultivate fields where they were able to grow daikon and other vegetables, gradually being able to enjoy the foods that they were accustomed to eating before this all happened.

Looking back, they were held at this internment camp for three and a half years,

from 1942 until 1945. I can recall, along with the people at the camp, the struggle of living each day wondering how long this war would go and if they would be able to make it until they could be freed. There were also thousands of people from South America that were sent over to the camp as well. But I digress, anyway, there were similar detention camps in Canada as well. Even in those circumstances, the monthly service was still being performed, recalling the hardships that Oyasama Herself went through.

In 1944, Rev. Tsunetaro Kanzawa, followed shortly by his wife, passed away for rebirth while at the internment camp.

The war had finally ended in 1945, and the people in the internment camps were freed and returned to their respective homes. Upon release, each person received \$25 and money to cover for tickets to return home. Most people went back home, however, there were some people who took this opportunity to find a new place to live and start a new chapter in their lives.

By the way, the cost for gasoline back in day was supposedly 21 cents to a gallon.

I would imagine that most people who started their lives over again after coming back home went through a great deal of hardships. Family members of churches in the surrounding Los Angeles area and nearby Mission Headquarters ended up using the main sanctuary here as a lodging space. I also heard from former Heritage Church head minister Mrs. Ikuko Yuge that the dais and upper dais was used as storage for shrines

and other church articles while people were detained at internment camps.

While some of the people who stayed here ended up returning to their previous lives once more, most families had to start all over again.

With apologies to the audience and all who are listening to this sermon, while these are experiences that I myself have not experienced and have only heard from my elders, the process of writing this script has effectively dampened my spirits. Even through listening to others' experiences, as well as looking through various pictures and videos about it, what I am talking about today is merely just the tip of the iceberg. Although I may not be the most qualified individual to talk about this, I wanted for everyone to be aware of these things and learn about it little by little.

With an official apology from President Ronald Reagan on behalf of the U.S. Government issued in 1988, this tragic chapter has come to a conclusion.

I could go on and on about the Japanese internment camps, but there would be no end to it, so I'll stop here and instead talk about the difficulties and hardships they had to endure.

In Instruction Four, it is written, "Our predecessors earnestly followed the path that had begun with Oyasama alone by using Her Divine Model as their dependable guide and maintained the path for us to walk on. The efforts to learn and pass down the faith from parents to children, from children to grandchildren, and so on, will allow this path to continue for endless generations."



From eighty years ago in 1945 until now, our predecessors and past ministers have taken care of our churches before, during, and after the War. Now the baton has been passed over to us.

Now it is our turn to make sure that the baton is properly passed down to the next generation.

On a personal level, August of last month marked 60 years since I first came here to the U.S. Aside from the four years spent at Jiba to participate in the Spiritual Development Course and enroll in Tenri Seminary, I came here about 20 years after the end of World War II where there were many first-generation Japanese and elders born in the Meiji era. Nowadays, we are in a modern age where we are able to use the internet and the like to instantly find out what's happening on the other side of world; back in those days, our information pipeline was simply TV, radio, and newspapers. Even if there wasn't much else, we still had our respective prefectural

association meetings while speaking in our regional dialects. From talking with many Meiji-era elderly people, using such archaic words that I've never heard of in my life, to the Japanized English that the Nikkei Japanese were using, there were definitely times where it was very difficult to understand what others were saying. Also, where a Tenrikyo church or a Buddhist temple or the like, these places were not only places of worship but also places to gather with your peers and other people.

For me, the important thing that has been, and always will be, is bringing joy to your parents. There are various ways to do so, but one way is to go back home to where they are. It is best to go back home to Jiba, the Home of the God the Parent, but visiting your supervising church, diocese, or your parents' home and letting them see that you are well is a way of showing filial piety.

One of the guidelines toward the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama given to us by our grand church is, "Going to worship at your churches and supervising churches." I see this as not only going to worship at your own church, but to your supervising churches as well, and this extends to visiting Jiba as well.

