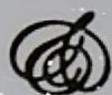


Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama



Family



Biography

In Honor and Memory of
The Founder of the Konko Church of Portland

Reverend Bunjiro Hirayama

And the amazing women
who sparked and supported
the beginnings of
the Konko Faith in North America

Mrs. Iso Hirayama
Rev. Komatsu Hirayama
Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama

May we be worthy of your virtue and vision,
share it with others throughout the world
and pass it down
for many generations to come.

Printed by the Konko Church of Portland
Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama 50 Year Memorial Anniversary
October 2019

Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama & Family

Biography



FOREWORD

Reverend Michio Yoshiki
Fifth Head Minister
Konko Church of Fukuoka
Parent Church of
Konko Church of Portland



このたびポートランド教会初代教会長

平山文次郎大人50年の式年の年を迎えられました。北米布教の先駆者として我が道を伝え、1931年にはポートランドの地に教会を開かれてより37年に及ぶ年月、多くの人を取次助ける働きを現され、我が道の信心が北米の地に根ざし、代を重ねて受け継ぎあらわされてありますことは、有難いことであります。

これは初代平山先生の生前のお働きと、御霊神になられましてもなお、日夜お守りお導き頂いているからこそだと思います。心からお礼の真を捧げたいと思います。そして、今を生きる私たちは、先生の伝え現された我が道の信心を受け継ぎさらに発展させて頂かなければなりません。それには、現状の身と心と財とを保守しようというような退嬰的（たいえいてき）な心を捨て、真に初代の信心を頂き、神様を一心に頂ききる姿勢を頂き直し「神・人ともに助かる」

という信心の展開を、いっそう進めさせて頂きたいと、願いを新たに致したいと思います。



At this time, I would like to convey my congratulations for the 50th Anniversary of Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama, the founder of the Portland Church.

As a pioneer of North American missionary work, he devotedly guided this faith in propagation and established the Portland Church in 1931. For thirty-seven years as the Head Minister of the Konko Church of Portland, he revealed the work of our faith and saved many people through Toritsugi Mediation. We are very grateful that our way of faith has taken root and spread in North America and has been passed down through the generations until today. I believe this is due to the life's work and virtue of the founding reverend, Bunjiro Hirayama, whose spirit continues to protect and guide you day and night. For this, I offer my deepest gratitude.

For those of us presently living, we must inherit and develop the way of faith that Rev. Hirayama has conveyed. In order to do so, we must abandon the attitude of retreating and only holding on to the threads of what remains, and boldly receive the faith of the first generation. In this way, we can attain once again a heart that is able to receive Kami entirely, so that "both Kami and people will be saved". This is the faith practice I hope and pray we will all go forward with to renew and develop.



FOREWORD

2019 marks the 50th year since the passing of the founding Head Minister of the Konko Church of Portland, the numinous Reverend Bunjiro Hirayama.

However, Rev. Hirayama was not just the founder of the Portland Church. He was also a main pioneer in the introduction and propagation of the Konko Faith in North America.

The pioneers lived through hardships unimaginable in our age plenty, and persevered through them all to pass this faith on to us—cultivating the land to bring us the understanding and the churches we have today.

As one of the most influential pioneers of KCNA, quiet and humble, Rev. Hirayama has never sought recognition. However, his will to start all over again at the age of 65 after having everything taken away including his family, exemplifies a mental toughness and profound faith that cannot be overstated.

For us, understanding our roots and Rev. Hirayama's faith is key to our church's success and future. It is with this in mind that we undertook this book, as our way of paying our respect and showing our gratitude to Rev. Hirayama, his family, and to pass on their life's work, contributions to the faith, and share this way of faith to future generations.

Through this book, we pray those who follow us may also know the life and faith of this most extraordinary man and family. May they live on as a beacon of light in which to guide our faith.

Reverend Andrew Uzunoe
Fourth Head Minister
Konko Church of Portland



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Our deepest appreciation to

Kyoshu Konko Sama – for your daily prayers which we receive each and every day, allowing us to receive blessings.

Rev. Kiyoji Konko and Honbu Headquarters Staff – for researching and finding teachings, stories, and articles from the Konko Library which allow us to pass on the voices of past pioneers.

Revs. Michio and Shinko Yoshiki and the Fukuoka Church – for your prayers and protection as the Parent Church of the Konko Church of Portland. Thank you for providing the foreword, records, photos, and most of all, for the faith you have passed down to us.

Revs. Nobuharu and Michie Uzunoe - for recognizing and honoring Rev. Hirayama as the founding minister of the Portland Church; and for showing us that respecting the founding minister activates, nurtures, and connects to us their virtue.

Revs. Michie and Lisa Uzunoe (Portland), Rev. Yomisu Oya (Sacramento), Rev. Richard and Miyako Dusek (Tacoma), Rev. Masanori Takeuchi (Chicago), and Rev. Kazumichi Nogata (Sozan) for translation work.

For researching, reviewing, procuring original photos, editing, and support, we express our deepest gratitude to the following families: Akagi, Hachiya, Inouye, Ishiwata, Jackson, Soejima, Sunada, Uzunoe-Chin and Uzunoe families.

It is by everyone's prayers and efforts that this book was made possible. Thank you all for helping to gather and preserve history so that we may acknowledge the work and sacrifices of our pioneers to inspire us for generations to come.

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Chapter 1: Early Life

The history of the Hirayama Family begins with **Mrs. Iso Hirayama** in Southern Japan. She was a fervent believer at the Konkokyo Fukuoka Church who was said to have such a strong faith that she was able to tell those who came to her for help, at what day and hour they would receive blessings. Her faith influenced her son, Bunjiro, who also became a believer at the Fukuoka Church. Records from Fukuoka show that Bunjiro's birth father was Bunsuke Kojima. He passed away at 50 years old in Meiji 31 (1898).¹

Born in 1880,² like many young men with great aspirations in that era, single and 23 years old, in 1903 **Bunjiro Hirayama** immigrated from Fukuoka to Seattle, Washington. He sailed on the *Victoria* from the port of Kobe on June 1, 1903, landing in Tacoma on June 18. He listed himself as a "merchant" with Seattle as his final destination.³

The 1910 Census, shows he resided in Tacoma.⁴ February 19, 1916, Bunjiro was registered as a permanent resident, and his name shows up as Bunjiro Victor Hirayama on his social security card.⁵

When he was in his thirties, his mother arranged his marriage to **Komatsu Tanabe**, then 23 years old. Komatsu was a young lady whose family attended the Amagi Church neighboring Fukuoka. There, she learned how to play the Japanese koto and perform the traditional Konkokyo Kibi dance. Komatsu began teaching the koto and Kibi dance to the young ladies and girls at Fukuoka Church. A year later, she also began teaching Rev. Makoto Yoshiki (daughter of the second Head Minister and the wife of the third Head Minister, who is now a highly respected and renown teacher of the Kibi koto music and dance.) Rev. Makoto said of her, "Komatsu built the foundation of Tengaku [sacred music] at the Fukuoka Church."⁶

Komatsu Hirayama sailed on the *Manila Maru* from Fukuoka on May 30 and arrived in Seattle to join her husband on June 12, 1917.

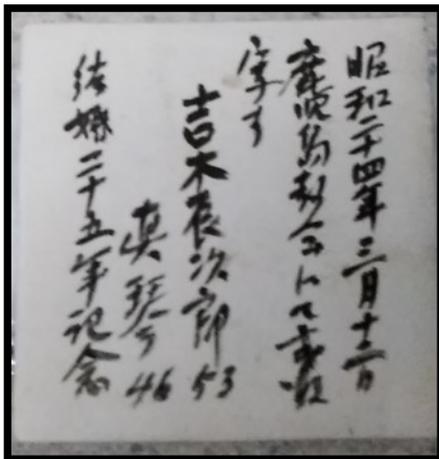
In the 1918 US City Directory of Seattle, Hirayama B is listed residing at 213 5th Ave S. On September 12, 1918, Bunjiro Hirayama registered for the United States World War I Draft.⁷

Picture from Hirayama Sensei's possessions.



Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama's Parent Minister

Third Head Minister of the Konko Church of Fukuoka and his wife.



Back of picture reads:

Showa Year 24 [1949]

March 12

Yoshiki, Tatsujiro 53 [yrs]

Makoto 46 [yrs]

Commemorating 25 Years
of Marriage

Fukuoka Church monument construction



Mrs. Iso Hirayama (seated)
with Rev. Makoto Yoshiki
when she was 13 years old



Mrs. Iso Hirayama





Mrs. Komatsu and Mr. Bunjiro Hirayama

Chapter 2: Faith in Seattle and Tacoma

The Founder of the Konko Faith, Konko Daijin, called Kami by different names and practiced in various ways as his faith and understanding developed. He primarily prayed for people in the beginning, however later on, was instructed to teach people by relaying teachings instead. Therefore in Japan, depending on the disciple and the time they were introduced to Konko Daijin, the churches they established in Japan varied greatly in their practice and focuses. These variances could also be seen in the practice of immigrant believers.

Mr. Eiji Uyeda helped people when their boat stopped in Seattle. He called many kinds of Kami and Buddha's names for prayer and used o-mikuji [fortune papers] to cure and heal sick and spiritual illnesses. He loudly called "Ikigami Konko Daijin, Konpira Daigongen, Hachiman bosatsu Narita Daimyojin!" and massaged the people who had illnesses.

(Translated from Journal of Konkokyo Research Institute Publication #37)

As Bunjiro and Komatsu were from the Fukuoka Church, their style of Konko Faith was not performing shamanistic rituals or chanting, it was through speaking—sharing how they and others received blessings through Konko Daijin's teachings.

Their naturally kind and nurturing personalities reached out to other Konko believers and those troubled or in need in the tight immigrant community.

