

April Monthly Service 2024

Toward Wagakokoro World

Good morning, everyone! Happy New Day, New Week & special “Thanks” for joining today’s service. This is our monthly service for April 2024. I hope each one of you is in good health & excellent spirits on this beautiful spring morning.

Chicago was KCNA’s first priority for establishing a Konko church when I came to The United States in 1994. Three years later with this mission in mind, I brought my family to Chicago.

Since then, my earnest desire has been to open this *Way of Konko* in Chicago by deepening my *peaceful joyful heart* (Wagakokoro) and manifesting the truth of the ***Divine Reminder***, which is:

Kami’s blessings depend upon your own Wagakokoro.

Though it took some time, KC Chicago was established in 2009.

Now, today, with deep conviction I feel stronger than ever that,

The more my Wagakokoro is deepened, the more widely this marvelous

Way of Konko will come to be spread throughout the world.

In the founder’s day, the Meiji government ordered him to remove everything from the altar and had prohibited him from serving Kami & people as the mediator. It was the most critical moment in his life. He accepted the order with sincerity and would sit in the next room. There is where he sought for Kami’s wishes about this incident.

He asked Kami if there was any way for people to seek fulfillment with Kami without mediators or a place to worship. Kami, then, revealed the ***Divine Reminder*** to our founder. By trying to embody the ***Divine Reminder***, anyone can come to be blessed in all aspects of their lives.

I have come to realize Kami’s wishes for the ***Divine Reminder*** are much more than just that. The ***Divine Reminder*** was given to our founder in 1873. It was the 6th year after the Meiji Restoration. Those were quite turbulent and chaotic times. Japanese society was in turmoil with many major transformations taking place. Samurai rebellions would occur one after another.

It was then Kami revealed the ***Divine Reminder*** to our founder, but not only for the Konko faith, but also for saving society and fundamentally, the whole world. Kami wanted to save the world by having each and every person embody this ***Divine Reminder***. You must realize, there is **no** true salvation for the world except through the *Wagakokoro*, which is where *Kami's dignity appears and the world is healed*.

To his disciple, Mitsugoro Ichimura, our founder gave the teaching:

If people lose belief in, 'On this very day pray with a single heart. Divine blessings are within your own peaceful joyful heart,' the world will be in turmoil. The glory of Kami and the glory of parents will be lost.'

It means Kami's glory must first appear in order to save the world from chaos. Through Kami's glory, for the first time, the world would be healed. There is no true salvation for the whole world except through *Wagakokoro*. I fervently wish to deepen my own *Wagakokoro* as I search for *the Wagakokoro that saves the world* and then, a *Wagakokoro* saving the world.

Every time I pray, one of the things I cannot help but pray for is:

May the current human-centered world in which all things are done by people's own power, come to an end. And may the kami-centered world, in which people do as Kami says, be realized.

May this bring an end to the thousands of years of human history of conflict, in which humans have ruled through force. And may a world in which Kami and humans worship each other, rejoice and enjoy each other, be realized.

*To that end, please allow me to receive my *Wagakokoro* in a way that resonates throughout the heavens and earth, and enriches the world.*

For this, I solemnly devote myself to a life of faith development as far as the limitations of my physical and spiritual abilities.

Let us strive together to deepen peace and joy in our hearts to be of great service for Kami and the world.