

Tenrikyo

newsletter



Missionary Work Month for All Churches

Usually, September is the month designated as “the month to focus on Nioigake,” but during this season of the Oyasama’s Anniversary, this year and next years has been designated as the “Missionary Work Month for All Churches.” Members throughout our diocese engaged in spreading the teachings. Top Row: 9/14 @ Mission HQ; Bottom Row: 9/22 @ MacArthur Park.

Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America

www.tenrikyo.com

October 2024

“A Work in Progress” by Bishop Fukaya

— *Electro-Harmonix* —

Last month we observed the Tenrikyo “Missionary Work Month for All Churches.” How was this for all of you?

On September 14th, we held our autumn memorial service. Let us always remember our predecessors’ achievements and convey their achievements to our next generation, while further striving to leave behind even greater accomplishments.

As we approach Oyasama’s 140th anniversary, now is the time for us to “gear-up” and promote more missionary work. I hope we can move forward together in this pre-anniversary activity period known as the “season of spiritual growth” and the “season of salvation.” I ask for your support.

Now, as I write this article I am using a computer. As such, rather than saying that I am “writing,” should I be saying that I am “clicking” or “touching” my keyboard as I “create” this article?

The font that I use for my Japanese articles is “MS Mincho.” Additionally, I also sometimes use “MS Gothic,”

“MS P Mincho,” or “MS P Gothic.” If I want to express a somewhat formal “look” in certain documents, I may also use the “Gyosho” or “Seikaisho” Fonts. Additionally, due to editorial reasons, a different font is used for the “A Work in Progress” article for the “Ichiretsu” newsletter.

When writing in English, I use the “Times New Roman” font, but at times I also use “Arial.”

Various fonts can be used to vary the “look” of documents, so when I am creating documents, I strive to use fonts that match the content of the article.

Sometimes I use a different font for just the vocabulary or sentences I want

(continued on page 14)

Coming Up

- * **November Monthly Service Sermon (11/17)**
 - Michael Yuge (E)
- * **Yoboku Gathering (11/16)**
 - Mission HQ from 2:30 PM
- * **Oyasato Seminar Preliminary Session**
 - 12/26 ~ 12/29 @ Mission HQ
- * **TSA Winter Conference**
 - 12/26 ~ 12/29 @ Mission HQ

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Autumn Memorial Service Prayer

September 14, 2024

Before the spirits of the Nakayama family and pioneers who served our Mission Headquarters for many years, I, Hiroshi Alexander Fukaya, Bishop of Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America, invoke with reverence.

Through God the Parent's divine guidance, you were drawn to this path, and with God's blessings and Oyasama's Divine Model in your hearts, you always walked this path joyfully and spiritedly in all circumstances.

Dedicating yourselves wholeheartedly to the realization of the Joyous Life and to this path of single-heartedly helping others be saved, you left us with your great legacies in America and Canada.

We are able to walk this path thanks to the free and unlimited workings of God the Parent and the parental love of Oyasama, but also due to the sincere and unchanging devotion you demonstrated over many years. For this, we express our deepest gratitude each morning and evening.

Today, in observing our annual Autumn Memorial Service, we have made various sincere offerings and have just performed Yorozuyo and the Twelve Songs of the service dance before God the Parent, to honor your memories and virtues.

We will now conduct the memorial ritual to pay our respects to the legacy that you have left behind and to express our profound gratitude.

As we enter the latter half of the second year of our pre-anniversary activities for Oyasama's 140th Anniversary, we will reflect anew on the Shinbashira's intention contained in Instruction Four. We pledge to strive steadily toward world salvation, to convey this path to the next generation, and to work towards the realization of the Joyous Life world.

We humbly ask you, the spirits of our pioneers, to accept our sincerity and to continue watching over the growth and prosperity of our diocese, the families of our pioneers, our Yoboku, as well as all our followers.

Please guide us as we endeavor with spirited minds to serve this path, so that our journey toward spiritual growth advances forward. In unison with all present, I humbly pray that this may be so.

