

# Tenrikyo

newsletter



## Interpreter's Workshop & Translation Conference

The activities of the Mission Headquarters are supported by script through translation, and by spoken word through interpretation. On October 18, the Interpreter's Workshop (top two photos) was held with seven participants, including a notable number of students representing the next generation. Furthermore, from November 2 through 7, the Translation Conference (bottom two photos) convened with eleven members who worked together to discuss the English translation of *Path of Sincerity: Salvation Edition*.

*Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America*

[www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org](http://www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org)

**November 2025**

# “A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- QR Codes -

Last month, on the 26th, the Autumn Grand Service was held at the Main Headquarters. On that occasion, the Shinbashira delivered his sermon, and I would like each of you to read his words, available through the *Tenri Jiho*, *Michinotomo*, or *Tenrikyo Online*, and settle his intention into your hearts.

On the 15th of this month, the Yoboku Gathering will be held at our Mission Headquarters. By the time you read this message, the event may already have concluded. I sincerely hope it will be a success and serve as a momentum-building step toward the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama.

After being installed as Bishop in 2010, I did missionary visits to churches within our diocese to greet the reverends and followers and to become familiar with their local conditions. For nearby visits or those within California, I traveled by car; for other states, I traveled by plane. At that time, I used *E-Tickets*—an electronic ticket that needed to be printed and presented at the airport counter to check in.

During my time as the head of the

Singapore Mission Station, we still used carbon-copy paper-based tickets, similar in size to the old airline tickets used during my student years. They were printed horizontally with the airline name, flight dates and numbers, and other details. I recall that E-Tickets still did not exist then.

An *E-Ticket* is an airline ticket stored and managed electronically within the airline’s system. At check-in, passengers would bring a printed “E-Ticket Passenger Copy” from their home computer, along with identification (ID) to the counter, to complete the check-in process and receive their boarding pass. Even if the printed copy was lost, the data remained in the system

*(continued on page 18)*

## Coming Up

- \* Annual Cleaning  
@ Mission HQ 12/26
- \* Annual Mochi Pounding  
@ Mission HQ 12/28
- \* TSA Winter Conference  
@ Mission HQ 12/26 ~ 12/29
- \* Oyasato Seminar Preliminary Session  
@ Mission HQ 12/28 ~ 12/30

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# *Autumn Grand Service Prayer*

## *October 19, 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, wanting to see us lead the Joyous Life and to share in our joy, You created human beings and this world. Upon the arrival of the promised time, on October 26, 1838, You revealed Yourself at the Residence of Origin—which has the causality of human conception. You received Oyasama, who has the soul of our original mother, as Your Shrine, taught us the truth of origin of all things, and opened the path to single-hearted salvation.

Since that time, in America and Canada, receiving the truth of Jiba, we perform the service. We are blessed with those who lean upon Oyasama's Divine Model, and we strive towards the realization of the Joyous Life world. Night and day, aiming for world salvation, we are dedicating ourselves spiritedly.

As this month marks the day of origin of our path, from now, receiving the truth of Jiba, we service performers will joyously perform the seated service and the Teodori service dance for our Autumn Grand Service.

We Yoboku and followers have gathered before You to offer our gratitude for your daily grace and to ask for Your continued blessings. Dear God, please witness our spirited singing and become spirited as well.

This month, many of the head ministers and followers from our diocese will return for the Autumn Grand Service at Church Headquarters. Please guide them safely to be able to receive the truth of Jiba and to return to their respective regions, so that they may work spiritedly for the path.

Next month, throughout our diocese, we will hold the 5th All Yoboku Activity Day, and on November 15th, as we plan to hold our Yoboku Gathering here, please allow us to make this an opportunity for our many friends within the diocese to participate and mutually help one another become spirited.

We pledge to spiritedly engage ourselves for the remainder of our pre-anniversary activities and strive to further our spiritual growth as people who help others be saved. Further, we pledge to pray for the settling of the world in peace and for the salvation of those with illness and problems in lives.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our minds of sincerity, guide us where we may be lacking, and provide us with Your free and unlimited workings. Please help us to transform this world, even one day sooner, into one of the Joyous Life—in which everyone in the world mutually help one another. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

# Autumn Grand Service Sermon

## by Bishop Hiroshi Fukaya

### ~“Ojiba-Gaeri,” Returning to Jiba~

I am truly grateful that, together with all of you, we have just spiritedly and smoothly performed our Autumn Grand Service.

