



Johrei Association Journal

Johrei Association of Australia Newsletter

2018 Issue 1

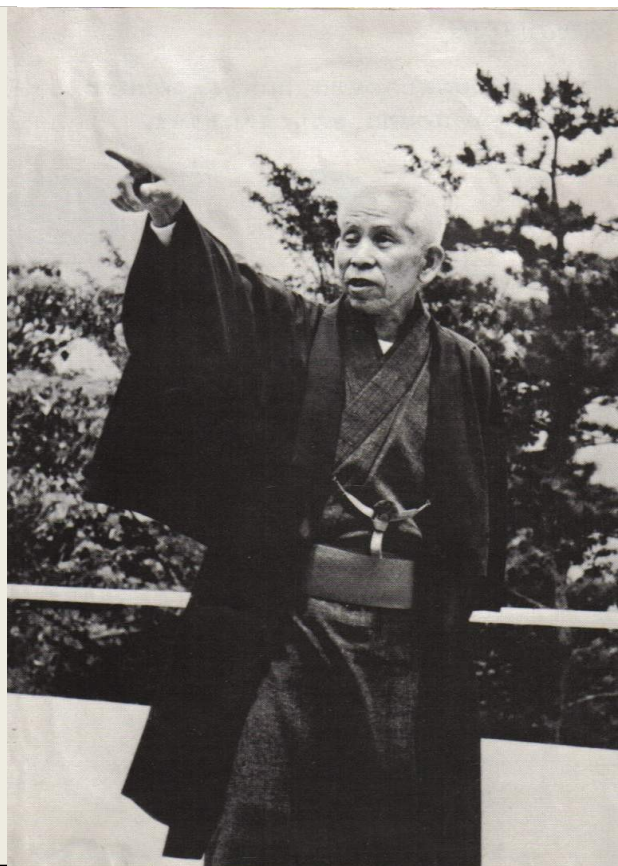
January – June 2018

“Although we speak of love and compassion,
Our words are little more than wind blowing through the trees
If not turned into deeds.

We are only human
Therefore, let us not be quick
to judge the actions others
As to whether they are right or wrong.

The freedom of choice is God-given.
Let us never force our opinions on others,
Or allow them to force their opinions on us.”

Meishu-Sama's poem



What is True Faith?

To have true faith, one must be careful to use common sense in speech or actions. If a group expresses or exhibits extreme psychic, eccentric or fanatical behavior, be on guard. When someone is inclined to be impressed by such zealous displays, it is due to a lack of spiritual understanding.

Genuine faith in God should reinforce the belief that the mission of a spiritual movement is humanity's salvation rather than the adherence to a particular dogma. It should guide one in service, not only to fellow group members, but to others as well. Think of the miserable defeat Japan had to experience in World War II, which was the consequence of its exclusivity and the

pursuit of its own interests with disregard for the welfare of other countries. This is an example of how wrong a self-centered attitude is.

The ultimate purpose of faith is to help each human being daily become closer to the perfect image and likeness of God.

This edition:

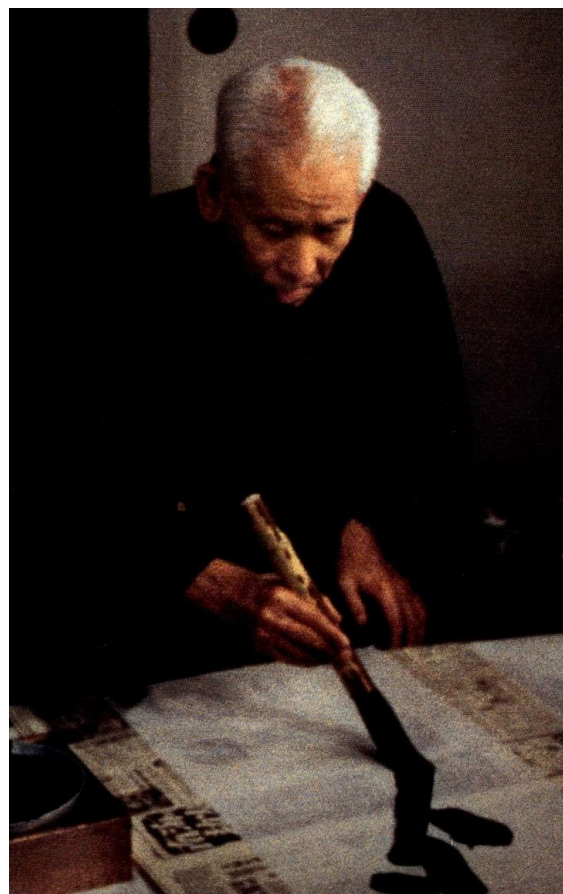
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While perfection on earth is perhaps beyond human reach, the desire to make a sincere effort toward its attainment certainly represents the right attitude and is a worthy spiritual aspiration.