September Monthly Service Prayer

September 15, 2024

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.

Dear God the Parent, Your deep intention is expressed by Your words, “To Tsukihi, all of you in the world are My children. My only desire is to save you.” As such, over the long years, You have watched over the growth of all human beings through Your boundless blessings and guidance, and for this, we are truly grateful.

While our efforts may be lacking, we have sought to make repayment for Your blessings by devoting ourselves spiritedly, day and night, for the sake of world salvation.

On this fine day, we will hold our September monthly service. Receiving the truth of Jiba, from now, we service performers will unite our minds to joyously perform the seated service and Teodori service dance.

Yoboku and followers have gathered before You, looking forward to this day. We give thanks for our daily blessings and pray for Your continued benevolence. Please witness our spirited singing and become spirited as well.

Yesterday, we were able to successfully hold our annual autumn memorial service. We thank You very much. Building upon the achievements of our pioneers, we shall continue our work to further advance the path.

We pray for a resolution to the wars and conflicts occurring throughout the world. We also pray for the victims of natural disasters and for the salvation of those suffering from illnesses or troubles.

As September is the “Missionary Work Month for All Churches,” we will spiritedly devote ourselves evermore to missionary and salvation work. Also, aiming for the growth of this path, we will convey the beauty of these teachings to the next generation and make advances in this second year of our pre-anniversary activities towards Oyasama’s 140th Anniversary.

Dear God the Parent, please accept our sincerity, provide us guidance when we are lacking, and continue to bestow us with Your boundless parental love. Also, please bless us so that, even one day sooner, we can transform this world into one of the Joyous Life, where all people live in harmony.

In unison with the whole congregation, I humbly pray that You bless us so.

September Monthly Service Sermon

by Mr. Kazuyuki Kawata

~A Path That Continues for Endless Generations~

As we have just now performed the September monthly service of the Mission Headquarters in America under the leadership of our Bishop and his wife, I would like to express my greatest joy in being able to do so together with all of you. I have been given the task of giving today's sermon, so I'd like to ask for your kind attention.

Together with my family, I came to the United States in the fall of 2000. After living in the Mission Headquarters for a year and half as staff, I am now serving as the head of Tamashima Grand Church's Los Angeles Mission Center. Also, since the spring of 2003 to this day, I have been a member of the Mission Headquarters' PR committee and have been taking part in the editing of the Ichiretsu Newsletter. Thankfully, we have been able to publish the newsletter every month without fail, for roughly twenty years. This is thanks to all of you for your support in making use of the newsletter as well as to the many people who have supported us over the years. Please allow me to express my appreciation.

Today, I would like to talk about my experiences during my years as a member



Mr. Kawata is the head of the Tamashima LA Mission Station.

of the PR Committee. My talk today may be rather unorganized, but I ask for your kind understanding.

When I first began as the newsletter editor, computers were already in use, and we could print directly to a printer. However, digital cameras were not yet widely in use. So, on the second weekend of each month, which I had devoted to the task of editing, I would always come to the Mission Headquarters to select printed photos that were developed from film and scan them into the computer. Today, we could simply take a photo on our phone and send it to the computer directly. I am truly surprised with the speed of technology's progress. Also,

we often received manuscripts handwritten and sent to us by fax. This is something that we no longer see. As editor, I am finding everything to be so convenient compared to those early years and my work has been reduced significantly. And most of all, the quality of the translation of the manuscripts has improved drastically. I cannot speak about the translation of Japanese into English, but the translation from English to Japanese has gotten so much better. For this, I would like to express my appreciation to the Translation Committee.