It has been over five years now since the once in a lifetime occurrence that was the COVID pandemic had a chokehold over the world, where one could not freely be wherever they wanted, there were limits placed on activities, and became a major issue worldwide. Here at Mission Headquarters, we were given a harsh reminder by God when the Service could not be adequately performed in

addition to being forced to refuse worshippers outside of the diocese. There were also many people who passed away for rebirth around this time, and we were unable to hold funerals for majority of them. While there are no restrictions now, I think that there are still many people who are not able to or are not willing to visit their churches anymore.

Now to change the subject, as stated earlier, I have been serving as the head minister of San Francisco Church for close to two years now. The building bought for the previous church around 40 years ago was only a single-family home. Space was tight as the sanctuary and stage were only about as big as the entire memorial shrine here at Mission Headquarters, and while it was sufficient most of the time as there weren't that many people, if there were a large number of people there, there would not be enough room for them to stand side by side. My hope of one day being able to expand and make it spacious enough for more people was something that I had been holding onto for almost 40 years.

After some self-reflection, I have been faced with this reality. I am now working to have an installation service after getting renovations done for the sanctuary by 2027. In addition, 2027 marks the 100th anniversary of the establishment of the church. Now that I think about it, it was ten years ago when the head minister of my grand church approached me about San Francisco Church. Due to me having another church, everything taking time, then the COVID-19 pandemic limiting what we would do, I was only able to take up

the church only two years ago.

I can only think of this as God's plan.

Two years ago, in October of 2023, I received the grant to become the head minister of San Francisco Church. While doing hinokishin in preparation for the installation service in early December, due to my heart, I had to be hospitalized and had to undergo surgery. Postponing the installation service for three more weeks, we were able to successfully have the installation service due to the assistance and hinokishin of everyone around us and those connected to the church.

While we are soon coming to a critical juncture of the process, while there may be some turbulence ahead, come what may, I am focused on what is to come and am looking forward to it every single day.

Thankfully, for the time being I am healthy again. However, I am weak to stress and pressure, so who knows if it may cause issues with my heart and blood vessels, but regardless, I will spiritedly continue working toward this goal.

I am not a person who does things on my own easily. However, I am grateful that God the Parent is guiding me to do this or that. To everyone here, in the final four months before the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, please do whatever you can and bring joy to Oyasama, so that we can have as many people as we can to worship at Jiba on January 26. If January is not possible, please try to visit some other month.

Thank you for your kind attention today.

(translation by Y. Kimura)

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) AUTUMN GRAND SERVICE (10/19)

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Kazumi Kawakami, Raymond Morishita

Director: Toshihiko Okui

Attendants: Paul Tomizawa, Taichi Onishi

Offerings Officiant: Kunihito Fumioka Sermon: Bishop (E)

2) CHURCH AFFAIRS

- **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) PASSING AWAY FOR REBIRTH

On August 13 (Wed), Rev. Toshiko Hoashi, former head minister of the North Seattle Church, passed away for rebirth at the age of 96. We would like to acknowledge and appreciate her many years of service and dedication. Also, we apologize for the late announcement.

4) 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

5) YOBOKU GATHERING

We will hold our Yoboku Gathering on Saturday afternoon, November 15. The program will begin at 2PM (registration starts at 1:30 PM) and conclude at 4:30PM. We also plan to hold a social gathering after the evening service.

Please use the QR Code to register for the Yoboku Gathering



6) SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN JIBA

Shuyoka (three-month Spiritual Development Course in Jiba) English Class will be held from the end of March next year. Non-Japanese applicants must apply for a visa, which can take several months, so please let the Mission Headquarters know as soon as possible.

7) APPLICATION FOR AMERICA ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP

The application for the Special Ichiretsukai Scholarship is now available for students who will

attend college or university from the fall of 2026. The application deadline is December 31, 2025.

8) 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. If you have not yet submitted the form, please do so by October 26 (Sun). You may also access this report via Google Form by using the following QR Code.



