

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba

From July 24th through 30th, the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba was successfully held with participants from various regions throughout the U.S., Canada, and Hawaii dioceses. Despite the intense heat, the children thoroughly enjoyed their summer visit to Jiba with one another. See page 17 for more fun photos.

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

August 2026

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- *The Eight Dusts of the Mind* (1) -

Last month, the International Hinokishin Corps, the Oyasato Seminar, and the Children’s Pilgrimage to Jiba were held at Church Headquarters, and many people returned to Jiba. I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all the participants, students, and staff for their efforts. Thank you very much.

On the 15th of this month, our Young Men’s Association will hold its annual convention. I hope that as many young men as possible will attend.

In 2025, at the request of the Tenrikyo Women’s Association of America, I gave a talk on the “Eight Dusts of the Mind” at the “Michi-no-dai (Foundation of the Path) Nurturing Seminar.” Using the manuscript from that talk as a basis, I would like to write about the “Eight Dusts of the Mind” in my “A Work in Progress” over the next several months.

Further, I should note that I will include my personal understandings. While I do not believe I have written anything incorrect, I cannot guarantee that the content is entirely

accurate. I write this in the hope that this may serve as a reference for readers, and some portions may be written conversationally. I ask for your understanding and hope that you will read this with these points in mind.

The teaching of the “Eight Dusts of the Mind,” together with “a thing lent, a thing borrowed,” can be considered basic doctrines of Tenrikyo. We may often explain about these when we spread the fragrance of the teachings (*nioigake*) or when we speak with people who are encountering the teachings of Tenrikyo for the first time.

In the past, before attending the Besseki lectures, one had to take a “pre-test.” I have heard that those taking the test had to recite from memory an explanation of the “ten aspects of God’s complete providence” and the “Eight Dusts of the Mind.” This “pre-test” appears to have been conducted until around 1948, and a person could not attend

(continued on page 22)

Coming Up

- * Interpreter’s Wkshp @ Mission HQ/online
9/19 @ 1:00pm
- * Women’s Assoc. District Conventions
see pg. 12 for details

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July Monthly Service Prayer

June 19, 2026

Before You, God the Parent, Tenri-Ō-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, looking forward to our Joyous Life, You created this world and human beings where there was no form. With Your boundless blessings and gradual guidance, You have nurtured our spiritual growth with Your parental love. For this, we are truly grateful. Although we may fall short, we lean upon Oyasama's Divine Model and strive to respond to Your divine will, as we spiritedly dedicate ourselves each day in salvation work.

On this fine day, we shall hold our July monthly service. From now, receiving the Truth of Jiba, we service performers will unite our minds to joyously perform the Seated Service and the Teodori Service Dance.

Looking forward to this day, we Yoboku and followers have gathered here in high spirits, to offer our gratitude for Your daily blessings and to ask for Your unchanging grace as we spiritedly sing the service songs. In witnessing this, we ask that You, God the Parent, become spirited as well.

Currently, the Young Men's Association International Hinokishin Corps and Oyasato Seminar are being held at Jiba, and at the end of this month, the America and Canada Boys and Girls Association will participate in the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba. We pray that You guide and protect all the participants so that they may make their journeys safely.

Furthermore, on August 15th, our Young Men's Association will hold their annual convention. We pray for Your guidance so that our many young men will gather, and that this will serve as an opportunity for them to fulfill their duties as pioneers of the path and to further revitalize their association's activities.

Already six months have passed since Oyasama's 140th Anniversary. At this time, we pledge to walk on a path of spiritual growth and to aim for activities that follow the Shinbashira's intention of "Salvation Work Done Single Single-heartedly, Service Performed Whole-Heartedly." Moreover, reflecting upon the wars, conflicts, and natural disasters unfolding across the world, we pledge to seek Your divine intention, to spread the teachings, and to convey this path to the next generation.

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

July Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Noriko Kitai

Oyasama's Anniversary and Me

I am truly delighted that, led by the Bishop and his wife, we have been able to conduct this July Monthly Service in a spirit of joyousness. As I have been asked to deliver the sermon this month, I ask for your kind attention for a short while.

