INSIDE THIS ISSUE

2 News and Announcements
3 Around our Church: L.A. Members Say Arigato to Yamadas
4 Archbishop Kishida Sermon: The Passage of Time
5 Essential Words of Gedatsu Kongo
6 Dear Reverend: “How can we create harmony in our family?”
6 Remarks by Rev. Y. Noguchi
8 Remarks by Yoko Yamada
9 Offerings and Upcoming Events

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Gedatsu Kongo’s
Thought for the Month

“The lotus plant grows in muddy swamps to produce beautiful flowers.”

When criminals, like murderers or burglars, are asked why they commit crimes, they often say, “It is because of poverty.”

However, those who were raised in poverty do not always perpetrate crimes. Many people of good moral standing grew up in extreme poverty.

One’s future is not destined by one’s past. Even though you may experience hardships, if you accept your situation as a challenge to grow spiritually and seriously endeavor to overcome it, a prosperous future may be open to you.

No matter your current circumstances, your future is determined by how you accept your reality today.

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JULY 2017

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 2 10:00 am “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun 9 9:30 am Sunday Service / Ajikan Meditation
Sacramento Regional Board Meeting
Sun 16 1:00 pm San Jose Branch Kanshakai Service
Sun 23 9:30 am Sunday Service
Obon Service / Benzaiten Service

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 2 10:00 am Japanese Kanshakai Service
Sun 6 10:00 am Church Closed (Independence Day)
Sun 9 10:00 am “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun 16 10:00 am Japanese and English Kanshakai Service
Obon Service / Graduates Honored
Sun 23 10:00 am English Kanshakai Service
Ajikan Meditation / “Life in Your 20s”
L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Sun 30 Church Closed

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AUGUST 2017

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 6 10:00 am “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
(for August and September)
Sun 13 9:30 am Sunday Service / Ajikan Meditation
Sacramento Regional Board Meeting
Sun 20 1:00 pm San Jose Branch Kanshakai Service
Sun 27 9:30 am Sunday Service / Ajikan Meditation
Clean-up for Fall Grand Festival

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Sun 6 10:00 am Japanese Kanshakai Service
Sun 13 10:00 am “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service
Sun 20 10:00 am Benzaiten Service (Japanese & English)
Sun 27 10:00 am English Kanshakai Service
Ajikan Meditation / “Life in Your 20s”
L.A. Regional Board Meeting
Exchange Ambassadors from Japan to Visit
Gedatsu members in Sacramento, Los Angeles and Honolulu will host the visit of two Exchange Ambassadors from Gedatsu-kai Japan. Mitshiro Kurano and Takayuki Okano will arrive in Sacramento in late June and spend almost two weeks in the U.S., helping at the Rukujizo Bazaar, sightseeing, visiting the branch churches and meeting with members.

Calling All 2017 Graduates
Under the sponsorships of the Los Angeles and Sacramento Sunday Schools, all graduates (from elementary through graduate school) and their parents are being honored in June and July. The Sacramento Church honored its graduates in June. The L.A. Church will honor its graduates on Sunday, July 16. Please complete and return by July 10 the application forms, which are available at the branch offices.

Saito Goma Applications
Apply now for plaques for the Saito Goma ceremony at the Fall Festival on September 3. An application form is inserted in this newsletter and is available at your church branch. Deadline for applications is August 20.

Minister Transitions
Gedatsu USA ministers transitioned to new locations and positions in June. Rev. and Mrs. Kazuo Yamada bid good-bye to the L.A. congregation (see story and photos on page 3) and relocated to Sacramento, where Rev. Yamada will join Sr. Rev. Akira Sebe in serving the Sacramento and northern California members.

Members of the Sacramento Church expressed words of thanks and farewell to the Matsushashi Family – Rev. George, Hitomi and daughter Suzuna – who returned to Japan at the end of June. Rev. George served as minister at the Sacramento Church since 2013. He has been assigned to head the Hokkaido Branch of Gedatsu Japan.

Obituary
The Sacramento Church is sad to announce that Kenneth Taketa passed away on Sunday, May 28, at the age of 61. He is survived by his mother, Fuji, and siblings, Janice Allan, John, Cathy and Nancy.

