

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Boys & Girls Association Sunday School!

Beginning from this year's Spring Grand Service, we have resumed Sunday School at the Mission Headquarters!

We are currently looking for mentors and staff to help us, so please contact the B&GA if you are interested!

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyo.com

April 2023

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

— *Osaisen (Monetary Offerings) and Omamori (Protective Amulets)* —

On April 18th, Oyasama’s Birth Celebration Service will be performed in Jiba to celebrate Oyasama’s 225th birthday. Let us offer our congratulations to Oyasama even from wherever we may be in America and Canada.

This month, many followers have returned to Jiba to participate in the Women’s Association of America Commemorative Pilgrimage. The pilgrimage was organized to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Women’s Association of America, which will be observed next year. I am extremely grateful.

Our “Hinokishin Day” activities will be held during this and next month depending on the schedules of each local district. By participating in our “Hinokishin Day” activities at the designated location closest to you, we can express our gratitude for God the Parent’s daily blessings. For those who do not have a designated hinokishin site nearby, Please decide on a day and conduct your own “Hinokishin Day” activities.

This year, from June 23rd to 25th, the “SoulFire” Tenrikyo Faith Conference will be held in Palm Springs, California. This event will give English speaking followers an opportunity to gather in one location to study

the teachings and to address social issues in a group discussion format. Registration is already underway, so I would like to encourage as many people as possible to sign up and attend.

Next year, on June 30th, Mission Headquarters in America will commemorate its 90th Anniversary. I hope to have as many people as possible attend our anniversary.

Now, I would like to share some of my thoughts after having read excerpts from a book which was posted online. Just to let you know, I am writing this article with insufficient knowledge of the whole book, so there may be some misunderstandings on my part.

The rather long title of the book is, “Life as a Shinto Priest is Tough : Diary of My Bittersweet Work at a Small Shinto Shrine.”

As the title suggests, the book is about the

(continued on page 14)

Coming Up

* **May Monthly Service Sermon (5/15)**

- by Rev. Keiko Nagao (J)

***85th America Spiritual Development Course (Shuyokai)**

- June 18 (Sun) to July 15 (Sat)

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Spring Memorial Service Prayer

March 18, 2023

Before the spirits of the Nakayama family and our pioneers, who dedicated themselves for many year to our diocese, I, Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya, Bishop of the Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

You were drawn to this Path by God the Parent through a wondrous causality, and relying upon the blessings of God and the Divine Model of Oyasama, you devoted yourselves to the path in America and Canada with joy in all circumstances and left us with your legacy of dedication to help other be saved.

We are able to live each day splendidly, due to the blessings of God the Parent and the parental love of Oyasama, but also due to your seeds of sincerity—and for this, we give you thanks every morning and night.

Today, for this year's Spring Memorial Service, we are gathered here to give praise and to fondly remember our pioneers. We have made offerings and, witnessed by God the Parent, we have just performed Yorozuyo and the Twelve Songs of the Teodori service dance.

From now, we will hold our Spring Memorial Service to give thanks for your sincere dedication, demonstrated throughout your lives.

Today, we enshrine the spirit of the late Mrs. Yoshiko Blesch, spouse of the First Head of the Cupertino Fellowship. We enshrine her in this Memorial altar to continue to honor her for eternity.

We shall convey your legacy to the next generation, and with this as our springboard, we shall dedicate ourselves further for the progress of the path. We will strive to realize the Joyous Life in which all people throughout the world help one another.

Please accept our sincerity as we ask for you to watch over your families, as well as all Yoboku and followers, and the prosperity of our diocese here in America and Canada. As we aim for spiritual growth, we ask that you guide us to spiritedly focus on our work for the Path. In unison with all present, I humbly pray that this may be so.

March Monthly Service Prayer

March 19, 2023

Before the presence of 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.

God the Parent, at the arrival of the promised time, You revealed Yourself to the world, received Oyasama as Your shrine, and taught us the ultimate Teaching, opening the path to single-hearted salvation.

Since then, these teachings have spread widely to the world and even in America and Canada, we are blessed with those who impart the fragrance of the teachings and engage in salvation work.

Although our progress may be lacking, we are spiritedly engaging in salvation work daily. On this fine day, we will now celebrate our March Monthly Service. We service performers shall unite our minds to perform the seated service and service dance joyously.

