

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Women's Association Convention 2026

On Saturday, May 16th, the Women's Association of America Canada successfully held their annual convention at the Mission Headquarters in America. Many from around the diocese gathered to participate in a joyous service followed by various activities including greetings by the Chairwoman, Mrs. Hiromi Fukaya, and a fun luncheon with games and entertainment. Additionally, the annual Young Women's Group Kokan Gathering was held with special guest, Rev. Lynn So.

See more on page 14

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

June 2026

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- Warmth -

On the 20th of this month, the “Boys and Girls Association Practice Service Convention” for the North America Group will be held. We hope that many Boys and Girls Association members will participate and that the event will be successfully conducted. I ask for the cooperation of many supporting BGA staff members.

Next month, the Young Men’s Association International Hinokishin Corps will be activated at Jiba, and the Children’s Pilgrimage to Jiba will also be held. We hope that as many people as possible will participate in both events. However, please keep in mind that the Children’s Pilgrimage will require the assistance of many adult supporting staff. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Now then, in the past I had written “A Work in Progress” articles titled: “The Comeback of Records” (September 2023 issue) and “The Revival of Cassette Tapes” (December 2025 issue). In those articles, I touched on the phenomenon of younger generations (Gen Z) finding records and cassette tapes refreshing and reevaluating

“analog” media. They enjoy the time-consuming analog processes such as taking a record out of its jacket, placing it on a turntable, and dropping the needle to listen to music, or setting a cassette tape into a deck as a kind of “ritual” or “pleasant experience.”

In addition, these media also seem to provide “young people with the joy of ownership.” Streaming audio is convenient, but since it exists only as data on smartphones or computers, it may be difficult to feel that the “music truly belongs to them.” I imagine that the desire to own music in a “form” as proof of supporting a favorite artist is one of the reasons behind this return to analog media.

(continued on page 18)

Coming Up

- * Children’s Pilgrimage
in Jiba 7/24-7/30
- * TYMANA Hinokishin-tai
in Jiba 7/18-7/24
- * TYMANA Convention
@ Mission HQ 8/15

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May Monthly Service Prayer

May 17, 2026

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

Dear God the Parent, looking forward to our Joyous Life, You created this world and human beings, where there was no form. Over the ages, You have provided Your blessings in the world and within our bodies. You continue to protect and nurture us with Your unchanging warm parental love, for which we are truly grateful.

With this gratitude always in mind, we express our deep thanks each morning and evening. Although our efforts may be lacking, we devote ourselves to the path of single-heartedly helping other be saved to make repayment for Your blessings.

As this fine day is our May monthly service, from now, receiving the truth of Jiba, we service performers will spiritedly perform the seated service and teodori service dance.

Looking forward to this day, we Yoboku and followers have gathered here to give thanks for Your daily blessings and to pray for Your unchanging parental love. In witnessing our spirited singing, God the Parent, please become spirited as well.

Yesterday, we were able to successfully hold our Women's Association convention, for which we are deeply grateful. We pray for Your continued guidance so that our Women's Association members—who pride themselves as the foundation of the path—may unite their minds in promoting their association activities and contribute even further to the advancement of the path.

Also, from last month through this month, Hinokishin Day activities are being conducted throughout our diocese. We pray that these efforts may also serve as opportunities for spreading the fragrance of the teachings.

Furthermore, our Student Association will hold their Spring Conference this month from the 23rd to the 25th here at Mission Headquarters. I pray that our students will learn the teachings, grow spiritually, and become promising young people for the future of our path.

As we witness wars, conflicts, and natural disasters throughout the world, we reflect upon Your intention. We will devote ourselves to single-heartedly help others be saved, and take proactive steps in missionary and salvation work, to strive towards the realization of the Joyous Life world. Further, we hope to convey this path to the next generation and to have those in our diocese grow spiritually together with our hearts united as one.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our sincerity so that, even one day sooner, the hearts of all people will be purified and that this world will be transformed into one in which we all mutually help one another. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

May Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Linda Nishi

Contribution and Dedication

I am truly grateful that we have joyously and spiritedly completed the May monthly service under the leadership of our Bishop and his wife. Also, the Women's Association of America Convention was successfully held yesterday, followed by a family BBQ where members and their families enjoyed each other's company.