“Never Forgotten” Memorial Services
The Sacramento Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on Sunday, July 2, at 10 a.m., honoring the souls of Kelichi Takemura, Kimiko Yomogida, Kazue Ando Kotabe, Tsuma Kino, Yukio Jim Ide, Steve Morio Taketa, Yukie Ota, Keisuke Tateishi, Yukio Tateishi, Miyoko Nakayama, Yone Yuno, Tsuyoko Yuno, Yukie Tateishi, Miyoko Nakayama, Yone Yuno, Shizuko Sebe, Kenyu Kiyota, Kono Kikuchi, Bocsac Lacika, Isoki Matsuda, Toshiichi Matsuda, Wanosuke Matsuda, Mary Hatsuko Sakamoto, Nobuo Sakamoto, Matajiro Tanaka, Yukio Tanaka, Shizuko Yamamura.

The Los Angeles Church will hold its “Never Forgotten” Memorial Service on Sunday, July 9, at 10 a.m., honoring the souls of Hideko Arakawa, Iku Arakawa, Masao Arakawa, Teruyuki Fujii, Kazuma Fukunaga, Tomoko Imai, Yoshino Kawamura, Shige Kumasiro, Hiroko Murakami, Tazu Nagura, Tomoyoshi Naito, Kyoko Nakaguchi, Shigeko Nakamura, Eddie Kinya Ogura, Nancy Yoshiie Ogura, Setsu Sakuma, Otomatsu Shiba, Jack Shimatsu, Michiya Shimohira, Nobuyoshi Shimohira, Genpachi Tanji, Riichi Tomita, Kazuma Toyama, Yozo Tsujimura.

Memorial Tower Enshrinement 2017
Applications for enshrinement in the Gedatsu Memorial Tower at this year’s Fall Grand Festival in Sacramento will be accepted until June 19. Fee is $300 per application. (The price of $200 was printed in error in last month’s issue.) Application forms are available at your church office.

L.A. Church Rummage Sale Moves to Spring 2018
The L.A. Church Rummage Sale will not be held this year. Instead, the annual fundraising event is scheduled for May 2018.

“Moving the event to the spring will allow us to better focus our time, energy and resources on two separate fundraising activities – the Rummage Sale in the spring and the Autumn Moon Festival in the fall,” explains Rev. Naoya Okano.
L.A. Church Members Send Yamadas Off with Personal Messages of “Arigato”

“Arigato” Party

With an outpouring of love, friendship and appreciation, L.A. members staged a lively Arigato party for Rev. Kazuo and Yoko Yamada, wishing them well on their move to northern California to serve the Sacramento Church and northern California members.

From the tropical centerpieces and flowers, delicious catered and homemade foods to the impromptu kine Hawaiian musical entertainment . . . good cheer and laughter were all around. Heartfelt messages from members – written on white note boards – expressed members’ feelings of affection and thanks for the couple.

Photos by Pam Shaklan
The Passage of Time
By Archbishop Eizan Kishida

Translated by Shoji Takimoto

Reprinted from Gedatsu Companion December 1980

Many of us spend time in repetitive activities . . . day after day and month after month . . . until, finally, we are surprised to find that a year has passed. If we were to inspect those days carefully, we would likely realize that we carelessly allowed that time to be wasted, instead of spending that time in worthwhile pursuits.

**Time is precious**

One certainty of the passage of time is change. Physically, we are changing, growing older. This change is most evident between infancy and youth, and from the prime of life to old age. Even if we wish we were a few years younger, we cannot recover those years.

There is a Japanese saying, “The time you spend today will never return.” While this statement is true and reasonable, its lesson is often unheeded. Unfortunately, we tend to take things lightly, thinking that if we can’t finish our work today, it is all right to put it off until tomorrow.

The question is, are the reasons for the postponement legitimate, or do we procrastinate because we lack an appreciation of time?

**We choose how we spend time**

Some people rust away with old age, while others thrive and continue to grow mentally and spiritually. No financial or intellectual power can alter this predisposition in a person’s attitude. It is a natural law that governs the path a person chooses to take in life.

