

Tenrikyo

newsletter



TYMANA Convention

On August 15, this year's Tenrikyo Young Men's Association of North America (TYMANA) Convention was held, welcoming Mr. Yuji Nakagoshi from the Young Men's Association Headquarters.

Details on page 14

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org

September 2026

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

- *Tsuratsura* -

This month, the autumn memorial service will be held. As we go forward on the path, let us always remember that the path we walk today exists because of the history built by those who came before us.

Also, this month is designated as the “month to spread the fragrance of the teachings.” I hope that each of us, in our respective roles and responsibilities, will make a conscious effort to engage in spreading the path.

Next month, on the 26th, the Autumn Grand Service will be held at Church Headquarters. The following day, on the 27th, the Tenrikyo Young Men’s Association Convention will be held. Furthermore, on November 1, the Young Women’s Association Convention will take place.

I hope that many people will return to Jiba and participate in the Autumn Grand Service, the Young Men’s Association Convention, and the Young Women’s Rally. In particular, I would like to ask everyone to reach out and invite members of the Young Men’s Association and Young Women’s Association to participate.

Now, I would like to continue from where I left off last month.

In the booklet “The Eight Dusts,” published by Doyusha, it states, “We must

take care not to cause others to accumulate ‘dust.’” Although this particular passage is not included in the Besseki lectures, it is included in the “Followers’ Handbook.” It is important not only to make sure that we ourselves do not accumulate “dust,” but also to take care not to cause the people around us to accumulate “dust.”

Our predecessors wrote: “The Foundress said, ‘Dust attracts dust, and then they both perish together (meaning they die together)’” (*Stories heard from the Foundress*, Naokichi Takai, p. 44). This means “Causing another person to become angry is dust, and the person who becomes angry also accumulates dust. This is what is meant by saying that they both perish together” (ibid., p. 45). Therefore, it is important for us to be mutually careful of our words and actions.

It is also written, “Avoid dust as you go through life. If you confront dust, you will become covered with dust yourself.

(continued on page 18)

Coming Up

* SoulFire Faith Gathering @ Mission HQ

11/14 @ 10:30am

* Women’s Assoc. District Conventions

see pg. 12 for details

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August Monthly Service Prayer

August 16, 2026

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, due to Your deep desire to save all humankind, You taught us Your direct and ultimate Teaching, which has spread to the world over the years. Here in America and Canada, we are humbled and grateful for those who lean upon God the Parent's blessings and Oyasama's Divine Model, as they single-heartedly help others be saved.

To make repayment for Your blessings, we spread the teachings daily and walk the path in high spirits. As this fine day is our August monthly service, from now, receiving the truth of Jiba, we service performers will unite our minds to joyously perform the seated service and Teodori service dance.

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

Yesterday, we welcomed Mr. Yuji Nakagoshi, a Young Men's Association Headquarters board member and successfully held our Young Men's Association convention. Please guide our young men—who pride themselves in their roles as pioneers of the path—to work hard in their association activities and, as Yoboku who shoulder the growth of our path, to create a wave of salvation work within our diocese.

In light of the wars, conflicts, and natural disasters unfolding across the world, we will seek to understand God the Parent's intention; to unite our minds as one; and to strive for the Joyous Life world by devoting ourselves to missionary and salvation work. In particular, as next month is the designated "month to focus on spreading the fragrance of the teachings," we aim to achieve spiritual growth befitting this occasion.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our sincerity, grant us Your boundless blessings, continue to guide us in our shortcomings, and lead us so that this world may be transformed, even a day sooner, into one where all people live in accordance with Your Teachings. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

August Monthly Service Sermon

by Rev. Lynn So

The Wonderful Workings of Oyasama

Good morning everyone.....
ALOOOHA!!!!

We just completed the wonderful salvation service joyfully. Oyasama always said do the service, do the service, so I am sure God the Parent and Oyasama is pleased. This month is my duty to give the monthly sermon, so may I have your kind attention for a moment.

I would like to start off with an introduction. Three years and seven months ago, we moved Taitan Church's *medo* (a focus of worship) to Pleasanton CA for a year and a half. We then moved the *medo* to Danville and have been living there for 2 years 1 month. My name is Lynn Mitsuno So, head minister of Taitan Church.

What does Taitan mean? TAI came from the word Taiwan because my husband, Jimmy, was born and raised in Taiwan. He is able to speak Taiwanese, Mandarin, Japanese, and English.