I ask for your kind attention for today's sermon.

I was scheduled to stand at this podium to deliver the March monthly service in 2020. However, due to COVID-19, the Canadian government advised against all international travel, and I was therefore unable to fly out. I phoned the Bishop to apologize and asked if there was any way my sermon could still be delivered. Then, the ever tech-savvy Trasey suggested presenting it via Zoom. A large TV was brought into the sanctuary, allowing me to see the Bishop and those participating in the service while I delivered the sermon. I was truly grateful to be able to fulfill my duty.

During the pandemic, and throughout the three-year, one-thousand-day period leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, I have been shown various knots. The biggest one was in 2021, when, due to certain

circumstances, I had to request permission from the head minister of my grand church to relocate my church. Out of his deep parental heart, he graciously granted my request. Furthermore, when the time came in June to receive the divine sanction, because I was unable to travel to Japan due to COVID-19, he and the other head ministers of my upper churches attended on my behalf, for which I am deeply grateful.

The church was relocated to a building across the street known as "Fukyo no Ie," or Missionary House, which had been purchased by my grand church many years earlier. As the building was quite old, it required extensive renovations, including reroofing, electrical upgrades, and expanding the interior to accommodate a new sanctuary. However, my main concern was finding someone who could help build the new sanctuary—ideally, someone familiar with Tenrikyo. I was at my wits' end, desperately searching for a Japanese carpenter, but to no avail.

Fortunately, Rev. Kay heard about my situation and introduced me to her Yoboku, Bob, who lived about an hour's drive from my church. This was truly a blessing. "Bob the Builder," as my granddaughters affectionately called him, worked tirelessly with his team to complete the renovations and build the sanctuary in time for the enshrinement service on December 5.

With Bob and his wife as our honoured guests, and together with the followers of



Rev. Linda Nishi
head minister of Vancouver Church

Joyous Fellowship, who are also affiliated with Konohana Grand Church, we joyfully conducted the service. Out of an abundance of caution, everyone wore masks, and my elderly members were advised to refrain from attending.

Honestly, with no prior experience in renovation or building a new sanctuary, there were days when I felt lost. However, I truly felt the blessings of God the Parent guiding me every step of the way, as everything progressed smoothly. I believe this was due to the merit accumulated by my late parents—the first head minister and his wife—and the sincere dedication of the members of my church.

Merit or virtue is like a seed that can sprout in the future and if accepted by God the Parent, it becomes the basis of receiving God the Parent's blessings. When a person follows the path in accordance with the will of God the Parent, such merit is bestowed on the person's soul. In the Divine Directions

it is written:

If you understand now and resolve to follow the path in the future, no matter how difficult it may be, God will accept your heart now. Make your resolution quickly. If you make your resolution, there is no telling how much merit you will receive.

Osashizu, March 6, 1895

The Divine Directions also state:

Try serving the path a little. You would never know how much merit you would have.

Osashizu, April 9, 1907

It is also of utmost importance to make efforts of contribution and dedication with the mind of gratitude and joy. As it is written in the Divine Directions:

I do not bless you for the things you offer. It is the mind filled with gratitude that I accept...Offer to Me your minds filled with promise, filled with promise. Then I shall accept, I shall accept. If you do it with tears, with tears, God cannot accept.

Osashizu, July 20, 1902

In *The Anecdotes of Oyasama*, No. 144, entitled "The Virtue Which Reaches Heaven," Oyasama was detained in Nara Prison, and Chuzaburo Koda was also held in custody for ten days. While imprisoned, Chuzaburo was ordered by a jailor to clean the toilets. When he came back to Oyasama after he finished cleaning, Oyasama asked

him what he thought of having been made to clean such filthy places as toilets.