The deeper the faith, the more natural and unaffected a person is. At this point, an individual can be said to be truly living the teachings. One with the spiritual understanding speaks and acts sensibly, humbly, and sincerely, leaving and uplifting, warm impression with all they meet. The person is gracious and kind, finding true happiness in the happiness of others. This alone can unlock the door to God's blessings.

If you want to become happy you must help to make others happy; the blessings you receive from God by living in this way are the true happiness. Many people pursue happiness only for themselves at the sacrifice of others. They should awaken to the fact that by living with such a self-centered attitude they will experience the reverse effect.

(From the book Teachings of Meishu-Sama - Vol. 4 Pg. 10)



2018 JOHREI ASSOCIATION GUIDELINES

OUR MOTTO:

**In the name of Messiah which is one with Meishu-Sama,
let us awaken to an entirely new faith.**

Our practices and goals, together with members around the world:

- 1. Know and deeply understand the essence of Meishu-sama's Teachings through Kyoshu-sama's guidance.**
- 2. Become aware of the heaven within us through the Sacred Grounds**
- 3. Convey this entirely new faith to as many people as possible through Johrei, Nature Farming/Natural Foods and the Appreciation of Art and Beauty; focusing on the principle that "Meishu-Sama is meeting, hearing and channeling Johrei for people", through our dedication. (Meishu-Sama is the main character)**
- 4. Advance and expand our missionary work world-wide.**
- 5. Guide, educate and encourage young people to this new faith.**

Kyoshu-Sama's New Year Message

(Guidance by Kyoshu-Sama– January 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 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.



Our Spiritual Leader, Kyoshu-sama

Communication from Japan

May 1, 2018

To members all around the world

In wishing for the establishment of a **Kyoshu-centered organization**

Establishment of **Izunome Group**



Rev. Shirasawa

The executives of Izunome Kyodan have enormously changed the church into one that is denying Kyoshu-sama and attempting to remove him, doing such things as conclude that “Kyoshu-sama’s messages are a different thought [from the teachings].” And they have negated a most important spiritual element – our practice of “know the essence of Meishu-sama’s teachings through Kyoshu-sama’s messages.”

This is an action taken by the Izunome Kyodan executives that has deprived us of our freedom of religion and an act that dismisses the thoughts and feelings of members around the world who are seeking and practicing Kyoshu-sama’s guidance. This cannot be tolerated.

In order for us to establish a Kyoshu-centered organization, which Izunome Kyodan had adopted over many years, we strongly wish to listen to the earnest voices of the many members and for Izunome Kyodan to return to the church that it is supposed to be, the one before it changed in a big way. That is, a church where Kyoshu-sama and all the members are able to interact without interference, where we are able to accumulate our studies and practices of Kyoshu-sama’s messages and where we are able to truly seek Meishu-sama.

In order for us to accomplish this purpose and to

protect our own faith, we choose a path of awakening to an entirely new kind of faith grounded in our beliefs. We have made a decision to proceed in this direction.

Currently, within the member organizations under Sekai Kyusei Kyo umbrella organization, Sekai Kyusei Kyo Su no Hikari Kyodan is the only church that has been advancing their religious activities based on Kyoshu-sama’s guidance. They are the only church that walks the path with the same feelings as ours.