This marks the third anniversary celebration I have experienced since moving to the United States. We are taught that an anniversary is a seasonal time to show Oyasama, Who is ever-living and continues to work, the state of our spiritual maturity and to bring joy to Her. It is also a period for taking further steps beyond the goals we had previously set. Throughout the time leading up to these anniversaries, I have walked my path without perceiving the parental heart of God the Parent, held back by a selfish mindset that slowed spiritual maturity. Yet, God the Parent has always watched over me warmly. I would like to share the story of my slow spiritual growth up to this point and set a new goal for myself as I move toward the next milestone.

From the time I married until I moved to the United States, my husband's mother served as the director of the followers dormitory, so I was always involved in caring for those who returned to Jiba from America. Although these pilgrimage trips occurred only about twice a year, during their extended stays, they would share various stories about life in America. Because of this, even though I did not visit churches in a remote country, I never felt the distance. Just as things settled down after being blessed with three children, I received news in 2002 that my uncle, Kunio Higashida—the third minister—had passed away for rebirth. Hoping to offer at least some support to Michiko Higashida—who was to become the fourth minister—I obtained permission from the head minister of my parent church to go overseas on the day of the announcement for “three years, one thousand days” activities leading up to the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama. I secured a visa the following March and traveled to the United States on my own. Of course, given the circumstances at the time, it was not feasible to move to the U.S. together with my husband; however,



Rev. Noriko Kitai
head minister of North America Church

from God's perspective, I may have had a fundamental misunderstanding of joyous acceptance. Little did I know then that I would later be shown various troubles that were to unfold. After arriving in the U.S., as a minister, I commuted to North America Church for about ten months. I was warmly welcomed by followers from the former minister's tenure, who were also supporting me at my own church, and I was deeply grateful for their kindness despite my inexperience in following the path. Just as I had settled into life there, the time came to renew my visa, only to discover that—due to the circumstances at the time—renewal was not possible. I recall causing a great deal of trouble for the Overseas Department, which handled visa

matters for us back then. With only a few months remaining on my visa, I returned to Jiba for the 120th Anniversary of Oyasama in January of the following year; however, my heart remained heavy, and I was unable to bring joy to Oyasama. I returned to the U.S. with a heavy heart before my visa expired, yet miraculously, I was granted a three-year visa extension at airport immigration. I was overjoyed; it was a truly magnificent instance of divine protection. However, those three years flew by, and although I applied for permanent residency during that time, the application was unsuccessful. Then, in 2009, I returned to Japan because my visa had expired. Although I had been told that the application process for a new visa would move forward after a year, progress stalled, and four and a half years went by. During this time, I found a job and began working. Thinking about the future—and perhaps driven by a desire to be productive in case I was never able to return to the U.S.—I started working at an adult day care center. My job involved picking up clients, assisting with bathing, and ensuring they enjoyed their day before returning home. Most of the clients had dementia; listening to the same stories every day helped me cultivate patience—or rather, a

genuine heart for listening to others. It was a truly valuable experience. After about two years, once I had settled into the job, I finally realized the reason the visa application had stalled and understood the profound intention of God the Parent. It had to do with my husband's retirement. God the Parent had been waiting for the moment when we could go to the U.S. together as a couple, united in mind to carry out the divine work. Once our hearts were truly resolved, the visa process moved forward with surprising speed, and we returned to the U.S. together during the first year of pre-anniversary period leading up to the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama. Three years later, we were able to obtain the permanent residency status we had long awaited—marking the culmination of a fifteen-year journey for me. Since arriving in the U.S., we have been blessed with connections to various people—both through the congregation and our work—and with opportunities to administer the Sazuke. At the North America Church, we welcomed the family of Acting Minister, Rev. Uemura, allowing us to hold lively monthly services filled with the sounds of children—something we had not experienced before. Amidst this daily routine, we were just beginning to settle into life at this rural church. I cannot recall exactly when it started,



but there were times when I sensed a heavy atmosphere drifting in—an air that would come and go, only to return again. It was an atmosphere heavy with the weight of the prospect that I would become the next minister of North America Church—a reality I found hard to believe. However, when the order came for the acting minister's family to return to Church Headquarters, I felt as though I were suddenly being crushed by that heavy atmosphere. Although I knew I ought to humbly accept the words of the Parent, the burden felt too great, and I found myself unable to simply submit. While there was a strong desire within the congregation not to lose the truth of the church name, I had also been wondering if there was some way I could simply escape the situation.