If a person can get in touch with the natural law and realize how precious everyday life is, he can be in harmony with the passage of time.

Even a well-organized person, who makes the utmost effort in his daily duties, occasionally must carry work over to the next day, when it is then completed. The person who approaches his work in a careless way may have every intention of completing the work that day.

However, when he realizes that work is still left to be done, he begins to feel helpless and his resolve diminishes. He procrastinates and makes self-excuses about his inability to complete his work on time.

**Procrastination becomes a habit**

Unfortunately, a person with this nature carries this same negative attitude from work into his relationships with other people. He takes responsibility lightly. If he is unable to keep promises, he shows no signs of regret, resigning himself to fate. Eventually, he loses the confidence of others and leads an unhappy life.

It is important to firmly keep a promise – even if it is a minor one. Gedatsu Kongo was very strict on this point. He sharply reprimanded those who made promises and failed to keep them. When people tried to make excuses for broken promises, they were admonished. He usually said, “I detest those who make excuses. Why don’t you keep your word so you can get along without making excuses.”

**Be responsible for your actions**

While the Founder’s words may sound harsh, they came from a merciful heart. Because of his compassion, he knew listening and accepting people’s excuses would not bring them happiness. To gain the confidence of others, people must develop a strong sense of responsibility within themselves and learn to go through life without making excuses.

We should ask ourselves how many times during this year we made excuses for procrastination or broken commitments. Let us constantly strive to follow Gedatsu Kongo’s emphatic statement to live our lives without excuses or procrastination . . . and transmit our faith and lessons to our children and grandchildren.
Before you question the immortality of man’s soul, think deeply about whether or not you are living fully in this world. You are not qualified to understand death unless you understand life.

Comment: Gedatsu always focuses on how you live in this present moment.

_Gedatsu is, in short, to live with compassion for others._

Comment: Gedatsu is to deepen your compassion by demonstrating it to those around you.

It is desirable for humans to wish to approach God, but it is not right to rely on God all the time. If you want to approach God and enjoy being human, you should scrutinize yourself over and over again.

Comment: Gedatsu is to become a person who has the trust of God.

_The divine message is revealed even in a flowing stream or a single stone by the roadside. To ask why you need religion is like asking why you need to live._

Comment: We study Gedatsu to live life fully. You can find opportunity to learn Gedatsu everywhere.

No fish complains about water. No beast grumbles about mountain forests. Why do only humans make all sorts of complaints?

Comment: He who is contented, enjoys.

There are many people who become safe-keepers being always troubled over money. It is better to keep the right path in poverty than to live a vicious life in wealth.

Comment: Don’t be ruled by desire, but tame your desire.

Ill-gotten wealth causes you to suffer in seeking it, in protecting it, and in losing it.

Comment: Don’t become a slave to greed. Learn to appreciate what you have.

Water in the ocean may become big or small according to its container.

Comment: Gedatsu is to become a person who is always open-minded and flexible.

Approach today’s society using today’s language.

Comment: Gedatsu is not to study the ancient scripture, but to benefit the modern world.

Work hard at any task as if today is the last day of your life. Do not idle away your time.

Comment: Who knows how long you will live. Live each moment fully.
DEAR REVEREND

Q Our family members seem to argue constantly. How can we create harmony?

A Arguments result when each family member sees the issue only from his or her viewpoint and does not understand, care about or listen to the viewpoints of others. Nothing will get resolved if all family members are speaking simultaneously to express their viewpoints while not understanding others. This is no different than conflicts between nations, religions, labor and management, or politics.

Family arguments are “no different than conflicts between nations, religions, labor and management, or politics.”

I suggest following the procedures of the U.S. Supreme Court.

First of all, I recommend making a list of issues on which the family disagrees, with the most important issue listed as No. 1 and the others recorded in diminishing order of importance. If members cannot even agree upon which is most important, each member should make his or her own list from 1 to N. Then, the numerical priority of that particular issue should be added together for each different issue. The lowest total score becomes Issue No. 1, the second lowest score becomes Issue No. 2, and so on.