As friends who have the same aim as us, we are coordinating and cooperating with Sekai Kyusei Kyo Su no Hikari Kyodan. In order for both Sekai Kyusei Kyo (umbrella organization) and Izunome Kyodan to return to its true union under Kyoshu-sama, we are not only taking legal measures but for the time being, we have received a place within but self-dependent of Sekai Kyusei Kyo Su no Hikari Kyodan as Izunome Group (categorized as “special missionary region”). We wish to move ahead with religious activity, calling upon the thoughts and feelings of members all around the world.

This new start will not always take us on a smooth path. However, this is a new path in order for us to seek God and Meishu-sama. Through the guidance of Kyoshu-sama, who inherits and carries on Meishu-sama’s sacred work, we accept, heart and soul, Meishu-sama’s truth revealed through his teachings and examples from his life. This is what we are seeking.

And in order to awaken to an entirely new kind of faith, let us free ourselves from a faith of preconceived notions and human-centered motives and intentions that is in each and every single one of us. Let us realize the will of God, who is in control of everything. Let us make efforts in this practice of faith.

As friends who share the same thoughts as Kyoshu-sama, who stands at the head of the divine plan in the physical world for the salvation of humanity, let us walk together hand in hand with members all around the world.

Thank you.

Sekai Kyusei Kyo Su no Hikari Kyodan / Izunome Group

Michio Shirasawa, Director

Yutaka (Masahiro) Kawatani, Deputy Director

Keizo Ono, Officer, Teruya Furutsu, Officer

Harumitsu Fujimoto, Officer, Masakatsu Takahara, Officer

Mitsuaki Kato, Officer, Mitsutoshi Sato, Officer

Keizo Miura, Officer

Faith in Action

MEISHU-SAMA'S BIRTHDAY SERVICE

On the 23rd December we always celebrate the Anniversary of the Messiah Meishu-Sama, holding the Meishu-Sama Birthday Services at the Sydney and Melbourne Johrei centres. In addition, many members from different states participate, holding special prayers with the same SONEN of Gratitude for Messiah Meishu-Sama. We want to deepen in talking about this special service meaning and its importance.

We believe that the Supreme God has planned for the establishment of Paradise on Earth from the very beginning of time, and for this purpose each human being is used as His instrument. We believe the humanity's past history has been the preparatory stage for this establishment, and the time finally has arrived that Meishu-Sama was entrusted with the great mission of providing the tools necessary for the world's transformation.

For this purpose Meishu-Sama went through many purifications and hardships during his lifetime, until he could reach enlightenment, understanding his own mission on Earth. After striving to save thousands of people through God's guidance, he was able to found our worldwide organization in 1935. Until the day Meishu-Sama passed away, He built the foundations of the great Salvation Work Johrei Association is developing now.

Through all his purifications and dedication during more than 30 years of service, Meishu-Sama was born anew as a true child of God, becoming a Messiah, few months before passing into the Spiritual Realm in 1954. The name of our movement in Japanese, translated into English is *World Church of Messiah* (Sekai Kyusei Kyo), referring to this achievement of Meishu-Sama.