TAN came from the Mandarin word TAN SHAN SAN which means Honolulu in Mandarin. I was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. TAN

= means sandalwood tree, in Japanese is byakudan SHAN = means a good scent, a wonderful aroma SAN = means mountain.

The city of Honolulu used to have mountains of sandalwood trees all over the region. The local Hawaiians used to bbq with the sandalwood and Chinese immigrants noticed the good scent of it, so they made business deals that depleted all the sandalwood trees in Honolulu. The Chinese sent the sandalwood back to China and made incense sticks for praying and for the wonderful aroma that the sandalwood produced. Even I didn't know that Honolulu was known for sandalwood because by the time I was born, there was no evidence of sandalwood trees. NONE at all. This is just a short explanation of the origins of our name Taitan Church.

Now I would like to talk about the different kinds of Sazuke. Oyasama bestowed about eleven different kinds of Sazuke, but only one kind is presently being bestowed; it is the Divine Grant of Ashiki Harai (Ashikiharai no Sazuke).

Originally, the various kinds of Sazuke were bestowed to people whose sincere minds were discerned by Oyasama. She granted each person the type that was best suited to the way they expressed their sincerity in their line of salvation work.



Rev. Lynn So
head minister of Taitan Church

For example, Chushichi Yamanaka was a farmer who devoted his time to serving Oyasama and so he was bestowed the “Divine Grant of Fertilizer” to aid the growth of his crops and other also.

Although the Grants were bestowed on the sincere mind, human greed and arrogance was the cause of the “ineffectiveness” of some people’s Grants and therefore, it was the cause of their having to eventually return it in principle to God.

DIFFERENT KINDS OF SAZUKE BESTOWED BY OYASAMA

- 1) Grant of the Fan
(Obi no Sazuke)
- 2) Grant of the Sacred Staff
(Gohei no Sazuke)
- 3) Grant of the Fertilizer/Compost
(Koe no Sazuke)
- 4) Grant of the Kanrodai
(Kanrodai no Sazuke)

- 5) Grant of the Breath
(Iki no Sazuke) Holy Washi Paper
(Oiki no Kami)
- 6) Grant of Boiled Rice
(Nitamono*Jikimotsuno Sazuke)
*Heavenly Food
- 7) Grant of Sweet Sugar Water
(Jikimotsu Kozui no Sazuke)
*Heavenly Food
- 8) Grant of Water
(Miss no Sazuke)
- 9) Grant of Uchi Uchi Dake
(Ichi Uchi Dake no Sazuke)
- 10) Grant of Hand Dance
(Teodori no Sazuke)
- 11) Grant of Ashikiharai*
(Ashikiharai no Sazuke) (Divine Grant of Sazuke)

As the people made progress spiritually, understanding that it was not the “type” of Sazuke but the mind of sincerity, Oyasama stopped bestowing certain Grants. Eventually, She bestowed only the Grant of Ashikiharai, in what is now called the Divine Grant of Sazuke. As for the Sazuke we perform, aside from the melody, the hand movements and the words are both similar to the words and hand movements of the first part of the Seated Service.

One recommendation I’d like to make is related to the Grant of the Breath, Holy Washi Paper. Some churches may still have this Holy Washi Paper in their possession. I know it is no longer being produced, but I recommend that you actively use it for salvation work instead

of saving it. I myself received a miracle from this holy paper when I was in high school but that story is for another time. I have found that it works very well on burns, open cuts, boil with pus, and other skin injuries.

Next, I'd like to share a story of how I truly felt Oyasama's workings through administering the Divine Grant of Osazuke. This happened many years ago, when a friend of mine contacted me and asked if I could pray for a fellow co-worker who was pregnant almost to full term but where the baby only weighed three pounds. The co-worker who I will call A-san agreed and came to Taitan Church in Honolulu for prayers. After introducing ourselves, she shared how her husband depleted her savings to start his business and loved his child from a previous marriage more than their son and herself. She mentioned that every morning she gets up depressed, crying, just in an emotional turmoil, crying profusely. After administering the Divine Grant of Osazuke, her crying went on. She went on to share how one time, she had bought a "reduced in price steak" and was about to cook for their dinner. Her husband saw the "reduced in price steak" and didn't allow her to serve it to his daughter. He then went out, bought a much more expensive piece of steak, cooked it, brought it to his daughter's room where she took her meals. A-san cried saying that he didn't love them because he didn't care if she



and their son ate the reduced in price steak. With her in such an emotional state, I was at loss as to what to say! Finally, this popped out of my mouth.

