

Monthly Service at Konko Church of Chicago November 21, 2021

Good morning! Happy Sunday in this *new* week of Kami's blessings! And thank you very much for joining today's service. This is our monthly service for November 2021. I hope each one of you is in good health & excellent spirits on this beautiful late autumn morning.

In my previous sermon for our Ikigami Konko Daijin Grand Ceremony I announced, and I quote: "This grand ceremony is the start of our new *Wagakokoro* (*hearts peaceful & joyful*) here in Chicago. For that objective, Kami wishes that I renew myself, that is, to live by decisively respecting the process of my life. Kami is requesting that I deepen the unbreakable peace & joy in my heart each & every moment without wavering even the slightest."

Two months ago, when I went to the bathroom, I spotted a bright-red blood clot on the stool in the toilet bowl. It was on Tuesday, September 14th. Through this sudden happening I could not help but realize I was powerless and there was no other way for me, than to entrust everything to Kami. I also realized Kami wished me to perfect my *Wagakokoro*, that is, with such a single heart, everything would come into being. By that realization, I have come to see that Kami wishes me to burn with true desire to fulfill my role for our Divine Parent, Tenchi Kane No Kami.

I was just so thankful and tried to aim for that very heart. Then, divine blessings were bestowed, and in two days my bloody stools suddenly stopped. I am inspired now to bring my *Wagakokoro* to fruition so that all things can come into being. Kami eagerly wishes that I live my life decisively respecting the process of life, and that my *Wagakokoro* would be blessed with dignity and influence more and more people, more widely, and more deeply so as to establish the era of peaceful joyful hearts around the world.

Through my primary doctor's recommendation, I had a colonoscopy two weeks ago. I was told there was no problem in my colon, that it was clean. So, this made me feel even more that *that* bloody clot had been Kami's working so I would have a new start on developing my *Wagakokoro*.

KC Chicago & I are not the only ones seeking a new beginning. Mitsunori & his wife, Yim-san, are also about to make a brand-new start in their lives. They have bought a new house in Hoffman Estates and will move there around the end of this month.

It is said that it is not a good time to buy, because now house prices have almost doubled. However, after working so hard for a long time, Yim-san especially was eager to live in a house and she liked this house very much. Kami always works beyond measure. So, when we totally trust in Kami, though it may not be a good time to buy a house, Kami can arrange everything and bestow extraordinary blessings beyond our common sense. So,

by leaving everything up to Kami, it is very important for Mitsunori & Yim-san to pray that Kami's wish for them would be fulfilled concerning their plans for moving there.

My brother's wife, Noriko-san, thought it was so wonderful for Mitsunori to cherish his wife's feelings and agree with her wishes to buying this house. So, no matter what may happen and so they can have grateful hearts and accept the future, it is most important to leave everything to Kami about the house and to respect whatever happens with gratitude. Then, Kami from that point will surely work to get the best arrangement for them.

I knew the closing of this house would be on Wednesday, Nov. 17 During my morning prayer service on the 13th, I was praying that Kami's wish for their new house would be fulfilled. I received the following teaching and the mini-interpretation by Rev. Otsubo:

The founder's teaching was:

As you know, there is a saying that one seed becomes ten thousand. When one person receives divine blessings, a thousand or ten thousand people will be able to receive divine blessings. You should practice faith and become a good example for others.

Rev. Otsubo's mini-interpretation:

What would be called faith which becomes a good example for others? Belief Is Light. It's to enkindle the heart with the light of belief. With that light the dark side of your heart will be made clear. From that point you can truly renew. Also, that light will make what's around you shine brightly. And then the light will come to radiate far and wide. And those who bathe in that light, in numbers beyond count, will praise the joy of faith. It is precisely the one seed that becomes ten thousand. This is the type of faith I wish to practice.

Through these teachings I could not help but realize Kami wishes for them to build a family in this house filled with peace & joy in their hearts and become good examples for others. After this monthly service we will move to their new home and will have the "New Home Blessing Ceremony" there.

Kami always wishes us to renew ourselves and have fulfilled lives with Kami. Our founder taught us: "*To renew your heart daily is the most important part of practicing faith.*" The dictionary says that renewing is to make it new. I have launched a new start of my Wagakokoro.

For that, I offer these prayers every day; and, am doing my best to accomplish them. "*I will do my best to respect decisively the process of my life to develop the unbreakable peace & joy in my heart. With such a heart please be of great service to open this true Way of Konko. As a messenger of manifesting the Airaku world (the world of mutual prosperity between Kami & humanity), please help me to serve for having Konko Daijin be born in all countries, and to reveal the Wagakokoro era to the whole world.*"