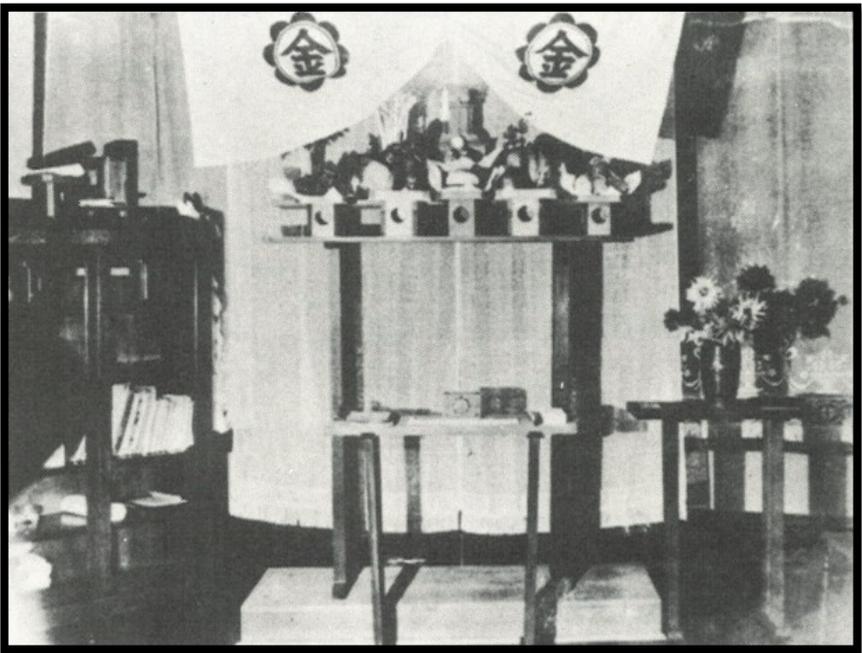
From around 1910, Bunjiro stayed at Ms. Yayoi Mitsumori's hotel and talked about Konko Faith to her. Bunjiro was able to use the room in the hotel for faith gatherings every Sunday.

Then, according to Fukuoka Church records, Bunjiro Hirayama returned to Fukuoka for spiritual training from April of 1914 to January of 1916.

Although his mother would not arrive until 1922, having strong faith roots of their own, in February of 1919 Bunjiro and Komatsu Hirayama established the **Konko Kyo Association in Seattle**, while

the Konko Kyo Shinko Kai was established by Mr. Eiji Uyeda with Mr. Yasukichi Yasumura's and others' support in the same year. (Mr. Yasumura also entered the faith through Bunjiro Hirayama's influence during the illness of his wife, became a minister, and went on to establish the Konko Church of Sacramento.)⁸

The Konko Kyo Association in Seattle held faith gatherings and services to accommodate the needs of the believers from the Seattle and Tacoma areas in Washington, and even for those from Portland and Hood River, Oregon.



“Altar in Mr. & Mrs. Hirayama’s home which was the first Konko Kyo Association’s meeting place.”

Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1965 for Iso Hirayama

A3691 - Seattle, 1890-1924 > 06

Port of Seattle, Wa.		Date	7/3/22	Manifest No.	40125/6-16
Family Name		Given Name		Accompanied by	
HIRAYAMA		Iso		dtr	
Place of Birth (Town, County, etc.)		Age	65 yrs	Sex	M
Yasuyasu, Fukuoka		4 mos	4	W	None
Race	Nationality	Last Permanent Residence (Town, County, etc.)		Head	Wife
Jap	Jap	Fukuoka, Jap		Y	Y
Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend in Country from whence Alien Came					
Moth. I. Abe, 111, Agatocho, Fukuokashi, Fukuokaken.					
Year in U.S.					
No					
Destination and Name and Address of Relative or Friend to Join Here					
Acc. dtr. to son, S. Hirayama					
Money Shown	Passage Paid by		Filed for Status		
	SON		adm		
Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Distinguishing Marks	
4 ft 8 in	dk	bk	br	mole on nose	
Depart and Date of Landing and Name of Steamship (in Canada)					
Entered at					
Seattle, Wa.		Via		7/1/22	

On July 20, 1922, Iso Hirayama (Bunjiro's mother) arrives on the SS *Africa Maru* accompanied by Komatsu Hirayama who must have returned to Japan to escort Bunjiro's 65 year-old mother to America.

Washington, Passenger and Crew Lists, 1882-1965 for Komatsu Hirayama

A3691 - Seattle, 1890-1924 > 06

Port of Seattle, Wa.		Date	7/1/22	Manifest No.	40125/6-16
Family Name		Given Name		Accompanied by	
HIRAYAMA		Komatsu		Wife	
Place of Birth (Town, County, etc.)		Age	29 yrs	Sex	F
Kumakiya, Fukuoka		6 mos	6	W	husb
Race	Nationality	Last Permanent Residence (Town, County, etc.)		Head	Wife
Jap	Jap	Seattle, Wa.		Y	Y
Name and Address of Nearest Relative or Friend in Country from whence Alien Came					
Gen. I. Abe, 111, Agatocho, Fukuokashi, Fukuokaken.					
Year in U.S.					
Yes					
1916		1/1922		Seattle, Wa.	
Destination and Name and Address of Relative or Friend to Join Here					
Seattle, Wa. Hdb. S. Hirayama, 215, S. 5th St.					
Money Shown	Passage Paid by		Filed for Status		
\$100	hdb		adm		
Height	Complexion	Hair	Eyes	Distinguishing Marks	
5 ft 5 in	dk	bk	br	mole under R ear	
Depart and Date of Landing and Name of Steamship (in Canada)					
Entered at					
Seattle, Wa.		Via		SS. Africa Maru	
				7/20/22	



Mr. & Mrs. Hirayama and followers



In front of Konko Kyo Association, Seattle

Iso, Bunjiro, and Komatsu Hirayama



One of the immigrants in the Tacoma area influenced early on by Bunjiro Hirayama was Mr. Kamekichi Otsubo. He established his own strawberry farm, became President of the Seattle Japanese Association and the Washington River Area Farmers Association, and was well known in the community as a leader. Because of this, along with Mr. Hirayama, the Konko Faith was able to spread rapidly in the community through the respect for these men during the many pressures from the government upon immigrants. Mr. Otsubo became the President of the Seattle (and Tacoma) Mamichikai.



Rev. & Mrs. Otsubo with Mrs. Hirayama

Then, becoming ordained in 1926, he became the first immigrant Konko minister, and on November 18, 1929, established the second church in North America, the Konko Church of Tacoma.⁹

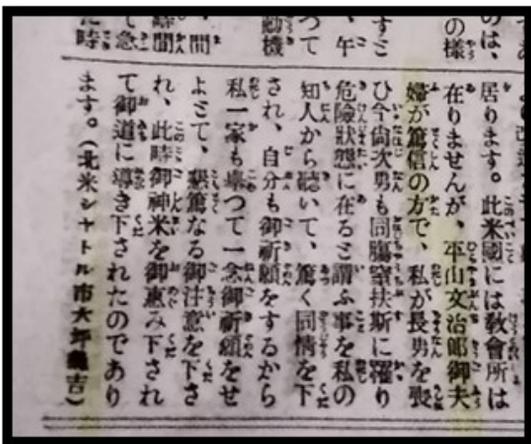
From the Konkokyo Headquarters Library
Konko Newspaper, Taisho 9 (1920), February 1

Article by
Mr. Kamekichi Otsubo

In the article, Mr. Otsubo shares how his family were members of the Amagi Church in Japan, but he himself did not really practice until the illness of his sons. He tells of the difficulties of his first son's intestinal condition caused by Typhoid. He was bleeding from below, then contracting pneumonia, bled from above. He quietly had a service when first son passed away, as his second son had contracted it as well.



At the end of the article, he mentions the Hirayamas. (Excerpt):
Here in America, there is no Konkko church, but a devoted Hirayama Bunjiro couple. After my first son died, they heard from an acquaintance of mine that my second son's life was in danger with the same illness. Supporting with deep empathy said, I will give prays for you, so please have your entire family pray wholeheartedly together.



Kindly gracing me with [sacred rice and paper] Goshinmai, they brought me into the faith.

*Kamekichi Otsubo
Seattle, America*

Mr. Hirayama had been sending letters to Konkokyo Headquarters to keep them updated of the situation in America, including writing to Rev. Kokichi Katashima telling how overjoyed he was to learn of Rev. Katashima's visit soon. Mr. Hirayama was said to have written, "It was as if I saw the light in the darkness," which indicates how difficult it must have been during those times—doing one's best without training or backup.

After his visit and assessment, Rev. Katashima recommended the two Seattle groups to merge and form the **Konko Kyo Seattle Mamichikai**.

Rev. Kokichi Katashima was the President of the Konko Young People's Federation in Japan. Throughout the 1910s and 1920s, Konkokyo Headquarters (Honbu) had been receiving letters from America regarding conditions of the Japanese immigrants and faith gatherings.

Due to the growing Konkokyo activities on the Pacific Coast and Hawaii, in 1926, Rev. Katashima was dispatched by Honbu to survey the missionary situation.

In the four months (May to September) he visited with the lay families in Seattle, Tacoma, Los Angeles, and Honolulu. He had them all form formal Mamichikais "True Way Gatherings."

(Translated from the Journal of Konkokyo Research Institute Publication #37)

In time, due to differences in opinions and personalities of Rev. Otsubo and Mr. Ueda, they both ended up leaving the Seattle Mamichikai. Thus, the Mamichikai requested a minister from Japan.

According to Rev. Yasumura's notes, Mr. Hirayama being a board member of the Seattle Mamichikai, stayed and helped with necessary duties.

Although he was one of the main people to start the gatherings, humble in nature, Bunjiro Hirayama's focus remained helping people. He assisted with Mediation goyo as his main duty, and on June 26, 1928, the Konko Kyo Seattle Mamichikai held its One Year Anniversary Service.

Shortly thereafter, Rev. Rikimatsu Hideshima arrived on July 10, 1928. On August 8, the Konko Church of Seattle was established with Rev. Hideshima as the Head Minister.



KCNA Photo

“1926 Tacoma Service.

Rev. Katashima standing at right side of altar.”



Rev. Hirayama sitting on left of altar.