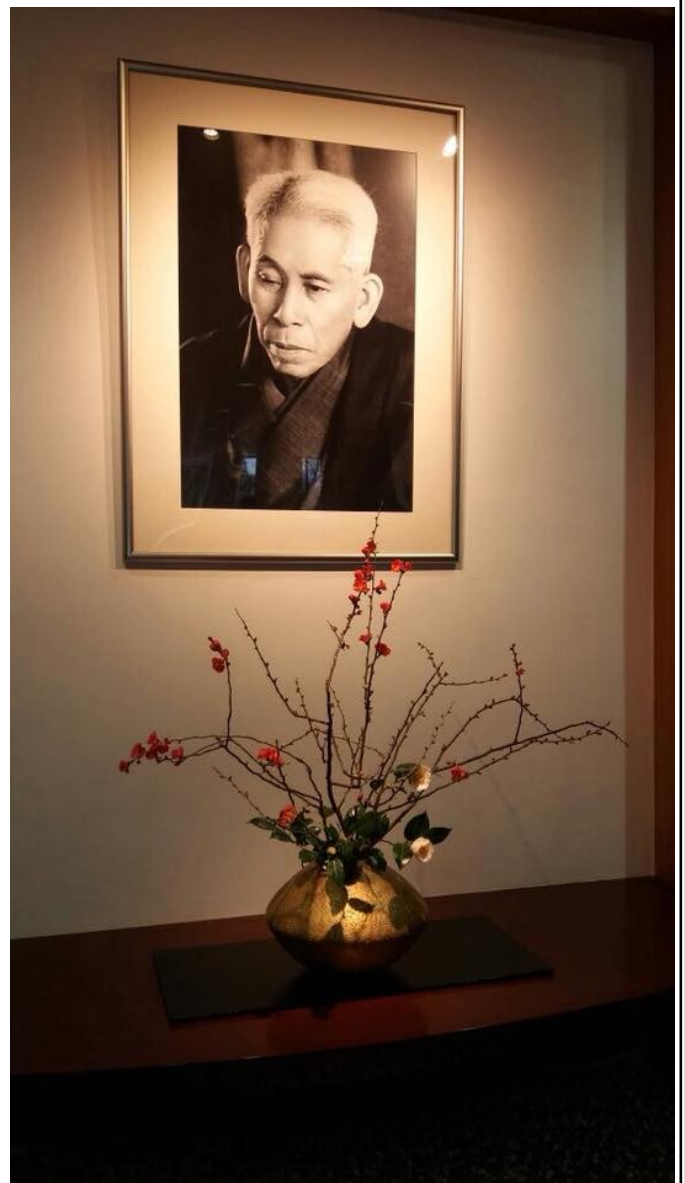
Kyoshu-Sama has been teaching us about the importance of recognizing that Meishu-Sama was able to born anew as a true child of God – Messiah, and that is our mission to follow in Meishu-Sama footsteps, being born anew as true children of God. Sometimes we think this is something reserved just for special people, but actually it is up to each one of us to strive to born anew as a true child

of God - Messiah.

On Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service of 2016, Kyoshu-Sama said:

"Please remember, there is someone who returned to heaven in the name of Messiah[...]: Meishu-Sama While he was still on earth, Meishu-Sama obtained the true happiness of knowing the name of Messiah, returning to heaven and serving God with all his heart (...) Eventually, in 1954, Meishu-Sama was born anew as a Messiah, a child of God, and obtained the true happiness of a human being, of God. God is saying that we, too, can be his true children and be born anew as Messiahs."

So, Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service is a great opportunity to celebrate Meishu-Sama's life in order for us to walk this path of being born anew as a true child of God. Kyoshu-Sama taught us another very important point on the same guidance, saying:



"So let us all return to heaven in the name of Messiah. You, yourself, must voice out the name of Messiah. No one will force you to do it. You have to do it by your own free-will. If you do that, if we do that, I cannot imagine how happy and delighted God will be."

Here in Australasia, since 2016 on Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service, we all have been practicing the **Words of Light, Our Pledge and Words of Prayer** as a way to daily acknowledge our mission of born anew as Messiahs. You can read on this issue some experiences of people who have been striving to understand Meishu-Sama and Kyoshu-Sama's wishes through this practice, achieving great results. So, let us keep deepening on the practice of the "Words of Light", "Our Pledge" and "Words of Prayer", and the studies of Meishu-Sama's Teachings and Kyoshu-Sama's guidance in 2018.

Please, try to reserve this date to come to the Centres and attend this important service so we can show our gratitude for the Messiah Meishu-Sama together! And for the interstate members, who are living far away, please let's be unified on our thoughts and feelings, praying together, with the same SONEN!

Let us study also Meishu-Sama's Biography in order to learn from his example, how we can become someone who can bring salvation to all people around us.

In addition, every end of the year, it is time to thank all the blessings we received on the year, and to renovate our faith so we can start anew on the year ahead. As the last service of the year, Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service performs an important role on our commitment to Meishu-Sama for the following year!

On the same guidance Kyoshu-Sama said:

"Meishu-Sama is telling us to wake up. I was asleep; we were asleep. Let us respond to Meishu-Sama's call, wake up, abandon our old beings and awaken to an entirely new faith in the name of Messiah that is one with Meishu-Sama."

In this manner, every year on Birthday Service we will have the opportunity of filling the "Appreciation Prayer on Meishu-Sama's Natal" form, where we can write down all the blessings and protection we have received during the year.

