

## New Year Message by Kyoshu-sama

January 1, 2018

Enveloped in God's love and grace, I thank God that we are starting this glorious year as humble servants of God whose work of creation never ceases. With faith and hope in God and together with everyone and everything, I would like to offer my most sincere New Year greetings to God and Meishu-sama.

Happy New Year!

In deep awe and fear of God, I say that God lives within us.

The Consciousness of God is the source of all consciousnesses; Meishu-sama called It the "Universal Consciousness." The Will of God embedded in the Universal Consciousness is for God to bear His own child. To this end, God prepared heaven *before* beginning His work of creation of the visible world. In this heaven, God bore the spirits of all things as well as the spirits of human beings who were to become children of God. Each one of the spirits of human beings was named Messiah and it was through the spirits of Messiah that God created everything in the Universe.

All things in the Universe and we humans, therefore, are one under the name of Messiah. We were connected to all things before the creation of the Universe and are one with them now, at this very moment.

All things, including our mental and sensory faculties and all the cells of our body, serve in, listen to and obediently follow the Will of God so as to make us children of God. Without all things, we cannot become God's children. For us to become God's children is the purpose of the creation of God.

With the beginning of this New Year, I would like to surrender my whole self, recognizing that God uses all things and myself as one and that the Will of God extends to all things and to myself.

God is eternal and alive. He lives and works within us and within all things. As we age, our body gradually weakens and perishes. But our true body is not the physical body that is destined to pass away. Each one of us is endowed with a "spiritual body," which is the soul, life and consciousness of God. Within us there exists a soul of God – a glorious and living spiritual body.

This spiritual body that each one of us has is our true body, our true self and our true "I." To this day, we only have treasured the "I" of our physical self. I believe we have forgotten and

disrespected our true “I” – the “I” of God existing within us. This “I” of our physical self must return to the heaven existing within us and become one with the “I” of God. The “I” of our physical self will one day perish. But if it can be merged into one with the “I” of the eternal and living God, we are able to unite with eternity and be born anew as true children of God.

Meishu-sama achieved this. He was able to become one with the “I” of God and be born anew as a child of God, a Messiah. As his followers, we need to follow in his footsteps and become one with the “I” of God within us. That is why we have to believe in the name of Messiah, because it is through this holy name that God forgives, saves and welcomes us into His heaven and it is through this holy name that God nurtures us to acquire eternal life.

“Salvation” means that we believe in the forgiveness of God and have encountered our true “I” – our true Father who is in heaven. The “construction of Paradise on Earth” means that we who live on earth make a conscious effort to return to heaven in the name of Messiah, become one with God and construct a heaven of God within ourselves. And to tell this truth to as many people as possible is how we can be a part of the “salvation of humanity,” taught by Meishu-sama.

In one of his hymns, Meishu-sama writes,

How joyful it is!  
The light of God is now shining gloriously!  
The darkness of the whole world  
Must have vanished completely!

The light of God has already shone upon everything and has reached the deepest and darkest part of each one of our hearts.

This light has the power to forgive and save. We tend to think that God’s forgiveness is directed only at our evil nature. But the saving light of God shines upon the things we think are good and bad both at the same time. His eyes are upon everything we do and think. He is not watching over us to judge whether we are good or evil but to welcome everything into His heaven and bring salvation to all.

We do not need to hide anything from God. So whatever you think, whether it is a positive thought or negative thought, and whatever you do, whether it is a good act or wrong act, talk to God and say, “I thank You, because Your eyes are upon everything I think and do! In the name of Messiah, which is one with Meishu-sama, I surrender my whole being to You as one that has

already been forgiven and saved. Please use me as You wish!”

When we face a difficult situation or person, it is the very time when God is trying to communicate with us. Through our daily struggle, God wants us to realize that our judgment and perspective on an issue or on a person is limited, narrow and self-centered. So before we cast our final judgment on something, we should talk to God and say, “From my perspective, I think this issue or this person appears to be like this. But to You, God, how do You see this? I do not want to serve myself. I want to serve You. So please use my eyes as Yours, my ears as Yours and my thoughts as Yours, and teach me Your true judgment.” Every single moment, God is alive within us, communicating with us and listening to our voices directed toward Him.

God is our true Parent. He stands always by our side and is ever faithful. For a long time, we, humanity, were ignorant of this true God. Yes, we have thought and said in words that “we know God,” “we believe in God” and “we serve God,” but I feel that we have been creating an image of God that is convenient for us.

Everything belongs to God. But haven’t we stolen things like “gratitude,” “love” and “acts” from God and forced ourselves and others to “thank others,” “love others” and “act for others?” Haven’t we stolen words like “Paradise on Earth” and “salvation” from God and used them to express our own thoughts rather than God’s? Haven’t we stolen all these things that belong to God as if they were ours and conveniently used them to advance and communicate our own will and objective rather than God’s Will and Objective?

However, God does not want to condemn us for stealing His possessions. He is saying to us that He has forgiven everything we have done, are doing and will do. So, in the name of Messiah, which is one with Meishu-sama, let us repent and sincerely wish to meet the true God whose love is boundless.

As I always say, the Will and Objective of God is one: to have us be newly born as His children, as His Messiahs. This is God’s mission. That means this is our mission, too. Do not be ambiguous about this point. We always say that “our mission is to create Paradise on Earth.” But how can this earth be heaven if we forget the mission of God? How can anyone attain true happiness unless one becomes aware of one’s true mission of becoming a child of God, a Messiah?

To tell you the truth, we, humanity, have forgotten the mission determined by God. But Meishu-sama, through his life led by God, taught us that our mission is to become a child of God. That is why Meishu-sama declared, a year before he passed away, that he was newly born as a Messiah. Is not this the most important teaching of Meishu-sama that he left for us? Is not

this what we have to aim for if we call ourselves a follower of Meishu-sama?

How happy we are to know the mission of God through Meishu-sama! To know our true God, our true Parent, and to know that we can be His children – if this is not salvation, what is? We were lost and forgot who we were and where we were going. But Meishu-sama came to this world with the light of God and shed light on the path we have to walk – the path of being born anew as a child of God.

In the name of Messiah, which is one with Meishu-sama, let us awaken to the mission of God! Let us return to heaven as ones who are forgiven and saved! And let us serve in the ever new work of God!

God is now making all things new and all humanity be born anew as His children. I, together with all things, all ancestors, all of you and all of those who are to come to the earth, would like to offer my most sincere praise to God who governs, sustains and achieves all.

May God and the name of Messiah be praised for ever and ever.