I began as editor in 2003, and the following year was the year of the Mission Headquarters' 70th Year Commemorative Service. The PR Committee made a plan to compile a twenty-year chronology of Mission Headquarters—more specifically, for the twenty-one years from 1983 to 2003—and distribute the chronology in booklet form throughout the diocese as a commemorative item for the 70th Anniversary. Preparation began under the leadership of Rev. Tomizawa, who was the head of the PR Committee at the time, and given that I was editing the *Ichiretsu* Newsletter, I was put in charge of formatting the finished manuscripts and completing the layout. The content of the chronology included not only events held at the Mission Headquarters but also other details such as the names of the reverends who gave the sermons at the monthly services as

well as the names of those appointed to various committees within the Mission Headquarters. Overall, the chronology came to include many specific details. The aim in editing this chronology was that it would aid in the future compilation of the one-hundred-year history of the Mission Headquarters in America. Rev. Hirano, who was the secretary of Mission Headquarters at the time, compiled the first ten years of records while Rev. Tomizawa did the remaining ten years. As editor, it was my job to format each year's worth of manuscripts into a six- to seven-page layout together with roughly ten photographs. It took quite a bit of time, but I was able to compile these records into a single booklet covering twenty-one years of the chronology.

At the time, I had just arrived here, and I did not know much about Mission Headquarters' past or what occurred throughout the diocese. But through the editing work, I came to know quite a bit about the twenty years following the Fiftieth Anniversary. Also, I came across many photos that were not used in the chronology, and these photos gave me a glimpse of the vibrant atmosphere that permeated those years. In distributing the chronology, Rev. Tominaga summarized those twenty-one years in the closing editorial remarks for the booklet in the following way: "There has been fifty appointments for new head ministers within the diocese, signifying

the birth of fifty new head ministers. Also, more than fifty new fellowships and mission centers have been opened. These twenty years have been a historically dramatic period for our diocese.” It was already twenty years before the 70th Anniversary Commemorative Service. And from June of this year when we celebrated the 90th Anniversary, it would be forty years. For me, to come to know of the history of these years was a very valuable opportunity. Also, I did not foresee that I would be able to take part in similar work in the years to follow.

As it turns out, I continued to edit the Ichiretsu Newsletter every month. Exactly ten years ago, in June of 2014, as all of you know, we celebrated the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Service for the Mission Headquarters. Exactly one month prior to that, the Ichiretsu Newsletter marked its 800th publication. To commemorate this occasion, we published, over a course of several months, a special series to look back at the time of the original publication of the Ichiretsu. To do so, we could not ignore the history of the time, that is, World War Two, and the many resources that we collected for our series reflected this.

Are all of you familiar with the Japanese author named Toyoko Yamazaki? I liked her novels, and I read quite a few of them when I was still in Japan. Her novels, which were based on actual events, were written with thorough research. Most of her

novels have been made into movies or TV dramas. I am sure that many of you have seen some of these. Among such works, there is a novel called Futatsu no sokoku or “Two Homelands.” It was remade into a NHK Taiga Drama entitled “Sanga moyu” or “Mountains and rivers on fire.” It was broadcast in United States but was immediately cancelled because of protests from the Japanese American community. This is because the story centered around a second-generation Japanese American, portraying the era from the beginning of World War Two to its conclusion. The story began here in Los Angeles and portrayed the difficult history of the Japanese Americans living here. Because the story was narrated from the perspective of the main character, there were fears that it would lead to a misunderstanding of the Japanese Americans.

Back when I read this novel, I had not anticipated that I would come to live in Los Angeles later in my life. I simply came to know of the conditions of the Japanese American community at the time, portrayed through the novel. It often referred to a place called Santa Anita. After I arrived here, I was driving to some locations when I noticed a road sign for Santa Anita. Soon thereafter, I saw a very large building, which turned out to be a racetrack. I remember being deeply moved.

Let me return to the topic of the special

series on the Ichiretsu Newsletter. The special series for the 800th publication involved re-publication of articles that appeared in the early issues of the Ichiretsu. Among them, there was an article based on a roundtable discussion involving nine members of the Women's Association, originally published in 1974 in issues 231 through 237. You may recognize it from the last digit of the year in which it was published, but the year was that of the 40th Anniversary of the Mission Headquarters. In the roundtable discussion, the nine members of the Women's Association spoke in detail about their lives and the atmosphere here at Mission Headquarters, from the time of its founding to the end of the war. Their stories described the same accounts written in the novel I mentioned earlier, and the stories of their experiences were a true shock to me. Today, I can only appreciate how I am able to live each day and to embrace my faith without any difficulties or obstruction. I also had a chance to read the inaugural publication of the Ichiretsu. It was published in 1947, only two years after the end of World War Two. In this inaugural issue, Rev. Masaharu Hashimoto, who was the bishop at the time, wrote the following waka poem.