On the Service Day, let us all present this form at the Altar, materialising all our gratitude to God an Messiah Meishu-Sama, and also renovating our commitments for the next year, with a strong SONEN to be born anew as a true child of God.

Experience of Faith

Veichali Mahendra -

London Johrei Centre UK

My name is Veichali Mahendra. Recently I had several experiences through practising the new prayers that Kyoshu-Sama sent us, which were first introduced at the Paradise on Earth Service in June 2017, entitled Words of Light, Our Pledge and Words of Prayer. Today I would like to share some of them with you.

Since the introduction of the new prayers, I decided to do them every day on my own. When I had any purification, I did the prayers to help me understand that God is behind everything.

One significant issue I had in my life for a very long time was my fear and reluctance towards my in-laws. I started doing these prayers with these feelings in mind and my view changed completely. I started to realize that when we had lived together in one house, I took for granted that clothes were ironed or meals cooked by my in-laws when I returned from work.

I also realized that such ingratitude has been in Indian culture for generations and this gave me strength to break this cycle. Now I thank my in-laws whenever they do something for me, no matter how small. I also started thanking God for their existence in my life – I never thought I would reach this state of mind. More unbelievable is that, 3 months after I started practising these prayers, I was surprised to hear my mother in law saying to a friend of hers: 'My daughter-in-law is the diamond of our family!' Now, although there is still feeling of some caution, I feel much more relaxed with them.

My second experience concerns my son who suffers from a bad cough that lasts all winter every year. This autumn when his cough started, I focussed on it whenever I did the prayers, with the understanding that God was behind it. Suddenly I remembered that my mother, my two sisters and I always suffered from bad coughs in childhood. Since then, I have been thanking all ancestors that might be manifesting through his cough whenever I pray or channel Johrei to him. His cough was completely gone within 3 weeks.

My third experience happened in my workplace. I am a sustainability consultant and work with various

buildings projects. A contractor from one of the projects I am working on sent me a very rude email which upset me a lot. One of my colleagues told me that this contractor usually treats consultants in a very rude manner. I was irritated by this and decided not to respond to the email.

That day during my lunch break when my mind was calmer I thought about the email and thought that surely he must have some personal issues to behave in this way. Thinking about the prayers, I thanked God for my client's email and for the opportunity to deal with him. I didn't think that it would change anything. I just did this because this is what we are taught. To my surprise, when I went back to my desk, there was another email from him, apologising for his previous email and recognizing that it had been very rude. Interestingly, I tried to delete that email several times but haven't been able to delete it until now. It is a big reminder for me that absolutely everything in our lives is God's blessing and manifestation.

Lastly I would like to share another workplace experience that made me realise how powerful these prayers are in helping us focus our Sonen in the right direction and how quickly God blesses us when we begin to accept that He is behind every manifestation in our life. A senior colleague came back from maternity leave. I had the impression that she wanted to demonstrate that she had more knowledge than me, which made me feel like we might have problems with each other in future.

I had a deadline for a report on a Friday and because my boss was not in the office I asked her to do the final check of my report before it was issued. I gave her the draft at about 11am. She only gave her comments back to me at 4pm – I always leave the office at 4.30pm. Because I was already in a negative state of mind towards her, I thought she did this to annoy me. But I made the corrections and sent the final report to the project director. During the weekend, I kept thinking that the Sonen I had towards my colleague was completely wrong, but I could not help feeling the way I did. The whole weekend I focussed on her during prayers.

However, I could not sincerely believe that God was behind her. I kept asking God to show me a way to change this point of view of mine. On Monday (after just 3 days of prayers), as soon as I came into work, I opened the project building model and started checking it just to see if everything was ok. There was no reason for this, as the report was already out and the task was finalised. But still I kept doing the checks without thinking twice. And I spotted a major mistake in my analysis. I talked to the project director and found out that the report was not issued on

Friday to the client because I sent it too late to the director. This was an eye opening happening for me. I realised what had appeared to be a negative thing on Friday turned out to be a great blessing as it gave me an opportunity to amend my mistake on Monday. I then spoke to my colleague and thanked her for delaying the issue of my report. My reaction left her very surprised, but this has also changed her approach towards me.