To backtrack a little, I was born the eldest daughter of a father who was a third-generation follower and a mother who was a first-generation follower. My father lost his own mother when he was very young and he was taken in by his grandparents, growing up without ever knowing his parents' faces. Having endured such hardship in his upbringing, my father often said, "It is no good to care only about the present moment." He would say this whenever I made excuses or told lies to get out of a difficult situation. He also used to tell me, "Think carefully about how the words you speak and the actions you take now will play out tomorrow or a week from today."

I recalled those words of my father. Then, the faces of my grandchildren came to mind, and I realized that if the church—and its name—were to disappear, it would be just like ridding myself of my parents. From that point on, I felt as though my heart began to lift, little by little. In the Divine Directions:

Sah, sah, it will not do that you are gloomy. It is difficult to do things smoothly on a gloomy day. Understand this one truth, understand, understand. Set out to do whatever you must do with a mind as bright as a sunny day. With fine weather, you will be able

to accomplish things smoothly. Throughout the world, if the sky is not overcast, the spirit will be bright. Things will go smoothly.

August 9, 1888

A few weeks later, having resolved my mind, I submitted my reply. The following July—during the first year of the pre-anniversary period—I received permission to become the fifth head minister. At the same time, The church was able to make a fresh start by transitioning from being directly affiliated under Church Headquarters to becoming a church affiliated with Mission Headquarters; I felt this divine protection greatly lightened my burden. Although I faced various challenges during the pre-anniversary period, having a spiritual parent, the Bishop, and Rev. Yuge (the head minister of a church with the same affiliation) close by to consult with provided immense emotional support, allowing me to welcome the 140th Anniversary with a joyful heart and a unity of mind. The anniversary has now concluded. In his closing remarks, the Shinbashira encouraged us to press forward with spirited determination, building upon the efforts of the past three years as we embark on a new stage of our journey. Furthermore, in an interview titled "Embarking on the Next Milestone," Rev. Nakata,

Director-in-Chief of Administrative Affairs, outlined specific goals for the future: he urged us to envision the state of the churches entrusted to our care ten years from now, and to carefully consider and implement the necessary steps to move forward. I will turn seventy next year. When I picture the coming decade, I cannot help but feel some anxiety about my own future. The most significant goal for the church is passing the baton to the next generation—a task that allows for no complacency. I feel a deep need to cherish and make the most of each passing year. In 2033—the first year of the pre-anniversary period leading up to the 150th Anniversary of Oyasama—North America Church will mark its centennial. In the church, old books and furnishings harmonize seamlessly with newer elements. As we move forward, we strive to maintain harmony while never forgetting the 100-year history and the hardships endured by our predecessors. United in mind and purpose with the fellow members in our district, we look forward to celebrating the centennial anniversary and bringing joy to both Oyasama and our predecessors.

In the Divine Directions:

Though you try to follow the path of the Parent, you do not understand the truth of the

Parent's path. The new path you are following exists only because there was the old path. The old path is the Parent, the new path is a child. Sah, sah, as time passes by, you get busy following the new path and forget the old path. Listen and understand well. Because there was the old path, the new path exists, I say. [Do not simply bury the old path away.]

October 9, 1889

Just as there are parents, there are children; just as there is the ancient path, we are graciously allowed to walk the new path of today. I would like to continue walking this path without forgetting this truth.

Thank you very much for your kind attention today.

(translation by M. Yuge)

Fueling Our Faith,
Strengthening Our Community



SOULFIRE

TENRIKYO FAITH GATHERING

NOVEMBER 14, 2026

10:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

CHILD CARE PROVIDED

ENGLISH/JAPANESE INTERPRETATION
for select sessions

Register Here!



1) AUGUST MONTHLY SERVICE (8/15)

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Kazumi Kawakami, Raymond Morishita

Director: Kuniaki Hasegawa

Attendants: Motohiro Iwahashi, Taichi Onishi

Offerings Officiant: Robert Shimizu

Sermon: Lynn So (E)

2) 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, and now TLI is requiring all applicants to take the skill certification test online, between August 1~31.
- 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 regarding the study requirements for the skill certification test can be found here as well.