I sincerely thank all of you, for constantly working toward realizing the Joyous Life world and serving our Mission Headquarters.

Having just completed our Autumn Grand Service, which is deeply tied to the day of origin of the founding of the Teaching, let us reflect upon the intention of God the Parent on that day.

Also, with the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama only three months away, I hope that many people will be able return to Jiba. To achieve this, I would like to share some of my thoughts on Ojiba-gaeri—returning to Jiba—and take this opportunity to reaffirm its importance.

I ask for your kind attention.

The Monthly Service held every year in October is called the Autumn Grand Service.

This is because Tenrikyo began on October 26, 1838. In other words, October 26 is the day of origin day of this faith. The Autumn Grand Service is conducted for the

purpose of always remembering that day of origin.

Why is it important that we always remember this day of origin?

As I mentioned before, Tenrikyo’s day of origin was October 26, 1838. A few days before that date, God the Parent revealed God’s intention for the first time, through the mouth of Oyasama, saying:

*At this time I have descended here to save all humankind. I wish to receive Miki as the Shrine of God*

With this, a dialogue between God the Parent and humankind began. Then, around eight o’clock, on the morning of October 26, 1838, Oyasama’s husband, Zenbei Nakayama, gave his reply to God: “I offer Miki to You.” This is the moment when Miki Nakayama became the Shrine of Tsukihi, and the path of Tenrikyo began.

In this sequence of events, the first words spoken by God the Parent through Oyasama reveal the very purpose of Tenrikyo. If we, as followers, were to ever forget or lose sight of that, we would lose the true meaning of our faith itself.

The purpose of our faith in Tenrikyo is to transform this world into the Joyous Life. In practical terms, this means to realize world peace.



Bishop Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya  
of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

First of all, let each of us re-affirm, to ourselves, the true significance of the Autumn Grand Service and the day of origin of the Teaching.

Now, at the very center of the Main Sanctuary at Tenrikyo Church Headquarters lies Jiba. As you may know, this is the very spot where humankind was first conceived. When we make a journey to this sacred spot, we call it Ojiba-gaeri—returning to Jiba.

In our faith, returning to Jiba has very special significance. Why is that? It is because any and everything begins and began at Jiba.

For example, the Kagura Service—which will transform this world into the Joyous Life—can only be conducted around Jiba. Likewise, the Truth of the Sazuke, the Grant of Safe Childbirth, and the Proof Amulet can only be received at Jiba.

In other words, Jiba is the origin of our faith—the place where we receive divine blessings. Without Jiba, the salvation of

the world cannot begin and the Joyous Life world also would become impossible. I believe that without Jiba, our faith itself would become uncertain.

In the Divine Directions, it is written:

*Now I shall settle the truth at Jiba. ... Because the one truth exists at Jiba, peace will reign in the world. Jiba exists, therefore, peace will reign in the world.* Osashizu, July 2, 1888

In another Divine Direction, it says:

*Without exception, I bring salvation from Jiba. In all matters, what is important is what the source is. Regarding primary salvation, it is from Jiba that I bring salvation.*

Osashizu, November 23, 1891

As we can understand from these Divine Directions, it is because of Jiba that the world is settled. From Jiba, the salvation of the world begins, and at Jiba, we can be saved.

Now then, I would like for us to reflect on why we return to Jiba. To do so, let us reaffirm the true significance of Jiba.

Jiba is the sacred place that holds various profound meanings: First, “it is where God the Parent resides”; Second, “it is where ‘human beings’ were first conceived”; Third, “it is where the Kanrodai stand is set into place”; Fourth, “it is the focus of our

faith in Tenrikyo”; and finally, “it is the very source of universal salvation.”

“Jiba is where God the Parent resides,” means that God is present there. In the Ofudesaki, it is written:

*This universe is the body of God. Ponder this in all matters.*

Ofudesaki III:40 and III:135

This entire universe is the very body of God the Parent. Therefore, no matter where we turn or where we may be, we can say that we are always facing towards God.