I started doing these prayers with no faith - just as a task advised by the minister in charge. However, these experiences made me change my view completely. I understand now that for a situation to change, we need to change our point of view rather than putting the blame on others. These experiences also made me realize how important it is to focus on each purification and try to understand what we need to learn from each one of them, and also that everything is the manifestation of God's love for our faith to grow stronger.

Thank you.

Experience of Faith

Luciana Ino -

Brisbane Johrei Centre

My name is Luciana Ino and I would like to give you a brief introduction about myself and report on my journey of faith.

I have been a Johrei member since December 2016, and came to Australia only five months ago. I decided to start Ohikari classes in order to become a member because my mother was going through a severe purification with cancer.

She had been a Johrei Member for over 20 years, and my grandparents too were Johrei pioneer members in Brazil for more than 40 years. I grew up in a Johrei family, but I had never felt the desire to become a Johrei member previously.

However, when my mother started to purify with Cancer, I finally decided to become a Johrei member, mostly because I wanted to channel Johrei to her during the time I was spending with her at home and in the hospital.

Unfortunately, life does not always go how we human beings wish. In January 2017 my mother made her transition to the spiritual world.

Around the same time, my sister was granted an Australian permanent resident visa. I then took the opportunity and decided to apply for a student visa and share a new experience with my sister in Australia.

When I arrived in Brisbane I sought out the Johrei activities here, and was able to meet Camila Souza during a Johrei Gathering. It was a wonderful happening for me because she has been teaching me how to feel true gratitude in my heart in an unbelievable way.

She was admitted to hospital to treat a severe purification, so my sister and I promptly went to the hospital to channel Johrei to her.

However, the first time my sister and I walked in the hospital to give Johrei assistance to Camila, it was really painful, because she was in Oncology ward - the same ward my mother had been in. Therefore, all those feelings we had experienced during our mother suffering returned to our hearts and minds.

Nevertheless, I kept a strong feeling inside of me that I had something to learn from this experience. So, I strived to give her as much Johrei Assistance as I could. It was incredible how, even though I felt pain when I walked in to the hospital, every time I walked out of the hospital after channelling Johrei to Camila I had a huge feeling of gratitude inside of me. It is truly beyond words how grateful I felt for being useful to God's Work through serving a person under severe purification. During the minutes or hours I spent channelling Johrei, I was able to practice true Gratitude, and was able to do something good for her through Johrei and this truly fulfilled my heart.

Sometimes I stayed for two or three hours channelling Johrei and it was amazing how my heart was so happy when I returned home, as if that pain I had felt for being in a hospital was not there anymore.

This is the experience I have shared with Reverend Horacio that I also wanted to share with all members.

Now Camila is out of hospital but she still needs Johrei Assistance, which I am trying to provide as often as possible.

She teaches me every day about feeling grateful. It is very comforting to do things without expecting material benefits, because our heart urges us to do something good for others.

Whenever for some reason I am unable to visit her, I feel an emptiness in my feelings; but I understand that sometimes I also need some time to rebuild myself and return even stronger to channel Johrei to her more

effectively, surrendering everything to God.

I am very grateful to God, Meishu-sama and Camila, for the opportunity to meet her here in Australia; also to all Brisbane members, including some people who used to live close to me in Brazil, but I only met here in Australia.

I wanted to share with you the experience that I had through channelling Johrei to Camila, and my experience with my mom. I can deeply feel my mom very happy in the spiritual world with all our dedication here.

I give thanks to God and Messiah Meishu-Sama for all the spiritual learning with everyone. Thank you all!

Experience of Faith

Australian Member *

I would like to share with you my experience in practicing Kyoshu-Sama's Guidance, that I have to be born anew as a true child of God, in my day to day life.

A few months ago, a client of mine told me that a person from another company was spreading gossip about my company in order to steal clients of mine. I realized that during the previous months, some clients were indeed ending their contracts with me without any previous notice. I felt truly sad not just because I was losing my clients, but mostly because I was the one who introduced that person to the market years ago, when that person was unemployed.

I taught that person how to start a company and trained them in how to provide good service. In addition, that person attended a lot of parties and dinners at our home, so I felt completely betrayed.