Application Deadline: September 28

Please refer to the TLI website (https://kaigai.tenrikyo.or.jp/tli/top/?page_id=497) for more details.

3) TLI OYASATO FUSEKOMI DEPARTMENT APPLICATION

- Eligibility: Must meet all of the following criteria (education, status, Japanese language ability, career path):
1. Those who completed formal education or equivalent recognized schooling for a minimum of 12 years in their home country.
 2. Those who are children of overseas church head ministers or fellowship heads, or someone equivalent, and are/will be Yoboku at the time of entrance.
 3. Graduates of expected graduates of this school's Japanese Language Department, or persons holding Japanese nationality, who possess Japanese language proficiency equivalent to N3 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test. Alternatively, for direct applicants from outside Japan, (excluding those with Japanese citizenship), Japanese language proficiency equivalent to N2 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test is required.
 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, 2026

4) AMERICA ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

This year, Toshimitsu Luke Hayashi (Nishijin GC, America West), Rei Rex Okazaki (Honjima GC, Southern Pacific), and Genevieve Yuge (Mission HQ, Heritage) will be receiving the American Ichiretsukai scholarship

5) 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.

6) LAY MINISTER PREPARATORY COURSE

This year, the Lay Minister Preparatory Course English Class will be held.

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. Please contact the Mission Headquarters by the end of September if you are interested in attending.

8) AUTUMN MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's Mission HQ autumn memorial service will be held on September 19 (Sat), from 7 PM. On this occasion, we will be enshrining the spirit of the late Rev. Yoichi Fukui, Mission Headquarters Board of Director, eighth head of the Tenrikyo Mission New York Center, and first head of the New York Tominaka Fellowship.

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS**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.
August: Hiroko Okazaki, Ray Tadokoro
September: Koji Uesugi, Kazuyuki Kawata
October: Shino Hirai, Brian Kojima
- From October, the we would like to engage in missionary work activities in the neighborhood surrounding the Mission Headquarters on the Saturday before the monthly service day, from 1PM for about one hour. Considering other events scheduled for those Saturdays, we are planning to hold missionary work activities in the following months: January, March, April, July, October, and December. We are providing this advance notice in the hope that as many people as possible will participate. From October, the we would like to engage in missionary work activities in the neighborhood surrounding the Mission Headquarters on the Saturday before the monthly service day, from 1PM for about one hour. Considering other events scheduled for those Saturdays, we are planning to hold missionary work activities in the following months: January, March, April, July, October, and December. We are providing this advance notice in the hope that as many people as possible will participate.

NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- Under the guidance of Mr. Youichi Nakagawa, all six students that attended the Oyasato Seminar completed the Besseki Lectures, and received the Truth of the Sazuke on July 20th upon completing their program in Jiba. Three students stayed in Jiba to help out with the BGA International Hinokishin Corp and the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba General Group. We would like to thank Mr. Ryo Iwashimizu for serving as counselor for the Oyasato Seminar.

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. Also, we have uploaded “Missionary Work Pamphlets” (via the Overseas Department website) to our “For Ministers” page. (If you need the password, please contact the Mission HQ.) Please visit our homepage, and let those around you know as well. Domain Name: TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org.

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

- The Interpreter’s Workshop will be held on September 19 (Sat) from 1~3PM. You may also participate online. Please reach out to Hiroko Okazaki (hirokokazaki@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating.

WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION

District Conventions

- 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

“Nurture Ourselves to Become Foundations of the Path Seminar”

October 17 (Sat) from 1:00 ~ 3:30 PM

Venue: Mission HQ MP Hall 2nd Floor Conference Room

Content: Lecture regarding “The Service,” Group Talk, Refreshments

Eligibility: Members of ages 16 ~ 49

- Anyone may attend the lecture (men included). Those who are not members ages 16-49 are not required to register.

Lecturer: Japanese: Bishop Fukaya English: Board of Director Rev. Masahito Kimura

Please reach out to your District Representative to learn how to register.

Deadline: October 3(Sat)

31st Young Women’s Convention November 1 (Sun) @ 10:00 AM

- We are offering subsidies of up to 50% for airfare.