"A-san, I don't think it matters if you eat the 'expensive steak' or the 'reduced in price steak'. I think you need to immediately feed your infant JOY! So from tomorrow when you wake up and stretch, please say thank you God the Parent for allowing your son and yourself to wake up healthy. Thank Oyasama for her Divine Protection. Can you please try this from tomorrow morning?" A-san said she will try her best.

The following day she came for the second prayer and her facial expression looked slightly happier. Then after the third prayer, I asked if next week, would it be okay if I go to her place during my lunch break. She agreed, so I was able to administer another three prayers. After

the third prayer, A-san mentioned that on Saturday she has a caesarean procedure scheduled. I was surprised and asked if I could go to the hospital to pray for her. She asked not to be bothered because she wanted to rest, so I knew I needed to respect that. So instead I continued to pray at my church, during morning and evening services. Saturday came, Sunday came and I repeatedly prayed that mother and child be healthy and safe. Many days passed and finally A-san called and thanked me, because of my prayers her baby girl was born healthy at more than 6 pounds. She said because of me, her baby grew to 6 pounds....but I quickly told her no, please remember Oyasama - Oyasama, our Foundress, saved your baby!!! Please remember that. Oyasama started her salvation work with the Grant of Safe Child Birth and I felt the power of Oyasama's workings was clearly shown to me. Thank you Oyasama!

Next I would like talk about my most recent Otasuke. Jimmy's relative's family who resides in California attended Taitan Church Installation Service in July of 2024. Jimmy casually invited them to attend our monthly service. They agreed, and promptly attended our next monthly service. After completing the monthly service, we usually ask anyone if prayer is wanted. The mother asked if prayer could be made for her child, whom I will call B-san. She explained that B-san has psoriasis. My initial thought was, what is psoriasis!

Plaque psoriasis is the most common form, featuring raised red patches (or darker/purple tones on skin of color) usually on elbows, knees, and scalp. So yes, B-san had these symptoms on the scalp that looked like dandruff. Under his right and left hand fingernails were purplish-black with thick bumpy ridges, about three nails per hand. The mother also mentioned that the nails often bleed. B-san played sports, so often the fingers needed to be bandaged because of the bleeding. After completing the Divine Prayer of Osazuke, B-san's mother came up to me crying, thanking me for the prayers. This surprised her husband but as a mother myself, I understood and saw that it was taking a toll on the mother, to see her child's condition, especially seeing her child's fingers bleed. I reassured her that we will continue to ask Oyasama for a blessing. So from the last year of the three years, one thousand days before Oyasama's 140th Anniversary, the Divine Prayer of Osazuke was administered to B-san twice a month. Over the months, the symptoms on the scalp healed first, then the thumb, I believe on the right hand was next. Slowly but surely the fingernails all started to grow smoothly out. January 2026 came, and at our monthly service, I happily made the announcement that B-san's fingernails were almost completely healed and that the next monthly service they attend, it will be the last Divine Prayer of Osazuke

to be administered. I continued that in celebration of B-san's beautiful nails, we will all paint our nails. Indeed, after the last Otasuke was done, we all had our nails painted by my two daughter-in-laws and granddaughters. Blue, green, pink, red, white, all different color nail polishes. B-san was happy to see his beautiful nails with color on it. How wonderful, again thank you Oyasama!

Finally, I would like to end my sermon with hopefully with a helpful thought!??? I am quite sure mostly everyone knows about the teaching of the eight mental dusts and plus two more, falsehood and flattery that Oyasama also disliked. When I was in middle school I overheard my father saying that he felt that the mental dust of anger was the worst of the eight dusts. I felt maybe arrogance, greed, or self-love would be the top worst mental dusts. He explained that he felt that on a daily basis that it is so easy to get angry. For example at work, if your fellow co-worker does or say something that irritates you or at home your friends or family may also upset you throughout the day. Only then I realized what he was trying to say and agreed with him.

