



Johrei Association Journal

Johrei Association of Australia News Letter

2016 Issue 1

January–March 2016

*“Know that the happiness
We feel when we bring
Joy and happiness to people
Is the greatest happiness in the world”*



Pragmatism

I enjoyed studying philosophy when I was a young man. Of the many theories and doctrines I learned about, I found myself drawn to “Pragmatism”, as advocated by William James, a famous American philosopher. Pragmatism can be interpreted as the principle of “philosophy in action”. According to James, if we merely delineate its theories, philosophy is simply a mental exercise. To be of real value it must be put into daily practice in our lives.

This theory seemed interesting to me because it was very practical and expressed characteristic American spirit. It was a philosophy I resonated with at that time and I tried to apply it to my work and my daily life. As a result, I found “pragmatism” to be very beneficial.

Later In my life, when I started the Johrei movement, I began to think that we should apply this philosophy to it as well. In other words, every day we should live according to the principle of “faith in action”. Imagine the benefit we would receive by adapting it to every aspect of our lives!

Politicians would be more inclined to work in an honest and just manner. Selflessly, they would run the government in the best interest of people. As a result, they would gain the trust of the public and everything would function smoothly.

Likewise, by incorporating the principles of honesty and integrity in dealing with customers, businessmen would become more trusted. The love and consideration shown to employees

would in turn result in more faithful workers. Naturally, businesses would prosper.

Educators would show great fortitude in teaching their students, and so would be respected by and have a profound influence upon them.

Government staff and company employees would be guided by moral and ethical principles in their work, and as a result would greatly improve their efficiency and deservedly earn promotions.

Artists and entertainers would draw their creative inspiration from the highest sources, thereby producing works that emanate strong spiritual vibrations and giving performances with dignity and grace. All who viewed them would be uplifted by their beauty and nobility. Of course, entertainment should not be as structured and formal as education.

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It can be of greatest value when it is engaging and light-hearted, causing audiences to laugh and feel happy.

Regardless of profession or circumstance, a person's fortune and fate can change for the better – and he or she can therefore be of greater service to society - by living in accord with the principle of "faith in action".

As you begin to practice spiritual pragmatism, always remember not to be too fanatical in expounding your belief or your will be regarded with disfavor. This often occurs to overzealous believers. Some people express their religious convictions too strongly, unaware others may find their attitude unpleasant.

Ideally, people who believe in God should exhibit no religious fanaticism, acting as normal people do, and be virtuous and respectable, letting their words and deeds show love and considera-

tion for all. In this way, the impression they leave with those they meet will be favourable. The way one expresses and practices faith should show refinement and balance, absent of a dogmatic demeanor. Avoid being overbearing or disrespectful.

We sometimes notice followers of certain religions whose actions are so extreme that people wonder if they might be mentally unbalanced. Such people have a tendency to be so caught up in their own points of view that they fail to consider if they might be annoying others or causing them trouble, and their homes are rarely cheerful. As a result, society begins to question the value of their religious convictions. In such cases, responsibility for their attitudes should go to those in position of leadership in the group. Spiritual leaders should be very careful in this regard.

(From the book Teachings of Meishu-Sama - Vol. 3)

New Year Message By Kyoshu-Sama

(Message by Kyoshu-sama - January 2016,)



In deep awe and fear of God, I say that God is the Creator of each one of us. In the beginning, before the Creation of the whole universe, in heaven, God divided His very own being and bore us as divine spirits in order to confer the status of "Messiah" or "child of God" on us – humanity. Bearing God's own spirit, each one of us was then sent to earth according to the right time and place determined by our heavenly Father.

God also sent Meishu-sama to earth. Being led by divine will and with his devotion to God, Meishu-sama was able to be born anew as a Messiah during his lifetime on earth and acquired the status as a child of God. God fulfilled His whole purpose of Creation by giving birth to a Son, Meishu-sama, and became his Father. To become a Father is the inexplicable joy and glory of God.

On this day of the New Year, I, together with all of you followers both in Japan and abroad, would like to receive and give back

this glory to God and humbly offer our most sincere congratulations to God and Meishu-sama for their joy.

The joy of God is within us. God has already filled this joy of becoming the Father of Meishu-sama within everyone and everything. God is now guiding us and training us so that we, as ones who are connected to Messiah Meishu-sama, can also acquire the status as a child of God – a Messiah. Full of gratitude to God for His guidance and training, I, together with all of you, would like to offer our New Year's greetings to God our Father. Happy New Year!