Together with those who have gathered here today, and the church head ministers, Yoboku and followers who still cannot congregate here, due to the continuing pandemic, we express our gratitude for your Parental love and ask for your continued blessings. In witnessing our spirited prayers, we ask that You, God the Parent, become spirited as well.

We are grateful for being able to hold our Spring Memorial Service yesterday. With the foundation of the legacies of our predecessors, we wish to further expand the path.

We pray for a speedy end to the pandemic, and pledge to follow the intention of God the Parent and to rely upon Oyasama's Divine Model, as we make efforts in salvation work. Further, we will convey the teachings to the next generation, unite the minds of those in our diocese, and strive toward our 90th Anniversary.

God the Parent, please accept our sincerity so that this world is transformed into one of the Joyous Life, in which all people help one another. In union with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

March Monthly Service Sermon by Toshikiyo Yukimoto

*~Sharing Our Faith with
Our Families, and Spiritual
Growth~*

We are gathered here today, to join together in harmony to pray for world salvation as well as to show our gratitude for all the blessing we are receiving from God the Parent in our daily lives.

I was assigned to give the sermon for this month and I would like to ask for your kind attention.

In June of 2014, we celebrated the 80th anniversary of the Mission Headquarters in America here in Los Angeles. At that time, the theme of the anniversary was “Nurture the Future”. It was decided that we should increase the importance and focus on nurturing our youth for the future of our path in America and Canada. Time goes by very quickly, next year in June 2024, we will be celebrating the 90th anniversary of our Mission Headquarters. Please spend some time to think about this: are we making progress on this theme of “nurturing the future”?

We are in the midst of greeting the 90th anniversary next year in June. Our theme and slogan for this coming anniversary is “Sharing our Joy of Faith,” and “Share our Joy of



Rev. Toshikiyo Yukimoto is the former head minister of the Central Fresno Church.

Faith with our Family, Friends, and Communities”. Bishop Fukaya in last year’s October sermon mentioned: “the word “communities”, which appears often in our Slogan and in our Goals for Spiritual Maturity. We intentionally used the word, “communities” to consciously make our activities which has been inward-focused until now, to strengthen our connection with those outside of Tenrikyo.” Also he mentioned that “This, however does not mean that we will neglect our activities for those within Tenrikyo.”

Sharing our joy of faith to outside communities and sharing the joy of faith to our own families are both important. The balance of focusing on both internal and external spreading the fragrance is important for our path here in America and Canada.

Since 'families' is a part of our slogan for the 90th, I would like to share my thoughts on how we can share our joy of faith with our families.

But first, I want to share a little bit of my family history. My grandfather grew up with another religion, but he would enter the Tenrikyo faith through his older sister. My grandfather was happily married with 6 children and was running successful clothing store. However, when my grandfather was 39 years old, his eldest brother passed away unexpectedly. His passing affected my grandfather deeply and he was saddened by the thought of his brother's five children having to grow up without a father.

About that time, his older sister, who married into a Tenrikyo church, was struggling financially, as the church fell into dept. With a very chivalrous spirit, my grandfather helped his sister's church financially, which then became his connection to the Path of Tenrikyo. From his desire to improve the causality of the Yukimoto family, which was passing away at a young age, especially the males, and his strong desire to help his sister. My grandfather, at the age of 40, decided to offer all his savings and belongings and to his sister's church, and uprooted his family to move there as well. He moved into the church with his wife, who was pregnant at the time with their youngest child, and their other 5 children.

My father was the fifth child of the family, attended Tenri Middle School. Upon graduation, he was accepted into Medical School in Nara City. Since his parents became Tenrikyo followers to save others, he thought he could help with their efforts, as a physician. In his second year of medical school, his father said to him, "I know you want to be a doctor and help people, but I want you to become a Tenrikyo Missionary. Being a doctor is one generation, but to follow this path is everlasting. I know that being a doctor you can also save others, but by following this Path, you can help people turn bad causation into good causation, which is everlasting." Those were the words my grandfather told my father in conveying his intention.