BOYS & GIRLS ASSOCIATION

- This year’s Children’s Pilgrimage to Jiba and International Shonen Hinokishin Corp for the America-Canada-Hawaii group was held from July 24 (Hinokishin Corp from July 25) to July 30. From our diocese, 98 people participated in the general group, while 20 (including 11 counselors) took part in the Hinokishin Corp. In the Home of the Parent, participants engaged in Hinokishin, learned the teachings, and took part in fun activities to strengthen bonds between themselves. We hope that many people can attend next year as well and bring joy to

God the Parent and Oyasama.

- 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 100th TYMA Convention will be held in the Inner Courtyard of Church Headquarters on October 27 (Tue) from 10:00 AM. If you are interested in attending, please email TYMANA (seinenkainorthamerica@gmail.com).

NY CENTER

- 8/22 BGA Sleepover
- 8/23 BGA Convention
- 9/6 Memorial Gathering for the late Rev. Yoichi Fukui (after the September monthly service)

FUTURE PATH

- The Future Path Advisory Committee will be conducting discussions with young adults ages 17 - 40 to gather feedback on the Tenrikyo organization and their spiritual needs. These discussions will take place August - October. If you have interest to participate or nominate participants, please send their names and email address to Zen Yukimoto at Tenrikyoprograms@gmail.com.

Visit Our Website

The website team at the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America has created a webpage full of information for those returning to Jiba, whether for the first time or as experienced pilgrims.

Additionally, there are missionary work pamphlets available for download and so much more.

Please take a look!

www.tenrikyoamericacanada.org



Nioigake Pamphlets にをいかけ用パンフレット (海外部サイトより)

1. A Message from Isewara, Icar for You
2. Taking Difficulties as Opportunities for Mutual Help
3. We All "Have" Life, Which Has Lasted 4.5 Billion Years
4. Doing Something Good (civilizes you)
5. It is Possible to Use Your Own Mind But Not the Mind of Others
6. Happiness Comes To Us When Our Hearts Sense It
7. Blessings of Food
8. Principles of Doubt Are So Light And Minute That They Can Be Blown Away by a Single Puff
9. Mind and Soul, as Gloom as Water
10. A Words Worth of Joy

Hello, everyone. It is nice to meet you.

I currently live and work in New York City at the Tenri Cultural Institute. The institute is well known for its Japanese Language School, art gallery, and music concert hall.

Today, I would like to share some of my reflections on attending Shuyoka, the three-month Spiritual Development Course in Jiba.

About twenty years ago, I attended Shuyoka when I was in my twenties. At that time, it was a very positive experience, and I have many fond memories of the three-month course.

Because of personal circumstances, I was later encouraged to attend Shuyoka once again. Returning now as a middle-aged adult, I found the experience to be very different from my first time.

Reading *The Life of Oyasama* and *The Doctrine of Tenrikyo* again had a profound impact on my faith. Another book, *Anecdotes of Oyasama*, also deeply touched my heart. Learning about the lives and devotion of our predecessors helped strengthen my faith and deepen my trust in God the Parent.

Like many Shuyoka students, I found adjusting to the daily schedule during the first two months to be challenging. However, thanks to the kindness, encouragement, and support of so many people, my Shuyoka experience became a truly meaningful and positive one. It reminded me that genuine human connection has the power to encourage and uplift one another. Participating in daily Hinokishin and attending classes each day also improved both my physical and mental well-being. These experiences helped me appreciate the importance of living a balanced life while practicing the teachings.

Attending Shuyoka has not only changed my life, but it has also renewed my faith and strengthened my appreciation for being a Tenrikyo follower. When I return to New York, I hope to be a positive influence on those around me. I also plan to continue participating in Hinokishin and engaging in missionary work whenever I have the opportunity.

I am sincerely grateful to everyone who supported me throughout my time in Shuyoka. Thank you very much.