I immediately picked up my mobile to call that person, and complain about their behaviour. I wanted to confront them and understand why they had turned against me, doing such wrongdoing.

However, at that moment, I remembered Kyoshu-Sama's Guidance that we had studied at the Centre during that week. Based on the Guidance, we came up with a daily practice of always acknowledging that everything comes from God, and that we need to surrender everything to Him consciously.

I remembered that in the **Words of Light, Our Pledge and Words of Prayer**, Kyoshu-Sama asked us to

“(…) consciously attribute every manifestation in our life to God”

Then I thought that this situation was something created by God so I could be born anew as a true child of God – Messiah, as we are praying daily: “I thank you (God) for nurturing me to be newly born as Your child”

So, with this realisation in my heart and soul, I thanked God and Meishu-Sama and I surrendered all my anger and disappointment to God, leaving the matter in the Messiah Meishu-Sama’s hands, and I went back to my work with my mind and heart clear.

To my surprise, during the rest of that day and for the next 24 hours, I received a lot of requests from new clients. I was a little bit concerned because I had just a few clients, but all of a sudden I had so many requests that I needed to postpone attending some of the clients until later, as my weekly schedule was already full.

It was very clear to me that after surrendering this “situation” to God and the Messiah Meishu-Sama, understanding that this was happening in order for me to deepen my understanding of Kyoshu-Sama’s Guidance, I was able to get more new clients. If I had called that person instead, I would probably have created more negative feelings, ending up sadder and discontent.

Thank you, God, Messiah Meishu-Sama for giving me this lesson through Kyoshu-Sama’s Guidance. From now on I will intensify my practice of the **Words of Light, Our Pledge and Words of Prayer** so I can be newly born as a true child of God.

Thank you very much.

*This member wishes to remain unknown for professional reasons.

Experience of Faith

Maria de Lourdes Godoy -

Brasilia Johrei Centre - Brazil

I have been a member since March 28, 1981, along with my family, which is a great blessing to all of us.

Throughout all these years I have received many blessings and protection, and until now I continue to be blessed with the Love of Supreme God and the Messiah Meishu-sama.

The experience I would like to share with you today is about my immense gratitude to our Fourth Spiritual Leader, Kyoshu-sama, who has been guiding us through a path of eternal salvation, teaching us to become divine beings again to be newly born as true children of God – Messiahs.

I have always asked myself: “how are we going to build Paradise on Earth in this world we are living in?” but now I am sure we have a clear path right in front of us. That is, we must first be newly born as true children of God, bringing our soul back to a divine status.

My first step to reach this new understanding happened when I began to understand the divinity of Meishu-Sama as a true child of God – a Messiah. Thanks to Kyoshu-Sama’s guidances, I now see the need to understand the divinity of Meishu-Sama as a Messiah.

It is only by understanding that Meishu-sama became a Messiah that we may be able to truly follow his footsteps.

Then I realized: “Of course! That's it!” We needed to understand and feel Meishu-sama as a Messiah, so that we too may be born anew as true children of God, making it possible to establish Paradise on Earth.

In my old understanding, “Paradise on Earth” meant a physical place, like a city, that could be turned into a paradise – a piece of land that could be bought by our Church to physically build a “New Age City” on it. Then, if we had Meishu-sama’s permission, we would be able to live in that place.

This was my initial understanding of how we could build Paradise on Earth. I also used to think that the word “Messiah” had been assigned only to Jesus Christ and no one else could use it.

Kyoshu-sama began to give us guidance, gradually exploring these issues deeper and deeper. Since 1998, I have been studying and following his guidances, and became more and more interested on them. Today, I believe in the need to continue receiving Kyoshu-sama’s precious guidance.

Kyoshu-sama touched my heart deeply. Throughout these years, whenever I received the Izunome magazine, I tried to read it as soon as I possibly could and study Kyoshu-sama’s guidances in greater depth.

The first time Kyoshu-sama mentioned that we must be born anew, within ourselves, as true children of God – Messiahs, I was surprised. However, as one of Meishu-sama's most important teachings is about the need for obedience, I started to put Kyoshu-sama’s guidance into practice obediently.

Nowadays, I say the new prayers titled "Words of Light, "Our Pledge" and Words of Prayer", introduced by Kyoshu-sama, everyday before my home altar.