However, where can we directly connect with God the Parent? The answer is, only at Jiba, the sacred place where God the Parent resides.

Please allow me to share a personal insight.

This world—being the body of God—is like the womb of a mother. We humans on earth are nurtured and dwell within the bosom of God the Parent, just as an unborn child dwells within its mother’s womb.

A mother and child are directly connected at the child’s navel, through the umbilical cord, and the “navel” of this world is precisely what we call Jiba. It is the point that directly connects us with God the Parent.

When thought of in this way, we can understand just how precious Jiba truly is: the one and only place where we can directly link ourselves with God the Parent.

“Jiba is where the first ‘human beings’

were conceived” refers to our creation story, the Truth of Origin. Those who know this teaching will understand that human beings were first conceived within the womb of Izanami-no-Mikoto at the precise spot that we now know of as Jiba. This is what makes the place of Jiba so sacred.

Therefore, tracing our origins back to that beginning, we realize that Jiba is truly our homeland, our place of origin. We humans all began from the womb of our original mother, Izanami-no-Mikoto; and therefore, we are all brothers and sisters.

“Jiba is where the Kanrodai is set into place” : For those who have returned to Jiba surely know, this simply means where the Kanrodai stands at Jiba itself.

In the Ofudesaki, it is written:

*That I place the Kanrodai in this Residence is the proof that I began human beings.*

Ofudesaki X:79

*As proof of My beginning of human beings, I shall put the Kanrodai into place.*

Ofudesaki XVII:9

The Kanrodai being set into place at Jiba represents the proof that this is the very spot where the first “human beings” were conceived.

In the Divine Directions, it is revealed :

*Sah, sah. I shall inform you the truth.*

*The Kanrodai is the one thing which exists at no other place. You must not move it to any other ground.*

Osashizu, February 20, 1891

As such, the Kanrodai cannot be moved to anywhere. In other words, the Kanrodai can be established only at Jiba—nowhere else.

In the Ofudesaki, it is written:

*Marvelous is the Kanrodai of this world's beginning. It will be the cause of peace in Nihon.*

Ofudesaki II:39

*Prepare your minds for the place of Jiba, the place where the Kanrodai is to be set up.*

*If only this is surely settled, there will be no danger in anything at all.*

Ofudesaki IX:19, 20

These Ofudesaki verses were written before the Kanrodai was actually set into place. Yet, these verses declared that the location for the Kanrodai had already been determined, and that once the Kanrodai is set into place, the world would settle in peace, and that no matter what may happen, there will be no danger. In other words, when the Kanrodai is established at Jiba, we may live with peace of mind.

Earlier, I talked about the relationship between a mother and her unborn child.



earlier—that Jiba corresponds to the “navel,” while the Kanrodai serves as the “umbilical cord.”

Therefore, we receive spiritual nourishment and life-giving energy from Jiba, through the Kanrodai, while leaving behind, at Jiba, our mind’s impurities and unnecessary burdens. In this sense, we can say that Jiba is the true source of universal salvation.

Further, in the Divine Directions we are taught:

*What is called the origin, Jiba, is not found anywhere else in the world. The more thought you give to this truth, the deeper the truth will become.*

Osashizu, October 11, 1895

There is only one Jiba in the entire world, and its truth is very weighty. In other words, Jiba is the one and only place where we can directly receive the workings of God the Parent. Therefore, Jiba is, truly, the very

source of salvation for all humankind.

Up to this point, I have spoken about the meaning and significance of Jiba. When we reflect upon this, we come to realize just how precious Jiba is to our faith.

Further, Jiba is not just for us followers of Tenrikyo, it is the “Home of all Humanity.” Please understand that Jiba is also a precious place for every human being on this planet.

As I mentioned earlier, we call making a pilgrimage to Jiba, Ojiba-gaeri. Returning to Jiba, where God the Parent first conceived humankind, is to return to the home of all humanity.

In other words, every one of us, every human being, has a spiritual homeland—Jiba. Because this homeland exists, we can lead our lives with a sense of security.