奇蹟の靈驗
 永福ニヤートル市 平山文次郎
 時は今を去る三年前昭和三年四月日かの梅雨期生るるとき毎日降雨の極に雨多し多し度其の日も多しと云く朝から降りつぱり左か夕方突然タマ右柱の福山新次らの方から藤野さんといふ方と諸の私を宅を訪問し其の九藤野へのお預にたりますと二れば福山と申す一私を現成の者で昨夕タマコマリ参りて一覽は脚の腫れ此の七ノルの医師が診察をせり一是れのみ木大のすすそれと私に道の話をもとせしまりかゆあたらに



Miracle Blessing – Faith Story

Written Showa 5 (1930) Pages 425-431

By Bunjiro Hirayama Seattle, America

下げて頂き「小山を有連」頂か山す「よ」夜は睡眠の苦悶を頂か此
 ます抄」に示し「其の前後」其の長が記し此れなり
 聖百々午後福山文は診察を終りしに「刀」大く「再」私カ宅に
 参り来す「今日」診察す「や」は「腫」腫と診察し此若「三」山火は
 平衛をせぬは生不「一」道な「も」信を「あ」り「し」よ「事」あり「ま」す
 一「手」術を「行」ても「生」命の「保」証は「出」来ぬと「別」面と同「様」に「云」は
 れ「ま」す「と」は「す」れ「本」人の「大」望は「絶」望「な」る「も」う「い」ふ
 兎「も」南「二」應「タ」マに「歸」り「ま」す「と」相「談」の上「決」心「す」る「積」り「ラ」す「と」の「話」
 た「の」私「百」忠「告」々「と」本「教」の「話」を「し」頂「き」ハ「タ」コ「マ」も「金」光「放」真「道
 會」わ「り」そ「こ」は「大」坪「先」生「と」少「主」事「か」居「り」ま「す」か「ら」り「参」り
 こ「よ」お「願」ひ「は」善「寺」神「栞」に「り」健「り」ま「す」よ「の」心「で」信「心」な「し」「と」申
 「し」別「れ」ま「す」ぬ
 タ「コ」マに「歸」り「ま」す「か」ら「福」山「之」は「奥」信「と」相「談」の上 金光教「タ」コ「正」真
 道「の」心「を」頂「き」度「の」心「を」知「り」ま「す」ぬ
 通「り」腫「れ」腸「痛」に「な」る「事」あり「ま」す「タ」コ「マ」專「門」医「生」の「診」察「を」受「け」ず
 左「心」どう「も」手「術」せ「ば」な「ら」ぬ「か」然「し」そ「の」結果「と」謂「ふ」生「命」の「保
 証」は「出」来ぬ「と」事「わ」り「ぬ」そ「れ」が「ヤ」ートル「に」は「各」高「い」聖「回」運「が」ある「と
 聞」き「ま」り「ぬ」今「之」夜「診」察「を」受「け」て「み」や「う」と「ち」ら「に」来「た」か
 す「か」そ「う」し「神」栞「に」も「取」次「り」願「ひ」を「申」上「げ」て「下」さ「す」ま「す」や「う」し
 と「の」事「わ」り「ぬ」そ「こ」は「福」山「之」と「み」方「の」顔「を」見「ま」す「と」申「す」
 余「り」て「あ」り「ま」す「今」之「夜」之「腹」を「全」秘「の」重「能」心「を」祈「り「し」ぬ
 不」使「ぢ」な「り」も「私」は「腹」々「と」道「道」の「話」を「し」頂「き」
 ま「す」睡「眠」が「よ」あ「ま」る「抄」に「又」の「日」に「師」が「診」察「に」降「り」て「診」察「す
 たら」神「栞」を「頂」か「ぬ」は「な」り「事」及「初」祖「の」祈「り」を「承」り「ぬ」
 さ「し」活「甲」し「ま」り「ぬ」そ「こ」は「私」も「其」に「三」名「打」進「れ」ま「す」一「人」は「先」教「と」や
 一「ト」ル「ま」真「道」會「に」参「お」い「ぬ」故「の」由「を」取「次」し「頂」か「し」神「栞」を「一」件

This was three years ago. Although it was April, it was like monsoon season in Japan [generally June-July]. It was raining like this from the morning, but in the evening, it let up and a man from Tacoma named Shinji Fukuyama visited together with Mr. Fujino.

Mr. Fujino said, "This is Mr. Fukuyama, a relative of mine from Tacoma. He has an illness of the intestines and came to Seattle to see the doctor. I talked a lot about faith, but wish for you to speak more to him. He has intestinal cancer and has to have an operation, but the Tacoma doctor gave no guarantees. So, he came to Seattle to see a specialist [for a second opinion] and wish for you to please pray again [with him] to Kami."

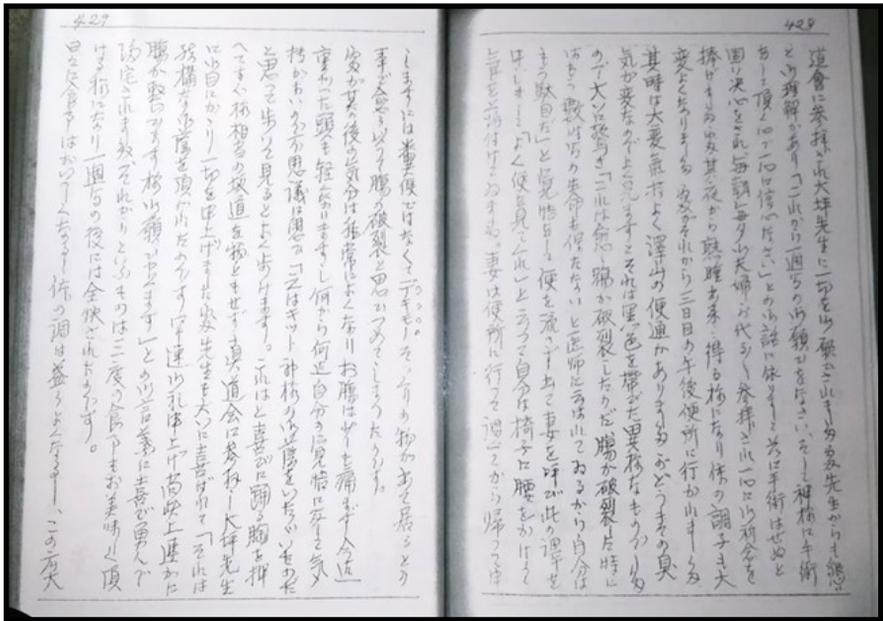
Looking at his face, he was around 40 years old, but looked thinned and ill from the cancer. I do not have a lot of virtue, but talked about faith. First, need to pray to sleep well, no mistakes by the doctor, and told him teachings of the Founder regarding praying before taking medicine.

After talking, all three of us went to the Seattle Mamichikai to seek Mediation. Mr. Fukuyama received goshinmai [sacred rice paper] and he was told to receive it with gratitude and prayers to sleep well.

The next afternoon, Mr. Fukuyama came by after his examination. He was told if he did not get the operation within three days, he would not live past a week. He was highly disappointed as it was the same result as before. I told him, "There is a Mamichikai in Tacoma with the mediator Otsubo Sensei. Continue to pray and depend on Kami there." He went home to consult his wife.

When he went to the Tacoma Mamichikai and spoke with Otsubo Sensei, he was told to pray for a week and to, "Think that Kami-Sama is performing your surgery and pray wholeheartedly (isshin)."

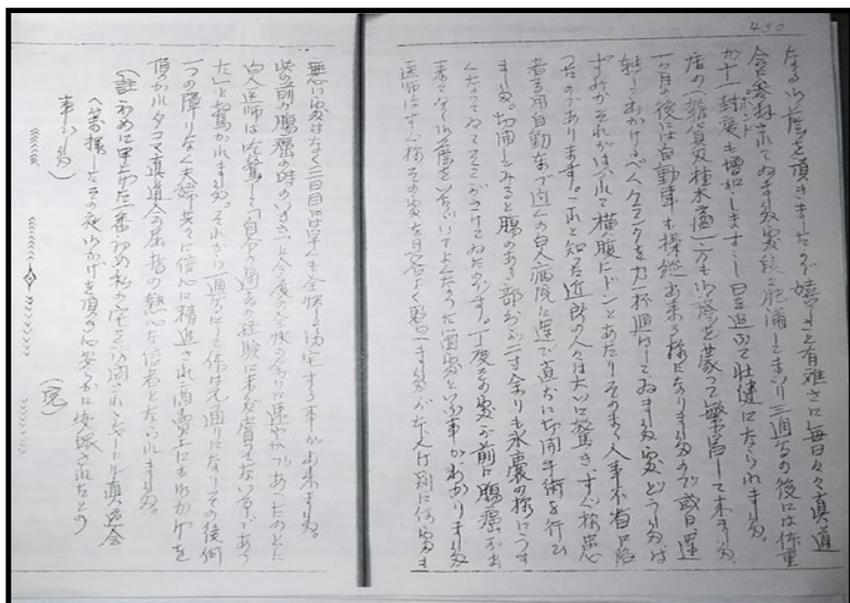
Mr. Fukuyama and his wife decided not to operate. Instead, taking turns every morning and evening, they went to worship and prayed wholeheartedly.



From that first night, his body condition improved—he felt better and was able to sleep well. On the third day, he had a large bowel movement. Because it was black and had a strange smell, he thought his intestine had ruptured and the end was near as the doctor predicted would happen. Resigning himself to his end, he called his wife to come look. She thought it looked more like some object mass than stool.

However, his stomach did not hurt and his head felt lighter. He found walking to be easier, and walked the hill to the church in gratitude to Otsubo Sensei who said, “You have received a great blessing,” and immediately relayed their gratitude to Kami. Then he said, “I will pray for a quick and smooth recovery of the stomach and intestines.”

Within one week, Mr. Fukuyama felt he had completely recovered. He was happy every day and the three meals he was now able to have each day never tasted so good. He was so grateful, he went to worship everyday. Within three weeks, he gained back 11 pounds.