Chuzaburo replied, “I think I am serving God whatever I do. So I am very happy,” he answered.

Oyasama said, “You are right. If you do something with gratitude, no matter how hard or unpleasant it may be, your virtue will reach heaven. Virtue which is accepted by God will be turned into joy. But no matter how hard or trying the work that you do may be, if you do it complaining, ‘How hard it is, how I hate it,’ the complaints will also reach heaven and be returned to you in kind.”

My parents and followers devoted themselves joyfully and spiritedly to spreading the teachings and engaging in salvation work, despite their limited English proficiency. They also frequently held yard sales to raise funds for church activities. My mother would point to the Tenrikyo Vancouver Church sign hanging outside the building, hand out pamphlets, and encourage customers to step inside and see the sanctuary. Little did we know that this would eventually lead to trouble.

Thirty years ago, during the year of Oyasama’s 110th Anniversary, the church was shown a knot that caused us considerable anxiety. The third Shinbashira expressed his hope to see the Jiba bustling with followers attending the Church Headquarters’ monthly services throughout the anniversary year. In his earnest desire to fulfill the Shinbashira’s wishes, my father, the first head minister, resolved to return every month.

While he was in Jiba, we held a yard sale for two days at the end of February. At the beginning of March, an inspector



from Vancouver City Hall suddenly visited our church, saying that they had received a complaint from someone claiming that this building is a church. I told her that we are a society under the BC Societies Act and a registered charity. Then the inspector explained matter-of-factly that there are strict zoning laws regarding churches and, to put it simply, a church cannot operate in a house. Therefore, we must stop all activities immediately. She told me to take down all the church posters, put away the chairs, and, most painfully, to remove the Tenrikyo Vancouver Church sign. The simplest way to obtain official recognition as a church would be to purchase an already established one.

My father had just returned from Jiba, and both he and my mother were in utter shock as I explained everything the inspector had said. Then it finally dawned on me—the church was going to be shut down. Suddenly, tears welled up in my eyes, and the inspector looked at me in surprise, asking, “Why are

you crying?” I told her how much hard work and devotion my parents and followers had put into building this church.. Then, somewhat unexpectedly, her expression softened. After a brief pause to consider the situation, she said that, since there had been no prior complaints, the sanctuary could be regarded as a family shrine—albeit a rather large one. She further noted that, because we are a registered society, only current members may gather to participate in activities. However, the church sign would need to be removed, we would not be permitted to promote the religion to the public, and we would be required to have adequate fire extinguishers in the building.

Although it was deeply disappointing that we had to take down the church sign, we were very grateful to be able to continue holding services and other activities. It was truly a blessing. In gratitude, the head minister and the followers made great efforts to return to Jiba as often as possible during the year of the 110th Anniversary, inviting their family members and friends. In total, 70 trips were made, including 12 by the head minister, with many followers making multiple visits as well.

These core members of the church have been devoted to the path since its early days as a fellowship and have played a vital role in establishing Vancouver Church. Their sincere and unwavering faith has always been a great source of inspiration to me. Coming to church daily for either the morning or evening services, and offering prayers for those who were ill, came naturally to them. Many years ago, we had a follower who frequently took part in pilgrimages to Jiba. Later in life,

he developed kidney failure and required dialysis every three days. However, this did not deter him from returning to Jiba, as he arranged dialysis treatments in advance at Ikoi no Ie Hospital and other medical facilities each time. He firmly believed that he would make it to all those appointments. He showed me that we can receive blessings by placing our complete trust in God.

Sadly, over the years, the core members have passed away one by one for rebirth, with four of them passing on in just the past two years. Most of the remaining elderly members have moved into retirement homes, bringing their symbols of worship with them. One member who makes daily offerings carefully saves the rice, collecting it in a container. Once it is full, she gives it to a staff member, explaining that it has been offered to God. The staff member appears deeply pleased to receive it. This 94-year-old church member is very proud to be Tenrikyo and makes sure everyone in the care facility knows it. She always looks forward to my visits, waiting for me to bring the monthly Tenri Iki Iki newsletters and the food offerings from the church’s monthly service, which she happily shares with others in the retirement home. Her example emphasizes the importance of having confidence in the teachings.