9) 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
- 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
 - o 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/>

10) 140TH ANNIVERSARY OF OYASAMA “GATHERING FOR OVERSEAS FOLLOWERS”

- The Overseas Department has put together a gathering for all overseas returnees, to allow people to share the joys experienced during the pre-anniversary activities, as well as to pledge their continued commitment to maturing spiritually.
- Dates: January 24, 2026 (Sat) 2:30PM ~ 4:45PM
- Place: Tenrikyo Overseas Department (Oyasato-yakata East Right Wing No. 4 Complex)
- Content: Faith Experience Speeches (3 persons), Dancing of the Yorozuyo, Socializing (light refreshments)
- Participation Donation: 500 yen
- Interpretation (scheduled): English, Chinese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, Thai, Nepalese, & French
- Registration Period: October 27 (mon) ~ November 29 (Sat), 2025
 - o From 9~11:50AM, 1~3:30PM, excluding Sundays and holidays
- Please use the following link to find the registration link and other details (Japanese only)
<https://qr.paps.jp/thDga>

11) JANUARY 2026 LAY MINISTER PREPARATORY COURSE / HEAD MINISTER QUALIFICATION COURSE SCHEDULE CHANGE

- Application Submission days: January 23, 24 (as usual)
- Dates: Lay Minister Preparatory Course Original – 1/27 ~ 2/10 Updated – 2/1 ~ 2/15
 Head Minister Qualification Course Original – 1/27 ~ 2/16 Updated – 2/1 ~ 2/21

12) HEAD MINISTER 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
- Overseas church head ministers are scheduled to attend on January 28th.

- If you do not require interpretation and have an assignment as a directly supervised church on a day other than January 28th, you may attend on that day. In that case, please individually contact your directly supervised church to request the change.

13) 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.

14) 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.

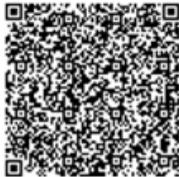
15) TENRI UNIVERSITY INTERNATIONAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT JAPANESE COURSE ENROLLMENT INFORMATION

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

16) 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

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- The sprinkler control box for the Biotope Garden will be replaced along with any defective sprinkler lines.
- A few defective existing fluorescent light fixtures in the 2nd floor rooms in the East Hall have been replaced with LED light fixtures.

MISSIONARY COMMITTEE

- Thank you for your monthly service duty at the Mission Headquarters for church, fellowship, and mission center heads. The duty calendar up to December is as follows
 - o October: Kunihiro Fumioka, Kyoko Watanabe
 - o November: Robert Kokuryo, Shino Hirai, Hamilton Niwa
 - o December: Gary Yashiki, Hifumi Nakagawa
- 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, please fill out the Google Form and submit it by 11/5 (Wed).



NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE

- With the approval of the Board of Directors, the Three Day Course will have its program revised to a Two Day Course for 2026. The purpose is to make attendance easier based upon the shorter program. We are planning to hold the Two Day Course during the weekend of March 21-22 in 2026 for both Los Angeles and New York.
- We are in the process of contacting students eligible for the Oyasato Seminar preliminary session, which will be held in December. Tentative dates are December 28-30, so that students can participate in TSA as well. Mr. Ryo Iwashimizu will serve as male counselor.
- The TSA Winter Conference will be held from December 26 (Fri) ~ 29 (Mon).
 - o Content: Lectures, mochi-tsuki Hinokishin, ski trip, and more.
 - o 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.

- The domain name has been changed from Tenrikyo.com to TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

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

FUTURE PATH

- We are continuing to promote the Nurturing Program survey. We hope to use the feedback to make improvements to our programs including the Joy Workshop, Three Day Course, Shuyokai, Yoboku Gathering, and the February Training Program.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

- District Conventions:

Chicago	10/26 (Sun)	10:30AM	@ Midwest Church
West Canada	11/23 (Sun)	10:00 AM	@ Granville Church

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

- Let's share stories about Oyasama with BGA members! Visit your churches as a family and engage in hinokishin together.
- Please practice the service at your churches, fellowships, mission centers, and homes, towards next year's BGA Practice Service Convention in August!
- 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

- November 23: TYMANA NY District Convention

New Headminister Announcement

Let's congratulate **Rev. Taichi Onishi**, newest head minister of California Church in Los Angeles, CA.