This conversation between my father and grandfather showed the firmness of my grandfather's faith and his belief in this Path. My grandfather knew that by following the Teachings, the negative causality in our family would change for the better. The parental love my grandfather had for his children is evident through these actions. Although my father was faced with a difficult dilemma, he eventually decided to quit medical school to become a missionary. He would then go to Hiroshima after the war to do a missionary work. He would later establish a church there.

In Instruction Four:

Through saving others, you will be saved... if we remain singly focused on working for the salvation of others, our mind will gradually become purified without even realizing it and will allow us to be saved and be filled with joy and brightness.

During the season of the 80th Anniversary of Oyasama in 1961, my father came to the United States as a missionary. Once he was established here in the US, the rest of the family, including myself, joined him in 1963. I was eight years old at the time. Although my father was very passionate about the faith, just like my grandfather, but also realized that there would be some difficulties conveying the Teachings to others, including his own children due to the difference in language and culture in America. He wanted the Path to continue not only for his own family, but also for other families here.

Growing up, it was at times difficult to grasp the Teachings and the concept of God the Parent in our daily lives. There were very few resources back then if you wanted to study the Teachings. We learned the teachings through both my parents' actions. They would take us to the homes of the elderly to do Hinokishin like cleaning their garden, helping them clean the house, and even singing some Japanese songs to make them happy. We learned to help others and

to bring joy others.

In order to further our understanding of the Tenrikyo Teachings, my siblings and I were sent to the Jiba to study the faith. Some of us attended Tenri High School for three years, or attended the Spiritual Development Course for students, a precursor to Oyasato Seminar, while some of my other siblings worked at the Overseas Mission Department after graduating from college. My younger brother Zen attended the America Spiritual Development course three summers in a row at the ages of 16, 17, and 18. Since the Spiritual Development Course at the Jiba is 3 months, my father wanted Zen to attend the course 3 times to learn the teachings. At that time, one of the instructors smiled and said, "I can't give the same example during my talk to the class because Zen is there every year." Although it was difficult at times, I now feel the parental love from my parents guiding us on this Path, so that we can live a better life. It was for our future.

Also growing up at our church, my parents were very strict about us doing the Daily Service and the Monthly Service. He would always say that God the Parent is providing us with food and our healthy bodies every day. We learned that doing the Service is very important and learned the reason why my parents made an effort to teach us the service. It is for these reasons that I was also strict with my children, including my oldest son

Steven who is the new head minister for our church, and continuing to my grandchildren about performing the Service. I am very thankful my family gathers the day before our Monthly Service and we always have wonderful meal together. It's like a family reunion every month.

Passing down the faith to your own children is like missionary work. They look at their parents' faith, their actions, their words as to how they follow the faith in their daily lives. Children look up to their parents even though they or we are not perfect; yet they observe our behaviors regarding life and faith.

In the book *Growing Spiritually Day by Day*, it states that:

...it is not easy to attract people to the fragrance of the Teachings. In order to accomplish this, we must first make serious effort to nurture ourselves until we reach the point where people can entirely trust us. Otherwise, it will be impossible for us to attract them to the fragrance we sprinkle.

(Page 66)

Here is another important quote from the Third Shinbashira that stood out to me:

...first make a serious effort to nurture ourselves.

(Page 66)

It means that each of us needs to make a huge effort to grow spiritually and implement the Teaching so that people will begin to trust us. This is the first step we must take in order to promote spiritual growth. The question we must ask ourselves is do other people trust us including our own children and family members.

In order to grow spiritually mature, we must believe and practice the Teachings in our daily lives. To raise the level of belief in God the Parent and Oyasama through our own life experience is vital in following the Teachings. It will affect how much we are able to grasp and practice the teachings in our everyday lives and it will help our life to live joyously.

Also, in the book *Growing Spiritually Day by Day* it states that:

We followers of the path must never forget the spirit of single-heartedness with God. It must be our primary concern at all times. We are required to examine whether the source of all our thoughts and actions is the faith that is single-hearted with God.

(Page 43)

Sometimes, we may not give much thought to the decisions that we make daily. Yet the decisions we make today will affect our children, our grandchildren, and the generation to come. We need to understand that the choices we make and the actions

we partake in are connected. You are sowing seeds for future generations. Whether you realize it or not, everything you do counts. The seeds that my grandparents and my parents planted are helping my brothers and sisters, and my own children and grandchildren. I am very grateful for my parents. Even if you do not have children, you are going to live on through the people you influence. Your actions, attitude, and what you stand for, will all be passed down to someone. We are planting seeds everyday whether it is good seeds or not. It is how we live every day that will affect the present and future. By changing our personal habits and temperaments, our mind can grow to become more positive. We can change our negative causation and turn into a positive causation for our future generations to come. You can call it a 'generational blessing'.