His store, too, received blessings and flourished. After one month, he was able to drive. One day, having to push the crank hard, [automobiles back then had to be cranked by hand to start!], the crank slipped, hit his side, and he fainted. Seeing this, a neighbor rushed him to a nearby American hospital [rather than the local community one] where he had emergency stomach surgery. His thinned intestinal wall had ruptured.

Due to the accident, they were able to find the location of the intestinal cancer [where the mass had come off the wall of the intestine], and able to mend the thin area. He recovered, and was able to go home in three days. The American surgeon had never seen such a thing—the ease of the process of his cancer recovery and the accident that completely healed the area.

In one week his body had returned to normal and he never had any further problems. Thus, with his wife, they became one of Tacoma's strongest members.

Postscript:

First coming to my house to visit, then going to the Seattle Mamichikai, he had already begun to receive blessings from the first night he slept well.

Chapter 3: Faith in Portland and Hood River

After the Seattle Church was established, Mr. and Mrs. Moriyasu invited Bunjiro Hirayama to come and guide them in Portland. He stayed in their house for several months. However, feeling he was unworthy of performing ministerial duties without proper licensing and permission, in February 1929, he returned to the Fukuoka Church for spiritual training, and then entered the Konkokyo Seminary. It was said Bunjiro Hirayama was very formal and always wore a black suit and tie which shows he valued propriety.

Mr. Hirayama returned to the United States on March 21, 1930, and began his missionary work in Portland at 909 NW Everett Street. Upon receiving his official ordainment on May 1, 1930, with the support of believers, **Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama established the Konko Church of Portland as its Head Minister on April 1, 1931.**¹⁰ The church was moved to 53 NE Holladay Street on September 14, 1931.

Rev. Hirayama's first church was in a small family house. However, his congregation flourished and they had borrow the large hall of the Japanese School to accommodate everyone for the Spring and Autumn Grand Festivals.

To help with propagation, Mrs. Komatsu Hirayama returned to Japan for training in August of 1933 and became ordained as well.¹¹ She taught young ladies throughout the Northwest to play the koto and the Kibi dance. When Mrs. Mitsuko Nakahara (Rev. Yasumura's second daughter) was 13 years old, she went to the Portland Church alone to learn the koto and Kibi dance from Rev. Komatsu during the summer.

May 1, 1938, the church was moved to 122 NW Third Street, as this was a much larger premises and the Grand Festivals could be held there. The church and its activities were growing quickly through the faith and devotion of its ministers and believers.

Founding Lay Believers

Mr. and Mrs. Sukesaburo and Tora Moriyasu were the devoted Konko believers who asked Mr. Hirayama to move to Portland. Before a church building was purchased, they offered to have Rev. Hirayama conduct services in their home.

Mr. Katsujiro Itadani (Mrs. Tora Moriyasu's brother) was a carpenter. He constructed many of the items for the church including: altar fence, offering box, wood chairs for worship hall, amongst many other items.

Mr. and Mrs. Sugao and Osame Inouye, along with the Moriyasu family, invited Rev. Hirayama to hold services in their home before a church building was available. Mr. Sugao, donning service robes, assisted Rev. Hirayama in the services. Their family was instrumental in assisting with paperwork and finances when establishing the church.

Mr. Naoichi, Mrs. Maki, and Ms. Chise Hamada of Hood River, were deeply grateful to Revs. Hirayama. They also helped in the establishment of the Church. In appreciation, they offered boxes of apples and pears from their orchards, which was continued by their children even after their passing.

Mrs. Hisayo Akagi became one of the strongest members. She and her son, **Mr. Minoru Akagi**, were key in the plea to the KCA to not close the church after Rev. Hirayama's passing.

Mr. and Mrs. Ritsuji and Harue Akiyama

Mrs. Harue Akiyama, with her husband, was a radiant and devout member who supported the Portland Church in her generous ways.



Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama in Seminary at Konkokyo Headquarters, Okayama, Japan.



KCNA Photo: May 1930 Seattle Church Grand Ceremony

Seated (left to right) – Rev. Hirayama, Rev. Kandori,
Rev. Hideshima (Head Officiant), Rev. Otsubo,
Rev. Yasumura, Rev. Yamada, Mr. Kuniyuki”



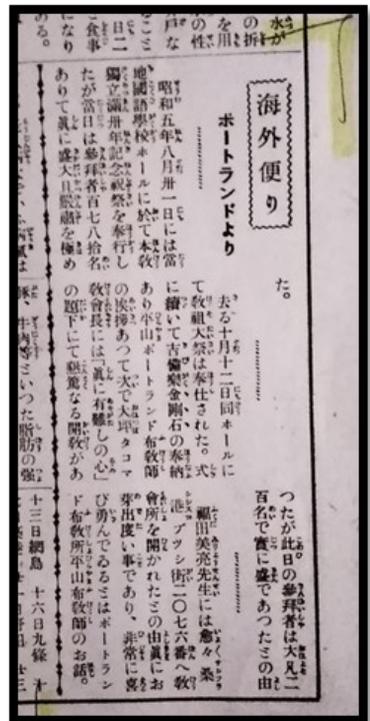
News from Overseas:

From Portland

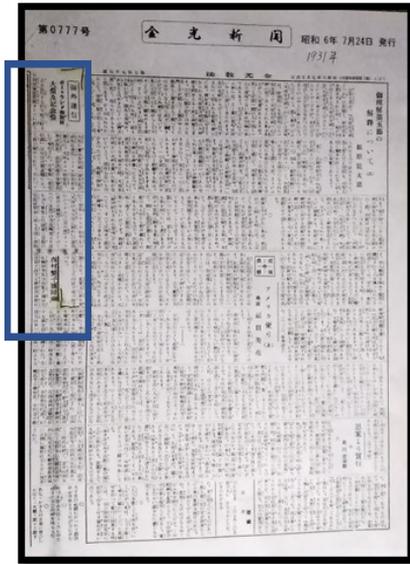
- ◆ On August 31, 1930, a service marking the third year of the establishment of Konkokyo in America was held at the Kokugo (Portland Japanese) school hall. About 180 people attended this solemn Grand Ceremony.
- ◆ On October 12 at the same location, the Founder [Ikigami Konkō Daijin] Grand Ceremony was held.

After the service, a Kibigaku [traditional Kibi music] was offered. The greeting was given by [Rev.] Hirayama of the Portland Propagation Hall. It was followed by a sermon “True Heart of Gratitude,” by Tacoma Church Head Minister [Rev.] Otsubo. The sermon received enthusiastic applause from approximately 200 people in attendance.

Same year. [Rev.] Hirayama of Portland Propagation Hall gave a congratulatory address with great pleasure to Fukuda Sensei who established a church at 2076 Bush Street, San Francisco.



From the Konkokyo Headquarters Library
Konko Newspaper, Showa 6 (1931), July 24



News from Overseas:

**Grand Ceremony and
One Year Anniversary of
Portland Propagation Hall.**

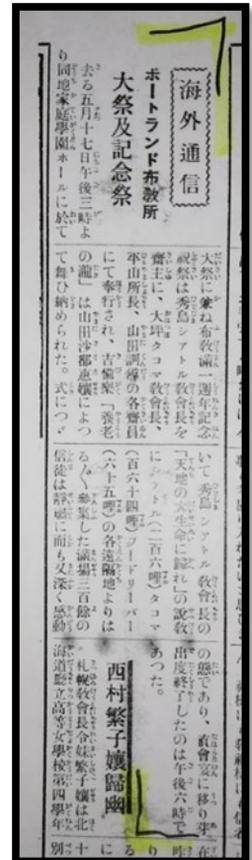
*May 17, 1931, 3:00 p.m., Katei School Hall –
Grand Ceremony and One Year Anniversary of
the Beginning of Propagation.*

*Held with Hideshima Seattle Church Head
Minister as Head Officiant, Tacoma Church
Head Minister Osubo, President Hirayama,
and Kundo Yamada.*

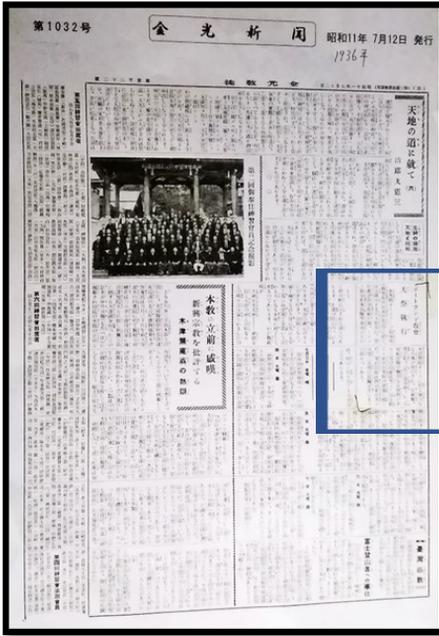
*Kibi dance was performed by Ms. Satoe Yamada
with Kibi music “Yoro no taki” by Ms. S. Yamada.*

*After the service, Rev. Hideshima, the Head
Minister of the Seattle Church, gave a sermon
on, “Returning to a Kami-Centered World.”*

*About 300 people including members from
Seattle, Tacoma, and Hood River areas attended
the service. It ended at 6 p.m.*



From the Konkokyo Headquarters Library
 Konkō Newspaper, Showa 11 (1936) July 12

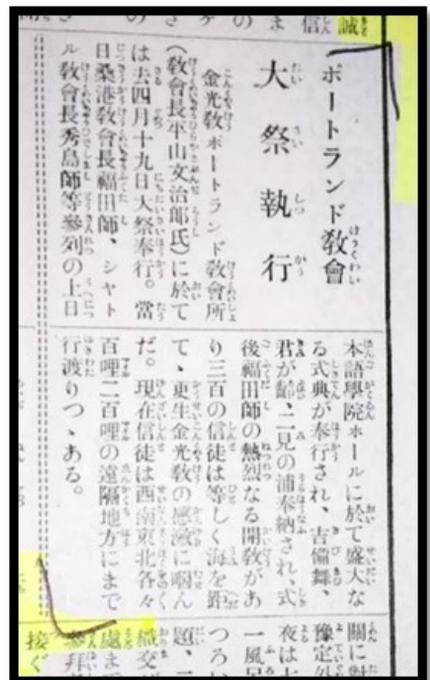


The Portland Church Grand Ceremony was solemnized at the Japanese School Hall on April 19, 1936, by Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama, Head Minister, Rev. Fukuda of San Francisco Head Minister, and Rev. Hideshima of Seattle Head Minister.