A new year has dawned upon my
fellow sojourners, celebrating a new
beginning.

At the time, he was still held in probation and was required to work in a canning factory in New Jersey. It is a witness to the difficult times in which they lived.

If I had not been involved in the editing of the Ichiretsu, I would not have come to know of this history. Even if I was handed a completed print of the Ichiretsu, I would not have read so deeply into what had happened. In the preface to the roundtable article of the commemorative series, it is written: "As noted in the words, 'With the old path, there is the new path,' the path in America today is built upon the hardships of our predecessors. Through revisiting and becoming aware of the paths that they had carved out, we can find the guidepost for our future as well as the inspiration to encourage us forward." These are the feelings that I felt in the midst of my involvement as editor. Last night, as we performed the autumn memorial service, I reflected upon the hardships of our predecessors and expressed my appreciation for their many contributions.

In the Instruction Four, it is written:

Our predecessors earnestly followed
the path that had begun with Oyasama
alone by using Her Divine Model as
their dependable guide and maintained
the path for us to walk on. The efforts
to learn and pass down the faith from

parents to children, from children to grandchildren, and so on, will allow this path to continue for endless generations.

I was deeply encouraged by the sights of so many young people engaging spiritedly in hinokishin during the 90th Anniversary Commemorative Service and of the multitude of the new generation filling the sanctuary during the 70th Anniversary Joint Convention of the Young Men's and Women's Associations, held the day before. At the same time, for being able to witness such sights, I felt a deep sense of appreciation to our predecessors. Also, I felt deeply the need to pass our joy of faith and the sense of appreciation to the next generation, including my own children, of course.

Last year, there was a song that became popular and contained the following lyrics.

This path continues because we wished for it to do so.

The reference to “path” in this song was not to the path that we undertake as followers of Tenrikyo. However, I felt that the lyrics had something important to say. Furthermore, we should not simply wish for our path to continue but also make efforts to come to Mission Headquarters, perform the services, and put the teachings

into practice. Such is what faith is made of. Each step we take may not necessarily need be a very large one, but the importance lies in accumulating one step at a time. With the path that continues for everlasting generations as our goal, let us undergo each day spiritedly as we move forwards towards the 140th Anniversary of Oyasama, to be observed in 2026.

Thank you for your kind attention.

News and Announcements

1) AUTUMN GRAND SERVICE (10/20)

Officiant: Bishop Assistants: Junjiro Nakatomi, Takahiko Hayashi Attendants: Kunihito Fumioka, Hamilton Niwa
 Director: Toshihiko Okui Offerings Officiant: Mitsuharu Ito Sermon: Bishop (E)

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

Brotherhood Church: Head Minister Appointment, Request for Special Service

Divine Sanction (Scheduled): November 26, 2024 Head Minister: Raymond James Brown

Installation Service: February 8, 2025

3) PASSING AWAY FOR REBIRTH

On October 6 (Sun) at 1:30 PM, Mr. Wesley Dote, former Vice-Chairperson of the Boys & Girls Association of America, passed away for rebirth at the age of 58. We would like to acknowledge and express our appreciation for his many years of service and dedication. The soul transfer ceremony was held on October 6 (Sun) from 2 PM. The funeral service will be held on November 16 (Sat) from 11 AM, at the Sacramento Memorial Lawn. Now, please be aware that the family has stated that they will not be accepting monetary gifts.

4) TENRIKYO LANGUAGE INSTITUTE (TLI) & ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The application information about TLI's Oyasato Fusekomi Department (for the 2025-2026 academic year) is as follows. If you are interested, please let us know as soon as possible because we need to order application forms.