So one day a *Luxury* magazine was mailed to us. On the front cover there was a black and white photo of Jason Momoa, an actor featured in the movies Aquaman, Minecraft, Wrecking Crew, etc, etc, and of course, Baywatch. In the magazine there was an article of him and many colored photos, but the front

black and white cover was the most striking, so I decided to keep it. I cut it out and believe me, Oyasama was on my side because I looked to the left side, and there was an empty picture frame staring at me. So the photo was centered immediately in the frame. True story!!! So now anytime, if Jimmy should irritate me, I just look at the photo, give a kiss and POOF!!! Irritation gone! I am not kidding; it works! So ladies, you might want to put your favorite Korean drama actor's photo or the popular Japanese actor, Kimura Takuya's photo, or BTS Singers photo. Just to be equal, gentlemen, you may also put your favorite actresses or singers photos too. I promise you it works!

Thank you for your kind attention. Hope I didn't bore you. MAHALO for listening. MAHALO means thank you in Hawaiian.

MAHALOOOOOOO

1) SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SERVICE (9/20)

Officiant: Bishop

Assistants: Zen Yukimoto, Raymond Morishita

Director: Marlon Okazaki

Attendants: Mitsuharu Ito, Gary Yashiki

Offerings Officiant: Eddie Takemoto Sermon: Zen Yukimoto (E)

2) TENRIKYO MISSION NEW YORK CENTER PERSONNEL CHANGE

From November 26, 2026, Board of Director Masahito Kimura (former head minister of Chicago Church) will serve as the next head of the Tenrikyo Mission New York Center. The installation service will be held in conjunction with the New York Center December monthly service.

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) HEAD MINISTERS QUALIFICATION COURSE

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 New York Center, and third head of the New York Tominaka Fellowship. Additionally, in last month's issue, the title was stated as the "first head of the New York Tominaka Fellowship," but it should have been the "third head." We sincerely apologize for the error and any confusion it may have caused.

5) AUTUMN MEMORIAL SERVICE

This year's Mission HQ autumn memorial service was held on September 19 (Sat), from 7 PM. On this occasion, we will have enshrined 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.

6) COLOMBIA EARTHQUAKE RELIEF

In response to the earthquake that hit the country of Colombia on August 10, the Mission

Headquarters in America is collecting donations to help with relief efforts. We will continue to collect donations until the Mission Headquarters Autumn grand service date (Oct. 18) and we ask for your support. If you would like to write a check, please make it out to “Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America.” If so, please write “Colombia disaster relief” on the memo line. IF you would like to send a donation via Zelle, so please visit our website at:

<https://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/disaster-relief-support-for-colombia>

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 September is as follows.
 - September: Koji Uesugi, Kazuyuki Kawata
 - October: Shino Hirai, Brian Kojima
 - November: Robert Kokuryo, Kunihiro Fumioka
- From October, 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.
- We will engage in corridor-cleaning Hinokishin on October 25. If you are returning to Jiba, please join us 45 minutes before morning service (5:30AM) in the rear east area of the South Worship Hall.

NURTURING AND EDUCATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

- This year’s Oyasato Seminar preliminary session is scheduled to be held on December 28-30. We are again arranging the schedule so that OS preliminary session students can participate in the first two days of TSA as well.
- We are reaching out to prospective female counselors, as well as prospective students, for next year’s 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 uploaded new episodes of “Tenri Talks” on the Our Guide to Jiba page. Also, we have uploaded “Missionary Work Pamphlets” (via the Overseas Department website) to our “Resources” page, under the “Publication” tab. Please visit our homepage, and let those around you know as well. Domain Name: TenrikyoAmericaCanada.org.

TRANSLATION COMMITTEE

- The 2026 Translation Conference will be held at Hawaii Dendocho from Sept. 28 - October 2, 2026. The goal is to finalize the translation of the book *Path of Sincerity: Salvation Edition* (Shinjitsu no michi: Otasuke hen).
- The Interpreter’s Workshop held on September 19 (Sat) from 1~3PM.

WOMEN’S ASSOCIATIONDistrict Conventions

- New York District
October 3, 2026 (Sat) @ 1PM Place: New York Center
- Los Angeles District
October 25, 2026 (Sun) @ 10AM Place: Mission HQ
- West Canada District
November 29, 2026 (Sun) @ 10AM Place: Joyous Fellowship

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

31st Young Women’s Convention

November 1 (Sun) @ 10:00 AM

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

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

- 10/3 New York District Women’s Association Convention - Guest Speaker: Kay Morishita
- 10/4 Autumn grand service and Mission HQ Board member visit: Rev. Toru Yamamoto

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!