Kibi dance - Kimigayowai”
 Kibi music - “Futaminoura”

Powerful sermon was delivered by Rev. Fukuda. 300 attendees were passionately moved.

Now members are spreading 100 to 200 miles away from Portland to the southwest and to the northeast areas.



From the Konkokyo Headquarters Library
Konko Newspaper, Showa 12 (1937), December 19



Shines on Portland Konkokyo Prayer for Nation

Portland Church held the “Prayer for the Nation” at the same time as the Autumn Grand Ceremony, October 17, 2:30 p.m. The Oregon News wrote as follows:

The Autumn Grand Ceremony was solemnized at Portland Church by

Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama, Head Minister, with Rev. Otsubo and Niiyama of Tacoma Church and Moriyasu and Inouye of Portland Church on October 17, 1937. The service started from 2:30 p.m. at the second floor of the Fugetsu.

Kibi music – Mrs. Komatsu Hirayama, Mrs. Kazuko Moriyasu, Mrs. Tambara

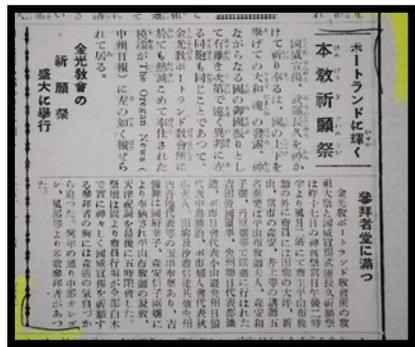
Tamagushi offerings by Representatives:

Yoshida – Dai Nippon Teikoku (Japanese Consulate), Miyako – State of Oregon Oshu Sounichi Sounichi Oshu – Iwao Koyama – Portland Japanese Society, Nakajima – State of Oregon Nichirou, Mrs. Akiyama – Portland Ladies Network, Believers from Seattle, Tacoma, and all region of the State of Oregon.

Kibi dance – Sachiko Kuniyuki, Nobuko Moriyasu

Sermon – Bunjiro Hirayama. Recited – Amatsu Prayer. End 5 p.m. Altar was all made of Japanese Cypress, which looked so divine that hearts of those attending were moved to gratitude. There were many worshipers from central Oregon and vicinities.

[Pure cypress was difficult to come by - attendees were most likely moved by the beauty and authenticity of the altar.]

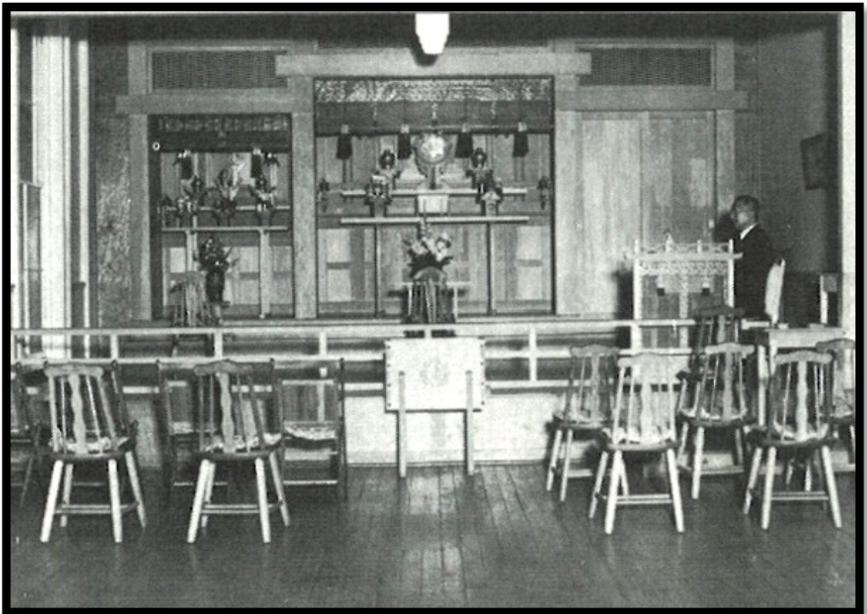




Grand Ceremony 1937-1938



Rev. Komatsu Hirayama—lead koto with Ms. Nobuko Moriyasu, Ms. Suzuko Matsushita, and Ms. Hisayo Akagi to her right. Rev. Hirayama officiating. Mrs. Iso Hirayama seated right front next to stage.



53 NE Holladay Street. Rev. Hirayama



Photograph of
Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama
in service robes

Two framed Tamagushi
were found with
Rev. Hirayama's altar
belongings

Possibly the Tamagushi used for the first
service (Dedication Ceremony or Grand
Ceremony) for the Portland Church or
first gatherings



Chapter 4: Challenges

With the outbreak of WWII, as a community leader, Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama was immediately detained on December 7, 1941. He was then sent to Missoula, Montana, then Santa Fe, New Mexico, and eventually Tule Lake, California where other Konko ministers such as Rev. Yoshiaki Fukuda of San Francisco and Rev. Isao Goto of Hollywood were also sent. There was a strong group of Konko ministers within the camps helping with their hardships.

On November 10, 1942, a letter was sent requesting consideration for Rev. Hirayama's family condition (illness of mother). Although he was paroled and able to transfer to Minidoka Camp on December 6, 1943. Letters from Revs. Fukuda, Yamada, Yasumura, and other ministers showed that they kept in contact with each other and supported one another.

Although only for a short time, Rev. Hirayama was able to be there for his mother in her final days. Mrs. Iso Hirayama passed away in the Minidoka Camp on January 20, 1944 of cancer and pneumonia, 22 days before her 88th birthday.

In the harsh conditions of the camp, Rev. Komatsu became ill in the spring of 1945 and was hospitalized for 133 days.¹² Rev. Hirayama took care of his wife while continuing to help others through Mediation, holding services in the camps, and even Mediation by postal mail.

From the National Archives and Records Administration

Wife - ~~XXXX~~ Komatsu
 Subj. born 7-26-80 (79?)

File No. (146-13)-2-61-35 NIF

ALIEN ENEMY DOCKET

NAME HIRAYAMA, (Rev) Bunjiro W. Bunjiro Hiyoyama, B.
(Surname) (Given name) (Initials)
 Hiyoyama, Bunjin Hirayama

ADDRESS 122 N.W. Third Ave., Portland, Oregon.
(No. & St.) (City or town) (State)

CUSTODY RECORD

Apprehended at _____ arrested date 12-7-41

Detained at _____ date _____

Transferred to Camp Missoula, Mont. date _____
 Returned to INS-interned Santa Fe, NM 6-7-43
 Alien Enemy Proceedings terminated 11/15/45 *

DISPOSITION Intermediate Final

Released _____

Paroled Int. paroled & Inducted in Minidoka
12-3-43 12-6-43 3-10-44

Interned _____
4-10-42
76 Sid, Okla.

WARRANT Date

Requested _____
 Issued _____
 Denied _____

BOARD RECOMMENDATION

Release _____ * 11-29-43
 Parole _____
 Internment XX 2-2-42

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ORDER

Release _____
 Parole WRC - 1-26-44
 Internment XXX 2-16-42

CHANGE OF STATUS

Released _____
 Paroled 10-18-45
 Interned _____
 Parole Violation _____
 A.G.'s amended Order _____

DATE	REMARKS
1-27-42	FBI report 1-13-42. Hearing by Oregon Board Feb. 2, 1942.
2-5-42	F.B.I. report 1-13-42 Presently in custody of U.S.B.I. at Camp Missoula, Montana. C.D. card received from Bureau. Subject was arrested
2-11-42	Report and Recommendation; Notice of Hearing; Alien Enemy Questionnaire.
2-14-42	FBI Report dated 1-30-42.
2-18-42	ORDER OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR INTERMENT OF THE SUBJECT. Memo to Chief of Review Section dated 2-12-42.
4-22-42	FBI Report for period 2-2, 12, 14, 25-42
12-6-41	Dossier
11-10-42	Lr. fm sub. Asking for consideration as to the welfare of his family.
12-31-42	Lr. to sub: Enclosing material describing procedure in applying for rehearing and relating to family camps.
11-30-42	Pet. for F.I.: - I wish...family internment. Have no info they desire same. Have not applied for repatriation. 11-10-42 11-9-43
3/18/43	Behavior report from War Department.
7-31-43	Lr fm USA: Transmits form 1r requesting rehearing by Subj. Believe he is loyal to Japan.
8-28-43	Lr fm USA: Encl affidavits submitted. HB does not recommend rehearing.
10-28-43	Lr fm Wife: re applicn for rehearing submtd to USA -8-10-43, expedite parole to Minidoka WEA Cent. 5311 8-24-43 3-11-42 6-9-45

HIRAYAMA (Rev.) Bunjiro		REMARKS Page # 2
Date of Item	Type of Item	Subject-matter of Item
11-11-43	Lr to Wife	If rehearing should be accorded subject, he will be notified in due course. AC.
11-8-43	Lr fm Jensen	(INS) Enclosing lr rec'd fm the Spanish Consul dated 11-4-43. Advise whether subject is being considered for parole.
11-12-43	Pet. fr temp Parole	Fr subject to visit sick mother at Hunt Idaho
11-24-43	Air Mail to Di	Hiralamo, Santa Fe: Req. subj's case be heard first day of the session, & decision telg. to this Unit. If Di's recomm. is parole or release, you are authorized to direct subj's interim parole. If subj's mother is desperately ill, interim parole may be authorized by this Unit under any circumstances.
11-30-43	Tele. fm diG	Released subject & notified local officer TS.
not dated	Hr. Bd. Recom.	James Wolfe, member of Hr. Bd. dissents from recom. subj. release unless he would be under surveillance. No objection of visiting his sick mother.
11-30-43	Lt fm diG	Bunjiro Hirayama was accorded rehearing & recommended release by majority opinion. I authorized release of the subject.
12-4-43	Lt to diG	His ltr merely authorized to direct subj's interim parole & hopes that ltr was intended to indicate you authorized release from custody on interim parole and not his unconditional release. EJC
12-9-43	Lr fm diG, Santa Fe	Explaining ltr 11-30-43: Release from custody would be covered by the order of AG specifying whether the subj's release would be parole, unconditional release or interim parole.

