

# Tenrikyo

newsletter



## **Boys and Girls Association Convention!**

The 48th BGA Convention was held on August 17. A sleepover was held the night before, where members practiced their service roles. The next morning, the practice service was held during the convention, followed by fun activities in the afternoon.

***Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America***

[www.tenrikyo.com](http://www.tenrikyo.com)

**September 2024**

## “A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

### “Vacant Houses”

The name for the month-long period in September of this and next year has been changed from the usual “The month to focus on Nioigake” to “Missionary Work Month for All Churches.” This change reflects the intention to vigorously promote activities during this second year leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama as well as next year, the final year. It would be wonderful, if, during this anniversary period, not only all the churches, but also fellowships, mission centers, and our fellow followers would energetically engage in nioigake and salvation work.

Also, this month we will hold our autumn memorial service, and I hope that we can spend this time with an awareness that we are leaving our own footprints for future generations, following in the footsteps of our predecessors.

Now, the website of Japan’s Statistics Bureau states, “As a result of the 2018 Housing and Land Survey, the number of vacant houses reached a record-high of 8.489 million, accounting for 13.6% of all houses nationwide.” It also mentions, “Vacant houses continue to increase due to factors such as the declining birthrate, aging population, and changes in population movement. The poor management of these vacant houses has become a social problem, impacting people’s living environments in terms of

disaster prevention, hygiene, and scenery. Furthermore, as the declining birthrate and aging population continue to progress, measures for the effective use of vacant houses are needed in various regions.”

This data is from a few years ago, so it’s likely that there are now even more vacant houses in Japan, and this number is most likely increasing.

These vacant houses in Japan have been drawing attention from around the world. In particular, houses known as *kominka*—traditional Japanese rural houses—are gaining attention. There are information websites aimed at people living outside Japan (i.e., foreigners) who are looking for homes in Japan, and these sites say, “We will support you in finding properties in rural areas of Japan.”

While Japan places great value on tradition

(continued on page 14)

## Coming Up

- \* **Autumn Grand Service Sermon (9/15)**  
- Bishop Fukaya (E)
- \* **TWA LA District Convention (9/29)**  
- Mission HQ @ 10AM

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# *August Monthly Service Prayer*

## *August 18, 2024*

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

Dear God the Parent, You appeared in this world, with Oyasama as Your Shrine, to teach us the truth of the origin of all things and to guide us on the path to the Joyous Life. All of us connected to Mission Headquarters who know of this truth, feel Your daily blessing and live in high spirits. In addition, as we make modest steps to follow Oyasama's Divine Model, we progress steadily in our efforts toward spiritual growth.

As this fine day is our August monthly service, from now, receiving the truth of Jiba, we service performers will unite our minds and joyously perform the seated service and Teodori service dance.

In Your presence, we Yoboku and followers have gathered in anticipation of this day, along with the many Boys and Girls Association members, to express our gratitude for Your daily blessings and to ask for Your continued benevolence. In witnessing our spirited singing of the service songs, we ask that You, God the Parent, become spirited as well.

Yesterday, we were able to successfully hold our Boys and Girls Association Service Convention and are truly grateful. We ask that You help us nurture our youth, who will lead the path going forward, to become fine Yoboku that will work hard for the salvation of others.

Further, next month is the "Missionary Work Month for All Churches." As part of our activities in the second year moving towards the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, I ask as many Yoboku and followers as possible to spread the fragrance of the teachings in our diocese.

In leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, let all of us in this diocese pledge to unite our minds and strive for the construction of the Joyous Life world. Let us recognize our respective roles to realize this goal, and let us grow spiritually during this seasonable time.

God the Parent, please accept our minds of sincerity, guide us where we may be lacking, and provide us with Your blessings so that these teachings spread widely, so that this world be filled with more and more people living a life based on the teachings. In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

# August Monthly Service Sermon by Rev. Ray Tadokoro

## *~Appreciating the “Flowers” Along the Path~*

Good morning, everyone. We have just spiritedly completed the August monthly service for the Mission Headquarters in America led by Bishop Fukaya and I would like to say thank you for your sincere prayers. Also, the annual Boy’s & Girl’s Association service performance and Convention was held yesterday and although I was not able to participate, it is easy to imagine that it was really heartwarming to see their sincerity and single-heartedness in performing the service as well as to see them running around and playing and having fun as children do. It is invigorating and I feel uplifted by their spirit. With that feeling in mind, as I have been assigned to deliver this month’s sermon, I would like to ask for a few minutes of your time while I share with you some of my thoughts. When the Bishop approached me with the request to deliver a sermon, I felt a bit apprehensive, to be honest. I wasn’t sure if I felt humbled, honored or simply intimidated by the idea of standing before the congregation and delivering a sermon, but alas here I am.