I believe every one of us, without exception, seek happiness in this life and we think that the well-being of mind and body or being healthy in general is essential to attaining happiness. I live my life in this way, too. Being healthy, of course, is so important in our lives.

But as we pursue the well-being of our mind and body in this world, we have become short-sighted; we have placed so much significance on the limited and physical life that we have forgotten the eternal and spiritual life within us.

I would like to introduce two tanka poems by Meishu-sama to you.

Always remember the following truth – That humans are created by God; We humans play no part in the creation of humanity.

Know this my followers: God is the Lord and Master of your life, not you. Your life is in the hands of God.

Who can question this truth that we humans are created by God and that our life belongs to God? We know that all of God's creations and things that belong to Him last forever and are filled with the life of God. If our life is filled with the life of God, it must live through all time and eternity. But remember how we have become short-sighted and placed greater value on the physical world, on our physical life. Without realizing it, we have moved apart from God and sinned. This has to be corrected. We now need to confess this sin to God, ask for His forgiveness through Meishu-sama and yearn to receive our life as the eternal life of God.

Together, let us ask for His forgiveness: Dear God, the Father of us all, I stole the life You gave me and have been possessing it as mine. In the name of Messiah Meishu-sama, forgive my sin and welcome me into Your heaven. If it is Your wish, I would like to return my life to You and receive Your eternal life as my new life.

Meishu-sama taught us that we carry eternal life. Some of us may think that our life is eternal through reincarnation. But this is wrong. The only way that our life can be eternal is through acknowledging that our life belongs to God. After all, there is only one entity that possesses the quality of eternity: God. Accept our life as God's, become His children and be born anew as Messiahs – this is how we can obtain eternal life. This is the only way. Meishu-sama also confirmed this just a little less than a year before he passed away.

In June 1954, amidst suffering from great pain of the brain haemorrhage, Meishu-sama announced that he was born anew as a Messiah and said plainly that acquiring the status of a Messiah was different from reincarnation.

On this occasion, he also said, "On my part, I am getting a lot younger." He did not utter these words because he was recovering from his stroke. He said this when he was still suffering from the acute pain of the stroke, at the age of 71. What do you think this means? I believe it means that we humans are not the ones whose

existence ends with physical death but the ones who can grow spiritually and eternally if we accept our life as the life of the eternal God.

This mission of being born anew as a Messiah is not only for special persons like Meishu-sama. It is the mission of each one of us, too. Our mission as a human being is to become a child of God and acquire the status as a Messiah. That is why, I believe, Meishu-sama added the phrase "on my part" when he declared that he was born as a Messiah.

He wanted us to realize that "on our part" we still have a mission to accomplish – to receive God as our Father and obtain eternal life. Meishu-sama is now asking us, "On your part, have you received the life of God and become younger?" For those who would like to be connected to Messiah Meishu-sama and receive the eternal life of God, let us respond to his question together and shout out to him either out loud or in our mind: Being connected to Messiah Meishu-sama, I, on my part, have gotten much younger!

Out of His great love, God wants to make all humanity His children and become our true Father. God is now advancing this work without rest, within each one of us. In the name of Messiah Meishu-sama, I, together with all the followers around the world, would like to thank God for His love and would like to praise our heavenly Father with all my heart and soul.

Johrei Gatherings March Calendary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		01 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC 7PM	02	03 Members House Williamstown VIC - 7PM	04	05 Johrei Centre Mitamamigaki Monthly Service Preparation NSW
06 Johrei Centre Lidcombe NSW Monthly Service 11 AM	07	08 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC 7PM	09	10 Members House St Kilda VIC 7PM	11	12 Johrei Centre Mitamamigaki Monthly Service Preparation VIC
13 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC Monthly Service 11 AM	14	15 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC 7PM	16 Members House Mascot - NSW 19 PM	17 Members House Caulfield VIC 7PM	18	19 Johrei Centre Mitamamigaki dedication
20 Brisbane QLD Monthly Service 11 AM	21	22 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC 7PM	23	24 Members House Pascoe Vale VIC - 7PM	25	26
27	28	29 Johrei Centre Dandenong VIC 7PM	30	31 Members House St Kilda VIC 7PM		