Page #3		REMARKS
Date of Item	Type of Item	Subject-matter of Item
12-20-43	Lr. fm State Dept	Enclosing copy of memo fm Spanish Embassy concerning application of subject to visit family. (146-13-2-0)
12-31-43	Lr to State Dept	This case now before Unit for review & as soon as decision is reached, Subj. will be notified. LR (146-13-2-0)
12-29-43	Lr fm Wife	Advise if rehearing has been held & if Subj. will be paroled.
12-31-43	Chg of Status	Paroled - 12-6-43 - inducted into Minidoka WRC, Hunt, Idaho.
1-7-44	Chg of Status	Correction of above - Interim paroled 12-6-43 & inducted into Minidoka WRC, Hunt, Idaho.
1-15-44	Memo fm State Dept	Advise us when decision is reached so we may inform the Spanish Embassy. (in file 146-13-2-12-1569)
1-29-44	Lr to State Dept	Ack above; AG Ordered Subj. paroled to WRC on 1-26-44 & Unit has been advised by WRA that Subj. has been accepted at Minidoka WRC. ABD
1-20-44	FBI Rept	Period 11-29-43; 1-20-44.
2-19-44	Lr to Wife	Ack your recent lr; Subj. ordered paroled to WRC when facilities permit. IM
3-1-44	Lr fm Rui Shirovama	Above lr is not about my husband - his name is Kansaku Shirovama - #12-3055. Advise if he is to be paroled? (12-3055)
4-24-44	Lr to WRA	Encl list of Japs ordered paroled to WRC, Subj. is one. (2-06)
10-27-44	FBI Report	Perion 10-21-44. No derogatory info developed since internment.
10-27-45	Chge status	Subj has re-located at Portland Oreg - on indefinite leave.
11-25-45	Chge status*	AE Proceedings terminated 11/15/45 - Legal resident US. 4-25-44 Kishimoto 2-4-44

Rev. Hiramata at Tule Lake Internment Camp.
 Rev. Fukuda of San Francisco and Rev. Yasumura of Sacramento to
 the right. Rev. Goto of Hollywood to the far left. Rev. Tsuyuki of
 Los Angeles in front with cap, among others.



Rev. Komatsu and Mrs. Iso Hiramata in Minidoka Records



RESIDENTS OF BLOCK THIRTY-FOUR

BARRACK 5	BARRACK 7	BARRACK 9	BARRACK 11
A—Tambara, Tadashi Kikuno, Henry	A—Ichibori, Shigezo Yoshio, Takeo Yoshida, Denkichi	A—Marumoto, Minejiro Hatsune, Mary	A—Akimoto, Shozo Jun Sachiko
B—Nishimura, Matsutaro Kiyu, Tatsuko Richard, Kiku George	B—Kimura, Gikan Kazuko, Mitsuko Yoshimasa	B—Nakata, Aisuo Yuka, Harry Mary, Smith	B—Okazaki, Harry
C—Katada, Hikoichi Kazuyo, Jane Tom	C—Hohara, Kumao Yoshiye, Kmie Tomie, Terue	C—Kondo, Toshiko Martha, Floyd Gordon	C—Kojima, Aizo Kumiko Setsuko Harumi
D—Matsunaga, Henry Ayame, Robert Setsuko Keiko	D—Sasaki, Sam Mine Yayoi Fumiko	D—Shoji, May Mitsuru Orga George Mabel	D—Otagiri, Ryujiro Tazuko
E—Tahara, Yokichi Haruno Toshiko Yoshio Fumiko Sachiko	E—Matsunaga, Sakae Tomiko Jerry Smith Patricia	E—Akiyama, Masaji Sawano James Ruby Mary	E—Shimomura, Matsue Katsuko
F—Itoyama, Kohachi Yukie	F—Usuda, Hide Martha Mae	F—Sakano, Jiro Grace Phyllis	F—Kaneko, Shizo Takeye Amy
BARRACK 6	BARRACK 8	BARRACK 10	BARRACK 12
			G—Hiramata, Komatsu Iso H—Kinoshita, Kazuo Ami Jane

Revs. Komatsu and Bunjiro Hirayama
in front of Minidoka Camp
First Aid Office



Rev. Hirayama
Mrs. Hisayo Akagi (left)
Member (right)



Rev. Komatsu (left)
and Mrs. Suzuko Matsushita

Revs. Hirayama (left), Mrs. Matsushita (right)
Member (front)

Surviving Mediation Record books during internment

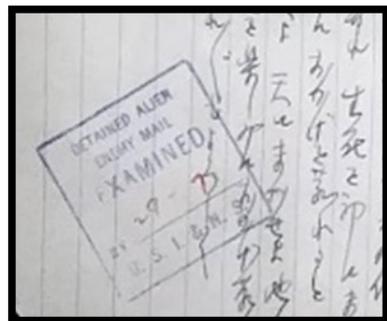


Surviving letters between 12/8/1944-9/11/1945



Akagai, Hedro—Ft. Snelling, MN
 Akiyama, S/U. - Heart Mt., WY
 Akiyama, Sudaki – Ft. Douglas, UT
 Arai, N. – Denver, CO
 Aramaki, A—Ontario, OR
 Atagiri, R—Chicago, IL
 Ebihara, T—Portland, OR
 Fukuda, Yoshiaki—Crystal City, TX
 Hachiya, F. – Chicago, IL
 Hamada, N. – Parkdale, OR
 Hamada, Chimiko – Parkdale, OR
 Hijiya, F Kohei – Spokane, WA
 Hijiya, George—McCloskey Hsp, TX
 Iwasa, H—Heart Mt., WY
 Iwata, Richard—Ft. Douglas, UT
 Katagiri, Jae—Indianapolis, IN
 Katayama, J – Parkdale, OR
 Kihara, C Y – Heart Mt., WY
 Kimura—Glendale, OR
 Koyama, Keri – Portland, OR
 Kubota, F – Seattle, WA
 Kumasaka—Newell, CA
 Kuniyuki, K – Spokane, WA
 Matsumura, Nellie—Weiser, ID
 Mcpherson, Kage – St. Louis, MO
 Moraiya, I—Spokane, WA
 Moriyasu, Nobuko—Cleveland, OH

Murakami, John—NY, NY
 Muramatsu, Frank—Camp Hood, TX
 Niiyama, F—Newell, CA
 Nishimura, S—Seattle, WA
 Nishimura, Ume – Chicago, IL
 Okuda – Amache, CO
 Otsubo, K – New York, NY
 Saito, S—Heart Mt., WY
 Sandblast, L.B.—Portland, OR
 Sakamoto, H – Portland, OR
 Scheffield, N – Chicago, IL
 Suzuki, Mr. Mrs. K—Chicago, IL
 Tambara, George—FT Snelling, MN
 Torii, T – St. Paul, MN
 Yabuno – Fresno, CA
 Yamada, A—Heart Mt., WY
 Yamajisawa, S – Highland Park, IL
 Yasumura, Yasukichi—Newell, CA



Pvt Frank Muramatsu
Co C, 155 Bn 92 Regt
Camp Hood, Texas

Feb 25 (1945)

Post Frank Muramatsu 27753-112
Co C, 155 Bn 92 Regt
Camp Hood, Texas

CAMP HOOD, TEXAS
FEB 25 1945

Free

Mr. Hirayama
34-2-F
Hazel, Idaho

Feb 25 -

Dear Mr. Hirayama -
May I take these few minutes to thank you for the generous gift I received from you when I departed for this army. I have been here two weeks and on a Sunday as this - is the only time I have free time to write letters and such. This life is quite the opposite of the easy one I led when I was going to school.
I am with a lot of "Haku jin" boys so we Niseis were not put together to form one company. I like it better this way. All of the boys are very friendly and during off hours - I have

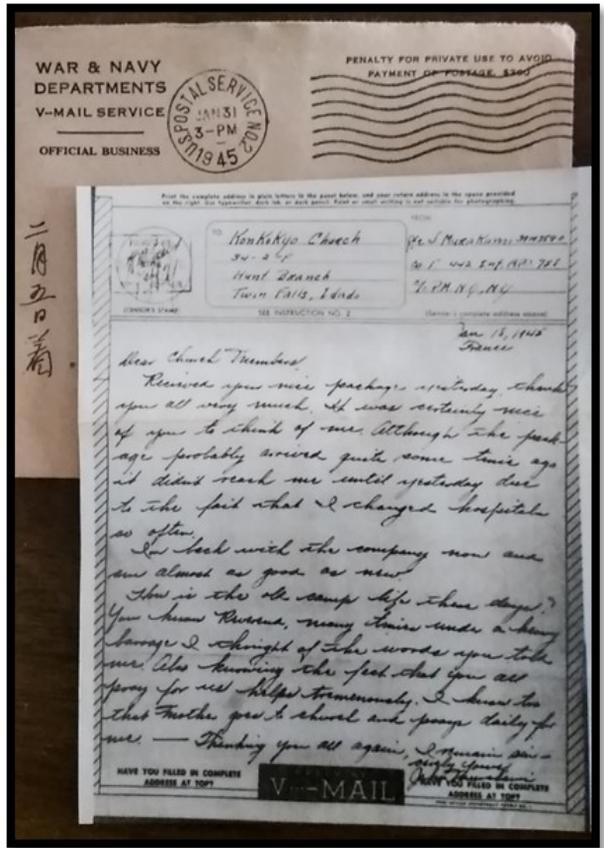
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I have been here two weeks and on a Sunday as this - is the only time I have free time to write letters and such. This life is quite the opposite of the easy one I led when I was going to school.