Then for each issue, each member should put in writing for others to read their personal viewpoint on that issue – why it is important to them and how they wish it to be resolved. After each member has read each other members’ reasons, the youngest member or the person with least seniority should be given a chance to express his or her reasons first, while the others listen without asking questions or arguing. Then the next lowest person repeats until the most respected member gives the final reasoning.

Only after all members have had an opportunity to express their needs without interruption, should it be open for discussion and compromise.

In our practice of Gedatsu, we seek to attain self-enlightenment to be able to see things as a spirit would without need for personal physical gratification. If each family member can attain this goal, arguments should be greatly reduced.

Sr. Deacon Jackson Ito

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

To Know Myself as the Product of Obligation and Gratitude

By Rev. Yoshihiro Noguchi

Translated by Rev. Naoya Okano from the Gedatsu Magazine, February 2017

In 1987, after graduating from a university, I wanted to work in education, so I started my career as a high school teacher. I discovered that the school to which I was assigned was of the Jodo sect of Buddhism.

After a while, my boss asked me, “Noguchi-san, I heard you believe in a religion called Gedatsu. Why don’t you also train in the Jodo sect of Buddhism?”

So, because of his urging, and out of curiosity, I began to learn the teaching of the Jodo sect. This occurred at the same time I was very active in Gedatsu youth activities. Thus, Gedatsu opening prayers at home and then morning prayers of the Jodo sect of Buddhism at school with my co-workers became my daily routine.

(Continued on page 7)
During summer and winter breaks, I had my head shaved and stayed at a temple for training. The third year of my training, I visited Chi On-In, the headquarters of Jodo sect, in Kyoto, for my final training. It was winter. I kept chanting sutras while sitting on the freezingly cold wooden floor. To be honest, I didn’t chant sincerely from my heart, but just focused on chanting sutras to distract my mind from the coldness.

At break time, everybody ran to a smoking area where the sunshine streamed in through the windows. That was the only place I could keep warm. Like everybody, I was starving for the warmth of the sun.

Although we were in a temple for spiritual training, our minds were deficient. I realized that if I were truly faced with extreme personal conditions, it would be impossible for me to think of the welfare of others.

I discovered that “salvation of mankind,” which I uttered in my prayers every morning, can only be performed when we are in a favorable environment.

Honen-shonin, who founded the Jodo sect of Buddhism, preached that you can go to heaven when you sincerely chant Buddhist sutras. It sounds like nonsense now, but he lived 800 years ago when times were very different. That was when wars were frequent, people suffered from famine, and dead bodies on the roadways created epidemics.

Do you think people who faced those life-and-death circumstances wanted sermons? It made more sense telling people, “You can go to heaven if you sincerely chant “Namu Ami Da Butsu.” It gave them peace of mind.

In Japan, after World War II, Tokyo was burnt, and people their lost homes and felt hopeless. At that time, Gedatsu Kongo was desperately running around, trying to get food and goods for people. I heard that he looked nothing like a religious leader in those days. No doubt his only thought was to provide aid and security for those who were looking to feed themselves that day.

Both Gedatsu Kongo and Honen-shonin thought about what was needed then for the happiness of the people. While today is far different from when Honen-shonin or Gedatsu Kongo lived, the essence of religion – “happiness of everyone” – doesn’t change. We then need to ask ourselves what we need to do for society today.

I finally got married last year. Through my marriage, I realized that I have been given an abundance of help and support from many people around me. On the other hand, I also realized that I have done nothing for them in return.

Gedatsu Kongo said that human life is the product of obligation and gratitude.

My last training place was at Chi On-In in Kyoto. Chi means “to know,” and On means “obligation and gratitude.” So Chi On means “to know obligation and gratitude.”

“To know myself as the product of obligation and gratitude” . . . This is how I would like to live my life.

Rev. Yoshihiro Noguchi served the L.A. Church as minister-in-training from 2003 to 2009. He was also one of the founders (together with Tetsuya Matsumoto) of Gedatsu USA Kendo Dojo and served as teacher-coach.