When we have a place, a home, to which we can always return, we can find peace of mind. In psychology, such a place is called the “secure base.”

For example, when a child goes out on a small adventure, away from her parents, and goes to somewhere like a friend’s house alone for the first time, she can do so because she has a secure base: her parents and her home—a place where she can return to feel secure. It is precisely because we have this “secure base,” that we are able to take on new adventures in life.

Today, there many travel-related videos on YouTube. I believe those travel video creators are also able to journey across the globe because they have a secure place to return to.



For example, an American travel YouTuber can go around the globe freely because they have a “secure base”—which is their home country of America, their parents or family—for them to return to.

In the same way, Jiba is the “secure base” for all human beings. It is the Home of Humanity—a place that exists not only for us followers of Tenrikyo, but for all people throughout the world. The existence of Jiba holds for all of us, a truly deep and universal meaning.

In the Besseki Lectures, it says,

“Returning to this original home, filled with yearning for our Parent, is just like going home to where our parents live, yearning for them. God the Parent’s heart also longs for each and every child to return to Jiba, the Home of the Parent. The sincerity with which we return home out of our yearning for our Parent will reach the mind of

the Parent, whose love for all of us is constant and impartial and who always awaits our return eagerly. Thereupon, miraculous salvation will be shown, and we shall receive God's free and unlimited blessings. It is, therefore, of great importance for us to dedicate the mind of true sincerity to Jiba of Origin."

Here, we can see the true importance of returning to Jiba. We are taught that when we human beings yearn for God the Parent and return to Jiba with a sincere heart, and this heart intersects with the parental heart of God the Parent—who awaits our return—these two hearts will work together in harmony. In that moment, at Jiba, we will be blessed with truly wonderful salvation.

Therefore, the Ojiba-gaeri is not only about returning to Jiba out of our longing or devotion. It is about bringing our sincere hearts back with us to Jiba. By doing so, we are granted free and unlimited blessings. This is the preciousness of returning to Jiba.

Today, looking towards next year's 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, I have talked about the importance of returning to Jiba—from the perspective of Jiba being our "secure base." Let us invite as many people as possible to make this journey back with us to Jiba.

However, returning to Jiba is not just about encouraging others to merely "visit" Jiba. It is also a precious opportunity for them to know that the Home of Humanity truly exists—that Jiba is the "secure base"

to which they can always return.

Furthermore, another important aspect of returning to Jiba is to guide people to leave behind their worries and burdens at Jiba, which is the source of universal salvation. We must guide them to receive the spiritual "energy" of God the Parent's free and unlimited blessings there.

Therefore, let us encourage as many people as possible to do an Ojiba-Gaeri. Especially toward the upcoming 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, please convey to them the preciousness of Jiba and invite them to return. It would bring me great joy to see many people make this journey back home together with us.

With these thoughts in mind, I would like to conclude my message for today. I thank you for your kind attention.

**1) NOVEMBER MONTHLY SERVICE (11/16)**

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Robert Kokuryo, Yoichi Fukui

Director: Masahito Kimura

Attendants: Brian Kojima, Gary Yashiki

Offerings Officiant: Hamilton Niwa

Sermon: Keiji Sakakura (J)

**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) YOBOKU GATHERING**

We held our Yoboku Gathering on Saturday afternoon, November 15 at the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America.

**4) TSA WINTER CONFERENCE**

- The TSA Winter Conference will be held from December 26 (Fri) ~ 29 (Mon)
- Program: Lectures, Mochi Pounding (Mochitsuki), HARP Activities, & Ski Trip
- Registration forms have already been distributed. You can find them in the back of the sanctuary at the Mission HQ. Registration Deadline: December 6

**5) END-OF-YEAR / NEW YEAR ACTIVITY SCHEDULE**

The Mission Headquarters will be holding our annual end-of-year cleanup from 12:30 PM following the December 26th Day Service (Fri). If you can take part in the cleaning, and also if you plan to request lunch for that day, please contact the Mission HQ by November 30 (Sun). We will be holding our annual Rice Cake Pounding (Mochitsuki), planned for December 28 (Sun), and we ask for hinokishin from those that live near the Mission Headquarters. Also, we will be conducting our New Year's Day Service on January 1 (Thu) from 7 AM (we will open the portals and prepare the offerings from 6:40). If you are a service performer local to the Mission Headquarters and will not be able to take part in performing the New Year's Day Service, please contact the Mission Headquarters by November 30 (Sun).