Application period: October 1 to 31, 2024 (The admission office is not open on Sundays, national holidays, and on the morning of October 26.)

Eligibility: Those who meet all of the following criteria:

1. Those who completed formal education or some sort of 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. Those who graduated/are expected to graduate from TLI's Japanese Language Department this academic year or those who have passed N3 or above in the Japanese Language Proficiency Test.
4. Upon graduation, those who are going to engage in Tenrikyo activities in their home country in the future.

5) YOBOKU GATHERING

The Yoboku Gathering will be held on November 16 (Sat). The Yoboku Gathering will be conducted from 2:30 PM ~ 4:30 PM. A social gathering will be held after evening service.

If you are planning to register, please access the following URL or this QR Code.

<https://forms.gle/rp5V9PhGacq9V4E59>



6) SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE IN JIBA

Shuyoka (three-month Spiritual Development Course in Jiba) English Class will be held from the end of March next year. Non-Japanese applicants must apply for a visa, which can take several months. If you are thinking of

attending, please let the Mission Headquarters office know as soon as possible. Also, please be aware that there may be circumstances where the English Class may be canceled, or the prospective students may not be able to obtain a visa.

7) APPLICATION FOR SPECIAL ICHIRETSUKAI SCHOLARSHIP

The application for the Special Ichiretsukai Scholarship is now available for students who will attend college or university from fall of 2025. The application deadline is December 31, 2023.

8) 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 November monthly service by the end of this month (October 31, 2024).

COMMITTEE & ASSOCIATION REPORTS

Nurturing & Educational Committee

- The 2025 Three Day Course at the Mission Headquarters is scheduled for February 21 (Fri) ~ 23 (Sun). The English Course will be held if there are at least four applicants, and the Spanish course will require at least two applicants.

- Oyasato Seminar

* We are contacting students eligible to attend the 2025 Oyasato Seminar about the OS Preliminary Session.

* This year's OS Preliminary Session will provide lessons necessary for participating in the Oyasato Seminar in Jiba, while coordinating the schedule so that students will also be able to participate in the fun activities of the TSA Winter Conference. This schedule will also enable students to create bonds with other students in a similar age category as well as become familiar with Dendocho facilities and staff.

* We are contacting potential female counselors for the Preliminary Session and summer 2025 Ojiba course.

* We are developing a list of and contacting possible instructors for our lectures.

* OS will be hosting the Sunday bake sale in October and November to help offset fees associated with nurturing our students.

- The TSA will be hosting its annual TSA Winter Conference at Tenrikyo Mission Headquarters in America from 12/26 (Thu) till 12/29 (Sun).

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.

- Mission HQ Homepage

* We will be posting snapshots of the 90th anniversary on our website. We are also planning to post more photos and videos of the SoulFire Conference.

12 News and Announcements (cont'd.)

* 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.

Translation

- 2025 Translation Conference at Hawaii Dendocho - Nov. 4 - 8, 2024.

- English SDM (Singable-Danceable Mikagura-uta) Translation Conference - Oct. 29 ~ Nov. 2, 2024 at Hawaii Dendocho.

- Look forward to the publication of the new translation Anecdotes of Oyasama sometime prior to 140th Anniversary of Oyasama.

Future Path

- We are continuing discussions to host a study session in 2025 on the main scriptures of Tenrikyo.

Women’s Association

- TWA Convention

* - All Members to Jiba~ Invite Other to Jiba - April 19, 2025 (Sat) from 9:30 AM

* Month to Focus on the Besseki March 1 ~ April 30, 2025

* District Conventions:

Chicago	10/27 (Sun)	10:30 AM	@ Midwest Church
West Canada	11/3 (Sun)	10:00 AM	@ Granville

Boys & Girls Association

- Currently Recruiting Fife & Drum Corps Members: Let’s make the Mission Headquarters and our churches more lively, by expanding our circle of friends of the path. 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

- 11/3: NY District Third Action Day for All Yoboku

LA TWAA District Convention

On September 29 (Sat), the Los Angeles District of the Tenrikyo Women's Association America held their district convention, with 48 members in attendance. After dancing the Eight Verses of the Yorozuyo, members received an address from Chairwoman Hiromi Fukaya, followed by group discussions. The members then enjoyed lunch together, playing Bingo and joyfully socializing.