"My ambition for the future is for me to live the joyous life and slowly spread that sensation out into the world."

- Rev. Taichi Onishi



Missionary Work Month For All Churches

September 20, 2025

At the Mission Headquarters, individuals engaged in missionary work on the day before the September monthly service.



Tenrikyo Sacred Scripture Study Seminar Reflections

Since the announcement of the Scripture Study Seminar, I have been very intrigued and enthusiastic about learning more regarding the scriptures. Despite growing up in a church, practicing the service daily, reading the Ofudesaki regularly, and being able to speak conversational Japanese, I still struggle to understand the words and, more importantly, the teachings and meaning behind them. Even listening to the Mikagura-Uta without translation, I've sadly realized that they are just memorized sounds and syllables to me. I wanted to heighten my understanding of the core aspects on which our religion is based. Thus, this felt like a remarkable opportunity to participate in and gain a deeper understanding of the teachings for myself.

First and foremost, throughout the seminar, I felt immense gratitude towards our lecturers, Dr. Higashibaba and Rev. Hayashi. They effectively presented their lectures with an incredible depth of knowledge, mindfulness, and top-class articulation in English. As an academic myself and an audio learner, I genuinely appreciate a lecture-style structure like this. The analysis of the scriptures, presented within the historical, socio-economic, and cultural context, was eye-opening and helped make sense of the metaphors, words, and timing chosen by God the Parent at the start of Tenrikyo. The lectures were very digestible, efficient, and, honestly, profound, as I had many new revelations that weekend. Moreover, I believe that the materials provided during the seminar, which we took home, will serve as a valuable and easy reference guide for approaching the scriptures directly in the future.

Furthermore, I am also very appreciative that this was an occasion for us to get together and bond with our Tenrikyo family here in the US & Canada. A significant part of the seminar consisted of discussion sessions with both old and new acquaintances. I loved hearing everyone's thoughts and questions, as many perspectives and questions were shared; however, many points were also very thought-provoking and helped broaden my attitudes and opinions on specific subject matters I had never thought about before. Additionally, beyond the seminar itself, I thought it was really fun to spend time with one another. It was genuinely fulfilling to see old friends and make new ones. To strengthen our relationships with each other outside of the lectures, I believe, is a vital aspect that is woven into our Tenrikyo activities. Sharing joy and being together is a compelling part of why I personally want to participate in activities like this, in addition to learning the scriptures. So, thank you to the Future Path Advisory Committee, Dendocho staff, our lecturers, and all those who dedicated so much time and effort to executing such a well-organized event! I hope to see more of them in the future and look forward to learning with everyone again!



Reflection by Hiromi Yukimoto

In August, I had the privilege of attending the Study Scripture Seminar lead by the Future Path committee at the Tenrikyo Headquarters of America. Though I felt overwhelmed by work and other responsibilities at home, this was the perfect opportunity to remind myself how important it is to prioritize my faith. For two days, I allowed myself to focus solely on learning more about the scriptures and having discussions with the people around me. The lecturers, Dr. Higashibaba and Rev. Hayashi, gave in depth explanations on how to interpret and understand the Ofudesaki, the Mikagura-uta, and the Osashizu. The Ofudesaki and Mikagura-uta are very familiar texts that I encounter often, but through detailed lectures and insightful discussions, I had discovered sides to these texts that I had never considered before. The Osashizu, on the other hand, is a text that I have not studied much of but learned to appreciate so deeply through this study seminar. The depth of knowledge around me inspired me to continue spending time with these scriptures and made me realize how critical they are to Tenrikyo and to my own personal faith.



I attended with my fiancé Alec, who I introduced to Tenrikyo. His perspective is often different from my own, as someone who is seeing Tenrikyo for the first time as an adult, and as someone who has a strong relationship to another faith. This study seminar brought up many intriguing questions between us and gave us the space to have these conversations. I am grateful to the lecturers for providing their wealth of knowledge to us and to everyone involved in planning and executing such a successful seminar. I returned home and back to work feeling motivated, inspired, and God the Parent's blessings ten thousand fold.