Rev. Tadokoro is the head minister of the High Sacramento Church.

When I started thinking about all of the things that have come to pass both personally and, in the world, more generally, since the last time I gave a sermon, which was just over four years ago, I had to stop and think. If you recall, at about that time, we were in the midst of the uncertainty and fear of the initial stages of the covid 19 outbreak and the worldwide upheaval that followed as well as the strife resulting from the calls for social justice that were taking place. I started to think back to those times and I remembered a very distinct feeling of anxiousness about what I was seeing unfold and wondering how

I could possibly say something that was relevant and meaningful as far as it related to those uncertain times. It strangely feels like ages ago however, and so after reflecting on a series of events that I experienced over the last couple of years since then, I believe God the Parent has reminded me that having a mind of gratitude is foundational to furthering spiritual growth through a splendid series of “knots.” As we are reminded in the Instruction Four, God the Parent lets us know when we are misusing our minds by showing us illnesses and other challenging situations. In “A Glossary of Tenrikyo Terms,” we find the following Divine Direction,

*In the absence of any knot, everything goes in one ear and out the other...  
You cannot listen or understand unless faced with a knot.*

Pg. 196

Indeed, the shallowness of the human mind is such that unless we are without, we don't really appreciate what we have.

If you would indulge me for just a moment, I'd like to ask you to join me in a brief exercise to try and feel God the Parent's blessings. When I count to three, slowly close your eyes and as much as you are able, take in a slow

deep breath and let it out equally slowly. Try to feel the air fill your lungs and feel the air leaving your body as you exhale. Thank you. This is so simple and yet the most vitally important activity we all do, roughly about 20,000 times each day in fact, and it is something our bodies do as a normal function through the exquisite workings of God the Parent. A few years ago, I experienced firsthand how truly splendid this function is when I suddenly found myself waking up in the middle of the night completely unable to take a full breath. It felt as if something was squeezing my lungs to prevent me from breathing. It was unnerving to say the least, but it passed quickly as if I dreamt it and as I laid in bed trying to make sense of what had just happened, I fell back to sleep. When it happened again a couple of nights later, it didn't subside. It took two tortuous weeks of sleepless nights before I finally got to see a doctor and all the while I prayed every day for God the Parent and Oyasama to give me strength. The curious thing about this time period however, was that I was still able to do all the daily tasks that I needed to do. I was in no pain so it was as if God the Parent was telling me that even if it took a little more effort, I was still being blessed to be able to move about freely. In other words, I still had reason to be grateful even with

my physical limitations. I was still able to do the morning cleaning and put up the offerings before service, go to work, in fact, I was essentially doing all the things that I did the same as before, just a bit sleepier perhaps. Even driving from Sacramento to come to Mission Headquarters for monthly service each month. It was eventually discovered that the cause for my breathing issues was that I was experiencing the effects of heart failure. It was a bit more serious than I had expected as the doctor told me that although I didn't seem to be a candidate for heart failure, my heart function was down to approximately 15% and I was told that it was possible that my heart could stop at any time. All at once, I was faced with my own mortality in a very real sense. If the heart function falls to around 10% then a heart transplant enters the conversation. Needless to say, it was unsettling, but I felt without a doubt that God the Parent was guiding and protecting me because I was still alive. It was not easy to recognize at first, but there were still so many reasons to be grateful. We are taught in the Divine Directions, "With human beings: the body is a thing lent by God, a thing borrowed. The mind alone is the truth of oneself." (Osashizu 6/1/1889: A Glossary of... pg.223) So long as we see the blessings that God

the Parent provides for us then we can learn to be satisfied. There's a little phrase I like to say whenever something happens that may not be as I wish and although it's something I usually say to be humorous, it's fairly useful and it goes, "there are far greater tragedies in the world." I say this and it sometimes gets a chuckle or laugh in response, but it comes from the principle of the teaching of "a thing lent, a thing borrowed." We all possess the ability to freely use our minds as we wish, whether it is to be spirited or dispirited or satisfied or dissatisfied. It seems to me that the mind that focuses on being grateful becomes better at finding reasons to be grateful. Put differently, being thankful, truly thankful, allows us to carry ourselves in a way that shows that feeling of gratitude in whatever we do.