Opportunity for Spiritual Growth: Towards Oyasama's 140th Anniversary ~ San Francisco / Sacramento District ~

On July 2, members of the San Francisco and Sacramento Districts came together to hold their "Tenrikyo BBQ Picnic" under clear blue skies! 35 members attended, and enjoyed a fun time! This event has been held every year since 2002, besides the years affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.



to emphasize. For example, in a sentence written in “MS Mincho,” you can change only the words you want to emphasize to “MS Gothic.” Other methods of emphasis include placing only the vocabulary or parts of the document you want to emphasize in “bold.”

Computers contain a variety of fonts, but there are some fonts that are not common between Windows and Mac. Occasionally, when text created on a Mac is sent as an email attachment, Windows cannot recognize it and the text becomes garbled, making it unreadable. To prevent this from happening, by using a PDF format that cannot be edited (although it can be edited if the software is installed), you can send and share text data without “garbled characters.”

Among the various fonts is a font called “Electroharmonix.” This seems to have been devised in 1998 by Canadian-born Ray Larabie, who lives in Nagoya, and it appears to be an alphabet font made with katakana and hiragana motifs.

Two English words and an English question are written below using this font. Quiz. Try reading them.

1. **カモレロ**
2. **モレクタロカムロウイ**
3. **カヨム ムレ ヨウ?**

Now, out of all the people who can read Japanese, katakata and hiragana, how many of you could accurately decipher them? I'll write the answers at the end.

I couldn't read it at all at first, but once I learned the alphabet of this font, I was able to read it a little. However, it still looks like katakana to me.

For Japanese people, when English words and sentences are written using this font, they look like katakana and are difficult to read. This seems to be because katakana characters come to mind first, making it difficult to recognize them as alphabetic characters. In other words, since katakana characters are already stored in the “Japanese” brain, the brain first recognizes alphabetic words and sentences written in “electroharmonix” as katakana, and as a result, it cannot be read accurately. In short, I think the Japanese brain cells are “biased” in that they have already memorized katakana and they first have to recognize this font as a Western alphabet and then begin the deciphering process. Then, because of their “bias,” they are unable to recognize the English words and sentences written in this font and cannot quickly decipher them.

However, people who do not know Japanese characters seem to be able to easily recognize and read English words and sentences written in the “Electroharmonix” font.. Therefore, those who

are reading this in English should have been able to read the above quiz without any problems.

I think I have learned three things through this exercise.

One of those points is the importance of teaching things before “biases” are formed.

In the Divine Direction of November 16, 1900, it says that, “... (faith) must be reflected in the mind of children while they are still young.” I think this scripture is teaching us the importance of correctly conveying the teachings at an age before children develop biases. I think if you do that, they will be able to learn the teachings straightforwardly.

The second point is the importance of communicating things without having any biases.

It may be surprisingly difficult to convey the teachings straightforwardly without any biases. When conveying the teachings to others, your feelings and experiences about the teachings are inevitably intermingled, and I think that your own interpretations are naturally incorporated.

Finally, the third point is the importance of always checking to see if one is viewing or interpreting the teachings with any “biases.”

As humans gain experience, they become able to deal with various things. This is very important. Human beings use their past failures as fuel to move

towards success, and I believe that the world is built on the accumulation of such things, that is, the repetition of failures and successes. However, when it comes to the teachings, I think that if you include your own interpretations, you risk distorting the teachings. Therefore, I think it is necessary to check again and again to see if we are practicing the teachings straightforwardly and without any “biases.” For this reason, I think it is necessary to constantly study the teachings. What do you think?

Answer:

1. Hello
2. Electroharmonix
3. How are you?

(translation by T. Osawa)

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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.