Finally, another follower reminded me of the importance of the principle, “Constancy is sincerity.” She has followed the path for over sixty years, and her sincerity has remained unchanged. For many years, she and her husband came to worship on the 5th, 16th, and 23rd—the days when our upper churches and the grand church hold their monthly services—as well as on the 26th,

the monthly service at Church Headquarters. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she became creative and decided to “worship by phone,” a practice she continues to this day. She also expresses her sincerity by offering bottles of sake on the birthdays of each family member. At first, they were a family of five. Over the years, however, the family has grown as the children have had children of their own, and the number of bottles of sake has increased as well. Although she is 91 years old, she is quite mobile for her age and accompanies me when we visit other elderly members to administer the Sazuke and takes part in our monthly services.

I have been truly blessed with wonderful

role models who have shown me how to sow seeds of sincerity. I pray that their efforts of contribution and dedication are accepted by God the Parent. As it is written in the Divine Directions:

I have firmly accepted the efforts of contribution and dedication you have made until now.

I have accepted them as the truth for a lifetime and for eternity.

Osashizu, June 28, 1899

Thank you very much for your kind attention.



SOULFIRE

TENRIKYO FAITH GATHERING

Saturday, November 14th, 2026

10:30 AM - 4:00 PM

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters of America & Canada
2727 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90033



@tenrikyo.faith.conference

<https://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/tfc>



www.facebook.com/soulfiretfc/

1) JUNE MONTHLY SERVICE (6/21)

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Kazumi Kawakami, Takahiko Hayashi

Director: Robert Kokuryo

Attendants: Mitsuharu Ito, Steven Yukimoto

Offerings Officiant: Gary Yashiki

Sermon: Hiroko Okazaki (E)

2) CHURCH/FELLOWSHIP AFFAIRS

- Fellowship of Joy: Address change, Phone number change

3) PASSING AWAY FOR REBIRTH

On May 25 at 8:20PM, Rev. Yoichi Fukui, head of the New York Center and head of the NY Tominaka Fellowship, passed away for rebirth at the age of 64. The Transfer of Spirit Ceremony was held on May 29th at 7PM, and the funeral service was held on May 30 at 10AM, at the Nanki Followers Dormitory. We would like to acknowledge and appreciate his many years of service and dedication.

4) 86TH AMERICA SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE (SHUYOKAI)

Due to an insufficient number of applicants, we will not be holding the 86th America Spiritual Development Course this year.

5) TENRIKYO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (TLI) APPLICATION

- Eligibility:
1. Those who completed formal education for a minimum of 12 years.
 2. Those who have passed N5 in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

When applying for the Japanese Language Department, Japanese ability of N5 in the Japanese-Language Proficiency (or equivalent) is required when submitting the application.

- For those who have not passed N5, applicants will be given study materials from the Japanese Language Department in May of the application year, in order to prepare for skill certification test, to be taken by the end of August. Depending on the results of this skill certification test, should TLI certify that the applicant's proficiency is equivalent to that of N5, the application will be accepted, and accommodations should be made so that the application process itself will not be hindered.

Regarding application distribution:

- As of April 25, downloadable application forms are available on the TLI website.
- At the same time, details should be released regarding the study requirements for the skill certification test.

6) SHUYOKA SPANISH CLASS

This 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 contact the Mission Headquarters as soon as possible.

7) 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 this year to begin from October 27.

8) AMERICA ICHIRETSU-KAI SCHOLARSHIP

We are now accepting applications for the 2026 America Ichiretsukai Scholarship.