Reflection by Alyssa Yuge



Additional reflections are available online. Simply scan this QR code and you can enjoy testimonials from Alex Manasse, Casey Oiki, Inna Tarasiuk, and Mark Taguma.



This year the English Language class of the Lay Minister Preparatory Course was held from August 27 through September 10, 2025. This year's class consisted of 7 students: Susan Fishman-Tudor from San Francisco, Corey Kikuchi and Lucas Nakao from Honolulu, and Purity Makena, Purity Mwendwa, Joshua Ojwang, and Elija Oloo from Kenya. The homeroom was instructed by Rev. Robert Susumu Yuge, Head Minister of Heritage Church in Los Angeles. Rev. Yuge reports that the 15-day course (3 consecutive five day sessions) went smoothly even though it was still very hot and humid for the duration. Rev. Yuge would like to thank the staff of the Overseas Department as well as the other English speaking instructors for their generous support throughout the course.

 <p>TENRIKYO TENRIKI IN AMERICA & CANADA</p> <p>WE'RE ONLINE!</p> <p>www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org</p> <p>Stay Updated! Scan the QR code with your camera phone.</p>  <p>携帯のカメラでQRコードをスキャンし、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！</p>	<p>CALENDAR</p>  <p>tenrikyoamericacanada.org/events/calendar</p>	<p>BLOG</p>  <p>tenrikyoamericacanada.org/blog/timeline</p>
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Nurture Ourselves to Become Foundations of the Path Seminar

21

On September 20th at the Mission Headquarters, the Tenrikyo Women's Association America held the "Nurture Ourselves to Become Foundations of the Path Seminar." Members from ages 16 to 49 were eligible to attend. Of the roughly 40 participants, many of whom being young mothers raising children, 13 participants were of the target age group, and 16 were children.

After Chairwoman Fukaya gave an address, lectures were received from Bishop Fukaya in Japanese, and Rev. Toshikiyo Yukimoto in English, in separately designated rooms, by participants. Both lectures were centered around the theme of "the eight dusts of the mind," and all participants were taking notes while listening attentively.

Following the lectures, participants split up into groups to hold discussions, two Japanese-speaking groups and one English-speaking group, which were conducted in a friendly and relaxed manner.

We received a lot of positive feedback, including one participant stating, "I would like to review the handouts so that I can deepen my understanding and apply these lessons everyday."



Los Angeles District Women's Association Convention



is bad. Even if the season is bad, things will grow if you plant them. If it grows, then do the weeding, the weeding; and if you listen carefully, there is nothing difficult...

*

In that year, there were many “Divine Directions” regarding the illnesses of Shobei Masuno and his relatives, and I think that the “problems” are related to these illnesses. The “buds” of the problems will appear when the “season” comes. It is said that even if it is a “bud” due to inconvenient circumstances for humans, it will grow when the “season” comes, and when the “bud” grows, we should do the “weeding.” In other words, I think it means to deal with the “buds” when they grow. That is probably what it means to “perceive the situation with joy.”

In another Divine Direction, May 1, 1892, “an inquiry was made due to Shobei Masuno’s back pain”:

...First of all, there is no need to worry about your physical condition. The mind that worries plants the very seed of worry, and this seed thus planted will cause worry, and the mind will become depressed. Settle a great truth. When the season comes, flowers will bloom. I will you in advance about big troubles.

*

God is saying that even if you receive a physical ailment, you will not have to worry about it. Further, you will become depressed the more you think about it, but if you make a firm resolution and follow up, flowers will bloom when the “season” arrives. God advises us on the mindset and attitude we should have towards illnesses.

In another “Timely Direction” on December 16, 1893 at 12:00am:

...This “Seat;” one talk is followed by a second. No matter how smart you are, no

matter how sunny the weather may be, if there is rain daily, please listen to the divine will at each season. If you do not listen to it, it cannot be called the path for the moment...