**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) SHUYOKA SPANISH COURSE IN JIBA**

Next year, the Shuyoka (three-month Spiritual Development Course in Jiba) Spanish Class will be held from September 1 to November 27. Non-Japanese applicants must apply for a visa, so please let the Mission Headquarters know as soon as possible.

**8) HEAD MINISTERS QUALIFICATION COURSE**

The Head Ministers Qualification Course English Class, usually held from September 27 upon fulfilling the minimum of five participants, has been rescheduled from next year to begin from October 27.

**9) TENRIKYO HINOKISHIN DAY**

We request each district to begin preparations for next year's Tenrikyo Hinokishin Day. We will distribute the Hinokishin Day Plan Report documents to all district representatives, and we ask you to submit them to the Mission Headquarters by December 26.

**10) APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL 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.

**11) 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: (2025) Nov. 22~26, 29, 30, Dec. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 25 & 26  
(2026) Jan. 24~27 Time: 10AM ~ 3 PM
  - Exhibit opens at 1PM on the 26th of each month; morning only on Oct. 25
  - On January 26, 2026, exhibit will be open from 2:30 ~ 4:30 PM
- Place: South Right Wing 2 of the Oyasato-yakata building-complex; B1 & B2 Floors
- Please refer to the Tenrikyo website (Japanese only): <https://www.tenrikyo.org/se140/>

**12) 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
- Venue: 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
  - From 9~11:50AM, 1~3:30PM, excluding Sundays and holidays
  - Please register through your Directly Supervised Churches
  - You must make your choice of refreshments upon registration.
- Please use the following link to find the registration link and other details (Japanese only) <https://qr.paps.jp/thDga>

**13) 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

**14) 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.

**15) 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.

**16) 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.

**17) 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](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](mailto:nyushi@sta.tenri-u.ac.jp)

For overseas applicants, you will not be required to travel to Japan; you may apply through document submission alone.

**18) 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 here:



Church HQ Calendar



Overseas Department Calendar

- There will be no Besseki Lecture on January 26, 2026.

## **19) REGARDING THE TENRIKYO BASICS COURSE (IN FOREIGN LANGUAGES) FOR 2026**

- Times and languages will be predetermined for the Basics Course held on January 24, 25, & 27, 2026. Please register one week in advance of the day you would like to attend.
- This information should be available on the Missionary Department & Overseas Department homepages. If you are interested, please reach out to the Overseas Department's Human Resources Development Committee.

## **20) REGARDING INTERPRETATION**

- Interpretation in the following languages is scheduled to be provided for the Anniversary Celebration day: English, Chinese (Mandarin & Cantonese), Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, French, Thai, Nepalese, and Mongolian.
- If you are requesting interpretation for Sanctuary Tours, the Grant of Safe Childbirth, Proof Amulet Bestowal, or the Besseki Pledge, please sign up at the Translation Section no later than three days ahead of time.

## **21) TENRIKYO ADMINISTRATIVE HEADQUARTERS OFFICES ON JANUARY 25 & 26, 2026**

- Only the following offices will be open on January 25 & 26: the Church Affairs Section (evening only), the Administrative Headquarters Management Bureau, the Administrative Affairs Section, and the Religious Corporation Section.

## **COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS**

### **CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE**

- Our Japanese pine trees were pruned by Mr. Jun'ichi Hamada, head of the High Shasta Fellowship.

### **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  
November: Robert Kokuryo, Shino Hirai, Hamilton Niwa  
December: Gary Yashiki, Hifumi Nakagawa
- We held our Corridor-Cleaning Hinokishin on October 25. Thirteen individuals participated.

Thank you very much for your participation. There will be no Corridor-Cleaning Hinokishin scheduled for January 25, 2026.