In December 2016, the newly married Rev. Noguchi visited the L.A. Church with his new bride, Noriko (in photo at right). The couple is employed at Gedatsu-kai headquarters in Japan – Rev. Noguchi in the General Affairs Department and Mrs. Noguchi in the Publishing Department.
PERSONAL EXPERIENCE

Bloom where God Has Planted You
Remarks by Yoko Yamada
Los Angeles Church – May 28, 2017

My husband, Rev. Yamada, and I came to the Los Angeles Church in October 2010, more than six and a half years ago. I want to share with you some of my personal reflections over that period.

When I came to Los Angeles, I did not have confidence in my own worth and abilities. I constantly worried about many things.

At first, I was full of insecurity, even about living in Los Angeles. Because I could not understand or speak English, I had to rely on others for everything – even for the smallest things – which I could do myself if I were in Japan.

I thought that if I could speak English, I could have more fun talking and being friendly with everybody. I thought that nobody understood my feelings and problems. So I carried these mental conflicts alone because I was unable to express them well to others.

Whenever I studied Goho-Shugyo, my spirit guides advised me, “Serve the present role you have been given with gratitude.”

Fortunately, over time, I was able to get used to working in the church because of Mrs. Teruko Nakamura, who was always with me. While working with Mrs. Nakamura, I found that there were a lot of things for me to learn through her. Mrs. Nakamura is amazing. She never complains and always performs her job with a sense of responsibility for everything.

I was encouraged by that, and I felt happy. I believe that Gedatsu Kongo and guardian spirits had arranged for Mrs. Nakamura to serve as a tutor for me to learn through her. I thanked God for it.

I learned a lot from English-speaking members, too. When they came to church, they worked very hard for the church as if it were their own home. For any event, they set up tables and chairs, cleaned, washed and stayed to the end, disposing of trash. They do not behave like guests of the church. Rather, they are members who act exactly like hosts welcoming others to their home.

I had been working with the expectation of getting something in return. I had to re-learn the spirit of service of “being allowed to work.”

Seeing their behavior and attitude, I became aware that I had been working with the expectation of getting something in return. In other words, I became aware that I had wanted to be recognized or comforted by somebody. I had to re-learn for myself the spirit of service of "being allowed to work.”

I decided I would actively work, using my body to express myself – even if I could not express myself well using English. I discarded all my grumblings and self-pity coming from the feeling of "I want to be recognized."

I was able to recognize and accept myself for just who I was. From that point forward, when I started to work, all the unnecessary emotional and mental energy flowed away from me. It was a load off my mind, and I became at ease.

It was only then that I was able to enjoy working in the church. Once I did so, I began to be recognized naturally by people around me. Gradually, I began to hear, "Yoko is working very well." Or “Yoko is a good worker.” Even though I may sometimes skip some duties, somebody still says that I am doing good work.

(Continued on back page)
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

$50–$99: J. Tanaka, M/M D. Tsuboi, M/M B. Ide, S. Taketa, Rev/M S. Matsuhashi, M/M D. Ide, M/M S. Sekikawa, S. Tanaka, M/M C. Tanaka
$100+: J. Detwiler/J. Sebe, Horner Family, S. Nishino
$200+: J. Ito, H. Takahashi, A. Sebe
$400+: S. Bush, Senkakukan
$1,000+: H. Graham

Special Acknowledgment
Rev. A. Sebe New car ($200)
Rev. A. Sebe New equipment purchase for Goreichi ($3,000)

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

$50–$99: M/M B. Hamamoto, J. Kaku, D. Karaoke Club, M/M V. Mizokami, M/M M. Murakami, T. Murakami, Y. Oishi, M/M S. Shaklan, F. Sueyoshi, N. Takara, T. Toyama, M/M H. Tsujimura, M/M P. Young
$100+: M/M R. Allum, M/M K. Chinen, M/M TFukushima, M/M M. Ishida, M/M K. Kuritani, F. Miyamura, M/M C. Morioka, M/M S. Mukai, K. Nagao, T. Nakamura, T. Okimura, L. Sanchez, M/M S. Shiroishi, C. Tsujimura, M/M R. Tsujimura, M/M K. Yamada
$200+: M/M F. Barthel, K. Fujii, T. Ishida, L. Ito, M/ Okada, M/M N. Okano, D. Shiroishi
$300+: M/M T. Matsumoto
$400+: J. Ito
$500+: Y. Daiko