I am with a lot of "Haku jin" [Caucasian] boys so we Niseis [second generation Japanese] were not put together to form one company. I like it better this way. All of the boys are very friendly and during off hours - I have fun.

Before closing I would like to thank you again for the wonderful gift. Wishing you all the best of luck - I remain as ever, Frank



Konkokyo Church
34-2-F
Hunt Branch
Twin Falls, Idaho

P/c J Murakami
NY, NY

Jan 18, 1945
France

Dear Church members,

Received your nice package yesterday, thank you all very much. It was certainly nice of you to think of me. Although the package probably arrived quite some time ago it didn't reach me until yesterday due to the fact that I changed hospitals so often.

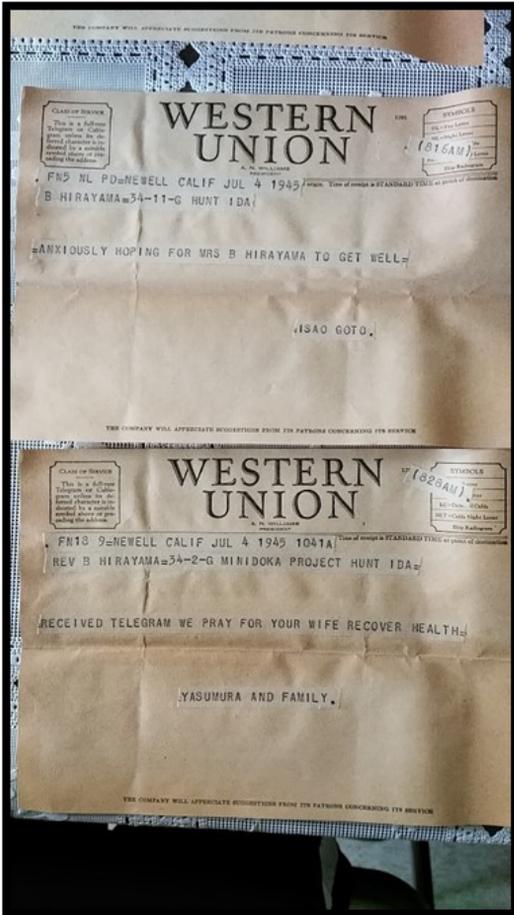
I'm back with the company now and seem almost as good as new.

How is the old camp life these days? You know Reverend, many times under a heavy barrage I thought of the words you told me. Also knowing the fact that you all pray for us helps tremendously. I know that mother goes to church and prays daily for me.

---Thanking you all again, I remain sincerely yours,
John Murakami

Telegraphs

From: Isao Goto, Yasumura and Family



Anxiously hoping for Mrs B Hirayama to get well.

T. Niyama

I am very sorry to hear that your wife is very sick and I'm praying daily that she get well soon.

R. Sakashita

Anxiously hoping for Mrs B Hirayama to get well

R. Mishimoto

Unable to recover from her illness, Rev. Komatsu Hirayama passed away at 52 years old on July 20, 1945, only a few weeks before the war's end.

Although there were internees released from as early as January, Rev. Hirayama returned alone to Portland on October 16, 1945.

(Minidoka Camp officially closed on October 28, 1945)

Many members did not return to Portland. Most properties and valuables left of the Japanese community had been taken over or confiscated. Therefore, people had to start over from nothing.



Beautiful gravestone for
Mrs. Iso and Rev. Komatsu Hirayama

Japanese Section
Rose City Cemetery, Portland, Oregon

With only a few members, Rev. Hirayama made even greater efforts to re-establish the Portland Church. According to the notes of Mrs. Shizuko Hachiya who was a devoted believer of Rev. Hirayama, he once said,

“Even though I am 70 years old, when I do Kami’s duty, I always feel like a handsome young seventeen-year-old.”

It was this spirit that had allowed Rev. Hirayama to continue.

In 1949, at the age of 69, he purchased property at: 1317 NE Third Avenue and restarted the church with Ms. Suzuko Matsushita. As she was widowed, they married on April 27, 1949.¹³

A long time believer who was devoted to taking care of the church and the Hirayama family from the beginning, **Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama**, supported Rev. Hirayama with all the duties necessary in running the church.



Portland Church
on 1317
NE Third Avenue

A member, Rev. and Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama, Mrs. Hisayo Akagi
in front of the new church



Mrs. Eiko Kuroye, Rev. Hirayama, Mrs. Akagi, Rev. Michiaki Yoshiki
Rev. Yoshiki came from Fukuoka Church to help with propagation



June 1959 – Portland Church Grand Ceremony



(L to R) Mr. Kuniyuki, Rev. Fumio Matsui, Mrs. Nobuko Moriyasu, Rev. Hirayama, Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama, Rev. Michiaki Yoshiki, Rev. Isao Goto



Photo dated July 12, 1953
Rev. & Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama with the
Moriyasu and Soejima Families



(Right picture) Mrs. Tora Moriyasu with grandson Y. Takasugi
(Left picture)
Rose Moriyasu (Eguchi) – back right corner
Frances Nobuko Moriyasu (Soejima) in between the Hirayamas
Mr. & Mrs. Soejima (bottom right and top left ends)

September 1962

Rev. & Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama
Mrs. Maki Hamada (left)

(Last photo Rev. Hirayama)



Chapter 5: Passing and Contributions

Though good times, severe hardship, and to the end of his life, Rev. Hirayama devoted himself to helping people and teaching them how they could receive blessings through Konko Daijin's teachings. Thus, establishing a firm foundation for the Konko Church of Portland.

Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama passed away on September 17, 1969 at the age of 89.¹⁴

Rev. Isao Goto of the Hollywood Church became the interim Head Minister, and Rev. Michihiro Yuasa from the Seattle Church came twice a month to officiate services and support the Portland Church.

With devoted believers, Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama continued to run the church with wholehearted efforts after Rev. Hirayama's passing. Even a year later, when she had to be cared for by her eldest daughter, she still continued praying diligently from her bed for a new minister to come and take care of the Portland Church.

It was not until after the 1971 Autumn Grand Ceremony, when Rev. Isao Goto took the young Rev. Nobuharu Uzunoe to Mrs. Suzuko's daughter's house and introduced him as the Portland Church's successor-to-be, that she was satisfied and fulfilled. Two months later, on January 18, 1972, she passed away very peacefully.

Funeral for Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama
 Officiated by Reverends (left to right):
 Michihiro Yuasa, Fumi Niyama, Isao Goto, Shinko Fukuda,
 Hiromichi Kimura, Fumio Matsui



Front: Hirayama Family Gravestone



Back: (Right to Left)
 Konko Church of Portland
 Hirayama, Iso (Divine name)
 Iyatou michimori saki
 mitama ootoji (now "hime")
 no mitama no kami

1944, January 20
 Died in Minidoka

Hirayama, Komatsu
 Umashi/Kami magokoro
 kazutae hime no mitama

1945, July 20
 Died in Minidoka

Hirayama, Bunjiro (Ushi)
 1969, September 17

**Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama and Family's
Contributions to the Konko Faith in North America**

Establishing the Konko Kyo Association in Seattle as lay believers, Bunjiro and Komatsu Hirayama laid the foundation for the beginnings of the first church established in North America.

Backed by the strong faith of Iso Hirayama, they also influenced many people who later became ministers and established churches of their own.¹⁵ Of them were:

*Rev. Kamekichi Otsubo,
who established the Konko Church of Tacoma,*

*Rev. Yasukichi Yasumura,
who established the Konko Church of Sacramento,*

*Rev. Asataro Yamada,
who established the Konko Church of San Jose, and*

*Rev. Fumi Niiyama,
who became a minister at Konko Church of Gardena.*

Then, establishing the Konko Church of Portland, they firmly rooted the Konko Faith in the Northwest. Rev. Komatsu Hirayama taught and passed on the tradition of Kibi music and dance.

Had the Hirayama Family not come to North America, the Konko Faith would have looked very different today. Their contributions cannot be emphasized enough.

April 25, 1965

Portland Church Tenchi Kane No Kami Grand Ceremony
&
35th Anniversary



Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama received an appreciation plaque
from Headquarters for serving 40 years as a minister

Chapter 6: Encounters and Teachings

Rev. Hirayama had many teachings, but I shall not forget the one which impressed me the most. It pertained to the championship baseball play-off. I was a teenage pitcher for the Portland Midgets. Prior to the game, I went to church in my uniform to pray.

Rev. Hirayama taught me never pray to win, but to perform your very best for a good, clean ball game, regardless of the outcome. I followed his teaching, and with timely hits and splendid defense, we captured the championship, winning by one run. It was a hard-fought and well-played ballgame by both sides.

**- Mr. Jerry Inouye, late Portland Church President
(son of Sugao and Osame Inouye)**

Mrs. Eiko Kuroye was introduced to Rev. Hirayama by Mrs. Hisayo Akagi. The first time Eiko felt the need to go to church was to pray for a specific wish—to recover from an illness and to become physically healthy. She recalls Rev. Hirayama telling her, “Let’s pray together for one week.” Receiving blessings within that week, Eiko was deeply grateful to Kami and has been a believer ever since.

- Mrs. Eiko Kuroye, late Portland Church believer

Living with the influence of my mother’s faith and with Rev. Hirayama’s guidance and teachings, little by little, I have come to have a heart of gratitude towards Kami-Sama. I pray that I can introduce these great teachings to those around me, so that they too can achieve their happiness. I start every morning with a prayer from the teaching that says, “Receive blessings today so that large problems will become small, and small problems to become none.” I hope I can help and work more for others to make Kami-Sama happy, and pray for world peace.