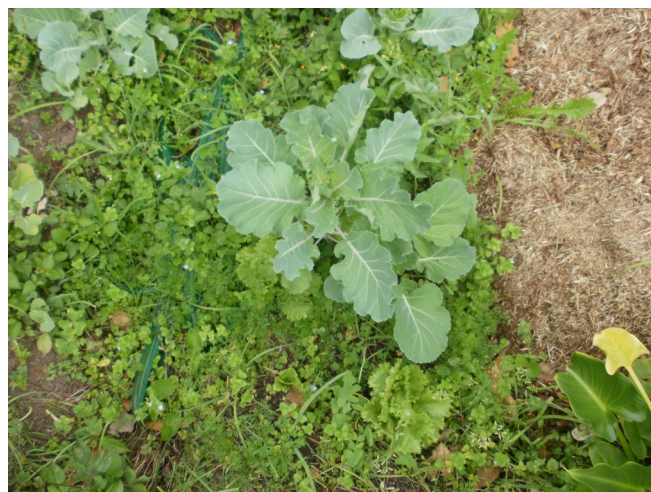
Faith in Action

The teachings of Meishu-Sama and Nature Farming

A central aim of Meishu-Sama's philosophy can be summarized by what he called the "creation of a true civilization" in which all the world's people would participate. On a more abstract and philosophical level, Meishu-Sama's vision is based on two cosmological principles: (a) the spiritual realm predominates over the physical, and (b) the spiritual and physical realms are inherently indivisible. Meishu-Sama intended that his philosophy should be more than mere rhetoric, and, consequently, he aimed to implement it through specific means.

Above all, Meishu-Sama believed that human health, the protection of all life on the planet, and the integrity of the natural world are the roots of a true civilization. In addition, balancing the duality of materialism and spirituality is a cornerstone of Meishu-Sama's thought. Once this dualism has been brought into harmony, a "world of beauty," as Meishu-Sama referred to it, would result. In order to bring about true civilization, Meishu-Sama advocated, as well as personally implemented, a variety of practices. He accorded particular importance to Nature Farming.

The rise of materialism occurred rapidly in the West under the philosophical assumption that nature exists for humans to



dominate--an outgrowth of Cartesian thought, which conceives of a dualism between human beings and nature. The heirs of this tradition have not only equated materialism with "progress," but have also believed that humankind can achieve continuous and unlimited material development by using scientific means to exploit nature. These notions have helped to create a world in which harmony with nature has been ignored and the environmental conditions necessary to sustain the ecosystem, and all forms of life within it, have been given short shrift.

These attitudes have influenced the sphere of agriculture as well. From time immemorial, cultivated crops have been relying on the natural benefits of sunlight, water, and the nutrients in the soil. But with the appearance of technologies capable of increasing crop yields, societies adopted agricultural practices aimed at producing high yields. As a result of this shift, conventional agriculture requires enormous inputs of petroleum-based energy and the use of large volumes of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. Agriculture practiced in this way depletes the soil and contaminates water resources, thereby severely damaging the natural environment and threatening human health and all forms of life. This kind of agriculture has come to dominate, while little attention has been paid to the havoc that has followed.



Meishu-Sama, in line with his aim of creating a true civilization, issued a stern warning: if human beings continued to use modern agricultural methods there would not only be a decline in agricultural productivity--reversing whatever productivity gains had been achieved--but human life itself would eventually be destroyed. As an alternative to imminent crisis, Meishu-Sama strongly advocated using age-old agriculture practices, which had been carried out in accordance with a holistic view of nature. These practices protect the natural environment, sustain human health and security, and contribute to harmony between the human and non-human worlds.

Nature Farming is derived from Meishu-Sama's philosophy. From the perspective of the predominance of the spiritual over the physical, occurrences in the physical realm are the result of spiritual causes. The belief that the spiritual and physical realms are indivisible rests on the axiom that the universe is composed of three primary elements: fire, water, and earth. These elements correspond to spirit, air, and matter, which are elicited by the Sun, Moon, and Earth, respectively.

When these elements fuse, they produce the primordial energy that animates all forms of life. In specific terms, these elements occur as infinitesimally small particles that combine harmoniously to create life. According to this view, all life forms exist in the cosmos, but do not physically manifest until spirit animates them.



In short, life appears when the spiritual and physical realms join through the fusion of these three primary elements. Meishu-Sama's Nature Farming rests on this understanding of how life is generated.

The theory of Nature Farming, as Meishu-Sama expounded it, rests on a belief in the universal life-giving powers that the elements of fire, water, and earth confer on the soil. According to Meishu-Sama, the planet Earth, which sustains our existence, is itself a living being. The planet's soil, created over a span of eons, has acquired life-sustaining properties, in accordance with the principle of the indivisibility of the spiritual and the physical



realms, which in turn provide the life-force that enables plants to grow. To utilize the inherent power of the soil is the underlying principle of Nature Farming.

In this regard, the essence of a particular crop is not a collection of material substances, but the life-giving spiritual energy that the crop has received from the soil. Similarly, it is this energy that makes human beings healthy and enhances their vitality.