Special Acknowledgment
Donguri Karaoke Club Appreciation for dojo use ($100)
Sandi Sakurai
Funeral for Bobby Tanji ($400)
Carole Tsujimura
Memorial service for Tsujimura ancestors ($200)
Saburo Okimura
Funeral service Miyoko Okimura ($500)
M/M C. Morioka
Robyn Morioka’s graduation ($100)
M/M G. Wood
23rd memorial service for Tameharu Nagao ($100)
M/M G. Wood “Never Forgotten” service for Tameharu Nagao ($100)
C. Barthel
Printing of church pamphlets

2017 / 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

Sep 3 (Sun) Fall Grand Festival 9:30 a.m.
Sep 5 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Labor Day)
Sep 16 (Sat) L.A. Rummage Sale (TBD)
Sep 17 (Sun) L.A. Higan Service
Sep 24 (Sun) Sacramento Higan Service
Sep 30–Oct 1 (Sat-Sun) L.A. Autumn Moon Festival
Oct 10 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Columbus Day)
Oct 15 (Sun) L.A. Uijigami Service
Nov 5 (Sun) L.A. Gedatsu Kongo Memorial Service
Nov 12 (Sun) Sacramento Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
Nov 18 (Sat) L.A. Casino Bus Trip (TBD)
Nov 19 (Sun) L.A. 7-5-3-Year Children’s Celebration / Gedatsu Kongo Birthday
Nov 23–24 Church Closed (Thanksgiving Holiday)
Dec 3 (Sun) L.A. Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec. 10 (Sun) Sacramento Last Service of Year, All Souls Service, Archbishop Kishida Memorial Service
Dec 10 (Sun) L.A. Church Clean-up
Dec 17 (Sun) L.A. Christmas Service, Last Kanshakai
Dec 24–31 Church Closed

2018 Events (Events/Dates Subject to Change)
Jan 1 (Mon) New Year’s Homage
Jan 16 (Tue) Church Closed (in lieu of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day)
Jan 21 (Sun) L.A. New Year’s Service

When long-time member, Shigeko Bush, recently moved from San Jose to Palo Alto, she generously donated many of her personal belongings to the Sacramento Church in appreciation. Among the truckload of items delivered to the church were furniture, household and other items, like the koi nobori (Japanese carp streamers) and flat-screen monitor for use in the Sanctuary.
7月度教会行事予定

ロサンゼルス教会
2日（日） 10:00A 日本語感謝会
4日（火） 教会休み（建国記念日）
9日（日） 10:00A 祥月追善法要
16日（日） 10:00A 日英感謝会・お盆法要
23日（日） 10:00A 英語感謝会・阿字観法
30日（日） 教会休み

サクラメント教会
2日（日） 10:00A 祥月追善法要
9日（日） 9:30A 感謝会・阿字観法
16日（日） 1:00P サンノゼ支部感謝会
23日（日） 9:30A 感謝会・お盆法要
             /レイクタホ弁財天祭

7月度みさとし
「蓮は泥土に長養せられて麗花を開く」

殺人者や強盗犯が「なぜそんな罪を犯したのか」と問われて、「貧しかったから」と答えることがある。しかし、貧しい家庭に育った人すべてが、罪を犯すわけではない。貧困のなかで苦労した経験をもつ、立派な人格者も世の中にはたくさん存在するのである。

人間の生き方は先天的に決まっているものでも、また過去によって決定されるものでもないのだ。たとえいま逆境のなかにあるとしても、それを、自分を鍛え高める機会と捉えて、自分を鍛え、努力をすることである。逆境が、かならずも悪いではない。順境が、よいものであるともかぎらないのである。現在自分が置かれている環境がたとえどのようにものであれ、それを自分がどう受け止め、どう活かすかによって、われわれの未来は決まるのである。