### **NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL COMMITTEE**

- The Two Day Course will be held during the weekend of March 21-22 in 2026 for both Los Angeles and New York. Registration opens in November. We will need at least four participants to hold the course. Registration Deadline: March 1.
- The Oyasato Seminar preliminary session will be held from December 28 (Sun) to 30 (Tue). The Opening Ceremony will begin at 8:30 AM. Students attending the TSA Winter Conference will join the OS preliminary session from the Opening Ceremony.
- Although we have already reached out to eligible students and their parents, if your child who is turning 17 by July of 2026 has not been contacted, please inform a member of the Oyasato Seminary sub-committee.
- 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.
- The domain name has been changed from Tenrikyo.com to TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org .

### **TRANSLATION COMMITTEE**

- The five-day Translation Conference was successfully held at the Mission Headquarters from November 3~7. Twelve people participated, in-person and virtually. We were able to complete five chapters and two historical background stories, which is about 1/3 of the book "Path of Sincerity: Salvation Edition."
- The SDM Core translation conference was successfully held from October 29 ~ November 1. We completed Song 10.
- Seven participants, of which one attended virtually, joined us for this year's Interpreter's Workshop on October 18 at the Mission Headquarters.

### **FUTURE PATH**

- We are requesting that church, fellowship, and mission center heads and their spouses, including successors, complete the survey regarding nurturing programs. The survey will end on November 30.

### **WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

- 108th TWA Convention:

All Members Return to Jiba, Bring Someone to Jiba, ~With Besseki Lecture Attendees~

April 19, 2026 (Sun)

Convention: 9:30 AM @ Church HQ Inner Courtyard

Commemorative Activity: Lecture: April 18 (Sat), from 5PM

Place: Dining Hall #2, East Lecture Hall, Oyasato-yakata East Right Wing No. 1

Fourth Floor Lecture Hall, East Left Wing No. 5 Fourth Floor Lecture Hall

Branch Association Gathering: Following the convention, at each respective branch association

- District Conventions

West Canada                      11/23 (Sun)      10:00 AM                      @ Granville Church

- TWA America Convention

May 16, 2026 (Sat) @ 10AM

Program: Group dancing of the Twelve Chapters, Convention, Social Gathering (Family Lunch)

Please bring your family to enjoy in our BBQ luncheon.

## **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**

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

## **NEW YORK CENTER**

- November 23: TYMANA NY District Convention
- December 21: TWA Holiday Bazaar

## Boys & Girls Association Convention

Washington D.C.

On Sunday, October 12, the Boys & Girls Association convention for the Washington, D.C. area was held at Capitol Church. During the service practice, Chapters 3 and 4 of the Mikagura-uta were performed. After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed summer festival dishes such as okonomiyaki, yakisoba, takoyaki, karaage, tornado potatoes, and crepes. Following the meal, participants had fun with games like target shooting, ring toss, and balloon art. In attendance included 12 BGA members, 6 young staff, and 13 other volunteers all contributing to a successful convention.



## New Head Minister Announcement

Let's congratulate **Rev. Hiroaki Takagaki**, the newest head minister of Illinois Church.  
 “First of all, I would like to work hard to improve the content of the church. I will also do my best to gradually expand the activities of the youth group in Chicago.”  
 - Rev. Hiroaki Takagaki



## Important Notice Regarding Japanese Passports in Preparation for the Oyasama's 140th Anniversary Pilgrimage

Previously, Japanese passports were issued within approximately one week, **but now it takes approximately one month**. Therefore, please be aware of this if you are returning to Jiba for the 140th anniversary of Oyasama and need to renew your passport.

 <p><b>TENRIKYO</b> RELIGION OF PEACE, JUSTICE &amp; ORDER</p> <p><b>WE'RE ONLINE!</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org">www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org</a></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て、アメリカ信理庁ウェブサイトの最新情報をチェックしてください！</p>	<p><b>CALENDAR</b></p>  <p><a href="http://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/events/calendar">tenrikyoamericacanada.org/events/calendar</a></p>	<p><b>BLOG</b></p>  <p><a href="http://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/blog/timeline">tenrikyoamericacanada.org/blog/timeline</a></p>
<p><b>NEWSLETTERS</b></p>  <p><a href="http://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/publications">tenrikyoamericacanada.org/publications</a></p>	<p><b>SERMONS</b></p>  <p><a href="http://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/sermons">tenrikyoamericacanada.org/sermons</a></p>	<p><b>OYASAMA-INSPIRED STORIES</b></p>  <p><a href="http://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/series-inspired-by-oyasama">tenrikyoamericacanada.org/series-inspired-by-oyasama</a></p>

and could be reprinted.