It is difficult to compare faiths with others, but we can compare our faith with ourselves. God the Parent and Oyasama are like a mirror, we can see how much we practice the Teachings by reflection upon your own past experiences. We are all striving to become a sincere person.

In order to further our faith, I believe it is important to know our strengths and weakness. What do we need to work on ourselves? Also, it is important to have a vision of your faith and know what you want to accomplish. This applies to everyone's

churches, mission stations, families, and individuals. With a strong focus on your faith, continue to visualize what kind of faith you want to have and to work towards it. This will allow spiritual movement and continuity of your path.

In conclusion, we are in the season of the 90th anniversary of Mission Headquarters in America and the 140th anniversary of Oyasama. As we focus on the theme of "sharing our joy of faith", it is important to practice and implement the teachings daily. By doing this, we can sweep away our mental dusts and purify our minds. We will begin to earn people's trust and our minds will change toward the intention of God the Parent. The mind of joy will appear in our daily lives and we will feel the parental love of God the Parent in our hearts. With this joy, Oyasama will assist us in our salvation work and guide people including our family members onto this wonderful path. God the Parent and Oyasama is waiting for us to assist in salvation work.

I would like to close my sermon by reading a passage from the Osashizu:

People will grow if you nurture them. Unless you nurture them, they will not grow. This truth is not to be taken lightly.

June 12, 1890.

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

Share Our Joy of Faith! My 90th Anniversary
 Share Our Joy of Faith with Our Family, Friends, and Communities!



The West Canada District of the Boys & Girls Association celebrated Oyasama's birthday together on April 2nd, with 17 association members and 29 senior members in attendance!









Tenrikyo SoulFire Conference

June 23 -25, 2023 | Palm Springs, CA

Join us for a Joyous weekend!

SoulFire is an opportunity for followers and friends of the faith to gather in-person to:

-  Instill pride and strengthen our faith as a modern, joyful, spiritual practice
-  Uplift and motivate one another to address daily challenges with a Tenrikyo mind set
-  Create and strengthen bonds among community members
-  Motivate people toward creating gratitude and joy as taught by the teachings

Let's have Fun in the Sun!



Open to all the Tenrikyo Faith Community & Friends



Conference Participant **\$100***
SoulFire Sparks **\$20**

Hotel Fees**
Thu **\$99**, Fri-Sat **\$139**



Shonenkai-age children are welcome to join the conference as SoulFire Sparks. Program includes arts and crafts, games, junior workshops, hang out time, and much more fun activities that incorporate the Teachings.

 www.tenrikyo.com/tfc

 @tenrikyo.faith.conference

 @soulfiretfc

**LEARN MORE &
REGISTER TODAY** 



*Includes access to all workshops, panels and activities. **Price per night. Does not include taxes and \$10 Hotel Resort Fee per night. Additional fees may apply.

News and Announcements

1) APRIL MONTHLY SERVICE (4/16)

Officiant: Marlon Okazaki Assistants: Satoru Onishi, Junjiro Nakatomi
 Attendants: Motohiro Iwahashi, Gary Yashiki Director: Takeo Uemura
 Offerings Officiant: Ichiro Ito Sermon: Eddie Takemoto (E)

2) TENRIKYO HINOKISHIN DAY

For those districts that have conducted their Hinokishin Day activities, please submit your Activity Report to the Mission Headquarters (% Morishita).

3) 85TH AMERICA SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE (SHUYOKAI)

The 85th Spiritual Development Course at the Mission HQ is currently scheduled to be held from June 18 (Sun) to July 15 (Sat). There is no minimum number of participants for the English class; we will be offering a Spanish class (minimum 5 people) and a Japanese class (minimum 2 people), upon the condition that the minimum number of applications are received by May 20th (one month prior to the start of the spiritual development course)).