Three-month Spiritual Development English Course 2026 Class Photo

Reflections on Serving as an Instructor for Shuyoka, Spiritual Development Course in the year of 140th Anniversary of Oyasama

In 2025, I was asked by the bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission headquarters of America to serve as an instructor for this year's Spiritual Development course in Jiba. My assignment was to teach the *Life of Oyasama*. Because 2026 marks the 140th anniversary, such a significant milestone in our faith, I felt deeply honored and privileged to be entrusted with this responsibility. Never in my life did I imagine that I would one day have the opportunity to spend 3 months teaching about Oyasama and her teachings. Looking back, this experience has been one of the greatest blessings of my life. One of the first blessings was the opportunity to work alongside the other instructors and assistants. This year the spiritual development course was conducted in 13 classrooms with a total of 26 instructors and assistants serving together. Although we came from different backgrounds and experiences, I believe we were brought together for the 140th anniversary through fate and causality. I thank God the Parent for the opportunity to meet each and every one of them. Their dedication, sincerity, and commitment to the teachings have inspired me greatly. Through our conversations, fellowship, and shared service, I have strengthened my own faith and gained friendships that I will always treasure. In my classroom, I was blessed with 11 wonderful students from around the world. Our class included students from the Philippines, Kenya, Brazil, and the United States, including several from Hawaii. We also represented a wide range of ages, from people in their twenties to others in their 70s. What impressed me most was how naturally everyone supported one another and felt so much appreciation to grow with each other. Watching the students encourage one another and grow together became one of the highlights of my experience. Several of them have kindly told me that they enjoyed the *Life of Oyasama* class and encouraged me to teach them more. These words touch me deeply. It is wondrous to me that God's Providence led me to teach for 3 months. I certainly learned so much about my faith from my students' cooperation and considerations.



Another unexpected aspect, experience, or blessing, has been the physical and mental benefits of living in Japan. After I arrived at Tenri, I walked between 20,000 and 25,000 steps almost every day, that's up to 10 miles a day. Over the course of 3 months, I estimate that I have walked nearly 900 miles. These daily walks have strengthened my health, cleared my mind, and gave me time for reflection and prayer. I also had overwhelming feelings of gratitude while keeping in mind the teachings of "A Thing Lent, a Thing Borrowed." Fortunately, I had been surrounded by caring friends who looked after me with fruits, juices, healthy snacks, and thoughtful gifts. Their kindness reminds me that God's love is often expressed through the generosity of others and never feeling deprived.

I now feel more inspired to devote my time to helping others and sharing the teachings. The three months have renewed my sense of purpose and given me a new appreciation for the

opportunities that still lie ahead. I am also deeply grateful to the staff and administration who organized this course. The lessons were thoughtfully prepared, and the materials provided a strong foundation for instruction.

Perhaps the greatest lesson I have reflected upon during this course is the importance of building a firm foundation of faith. I have spent many years strengthening my trust in God the Parent and striving to live according to the teachings. Through countless experiences of divine timing, salvation, and unexpected blessings, my faith has continued to grow stronger. This lesson is one that I have tried to share with my students. Faith is not simply something we believe; it is something we practice daily. Through Hinokishin, kindness, gratitude, and sincere effort, we create opportunities for God's blessings to work in our lives and in the lives of others. Oyasama teaches us that if we continue helping others with sincerity, blessings naturally follow. As I reflect on the 3 months of teaching, my heart is filled with gratitude. I am grateful to God the Parent and Oyasama for the opportunity, grateful to the instructors and assistants who shared this journey, grateful to the students who inspired me, and grateful for every lesson learned along the way. The future remains unwritten, but I have renewed hope and confidence. God and Oyasama see far beyond what we can see. As we continue planting seeds through faith, service, and sincerity, the joyous life will continue to unfold before us. I pray that I will carry the lessons of these three months into the next chapter of my life and continue serving with gratitude, dedication, and joy.

Thank you very much.

Announcements from the America Canada Women's Association

The 31st Young Women's Convention

Let us return to Jiba, the Home of the Parent, with friends
— Let us share the teachings with others.

Sun. Nov. 1 2026 (Tenrikyo 189)

Ceremony ▶ 10:00 A.M. Church Headquarters Inner Courtyard

Commemorative Event ▶ After the ceremony Chapter Gathering "Let's Talk Together"

Besseki
On the occasion of our return to Jiba, let us attend the Besseki lectures. Let us make efforts to invite others and be blessed with having people attend the lectures.