One day, when I was saying these new prayers in front of the divine scroll, I was taken over by an overwhelming emotion and wept. I was on my own when this happened, as I like to say these prayers when I get up early in the morning and before going to bed at night.

I began to reflect on the truth within each word written by Kyoshu-sama and was taken over by an intense desire to be born anew as a true child of God. This was and still is a great joy for me, because something new, very powerful happened: a deep change began to unfold within me, both in my way of thinking and in my feelings. I always have had a very strong ego ("*ga*") and I am sure these prayers have been correcting my *sonen*. So, I keep saying these prayers daily, feeling more and more that I need to change my *sonen* and my soul.

Nowadays, when I think about my old self every time I pray, I feel calmer and happier. I believe that the most important thing of all for me, was to come to the understanding that in order for us to truly follow in the footsteps of Meishu-Sama, we must be newly born as true children of God - Messiahs.

I would like to thank Kyoshu-Sama deeply for teaching us the prayers: "Words of Light", "Our Pledge" and "Words of Prayer". I also wish to thank Kyoshu-Sama for teaching me so clearly that God is alive within me. I truly believe that God is nurturing me to be newly born as His true child. By saying these prayers daily before the altar, something very important happened to me; it was as if the power of an Intense Light of Love and Gratitude, a great joy and a new life began at that very moment. This way, I felt the need to live more, yielding to conquer a happiness that I had never experienced in all my life.

I now realize that, even after all those years as a Johrei member, I had never truly understood what Meishu-Sama always taught us in His teachings. I had not yet reached true maturity in faith to understand the divinity of Meishu-Sama as a Messiah. I thank God and the Messiah Meishu-sama who, through Kyoshu-Sama, led me to feel the true joy of serving this great Work of Salvation.

I wish from the bottom of my heart that many Johrei members, and even people of other religions and beliefs, may say these three important prayers daily. These prayers removed the veil that prevented me from truly following the footsteps of Meishu-Sama.

Thank you Kyoshu-Sama! I firmly believe that God and the Messiah Meishu-Sama are leading you to guide and

support us in following the path of true happiness, building Paradise on Earth.

Thank you very much.

Experiences of Faith

On this issue we have the pleasure to share with you several experiences of faith from members of various different places. Let us study these experiences and put into practice Meishu-sama's Teachings and Kyoshu-sama's guidance on our very lives!

Please, feel free to contribute, sharing your experiences with us on this newsletter! Next issue your experience can be here!

You can contact us through the email johrei.sydney@gmail.com. Also, refer to our website in order to be updated on our activities.



Let us practice the sacred Johrei of Meishu-sama !

What is on at Johrei Centre

JOHREI GATHERINGS

Every month, the Johrei Association members hold Johrei, Ikebana and Nature Farming activities in locations all around Australia and New Zealand, such as Brisbane, Gold Coast, Adelaide, Perth, Hobart, Alice Springs, Auckland, Christchurch, Sydney and Melbourne Johrei Centres and members' own houses. We are open to meet anyone who wants to receive Johrei, and all are welcomed to join us in our activities. Please contact Rev. Horacio or Rev. Rubens in order to be informed when the monthly activities will take place.

We also provide monthly schedules by email for the members.

If you are not receiving it from us, please send an email to:

Johrei.sydney@gmail.com.

Also refer to www.johrei.org.au in order to visualize the Calendar of Activities. Thank you!



Johrei Gathering in Melbourne

2018 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

Anzac day - Special Ancestors Service: 25th April at 11 am

Paradise on Earth Service: Sydney: June 3rd (1st Sunday) at 11:00 am

Melbourne: June 10th (2nd Sunday) at 11:00 am

December (date to be announced) – Meishu-Sama's Birthday Service

Current Activities :

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 and Rev. Deepal

Ikebana arrangement— volunteer work on Sunday, by Ms. 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 deliver the first Issue of the year 2018 of Johrei Newsletter and keep everyone updated with the news about our activities, Johrei Gatherings and guidance from the spiritual leader Kyoshu-Sama.

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 could send your e-mail address to:

johrei.sydney@gmail.com



Johrei Association Journal

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