MEET OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER

HARUKO INOUE



Haruko Inoue was born and raised in Bauru, São Paulo, Brazil, and has spent her life weaving together faith, family, and community. She became a Yoboku in 1998 and has continued her dedicated service within the America Tenrikyo community. A professor at Chaffey College and UC Riverside, Haruko brings a spirit of faith, multicultural experience, and lifelong learning to her work and community, embodying this year's SoulFire theme: **"Fueling Our Faith, Strengthening Our Community."**

Gather with us on
November 14, 2026!

Registration closes
10/1/2026



Fueling Our
Faith,
Strengthening
Our Community

Register Here!



@tenrikyo.faith.conference



<https://tenrikyoamericacanada.org/tfc>



www.facebook.com/soulfiretfc/

TYMANA 2026

On August 15, the Tenrikyo Young Men's Association of North America (TYMANA) held its annual convention at the Mission Headquarters in America. Sixteen members gathered from across the diocese, joined by Bishop Fukaya, his wife, and members of the Board of Directors. Together, attendees received an inspiring message from Association President Daisuke Nakayama and welcomed Mr. Yuji Nakagoshi from the Young Men's Association Headquarters in Jiba.

In the afternoon, participants engaged in group discussions to connect with one another and exchange thoughts on how to better support this path moving forward. The convention concluded with an evening barbecue, providing a relaxed setting for former and current TYMANA members to share memories and stories.

Chairman Rev. Raymond Morishita



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"

Beseki
On the occasion of our return to Jiba, let us attend the Beseki 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

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.

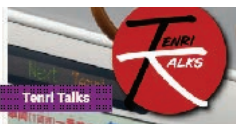
We look forward to seeing as many participants as possible!

Tenrikyo Women's Association of America

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



1. A Message from Heaven, It's for You!

2. Taking Other's as Opportunities for Mutual Help

3. We All "Have" Life, Which Has Lasted 2.5 Billion Years

4. Doing Something Good (with Love)

5. It is Possible to Use your Own Intel But Not the Mind of Others

6. Praying new Careers To Live With Our Heart's Service

7. Blessings of Food

8. Perception of How the Sun Light and Moon That They Can Be
Blown Away by a single puff

Annual Tenrikyo BBQ Picnic Northern California Districts

On September 7th, the annual “Tenrikyo BBQ Picnic” was held, jointly sponsored by the Sacramento and San Francisco districts. Over 60 people attended this year’s picnic, which has been continuing since 2002. Of those in attendance, many families from all over the Northern California region enjoyed the picnic with one another.



Youth Gagaku Workshop

17

The 25th Gagaku Overnight Workshop was held at the Mission Headquarters from August 22 to 23, with 17 participants. The workshop trains younger generations in Gagaku for ritual services and helps pass on its traditions. Some participants have also performed at the Spring and Autumn Memorial Services, showing steady growth through experience.



Annual Powell Street Festival

Vancouver, Canada

The Vancouver district participated in this year's Powell Street Festival on August 1st and 2nd. The district participated as vendors making and sellign delicious yakisoba and korokke. This festival allowed district members to connect with the greater community. Although this event does require a lot of work, it is due to the sincere efforts of the Vancouver district members that they have been able to continue this activity for many years.



Therefore, never confront dust" (Seibun iin-sho, p. 63). In order to avoid being covered with "dust," it is also important for us to avoid going to places where "dust" is present or where "dust" is being stirred up.

In addition to the "Eight Dusts of the Mind," there are two other types of "dust": "falsehood" and "flattery."

In the Ofudesaki, it says:

*Tsukihi dislikes falsehood and flattery.
If you persist, Tsukihi will withdraw.*

Ofudesaki XII:113

Also, stated in the Divine Directions:

God dislikes falsehood and flattery.

Osashizu March 10, 1889

In the Besseki lectures, it is stated:

In addition to these eight dusts, however, there are two more; namely, falsehood and flattery, both of which point to an insincere mind-however sweet our spoken words may sound.

In this way, we are taught that there are, in addition to the eight "dusts," there are the "dusts" of falsehood and flattery.