Meishu-Sama rejected agricultural practices that ignored these principles. As a result, Nature Farming abandons the use of all chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and uses neither human nor unprocessed animal feces. Nature Farming uses organic matter only when doing so enhances the vitality of the soil and facilitates its inherent power.

Because Nature Farming does not rely on commercial fertilizers, it was initially called "fertilizer-free cultivation." The name was later changed to "Nature Farming," in order to make clear that this approach is based on a comprehensive theory of agriculture and an underlying philosophy that views the life-sustaining powers of the soil as integral to the workings of the universe.

(Extracted from the website <http://johreicentreuk.blogspot.com.au/p/nature-farming.html> - Photos from Members dedication in Australia)



President's Report



(By Rev. Horacio
Godoy - AGM Service,
November 2015)

I would like to congratulate all the members for your sincere and constant dedication on behalf of Meishu-Sama's work in Australia. Your devotion to Meishu-Sama is highly appreciated! I am confident that Meishu-Sama

trusts us, as His true instruments, and He is always manifesting his wishes inside of each one of us, to carry on the Divine work of Salvation in Australia.

I want to acknowledge the effort from all members in participating actively on our missionary work, devoting more time for channelling Johrei for those people in need around us, and offering more your dedication for Meishu-Sama.

Also, my sincere congratulations for those members who opened their houses holding Johrei Gatherings at their places, holding monthly services at their household altar, and dedicating intensively to work for the salvation of new people and their own families!

Let us keep working and growing, to build a better future for the establishment of Meishu-Sama's dream of building a sacred ground in Australasia. My sincere congratulations! I Believe Meishu-Sama is very happy with our dedication. **Diffusion Expansion Plan**

Implementing new goals to achieve better results for God and Meishu-Sama's work

We have a new step to reach – 600 members in Australia,

having at least 300 very active members; with the aim to become a "True Pioneer of Salvation"; reconfirming our commitment with Meishu-Sama to save as many people as possible. Certainly, our commitment to work for the spiritual elevation of Australia will aid in the work to building peace in the world.

We elaborated this plan for all members to be able to participate on Meishu-Sama's work, understand and acknowledge that each one of us have a very important mission, despite of our different background or beliefs.

The aim of the expansion plan is to show some points we need to develop on our future activities. We believe that this aim and tasks will help our spiritual growth, and allow you to participate more on the Johrei expansion work. By re-structuring the form of acting on our daily dedication, giving you new mission and tasks to achieve; will help immensely you to develop your faith to understand deeply your mission, polishing our way to serve Meishu-Sama. I want to count with your sincere dedication, and devotion for Meishu-Sama!

- Deepen our Faith through the Practice of Johrei:

Channel Johrei to family members in a daily basis, overcoming your own purifications; Promptly give Johrei assistance to people in need; Introduce new people every month to Meishu-Sama; Having the desire to channel Johrei for non-members, having confidence that raising our hands, Meishu-Sama will definitely manifest His Love and Light of Salvation; polish our souls doing Mitama-Migaki at the Johrei Centres, at the members and new people homes; Write down each experience we had, creating our own "Treasure of Faith".

- Born anew, following Meishu-Sama's steps:

Figure out what Meishu-Sama would do in your place, when facing day-a-day different situations; Strive to study Meishu-Sama's Teachings; Create the SONEN that: "Meishu-Sama's wishes manifests inside of me" before any activity; surrender every day, everything to Meishu-Sama; let's seek His guidance more often; connecting ourselves strongly with Meishu-Sama; Become a person that is constantly bringing happiness for others, raising the number of people who can truly enjoy happiness; and becoming individuals highly appreciated by others.

- Living in a Daylight Age Culture:

Vivify (give life to) beauty around you & practicing appreciation of Beauty; Live in harmony with the Nature, being grateful to Supreme God for it; practice Nature Farming at home; In the morning, ask God permission to accomplish your mission; in the night, give thanks for the day.

- Training Family Assistants in different Areas:

New structure of diffusion, aiming a better assistance to the members families. Divide the group of members in different sections; each section with a Family Assistant, who can develop a way to assist the families of that sector in a month basis, connecting the members and their families to God and Meishu-Sama through the practice of 3 columns of our faith.

Points to develop side by side with the diffusion plan to achieve our aim

Learn from Meishu-Sama's daily attitude, as a model for us to aim to become a paradise-like person; Through practicing Meishu-Sama's examples, let's expand to outside the paradise that exists inside of us; Cultivate Love, Sincerity and polishing and elevating our Faith through: - Listening the hearts of people around you, and learning how to guide them accordingly with Meishu-Sama's teachings - before channelling Johrei; Cultivate the feeling of bringing happiness for others, having a strong commitment with the salvation of those in suffering.