There is obviously and unfortunately, no shortage of things that are happening in the world around us that are reasons for feeling sad or distressed. War, famine, natural disasters and social upheaval just to name a few. It is sometimes hard to understand the times we live in. These circumstances, however, aren't unique to the times in which we live. One could even make a strong argument that the times in which we are living now are far more comfortable than in times past.

How blessed are we that we don't live in a place in which we have to worry about bombs falling on us or the authorities coming in our place of worship and taking us away to jail even though there are such places around the world today. When the teachings were first revealed through the mouth of Oyasama, the world was experiencing dramatic changes that made some people question whether the world was descending into chaos or even ending. In the Instruction Four, the Shinbashira reminds us that global pandemics and frequent natural disasters are all expressions of God the Parent's love for us and is guiding us so that we can replace our mistaken minds. God is trying to convey to us through all the things that are happening around us, to love and help one another and spread joyousness while maintaining the mind of gratitude. This is not to suggest that we should always be in a constant state of bliss no matter what occurs or to not feel frustration from time to time, but to view events as a means to improve the way we see and recognize God the Parent's blessings more effectively each day.

When we are focused on what our daily lives require of us and get caught up in the daily grind of life, it is so easy to miss how God the Parent's blessings guide and protect us each day. In a

Divine Direction we are taught,

*...from now on, what you describe as bothersome, will become bothersome. What you describe as bright will become bright...If you sweep mud away completely and you have clarity, your mind has no need to worry. The reason you worry is that the mind is cloudy.*

Mind That Attracts Happiness, Pg. 119

The state of our minds influences how we perceive and this may inhibit our ability to appreciate God the Parent's workings.

Earlier this year, I was making final plans to return to Jiba to attend the Oyasama Birth Celebration service with my mother. She has not been able to return to Jiba for some years now for various reasons, but most recently because of the pandemic. She had been very much looking forward to returning to Jiba and offering prayers at the Home of the Parent, but had a little apprehension because she would require a lot of assistance. I assured her that as long as she was with me, I would do whatever needed to be done to make sure the trip would go as smoothly as possible. She is now in her mid-80's and doesn't get around as well as she used to but we were counting down the days to

when we were to leave. One morning about a month before we were to leave, I was in my office checking some emails when I heard a rather loud noise from her room and so I went to check to see what it was. When she opened the door, she was holding her left eyebrow and I could see blood coming down her face. I was startled and immediately applied pressure and took her to an urgent care facility to get checked out. It was a blessing that it wasn't a very serious wound but we were told to go to the hospital to get x-rays because she takes blood thinners for a heart condition she has. We went and everything came back normal so we returned home. I was thankful that the injury wasn't serious and didn't require any further treatment. About three weeks later, I was updating some travel documents on my computer when my mother asked me to return her passport to her as she wanted to put it in her travel bag. When she moved towards me, she lost her footing and tripped and fell again. It happened in a blink of an eye. This time when she fell she hit the crown of her head on the corner of my office desk. I jumped out of my chair to try and catch her, but the damage was already done. She had a very large laceration on the top of her head and began bleeding. I once again applied pressure with a towel and rushed

her to the hospital. She was in obvious pain, but she never lost consciousness and was very clear minded so I was somewhat relieved. This occurred five days before we were to leave. The emergency room doctor decided to have a CT scan and MRI done on her brain to once again check for any potential bleeding. This time however, they found that she was hemorrhaging blood on her brain and that she would need to be admitted. However, what the doctor next said was really curious. She said that the location of the hemorrhaging didn't seem to be a result of her fall, but was caused by something else. They kept asking her questions about her name, age, birthdate, home address to check her mental clarity in case of a stroke. However, she answered quickly and seemed really clear minded. She never lost consciousness nor did she lose any physical ability. In fact, if she didn't have a large cut on her head and some facial swelling, you wouldn't have known anything was wrong. I asked the doctor about the results from the previous fall and whether or not something was missed, and she said that the previous brain scans were clear. That meant that sometime between the first fall and the second her brain started bleeding. My mother mentioned to me that she had been doing service six times