Children of church, fellowship, and mission center heads who have been accepted to

attend college are eligible. Application forms are available at the Mission Headquarters for those who wish to receive the scholarship. The application deadline is June 30 (Tue). New recipients will be announced on the August monthly service day. Those wishing to continue to receive the scholarship in the second, third, or fourth year of college will not have to resubmit applications; however, if students plan to take time off from school or transfer to another school, they must report it to the Mission Headquarters by August 31.

9) MISSION HQ PERSONNEL CHANGES

- Mr. Yoshinobu Hayashi (Myodo GC), who served as seinen since April 14, 2024, completed his duties and returned to Japan on May 5, 2026. *We apologize for the late communication.
- On June 2, 2026, Overseas Department staff member Mr. Yoshiyuki Tanaka (Church HQ) arrived at the Mission Headquarters to serve as seinen.



COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

CONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE

- There is a drain pipe in the Missionary House that is in poor condition, and although it is not currently hindering any use, we are discussing the option of having it repaired.
- We are planning to trim the big trees in the parking lot across the street.

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 July is as follows.
 June: Noriko Kitai, Kinpei Ito
 July: Robert Yuge, Hifumi Nakagawa
 August: Hiroko Okazaki, Ray Tadokoro

NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- The America-Canada Oyasato Seminar subcommittee staff & parents, along with the staff and parents from Hawaii, held a joint-orientation over Zoom in preparation towards the Oyasato Seminar; 25 persons attended. If parents or reverends of any OS students have any questions, please reach out to the Oyasato Seminar subcommittee.
- The six students from the US-Canada mainland will be staying at the Myodo follower's dormitory from July 10 to participate in the pre-seminar.
- The TSA Spring Conference was successfully held, and 15 students participated. During the conference, students learned the teachings through lectures, as well as how to apply the teachings in their daily lives. Furthermore, participants were able to strengthen their bonds with one another through the fun activities that were held,

including a dance contest in preparation for this year's Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE

- We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight local activities and events under the title, "Joyous Life Here & There." Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity information & 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. We have recently updated the Our Guide to Jiba page. Please visit our homepage, and let those around you know as well. Domain Name: TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org.

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

- TWA Convention (Seattle District)
August 22, 2026 (Sat) @ 11AM Place: High Seattle Church
- TWA Convention (San Francisco District)
August 29, 2026 (Sat) @ 10AM Place: Marina Church
- TWA Convention (Chicago District)
August 30, 2026 (Sun) @ 10:30AM Place: Midwest Church

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

- The 2026 BGA Youth Conference and the Practice Service Convention will be held on June 19 (Fri) and June 20 (Sat), respectively, at the Mission Headquarters.
- This year's Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba and International Shonen Hinokishin Corp for the America-Canda-Hawaii group will be from July 24 (Hinokishin Corp from July 25) to July 30.
- Please send an email to [moto1884@icloud.com] if there are any new BGA members, newborn or new to the North America congregation.

TYMANA

- We will hold our TYMANA Convention on August 15 (Sat) from 10:30 AM. This year, we will welcome a representative from TYMA HQ. Please stay for the afternoon activity, followed by a barbecue at the East Hall in the evening.

NY CENTER

- July 20: Japanese Language Instructor Training Seminar planned to be held at the Tenri Cultural Institute (until the 25th)

Tenrikyo Students Association Spring Conference 2026

The 2026 TSA Spring Conference was successfully held at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America over Memorial Day weekend, from Saturday, May 23, through Monday, May 25.

A total of 15 participants attended the conference, ranging from high school students as young as 15 years old to college students in their twenties. Reflecting on the event, TSA President Kylie Tomizawa shared, “This year’s conference was very joyful, comforting, and a huge success! We all had a great opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Teachings, strengthen friendships, and create many lasting memories together.”