Oyasato Marché
Time: After the evening service to 8:00 p.m.
Venues: The east and west sides of the area to the south of the Main Sanctuary
Let's enjoy a variety of booths offering delicious food and handmade crafts!
Oct. 31 Sat.

Nurture Ourselves to Become Foundations of the Path Seminar ~Sharing, Learning, and Growing Together~

Date and Time: Oct 17, 2026 (Sat)
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Venue: Mission Headquarters in America
MP Hall 2F Conference Room

Eligibility: Members ages 16 - 49

Purpose: To correctly learn the teachings

Program: Lecture on "The Service" -
Everyone (including men) may
attend the lecture portion without
registration

Group talk

Refreshments

Lecturers: Bishop Hiroshi Fukaya (Japanese)
Board of director Masahito Kimura (English)

※There will be childcare for children ages 1-12 years.
Please contact your District Head regarding details of your
participation registration.

We look forward to seeing as many participants as possible!

Tenrikyo Women's Association of America



Oyasato Seminar 2025

This year, 6 students from the American Canada diocese returned to Jiba to participate in the Oyasato Seminar program. They were joined by 4 students from Hawaii totalling 10 students in the English course and led by counselors Ryo Iwashimizu (US) and Alissa Higaki (HI). The students participated in Besseki lectures, hinokishin, study session and workshops, and building long lasting relationships. Please congratulate our newest Yoboku: Mina Oiki, Rei Okazaki, Tasuke Takahashi, Jude Ike, Briana Kojima, and Nagomi Nakajima.





Young Men's Association Hinokishin Corps

From July 18 ~ 24, the Tenrikyo Young Men's Association held the International Hinokishin Corps in Jiba. During this year of the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, 26 Young Men's Association members and graduates traveled from all over America and Canada to engage in Hinokishin at the Home of the Parent. Some of their work included clearing weeds, digging trenches, and various other tasks in preparation for the Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba festivities. Please see some pictures of our arakitoyō in action!



Oyasato Days #19: The 2:00 p.m. Musical Siren—Reflecting on Oyasama’s Divine Model and Parental Love

At 2:00 p.m. every day, a musical siren sounds throughout the Home of the Parent. Everyone, including church members walking around the sanctuary and students making their way along Tenri Main Street, turn at once toward the Foundress’ Sanctuary and offer a bow, taking the time to reflect on Oyasama’s Divine Model and Her parental love.

The siren was first sounded at the Home of the Parent on March 8, 1956, the year of the 70th Anniversary of Oyasama. It was introduced at the initiative of the second Shinbashira, Shozen Nakayama. At the opening ceremony of the First Session of the Sixteenth Doctrinal Seminar held that day, the second Shinbashira explained the spirit behind the siren as follows:

“It has been determined that 2:00 p.m. on the 26th day of the first month of the lunar calendar in 1887 was the moment when Oyasama entered into Her everliving state and began to bestow Her providence upon us. By looking back upon this truth—that we have come to receive Her everliving providence and have been encouraged to attain spiritual maturity through these matters—I hope that each of us will engage in self-reflection and, through the truth of single-hearted devotion to God, find a guidepost for directing our hearts toward the path of the Joyous Life.”

At first, the siren was a signal note without a melody. However, beginning on July 7 of that same year, it was changed to the musical siren that plays the Mikagura-uta as it does today. For the past seventy years, it faithfully marked that time each day.

At the hour when Oyasama withdrew from physical life, people pause for approximately one minute, setting aside their work and conversations as they listen to the melody of the Mikagura-uta and reflect upon Oyasama’s Divine Model and Her parental love. Today, once again, this time marker—serving as a guidepost for turning our hearts toward the path of the Joyous Life—resounds throughout the Home of the Parent.



the first Besseki lecture without passing it. In other words, the “pre-test” could be said to correspond to the current Besseki Pledge in today's system, although I believe that this “test” was much more rigorous than today's pledge.

I believe that, ideally, people should also be able to recite the Besseki Pledge from memory. From that standpoint, before encouraging someone to attend the Besseki lectures, the person guiding them should carefully explain what the Besseki Pledge is, what it means to take the Pledge, and the meaning and significance of doing so, so that the person can fully understand and accept it. It is also important for them to clearly understand the meaning and significance of subsequently attending the Besseki lectures, receiving the truth of the Sazuke, and becoming Yoboku.