a day praying for our church members and also so that she would be able to return to Jiba and attend the Oyasama Birth Celebration Service as well as the Women's Association Convention. She was really disappointed that she wouldn't be able to go, but I pointed out to her that if God the Parent hadn't stopped her from returning to Jiba and she had gotten on the flight, with her brain hemorrhaging and high altitude and lack of medical care, there was no knowing what could have happened. It was because she prayed so earnestly every day that God the Parent and Oyasama provided her with a truly wondrous blessing. Even through what appeared to be a severe "knot," a tremendous blessing was shown. She has been slowly recovering her mobility and being blessed each day. So much so that she was able to happily attend the Mission Headquarters' 90th Anniversary Celebration in June and heartwarmingly and tearfully reconnect with so many people she hadn't seen in many years. What a wonderful blessing indeed. God the Parent's workings are truly omnipotent.

I'd like to close my talk today by quoting from Rev. Eiji Ozaki,

In this path, we are encouraged to accept illness and other troubles

as "flowers of the path." The knots of illness and other troubles represent opportunities for us to deeply appreciate and savor God the Parent's intention, to engage in calm self-reflection, and to let the Parent's guidance help us take great strides toward joy and brightness. Considering how such knots can help us make significant progress toward greater joy, we would be well advised to clearly understand, appreciate, savor and apply to our lives the meaning of saying that illness and other troubles are "something to be thankful for" and are "flowers of the path."

Mind That Attracts Happiness, pg. 116

Thank you very much for your kind attention.

## News and Announcements

### 1) SEPTEMBER MONTHLY SERVICE (9/15)

Officiant: Bishop Assistants: Marlon Okazaki, Kazumi Kawakami Attendants: Robert Shimizu, Ichiro Ito  
Director: Tomoyoshi Tanaka Offerings Officiant: Koji Uesugi Sermon: Kazuyuki Kawata (J)

### 2) CHURCH & FELLOWSHIP AFFAIRS

\* Divine Sanctions:

Canada Church: Request for Special Service, Request for Temporary Change of Service Date

Divine Sanction: April 18, 2024 90th Anniversary Commemorative Service: December 1, 2024

Orange Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction: July 26, 2024 Head Minister: Kinpei Ito Enshrinement Service: September 21, 2024

Honjima Vancouver Fellowship:

Application to disband was accepted on July 2, 2024. Will continue to function as a home shrine.

Aien America Fellowship: Name change

New name: Aisei America Fellowship

### 3) TENRIKYO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (TLI) & ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

TLI applications for the Japanese Language Department (the 2025-2026 academic year) are now available, as well as Ichiretsukai Scholarship applications for Japanese Language Department applicants, during the period specified below. For those who wish to apply, please notify the Mission Headquarters by the end of August. From this year, please download the applications from the TLI homepage (<https://kaigai.tenrikyo.or.jp/tli/top/>). You can also find additional information on the homepage, so please visit the website if you are interested in enrolling.

Form	Application Period	Fee
TLI Japanese Lang. Dept.	August 15~September 20, 2024 (Excl. Sundays and Holidays)	None
Ichiretsukai Scholarship	August 15~September 20, 2024	None (for TLI applicants)

### 4) AUTUMN MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Mission Headquarters will hold its autumn memorial service on September 14 (Sat), from 7PM.

### 5) SERVICE ROSTER

We request service performers to communicate their plans to attend the monthly service, including any changes, to the Mission Headquarters by the end of the month prior to their attendance. For example, please communicate your final availability for the October monthly service by the end of this month (September 30, 2024).

### 6) MISSION HQ PERSONNEL CHANGES

Ms. Akino Yokoyama (Kochi GC), who served as joshiseinen at the Mission Headquarters since May 27, 2022, will finish her term and return to Japan on October 13.

## COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

### Construction Committee

- We have begun reroofing the MP Hall from September 4. Afterwards, we plan to repair the second-floor men's bathroom wall and ceiling.
- We are making plans to repair a Tenri Kaikan drain line along Saratoga Street.

**Nurturing & Educational Committee**

- We are planning on holding the Oyasato Seminar preliminary session this year. We will inform you once the dates are set.
- The TSA will be hosting its annual TSA Winter Conference at the Mission Headquarters from 12/26 (Thu) until 12/29 (Sun). It will consist of lectures, fun activities, mochitsuki (rice-pounding) hinokishin, and a TSA cabinet selection.