In the writings of our predecessors, it is stated that Oyasama said, "I dislike falsehood and flattery; I dislike greed and arrogance even more greatly." (Seibun iinshō, p. 184). There is also a story that states: "God says, 'I greatly dislike falsehood and flattery. I dislike greed and arrogance as well.' More than the eight dusts of the mind (covetousness, miserliness, self-centered-love, hatred, grudge-bearing, anger, arrogance, greed) God dislikes 'falsehood' and 'flattery' even more." (Stories heard from Oyasama, Naokichi Takai, p. 29). Further, Oyasama said, "The opposites

of falsehood and flattery are honesty and sincerity." (ibid., p. 32).

I think these are very interesting teachings that we should firmly settle in our minds.

I imagine some of you may be wondering why "falsehood" and "flattery" weren't added to the "Eight Dusts of the Mind" to make "Ten Dusts of the Mind."

This is my own interpretation, but I believe that "falsehood" and "flattery" share a common trait of manifesting as "dust" when they are spoken aloud. Of course, in the case of "flattery," it is sometimes expressed through a gesture such as "rubbing one's hands." However, in principle, "flattery" only becomes "flattery" when it is spoken. Similarly, I think that "falsehood" also manifests itself as "dust" when spoken aloud.

In other words, I believe that, in principle, both "falsehood" and "flattery" become "dust" through the act of speaking them. Viewed in this light, they might be classified as a slightly different type of "dust" from the "Eight Dusts of the Mind."

Furthermore, the number "eight" may hold significance. Since "eight" symbolizes "spreading out in all directions," it may be indicating to us that "dust is everywhere."

And since "ten" can also signify "completeness," this might be interpreted as a "restrictive number." In that sense, because "ten" lacks the expansiveness of "eight," this may be why we do not use the designation: "the ten dusts of the mind."

Oyasama taught us about specific kinds of "dust," including the "eight dusts," "falsehood," and "flattery," but I think there may be many more kinds of "dust."

For example, a Divine Direction states:

Worrying yourself sick over human social obligations such as the need for deference and restraint is a dust of

mind, which may cause a whiff of bad feeling, I say. (Omitted.) Deference and restraint to others are unnecessary. Completely unnecessary. Deference and restraint to others will not do at all.

Osashizu, November 15, 1891

And in another Divine Direction, these words appear:

Reservedness (enryo) leads to flattery. Flattery leads to falsehood. Falsehood and flattery are the basis for a great deal of dust.

Osashizu, May 9, 1898

We often hear that “reservedness is a dust,” but this means that when we are conveying the teachings of Tenrikyo, being reserved when conveying them is in and of itself a “dust.”

In the previously quoted Divine Direction, it is also stated:

You think, ‘Even though I’ve contributed this much and I’ve dedicated myself this much, why do I have to keep cleaning and cleaning?’ You can see the dust in other people, but not your own. What’s far away is clear; what’s close is cloudy. This is because the source is impure. It’s only when you hear about the loan of your bodies that it becomes clear. A day passes, then ten days—and before you know it, twenty days have gone by, and you forgot it. It is like doing a little sweeping with a broom. At first, even when there is only a small amount of dust, you sweep it. Later, however, you may say that you no longer need the broom. Sah, dust will collect and accumulate. If you wash mud away completely and have clarity, your mind has no need to worry. The reason you

worry is that your mind is cloudy.

Osashizu, November 15, 1891

Translated for this article

This is stating that although you can see the “dust” of those around you, you cannot see or notice your own “dust.” When you receive an illness, you reflect on your “dust,” but as the days pass, you forget about it. When you receive an illness, you are determined to clean your mind even a little, but before long you come to think that you do not need a “broom,” or in other words, you do not need the teachings. So, the “dust” continues to accumulate. If you thoroughly remove the “mud,” there is nothing to worry about. The reason one worries is that there is “mud,” that is, “dust,” in your mind.

I think this is the intended meaning.

In another Divine Direction, it is stated:

Cast away your smallness of mind. Cast away your minds of doubt, your minds of doubt. Cast away your minds of covetousness, miserliness, grudge-bearing, and envy.

Osashizu, October 7, 1895

I think that, besides this kind of “dust,” there are various other forms of “dust,” such as envy, slander, contempt, and pride, and that there would be no end to listing them all. Therefore, I have come to realize that these were broadly summarized as “eight dusts of the mind,” and that “falsehood” and “flattery,” are slightly different forms of “dust.”

(translation by H. Ryono)

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TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

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



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

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

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