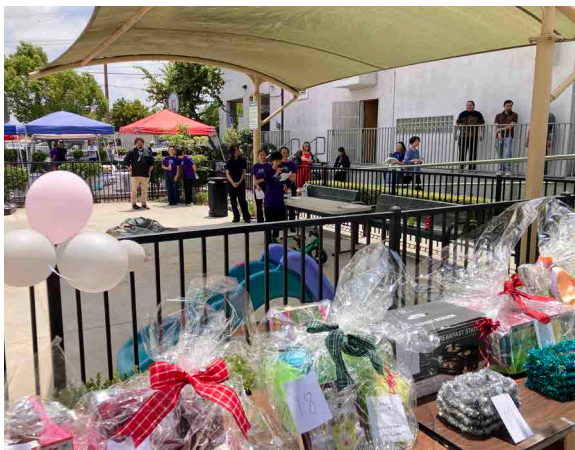
Through educational and inspiring lectures by Rev. Hiroko Okazaki and Rev. Koji Uesugi, participants learned more about the Teachings, particularly the concept of the “dusts of the mind” and how to apply the Teachings to overcome challenges and live joyously as teenagers and young adults. The students also gained valuable insight, encouragement, and practical guidance from college-aged TSA members, who shared their personal experiences navigating the challenges of college life and explained how the Teachings have supported and guided them along the way.

(read more at www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org)





Women's Association Convention 2026 - America Canada -





Hinokishin Day Activities - Mission Headquarters in America -





We were deeply saddened to hear of Rev. Fukui's passing for rebirth. Rev. Fukui was such an important part of our New York family, and he will be profoundly missed by all whose lives he touched.

He was truly an extraordinary person with a heart full of kindness and compassion. Rev. Fukui played a pivotal role in the establishment of Tenri Cultural Institute as both an administrator and Japanese teacher. At New York Center, he faithfully supported Rev. Keigo Morishita as his trusted right-hand man during those challenging years. Later, as executive director, he guided TCI toward financial independence through his tireless dedication and vision. Finally, as minister of New York Center, Rev. Fukui was able to guide us through the "Three Years, One Thousand Day" period leading up the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama.

Above all, Rev. Fukui was a minister and spiritual leader who led by example. He walked the path as a humble pioneer, never allowing anyone to leave without feeling uplifted and joyful. He could never turn away someone in need. His compassion extended to everyone and everything around him — children, adults, animals, even plants. He cared deeply for those who had nowhere to go and those who needed encouragement, comfort, or hope.

I remember hearing a story about Rev. Fukui walking through the streets of New York City when someone suddenly collapsed. Without hesitation, he immediately began administering the Sazuke. When the paramedics arrived, they told him to step aside, but the person receiving the Sazuke asked them to wait until Rev. Fukui had finished. That was Rev. Fukui. He embodied sincerity, compassion, and unwavering faith in action.

He is the model that I strive to live by. Rev. Fukui continually sacrificed himself for the sake of others and dedicated his life to the happiness and well-being of those around him.

Before leaving for Japan to receive treatment, Rev. Fukui shared these words: that this knot was actually a "gift from God the Parent" — a gift given so that we would have something to unite around and overcome together. He expressed his hope that we would join our hearts and make the 50th Anniversary Celebration a truly joyous occasion, one that could serve as a model of the Joyous Life.

Although Rev. Fukui will not physically return for our 50th Anniversary Celebration, his spirit, teachings, and example remain with us. In gratitude for all that he gave, we will unite our minds and hearts to make the occasion a truly joyous one, just as he wished.

Michael Yuge
New York Center



福井校長が

What interests me the most is their sensitivity to sound quality. CDs and downloaded audio certainly sound clear and transparent. With records, by contrast, you can hear the faint “crackling” noise as the needle touches the surface. Therefore, in terms of pure sound clarity, digital media are overwhelmingly superior.

However, I cannot help but feel that this clarity lacks a certain warmth. As I mentioned in “The Revival of Cassette Tapes,” people naturally seek comfort and warmth. Perhaps young people too are beginning to look for a kind of “texture” that digital media does not possess.