When I began serving at our Mission Headquarters, travel agency tickets for pilgrimages to Jiba were still printed on long paper form e-tickets showing the passenger name, flight details, and so forth.

A few years later, the system advanced: instead of printing the “E-Ticket Customer Copy,” one could print the *boarding pass* itself at home. The boarding pass included a **barcode**, which could be scanned at TSA security or the boarding gate along with an ID—eliminating the need for counter check-in if there were no checked bags.

At first, I felt quite uneasy about this system. I often worried that something might go wrong when printing at home, such as a printing error or a poorly printed barcode—and that I might be denied entry at the security checkpoint or boarding gate. Around that time, smartphones were beginning to become more widespread, but it was still an era when paper boarding passes were still commonly used.

I believe it was around 2014 when I first started using a smartphone. Until then, I had been using a mobile phone with a built-in QWERTY keyboard. However, as part of the activities for the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama, I was assigned to give lectures in Europe. At that time, the secretary advised me to buy a smartphone so that we could exchange emails more easily, and that was when I decided to get one. It was around that time, I believe that a new system was introduced: allowing passengers to check in online 24 hours before departure

and download a boarding pass with a **QR (Quick Response) code directly on to their smartphones**. At the security checkpoint or boarding gate, instead of scanning a printed barcode, passengers could simply have the QR code on their smartphone scanned to board the plane.

Initially, I was hesitant to use QR codes for boarding, worrying about potential issues. For a while, I carried both the printed boarding pass and the smartphone QR code. Over time, seeing others use it confidently, and I'm completely accustomed to it. Now, using a QR code boarding pass feels completely natural to me.

Today, the technology has progressed even further: on some international flights, **facial recognition** is used for boarding—no need to even scan a QR code.

The QR code was developed beginning in 1992 by **Masahiro Hara** and his team at **Denso Wave**, a Japanese company, and was officially released on **September 26, 1994**.

At Denso Wave, barcodes were used for parts management. However, traditional barcodes could store only limited information, requiring multiple codes for complex data, which reduced efficiency. They were also prone to read errors when smudged. Thus, there was a need for a new system capable of storing more data. Led by Hara, the team developed the **QR (Quick Response) code**.

Unlike barcodes, which only contain information horizontally, QR codes are two-dimensional codes that store information both vertically and horizontally, enabling

them to hold vast amounts of data. They can contain not only numbers but also alphabet letters and even kanji characters. Furthermore, they can sometimes be read even if there are variations in shade or color. Initially, only two versions of QR codes were developed, but today several versions exist, and QR codes capable of holding more information than when they were first invented have been developed.

Although Denso Wave holds the patent rights but deliberately chose **not to enforce it**. This is why QR codes are now spread freely worldwide. If Denso Wave had not opened up its patents, they would have been used only within the company or its affiliates, and the world would never have benefited from it as we do today.

The worldwide adoption of QR codes was made possible because Denso Wave chose not to monopolize its patent, a selfless act that serves the public good. This attitude reflects the spirit of “**mutual help**” (tasukeai).

In the Osashizu, it is written:

*Self-centeredness may seem good for each person individual, but it cannot bring peace among all.*

Osashizu, November 20, 1900

Denso Wave's decision truly embodies the spirit of this teaching.

God the Parent desires that we humans help one another and strive together toward the Joyous Life. Each of our steady steps toward this intention and bring us closer

to realizing this goal. By putting the teachings into practice each day, or through accumulating daily acts of sincerity and genuine consideration, we pave the path that leads to the world of Joyous Life.

Just as the widespread usage of QR codes has greatly improved the convenience of many things all around the world, our individual acts that transcend self-interest and contribute to the well-being of all will ultimately guide the world toward Joyous Life.

*(translation by S. Fujimoto)*

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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.