Meishu-Sama taught us 5 points for the Expansion of Johrei:

- Work on the salvation of people, up to the point to forget to sleep and eat.
- Gratitude – it is to have, and not to judge others
- Everything we aim, we should always include our-

selves to materialise.

- Do our best in serving God through our sincere monetary donations – materialising our gratitude, on the same level of the blessings we are daily receiving; offering to God your best, contributing for the betterment and development on the building of Sacred Grounds – Meishu-Sama's prototype of Paradise on Earth.
- Serve God through dedication in building the sacred grounds by our hands, and return to the Paradise that exists inside of us, materialising our gratitude offering, with the wish to return to heaven, with all ancestors and humanity, surrendering everything in the name of Messiah Meishu-Sama.

We need to grow up to the level of receiving the permission to build our own Centres in a proper land authorised to open as a church. These are our new goals and dreams for our missionary work in Australia. Hope I can count on each one of you!

Thank You

This year achievements were possible, due to all members' dedication and Love. I want to congratulate you once again for your sincere dedication to Meishu-Sama, and different contributions to the Johrei Association. I wish you all success on your mission, and may Meishu-Sama's wishes be materialised inside of you every day. God bless you on your mission and thank you very much for your participation on this year AGM!

2016 AIM OF JOHREI ASSOCIATION

**To build a Household of Light following in the footsteps of Meishu-Sama, is the foundation for us to build Paradise.
That is our mission!**

- **Our Goal:** "Wish to born anew as a true child of God, and strive to become one who brings salvation to others."
- **Our Motto:** "Let's increase the number of Households blessed with abundant happiness and prosperity through Johrei and gratitude."
- Channeling Johrei and extending salvation to all mankind.
- Extending the family visits and missionary assistance in order to form households of light.
- Expanding Nature Farming and healthy eating habits according to Meishu-Sama's teachings.
- Living and appreciating Beauty through our attitudes in our daily lives, and through various artistic expressions.
- Participating in the world missionary promotion of Johrei.

What is on at Johrei Centre

Special Guests

Rev. Keizo Miura,

Director of the International Department of the Johrei Headquarters in Japan,

will visit the Australian Headquarters once again and will attend the Monthly Appreciation Service in Sydney on the 6th of March 2016.

Also, we are going to receive Rev. Takamatsu, Rev. Miura's assistant, in Australia from 3rd to 16th of March.

He will attend both services in Sydney and Melbourne. Lets welcome them wholeheartedly.



New Reverend in Brisbane

We would like to welcome our new Rev. Fernanda Correa.

Rev. Fernanda Gagliano Correa and family arrived in Brisbane last December from Brazil and are already dedicating with Queensland members!

Thank you Meishu-Sama and for all members dedication! Our Johrei Australia family is growing and now we can bring paradise and happiness for even more people around Australia!



2016 Year Schedule

Monthly Service: Sydney: 1st Sunday at 11:00 am

Melbourne: 2nd Sunday at 11:00 am

Brisbane: 3rd Sunday at 11:00 am

April 25 (Mon) at 11:00 am: Anzac Day Service - Sydney and Melbourne

June 12(Sun) at 11:00 am: Paradise on Earth Service – Melbourne

June 19(Sun) at 11:00 pm: Paradise on Earth Service – Sydney & Brisbane

September : Annual General Meeting and Members Conference - dates still to be confirmed

December 23 – Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service

Activities currently happening:

Sydney

Study Class and New Members Class: By appointment with Rev. Horacio Godoy

Melbourne

Study Class and New Members Class: By appointment with Rev. Rubens

Ikebana arrangement— volunteer work on Sunday, by Karen Mieko, before the Monthly Service

Any other event or more details of the events above will be updated on the coming editions.

Dear Readers

We are very glad to restart our Johrei Newspaper and keep everyone updated with the news about our activities, Johrei Gatherings and guidances from the spiritual leader Kyoshu-Sama. It is also a great opportunity to share with more people a little bit of our belief and Meishu-Sama's Teachings, helping to build Paradise on Earth. Enjoy your reading!

This journal is for you and we would appreciate your contributions in making it happen. You can contribute by sending articles and suggestions for improvement to:

johrei.sydney@gmail.com

In order to contribute to the environment and help us in saving costs we would like to send the news by e-mail to whoever has an e-mail address. We would appreciate it if you can send your e-mail address to:

johrei.sydney@gmail.com



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