**Public Relations Committee**

- We have incorporated an ongoing section in the Ichiretsu/Newsletter to highlight everyone’s efforts and activities leading up to the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama 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).
- The 90th Anniversary photo exhibit, entitled, “‘A Ninety-Year Path’ Photo Exhibit,” will be available for viewing until the November monthly service. We are also discussing the idea of posting this exhibit to the website.
- Mission HQ Homepage
  - \* We are posting snapshots of the 90th anniversary on our website. We would like to continue posting photos and videos of future events moving forward.
  - \* The “Stories Inspired by Oyasama,” “SoulFire,” monthly service sermons, & podcast videos are now viewable on the Mission Headquarters homepage. Please visit our homepage to view these videos, and let those around you know as well.
  - \* The password for the “Members” tab is “joyouslife.”

**Future Path**

- We are continuing discussions to host a study session in 2025 on “The Doctrine of Tenrikyo.”

**Women’s Association**

- District Conventions:

* San Francisco	9/28 (Sat)	10:30AM	@ San Mateo Church
* Los Angeles	9/29 (Sun)	10AM	@ Mission HQ
* New York	10/5 (Sat)	1PM	@ NY Center
* Chicago (Change)	10/27 (Sun)	10:30AM	@ Midwest Church

**Boys & Girls Association**

- Currently Recruiting Fife & Drum Corps Members: Would you like to join your Tenrikyo friends to do koteki (fife & drum corps) activities in a unity of mind? We are conducting activities that teach mutual help and the joy of exerting one’s sincerity for the salvation of others. Please contact [moto1884@icloud.com] for more details
- Let’s share stories about Oyasama with BGA members! Visit your churches as a family and engage in hinokishin together.
- Please send an email to the address above if there are any new BGA members, newborn or new to the North America congregation.

**NY Center**

8/20: NY Center joshiseinen and TCI Japanese language instructor, Misayo Shimomura (Nanki GC) arrived

9/4-16: Japanese American Artist Association of NY Exhibition

9/22: Autumn memorial service

***Mission HQ Sermons******TLI Application******MP Hall Reroofing!******BGA America Convention at the Mission HQ!***

Alongside the BGA convention held at the Mission HQ, various districts across the US and Canada held their own BGA conventions and sleepovers. This month, we will highlight the Washington DC and NY districts.

### Washington DC

This year, we were able to successfully hold our second BGA convention & sleepover. Since this was their first sleepover in five years, the children were very excited. Members gathered on August 31, and after evening service, a service practice was held. After dinner, various games and races were held, the highlight of which was the “dress-up race.” On September first, the service convention was held, and members performed Songs 1 & 2. We were moved by the sincerity of the children performing the service. We missed seeing the panda this year! 12 members, and eight young staff participated.



### New York

The BGA NY District held a successful service convention on August 25th, with 31 participants. The members have been practicing since May and although nervous, the members performed joyously and spiritedly. Our theme for this year was “Helping One Another,” derived from the Three Promises. We also held a sleepover, which involved a service practice, team-building games, hinokishin, and a visit to a nearby park. Many are looking forward to learning new instruments for next year’s Convention!



in many areas, when it comes to houses, there is a tendency for newer homes to be more popular. In other words, Japanese people tend to have little interest in *kominka* and do not seem to fully appreciate the value of traditional architectural homes.

However, it seems that many Westerners place a high value on older homes. You can see this to some extent by looking at European buildings. Since many of these buildings are made of brick or stone, which are difficult to rebuild, there is a cultural tendency to preserve the structure as it is, without demolishing or altering the exterior. Instead, they renovate or remodel the interior while keeping the overall building intact. Perhaps because of this, Japanese *kominka* are particularly popular among Westerners.

The reason Westerners are attracted to *kominka* isn't just because they are old. They also respect the craftsmanship involved in the construction, such as the use of wooden beams and pillars, as well as the skills of the carpenters who built them.

The beams in houses built long ago seem to be quite thick. While they are processed to some extent, many of these beams are not perfectly straight. Instead, they often retain the natural curvature of the wood, as if to make the most of the material. This is particularly common in older houses, where you frequently see beams made from large trees used in their original curved state. Similarly, in order to prevent the roof from being blown away, the ridgepole often also consists of large, naturally curved trees in many of these traditional homes.