Personally, I think I am usually someone who seeks efficiency. I am also someone who prefers to eliminate waste as much as possible. However, I feel that if we pursue “efficiency” too aggressively, there may come a time when we make the wrong decision or head in the wrong direction.

Certainly, I think efficiency is an indispensable principle in everyday life. There are many situations in our daily lives where we end up wasting time simply because of unnecessary actions. By acting efficiently, we can save time and then use that time for other purposes.

For example, when delivering offerings from the monthly service to the followers' homes afterward, it is important to plan the route while considering when they may be away and potential traffic congestion. Doing so helps save time and allows that time to be used for other tasks.

Even when cleaning, we think about the proper order. For example, one would

first open the windows, then start cleaning from higher places such as the ceiling. Then vacuum the floor and finally wipe down surfaces with a damp cloth. This is considered a “logical sequence.” By following it, the cleaning can be done well. However, if these tasks were done in the reverse order, it would likely create extra work and waste time.

In Japanese cuisine, there is a traditional order for adding seasonings known as “sa-shi-su-se-so.” Especially when preparing simmered dishes, seasonings are added in the order of sugar (sa), salt (shi), vinegar (su), soy sauce (se), and miso (so) so that the flavors can fully develop, bringing out the ingredients' natural qualities and resulting in a tastier dish. However, if the order is wrong, a good dish can be ruined.

In this way, determining the proper order of tasks and acting efficiently is extremely important for eliminating waste and saving time.

On the other hand, I believe that if we become overly focused on eliminating waste and maximizing efficiency excessively, we may end up losing “something important.”

Particularly when it comes to “nurturing people,” the essence does not lie in simply investing time and effort. If efficiency is given priority above all else, the human “warmth” can be lost. I also wonder whether the reason many young people find comfort in analog audio formats is that they are unconsciously seeking a sense of “inner fulfillment” that clear sound quality alone cannot provide.

Considering the growing phenomenon

of Gen Z listening to music on analog media such as records and cassette tapes, it seems that they are not merely seeking a way to listen to music. Rather, this may be a manifestation of a deeper psychological desire to experience “warmth” through analog media. Perhaps young people are beginning to realize that simply listening to music with clear sound quality through CDs or streaming services is not always enough to bring peace of mind.

AI (Artificial Intelligence) will become widespread throughout the world, and an era may come in which autonomous taxis and industrial robots will play central roles in society. While technology is undoubtedly convenient, one might wonder whether it lacks human warmth. As humans, I believe we still need a “world with a human touch,” where people interact with one another.

Isn't this emphasis on “interpersonal relationships” precisely one of the core values of our faith? “Nurturing people” requires time and effort. Even activities and events that may appear inefficient and unnecessary at first glance often depend upon direct human interaction. Humans are emotional creatures, and they cannot be guided or nurtured with the same efficiency as robots. To nurture rich emotions, perhaps what is needed is a connection that is analog in nature, unpolished and a bit messy, yet warm.

In recent years, even within Tenrikyo, there has been an increase in events and training sessions that can be attended online. Nevertheless, many seminars and workshops are still conducted in a

way that involves staying overnight, for example, in dormitories. I do not believe these gatherings exist merely for learning the doctrine or obtaining qualifications. Rather, they provide a “place” where one can experience genuine human warmth and gain valuable lessons through meaningful “interpersonal interactions” that develop from living together, sharing meals and sleeping under the same roof.

In the Divine Directions, we are taught:

People will grow because you nurture them. People will not grow unless you nurture them. If you apply fertilizer, the fertilizer will take effect.

Osashizu, September 24, 1888

If parents have an open mind, their children will grow big. If parents have a closed mind, their children will grow small.

Osashizu, July 7, 1888

When we nurture others, we need to nurture them with the principle of sincerity of our minds alone.

Osashizu, March 23, 1891 (Translated for this article)

When it comes to developing people, I do not believe there are shortcuts. What is truly essential is the willingness to invest time and effort together with the warmth that comes from consideration for others.

What are your thoughts on this?

(translation by O. Osawa)

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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.