*

“Seat” means the “Honseki” (or “Main Seat”) who delivered to us the “Divine Directions,” and if you read these “Divine Directions” in their entirety, it seems that we are being told that we are missing the “season” by treating lightly the “Divine Directions” given at each specific time by the Honseki. “Timely Directions” should be taken as “warnings” and “important points” from God the Parent, and this Divine Direction is one of them.

In another Divine Direction of May 12, 1895, “An inquiry to proceed with Masajin Iburi settling to the east and his succession”:

...There is a season for things. Everything has a season if the reason is explained. When it is not the season, some seeds will grow while others will not. If you miss the season, growth is uncertain. No matter what, if the season is missed and the plant withers after only one flower blooms, it will not do...

*

It is said that there is a season for the accomplishment of anything. We sow seeds because we want to accomplish various things, but there are times when they do not grow if we miss the season for sowing those seeds. In other words, things will not come to fruition. This shows how important “seasons” are.

On the morning of May 22, 1895, “an Inquiry for the selection of Kikutaro Maegawa as vice chairman”:

...Timely directions I give, so you will not err by missing the time...

(An Anthology of Osashizu Translations, Second Edition, p. 347)

I wrote earlier, we are given “Timely Directions,” so we do not miss the “season.” This “Divine Direction” makes this clear. A little later after this, we are told in the Divine Directions, “These timely talks, if you do not follow these directions, there is no need to ask,” pointing out that the current problem was caused by the fact that the “season” was missed due to not following a “Divine Direction.” It was a stern admonition as to why give “Divine Directions” if we are not going to follow those “Divine Directions.”

In the first reference notes for the Divine Direction on March 28, 1898 in response to “an inquiry was made on the previous day to Church Headquarters regarding the intention to set up some area of the Women’s Association and somehow name it”, and in the subsequent reference notes for, “an inquiry on the order of who will play the instruments for the Service”:

*...Sow seeds today, but they won't bud today.
It will grow when it is the season. The fruit
will also grow. Listen to this...*

*

I think it would be okay to take this “Divine Direction” at face value, but if you read it in its entirety, it is saying: in the eyes of those around, it may not be easy to appoint this woman as a service performer, but even if it seems difficult right now, nurture her imagining how she will mature with the passing of time.

In addition, there is a “Divine Direction” about the establishment of the Tenrikyo Women’s Association on March 25, three days prior to the previous “Divine Direction,” so I think it is necessary to read this “Divine Direction” in this order.

On November 2, 1904, “an inquiry regarding the physical ailment of the Honseki”:

*...I speak of the time, I speak of the season.
There is a time, there is a season. If the season*

is missed, you have to reassemble it from the beginning...

*

This means that if the “season” is missed, you have to start from the beginning.

As mentioned in this “Divine Direction”, the phrase “I speak of the time, I speak of the season” or “I speak of the season, I speak of the time, ” is used; “time” and “season” are used as a pair, and seem to have the same meaning.

In the “Timely Direction” of May 21, 1907 (lunar calendar date April 10) at 2:30 am:

*...Do not miss the season. Begin the work.
You must not miss it. If you miss the season,
you will accomplish nothing...*

(An Anthology of Osashizu Translations,
Second Edition, p. 677)

This “Divine Direction” is included in the so-called “100-days of Divine Directions” before the Honseki passed away for rebirth. They are the “Divine Directions” that can be said to be the “last preparations” for the 30th Anniversary of Oyasama. Here, too, it is said not to miss the “season.” Things will not progress or be accomplished if the season is missed.

As you can see from reading the “Divine Directions” that has been discussed, there is great emphasis on the importance of “season.” It can be taken that if you miss the “season,” growth will be sluggish or not occur; things will not come to fruition, and in some cases, things will have to be started from scratch.

The 140th Anniversary of Oyasama is a “season” for all of us. I hope you will strive so that you can make the most of this “season” as much as possible.

*Divine Directions have been translated for this article

(translation by H. Kamio)

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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.