4) STAYING OVERNIGHT AT THE MISSION HEADQUARTERS

We require those who are planning to stay overnight at the Mission Headquarters for the grand services and monthly services to contact the Secretaries by the Second Sunday of the month that you plan to visit..

5) MISSION HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL CHANGE

Mrs. Michelle Inouye (Shuto GC), who served as joshiseinen from March 10, 2020, along with Mr. Kyle Kikuchi, who served as seinen since April 14, 2021, have both returned to Hawaii on April 11.

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Construction

- * Security cameras are being installed at the Mission HQ.
- * Plans are being drafted for the renovation of the Mission HQ Office.

Nurturing & Educational Committee

- * The applications for this year's Oyasato Seminar, to be held in Jiba from July 16~22, have officially been accepted. Applicants are required to finish eight Besseki Lectures before the beginning of the course. We are currently coordinating with the Overseas Department to arrange in-person English Besseki Lectures.
- * The TSA Spring Conference will be held at the Mission HQ on May 27~28.

Public Relations Committee

- * We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight everyone's efforts and activities leading up to the 90th anniversary of the Mission Headquarters under the slogan: "Share Our Joy of Faith with Our Family, Friends, and Communities," so that we can share our events & ideas with all of our congregation members. Therefore, we would like to request churches, fellowships, districts, and individuals to submit your activity reports & pictures to us (Kawakami: kamishuyo@hotmail.com or Hayashi: takhayashi@gmail.com).

Translation Committee

* We will be holding a mini-conference online, from April 29~30, to continue our efforts in retranslating the Anecdotes of Oyasama.

Women's Association

* TWA 105th Convention: April 19 (Wed) from 10:30 AM Venue: Church HQ Inner Courtyard

* TWA America 70th Anniversary Commemorative Pilgrimage to Jiba: April 17~20, 2023

* TWA America Convention: May 20 (Sat) from 9:30 AM PT. In-person. Will be livestreamed.

Boys & Girls Association

* Details regarding the summer Children's Pilgrimage to Jiba will be announced in early May. The International Boys & Girls Hinokishin Corps will be held from July 27~29.

* B&GA America Service Convention: Will be held in-person at the Mission Headquarters, on August 19 (Sat). Those members and parents who cannot make it to the Mission HQ may participate virtually to hear the message from the Association President.

* Vertical Mission Seminar: On behalf of B&GA Headquarters, Mr. Kazumoto Kubo will be visiting to conduct the seminar on August 20.

* New B&GA guidelines have been announced: "Let's implement the teachings using Oyasama's Divine Model as a dependable guide and convey to children the joy of faith!"

[CONCRETE GOALS]

- Let's tell children stories of Oyasama - Let's hold children's gatherings at our churches
- Let's carry out hinokishin activities with children in local communities.

* Sunday School is back! If you are interested in being a Sunday School Instructor or would like to offer your hinokishin, please let us know. (moto1884@gmail.com)

NY Center

* The Cultural Institute Japanese Language Class New Semester began on April 3 (Adults: 160; Children: 180).

* Young Men's Association Mission Caravan (Boston, Massachusetts, and Maine) will be held from April 14~16.

* Hinokishin Day will be held on May 7 (Blood Drive, Cleaning).

daily life of a Shinto priest at a shrine. In this book, the author is a businessman who, at the age of fifty, made a career change to become a Shinto priest. He is currently the chief priest of a shrine while concurrently overseeing thirteen other shrines. In other words, he is the chief priest responsible for fourteen different Shinto shrines. Put into Tenrikyo terms, it would be the equivalent of a church head minister serving at fourteen different churches.

There were excerpts posted online from the book written by this priest, and several things surprised me.

First, the author explained about *Osaisen* (monetary offerings).

In Tenrikyo, this may be what we refer to as *Osonae* (monetary donations).

To be more specific, perhaps it can be compared to our *Nichi-nichi-no ri* (daily contribution).

When referring to a situation involving a thief who stole the collection box money at a Shinto shrine, the author explains *Osaisen* as follows:

Take a look in your wallet. There may be 1-yen, 100-yen, and 500-yen coins, and 1,000 or 10,000 yen bills, etc. All varying types of money, of which, the previous holder of that money may have gotten that cash through committing a crime, such as stealing a collection box. That is right. Your wallet now has “dirty” money mixed in it.