As I believe I have written before, when I served as the head of the Tenrikyo Mission Center in Singapore, I planned and conducted pilgrimages to Jiba called “Oyasato Tours.” We would invite followers of the Mission Center and students from the Japanese-language classes operated by our Center. We would gather ten or more participants and conduct tours lasting from ten days to two weeks, with the pilgrimage to Jiba as the main part of the program and sightseeing in Japan was included as well. During the pilgrimage, participants would, of course, attend the Monthly Service and the morning and evening services, and they would also attend the Besseki lectures.

As you know, overseas residents may complete all nine Besseki lectures and

receive the truth of the Sazuke during a single return to Jiba, even if their stay is only about ten days, provided they take the prescribed breaks between the lectures. However, I felt that this would make it difficult for them to settle in their minds the preciousness of the truth of the Sazuke and the significance of becoming Yoboku. Therefore, during any particular Oyasato Tour, I limited participants to attending no more than two Besseki lectures.

Before the tour, I asked the Japanese-language students to come to the Mission Center for an orientation explaining the itinerary as well as the Besseki lectures and the Besseki Pledge.

At one such orientation, I handed out a sheet containing the Besseki Pledge and asked the participants to read it. One woman then said, “I cannot do this.” She was a devoted follower of another religion and explained that taking the Besseki Pledge would amount to joining Tenrikyo, which she could not do.

One of the purposes of the Oyasato Tour was for the participants to attend the Besseki lectures. Since it would not have been appropriate to allow only one person not to attend, we ultimately asked her to withdraw from the tour.

Because the Besseki Pledge carries this kind of significance, I believe it is essential to explain it thoroughly in advance to those who will attend the Besseki lectures and make sure they understand and accept it.

Sorry, I have strayed somewhat from my subject, let me return.

I would like to consider why Oyasama

taught us the doctrine of the “Eight Dusts of the Mind.”

The Besseki lecture says: “God the Parent uses the easy to understand metaphor of dust to indicate our misunderstanding of the truth (Ri).”

Simply put, this “truth” can be understood as God the Parent’s workings and teachings. In other words, I believe this means that God the Parent taught us the “Eight Dusts of the Mind” as a means to help us correctly understand and settle in our minds God the Parent’s workings and teachings.

Let me take a brief detour.

I attended Tenri Junior High School—hereafter, “Tenchu.” At the time, Tenchu held an interclass choral competition by grades at the end of October. I do not know whether it is still held today. Accordingly, during our second semester, our music classes began to include choir practice.

On one occasion, we were given only the opening pitch and asked to sing without piano accompaniment. When we finished, the teacher played the pitch on which we should have ended, and we discovered that we had finished at a much lower pitch. In other words, our pitch had gradually dropped as we sang. Since the students were not professional singers, our pitch would inevitably drift during practice.

I believe one purpose of the piano accompaniment was to keep singers from drifting away from the correct pitch. In other words, the piano provides a standard pitch that helps keep the singing in tune.

I believe Oyasama taught us the “Eight Dusts of the Mind” for a similar reason. She

taught them so that our minds would not drift away from God the Parent’s intention and so that, when they do drift, we can correct them.

There is a story titled “31. The Measure of Heaven” in *The Anecdotes of Oyasama*.

Oyasama said to Izo Iburi, “Please cut down a tree in the mountains, bring it back, and make a straight post from it.” Izo made what he believed to be a straight post. Oyasama then instructed him to place a ruler against it and check whether there were any gaps. When he did so, he found that there was indeed a gap. After he told Her this, Oyasama said:

Precisely! Even things that are considered to be straight by all people of the world are warped, without exception, when they are placed against the measure of heaven.

The Anecdotes of Oyasama (New 2026 revision), p. 33-34

I believe that without some kind of standard, we may drift away from God the Parent’s intention and from our faith. I think this teaching was given so that this would not happen and so that, when we do drift, we can correct our course.

Further, I do not believe Oyasama merely taught “dust” in a vague or general way. Rather, I surmise that She taught the “Eight Dusts of the Mind” in a more concrete and accessible form so that we could better understand which uses of the mind cause us to depart from God the Parent’s intention.

(To be continued)

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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.