An American architect learned that a vacant *kominka* in Japan was set to be demolished and burned. Upon hearing this, he requested, "If you're going to burn it, please give it to me," and purchased the *kominka*. He dismantled it

and moved it to Oregon. Apparently, there is a traditional construction method in America similar to Japan's *jikugumi* (post-and-beam) framework. The American architect, who bought the *kominka*, immediately recognized the high skill level of the carpenters who had originally built it.

When reconstructing the *kominka* at its new location in the U.S., the architect was unable to get help from Japanese carpenters. However, when he reached out to American carpenters, saying, "We're building a Japanese *kominka*," many carpenters gathered to participate. I imagine they were intrigued by the Japanese *kominka*, and perhaps they were also eager to see the craftsmanship behind Japanese carpentry.

This year, an event called the "Folk House Summit 2024" was held over three days, and 300 tickets, priced at 5,000 yen each, were sold to both domestic and international foreign participants. The event featured a *kominka* tour, including experiences such as thatching roofs with rice straw, plastering earthen walls, and planing wood. Each of these activities was well-received and attracted many participants.

In Tenrikyo's teachings, words related to houses, such as "Shinbashira" (the Central Pillar), "carpenter," "master carpenter," and "Yoboku" (useful timber), are frequently used. Additionally, many verses in the Ofudesaki refer to "wood" or "Yoboku." I'd like to share a few of these verses below.

*The trees which grow in the high mountains  
and the trees which grow in the low mountains  
are all the same.*

Ofudesaki III:125

*Day by day, I shall tend those trees which are  
to become My useful timber. Never take it to  
be illness.*

*Among the trees, there will be some that I shall tend step by step and others that I shall let fall as they are.*

Ofudesaki III:131-132

*Even until now, from My desire for useful timber, I have searched most everywhere.*

*This time, in the low valleys I see promising trees in abundance.*

*When Tsukihi enters these trees and brings them to completion step by step, they will become pillars of nations*

*Then, looking closely day by day, Tsukihi will prepare for more timber.*

*Step by step, I shall nurture trees, starting with aged ones, and assemble them in preparations for the future.*

*Day after day, as the intent of Tsukihi is deep, two or three trees will be found even at one place.*

*Of these trees, I do not say whether male pine or female pine. Tsukihi has an intention for any tree.*

*What I shall talk about in the time to come will be nothing but the preparations for My timber.*

*Of these timbers, it is not to be just a few. I desire fifty or sixty in numbers of people.*

Ofudesaki VII:15-23

Especially when I read the series of verses

from Chapter 7, I cannot help but feel the earnest thoughts of God the Parent towards “Yoboku.” God desires for us to make efforts to nurture and cultivate “Yoboku,” and expresses the need for many “Yoboku”. Additionally, we are instructed that there should be no distinction between male and female, and that any type of “Yoboku” is welcome.

From our standpoint, it is necessary to make efforts to grow into “yoboku” that can be used. I recall reading somewhere that when the South Worship Hall of Church Headquarters was being built, the second Shinbashira said something about the wood to be used for the pillars: “If there are structural issues, it cannot be helped, but please make use of the natural thickness of the wood whenever possible.”

According to the Tenrikyo Dictionary, in the section on “Showa Construction,” it states that the South Worship Hall has pillars with diameters of 2 feet, 5 inches for eight cylindrical pillars, 2 feet 3 inches for eighteen cylindrical pillars, 1 foot 8 inches square for sixteen square pillars, and 1 foot 7 inches square for eighteen square pillars. It seems that the Shinbashira’s above directive were followed in the construction.

The thoughts of the second Shinbashira seem to reflect a desire to materialize the intentions expressed in the aforementioned “Ofudesaki”. This is in line with the intentions of God the Parent, aiming to carefully and diligently nurture any type of “Yoboku” to be used in the construction of the Joyous Life. It seems that this intention was embodied in the South Worship Hall construction.

While I have no disagreement with seeking new things, I believe it is also important to consider how to make use of old things, rather than simply discarding them as “old.”

*(translation by H. Ryono)*

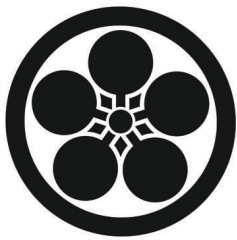
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## TOWARD THE JOYOUS LIFE

**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 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.**