解脱人生相談

元の夫婦関係に戻れるでしょうか…？

【質問】 夫との関係が冷え切ってしまっています。どうすれば元の夫婦関係に戻れるでしょうか？

回答者：岡野 尚也

私たちの会祖・解脱金剛さまは、月報の中で「家庭円満幸福の大道」というタイトルで以下のように述べています。「主人は夫人に、夫人は主人に要求しているが、家庭の幸福を望むならば、主人が夫人に、夫人が主人に対して手を合わせること。朝起きたときや、夜寝る前に御神前や仏壇、もしなければ心の中でも構いません。現在あなたの心がだれからも願わぬ、幸福の家庭ができる。」

私たちが心の中で考えていることが、私たちは感謝の気持ちで伝えること、もっと具体的に言えば、ありがとうございますと言って言うことです。朝起きたとき、仕事から帰った時、何かしてくれた時、夜寝る前などといったこともいいです。何度でも構いません。それが本心じゃない場合もあるでしょう。それでも相手に聞こえるように「いつもありがとう」と伝えることを繰り返してください。

金剛さまのお言葉に、「心は言葉に表れて、言葉は体の表現になる」ということがあります。私たちが心の中を伝えていることが、私たちの言葉や態度となられるものです。だから、金剛さまのお言葉に「ありがとう」と言葉に出し続ければ、それはあなたを支えるものと伝わると言えることができます。
の夫婦」なのでしょうか。2人の関係が改善されるのを心よりお祈りしております。

体験発表

「置かれた場所で咲きなさい」

ロサンゼルス教会
山田 洋子

このほど主人（山田一雄開教師）の転勤に伴い、北カリフォルニアのサクラメント教会で奉仕させていただくことになりました。私たちのために「ありがとうございます」というお気持ちを忘れずに心よりお祈りしております。

私は、2010年10月に主人と共にロサンゼルス教会に来ました。来た時は、初期の会員さんもまだ大勢いらっしゃいましたが、この6年半、20人以上の先輩方を皆さんと一緒に見送ることになりました。私たちのために「ありがとうございました」というお気持ちを忘れずに心よりお祈りしております。「置かれた場所で咲きなさい」という言葉を、皆さんに心から感謝申し上げます。

教えでも最初は、英語が通じず、日本なら一人でできることも、ここではすべて人に頼らざるを得なくなりました。ロサンゼルス教会で、皆さんと生活体験を共有しました。

自分が苦しんだり抑えられていたのは、決して自分の置かれた環境のせいではありません。それを自分自身の責任と考え、自分なりに受け入れ、乗り越えてきたのです。自分なりに、置かれた場所で新たな芽が出るように、何が起こることにも感謝しています。

これからは、主人の転勤に伴いサクラメント教会に異動します。神は、新たな場所に私を置かれます。私が置かれた場所で新たな芽を出したいと思います。

ロサンゼルス教会での奉仕体験を、皆さんに感謝申し上げます。神々さま、金剛さま、皆さま、そして皆さまのご先祖さまに心から感謝申し上げます。

掲示板

柴燈護摩の申込み受け付け始まる
サクラメントの秋季大祭で行なわれる柴燈護摩の申し込みを受け付けます。締め切りは8月20日（日）です。お早めにお申し込みください。

訃報

サクラメント会員ケニー・タケダさん（61）におかれましては、5月28日に逝去されました。ご冥福をお祈り申し上げます。
I realized that what afflicted me was not because of my surroundings or situations. Rather, it was because of my attitude. Now I can see that all my complaints had come from my narrow way of thinking.

There is a book titled “Bloom Where God Has Planted You.” God placed me in the Los Angeles Church. At first, I personally struggled without understanding the broad intentions of God.

Because my husband will transfer this summer to the Sacramento Church in northern California, I am going to serve there, too. God will plant me in new a place. I look forward to taking another new step again to bloom there.

I believe that I was able to grow and develop myself by working with everyone at the Los Angeles Church. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to God, all deities, Gedatsu Kongo, all of you, and your ancestors. Thank you so very much!