Therefore, as we stand before the shrine collection box, we keep in mind that the money we are about to offer, is “dirty.” There may be some of you who are saying, “What?! I have never thought about it that

way.” That’s okay. By putting money into the collection box, that money just naturally becomes dirty.

By placing your “dirty” money in the offering box, the rest of the money in your wallet becomes cleansed.

In other words,

The money that the thief was trying to steal from the collection box is “dirty” money. It is not just the “dirty” money from one person. The thief was trying to steal the “dirty” money that once belonged to dozens or hundreds of people.

I was a bit shocked when I read the definition of *Osaisen* as “dirty” money.

Although some “dirty” money might be mixed into people’s wallets, it seems to me that the author is not taking into consideration the minds of those making the monetary offerings.

In Tenrikyo, as we are all aware, monetary donations are made as an expression of our gratitude for being kept alive each day. In addition, donations are also made when praying for the salvation of others. I am certain that there is not anyone who thinks that the donation they are making is somehow “dirty” money.

Next, this Shinto Priest author talked about “protective amulets.” An amulet from a particular Shinto shrine was listed on an online auction site called Mercari.com and the Shinto priest wrote the following comments:

A protective amulet, as its name implies, provides protection for those who possess it. By wearing it for one year, it will absorb misfortunes (impurities) that may fall

upon you.

In other words, the amulet listed on Mercari.com has already been embedded with one year's worth of impurities of the seller. Purchasing such an amulet will not benefit you one bit. On the contrary, by wearing it, the impurity from the previous owner transfers onto you. Without realizing it, the impurities of the previous owner enters the body of the winning bidder.

The winner who bid 20,000 yen for the amulet left a message to the seller saying, "thank you." Seeing that message sent chills down my spine. To me, it doesn't make sense to thank someone for receiving their impurities...

This comment explains that "a protective amulet, as its name implies, provides protection for those who possess it." I believe that this is similar to the "proof amulet" that we have in Tenrikyo. However, the big difference is that we receive our protection from Oyasama.

Apparently, the Shinto amulet is only "effective" for one year, so you need to get a new one each year. This is also different from Tenrikyo. In Tenrikyo, the protection lasts a lifetime, and when the recipient of a "proof amulet" passes away for rebirth, the amulet is not cremated or buried with the body, but rather kept within the family as a treasure. Therefore, the "proof amulet" does not need to be replaced each year. Moreover, this amulet can only be received once in a person's lifetime.

The concept that Shinto amulets "absorb misfortunes and impurities that may fall upon you" was surprising to me. If that is in fact the case, then it makes sense that if you were to get someone else's amulet, "it will not benefit

you one bit. On the contrary, by wearing it, the impurity from the previous owner will transfer onto you."

Further, some of you may be thinking, "What if the amulet were new and unused?" It is still no good. Even if the amulet is new and unused, the moment the amulet is purchased at a shrine, it starts to absorb the impurities of the person who bought it.

In Tenrikyo, the "proof amulet" is granted to those who have returned to Jiba, and therefore serves as proof of their pilgrimage. By wearing it on their body, it provides protection to the recipient.

It is understood that wearing a Tenrikyo "proof amulet" that once belonged to someone else would not provide us any protection. Further, we are taught that after the recipient has passed away for rebirth, the "proof amulet" is to be treated as an eternal family treasure and enshrined. As such, it is thought that the "proof amulet" will protect the future generations of that family. Therefore, in that sense, the concept of "impurities" being absorbed does not apply in Tenrikyo.

As we are aware, the "proof amulet" is made from the red kimono that has been worn by Oyasama, therefore our focus is not on the idea of absorbing any "impurities," but rather on the boundless protection that the ever-living Oyasama provides for us.

After reading this excerpt, I was left with the impression that Shinto shrines are places to rid oneself of impurities, but I am a little skeptical of whether that is the case.

Perhaps I need to research more about Shinto shrines.

TENRIKYO MISSION HEADQUARTERS IN AMERICA
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LOS ANGELES, CA 90033

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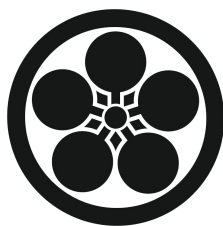
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TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

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 of 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.