- Mrs. Hisako Saito, late Portland Church believer

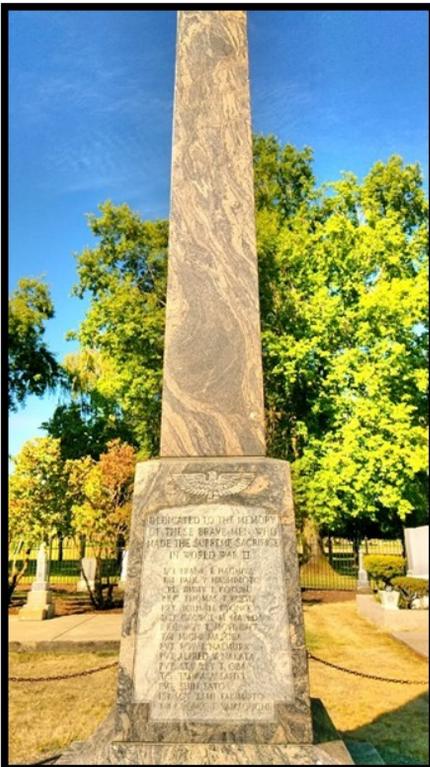
Mrs. Komano (Shizuko) Hachiya

Mrs. Hachiya went to Japan with her second son to visit relatives, however, when the United States entered WWII, she was separated, unable to return to her husband and eldest son in America.



Inspired by Rev. Hirayama's faith back in Portland, she stayed in Okayama, Japan near Konko. There, she held sewing lessons while teaching the women about blessings and teachings had she learned from Rev. Hirayama.

Within a year, many people sought Mediation from her. She never became a minister, but helped others throughout her life.



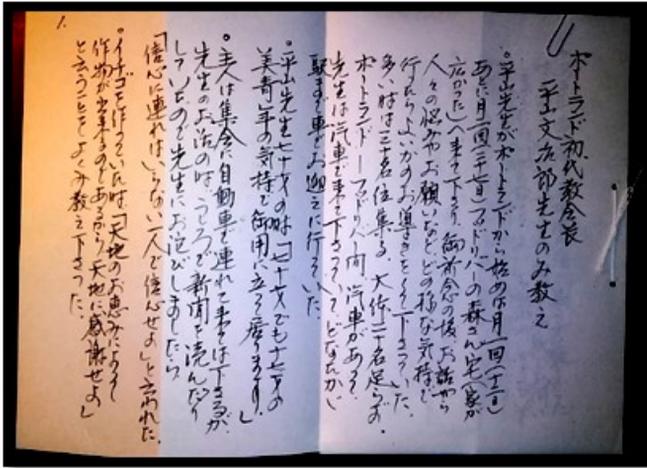
Her second son, his wife, and their daughter continue their faith at the Gardena Church today. Her eldest son Private Frank T. Hachiya rests in Portland, his name engraved at the top of the Rose City Cemetery Nikkei Veteran's Monument.

Until this year (2019), we did not have any solid quoted teachings.

Researching for this biography, the Konko Library found a record of observations and teachings, orated by Shizuko Hachiya.

We are deeply grateful to Mrs. Hachiya for preserving Rev. Hirayama's precious words.

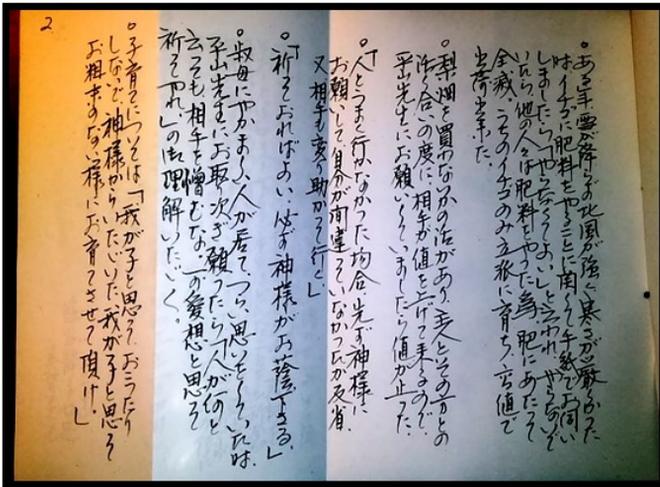
**“Portland Church Founder
Head Minister Bunjiro Hirayama Teachings”**



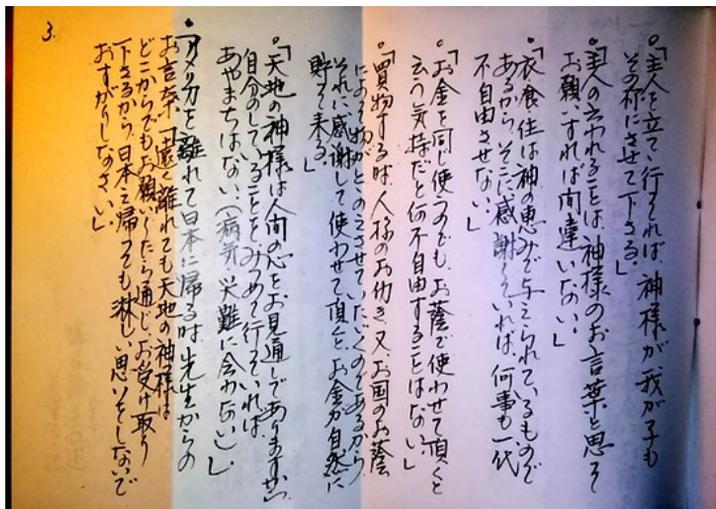
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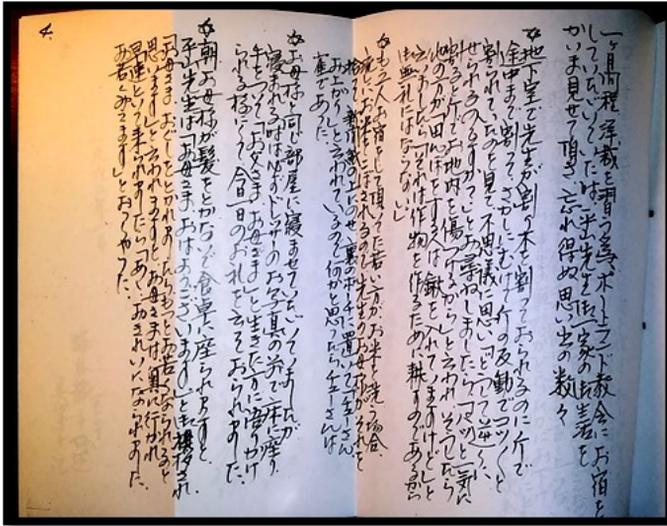
- ◇ At first, Hirayama Sensei came for us once a month (on the 12th), later twice a month (on the 12th and 27th) to Mori San’s house in Hood River (his house was big). After prayers, guided us on what kind of heart to receive teachings, people’s sufferings, and requests. [After prayers, listened to people, then guided on how to pray and make requests.] When crowded, about 30 people were gathered.
- ◇ There was a train from Portland to Hood River. Sensei would come by train and someone would pick him up by car from the station.
- ◇ When Hirayama Sensei was 70 years old, he said “Even though I am 70 years old, when I do Kami’s duty, I always feel like a handsome young 17 year-old.”
- ◇ My husband would drive me to the gatherings in a car, but during Sensei’s talks he would do things like sit in the back and read the newspaper. So, when I apologized to Sensei I was told, “You don’t need a partner for faith, practice faith by yourself.”
- ◇ When growing strawberries, I often received teachings like, “As produce is grown by the blessings of Tenchi. Appreciate Tenchi.”



- ◇ One year, it did not snow. There was a strong North wind and it was bitter cold. When I asked in a letter about adding fertilizer to my strawberries, being told, “You don’t have to give [fertilizer],” I did not add any. People who had added fertilizer ended up with complete losses from fertilizer poisoning. Our strawberries grew nicely and we were able to sell at a high price.
- ◇ There was an incident when deciding whether or not to buy a pear orchard. Each time my husband and the seller negotiated, the price would go up. When I prayed to Hirayama Sensei about this, the price stopped [rising].
- ◇ “In the case things are not going well with someone, first pray to Kami to confirm that you were not the one mistaken. Also, the other person will change and be saved, too.”
- ◇ “It is good to keep praying. Kami will certainly grant blessings.”
- ◇ There was someone who was bossy and strict (*urusai*) in my aunt’s life and she was suffering through difficult emotions. When I sought Mediation from Hirayama Sensei, he said, “No matter what people say, do not hate them. Think or have pity on them and pray for them.”
- ◇ Regarding raising kids, “Instead of thinking they are just your own and scolding your children, raise them without waste [take care of them well] while thinking they are the children you received from Kami.”

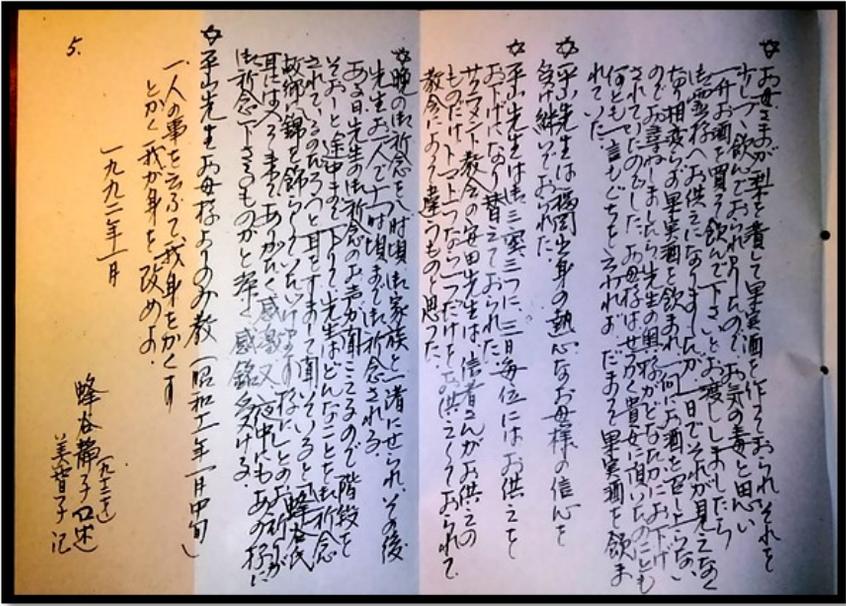


- ◇ “If you respect your husband, Kami-Sama will have your child do the same.” [Similar to if you treat your parents well, your children will treat you well. Children copy their parents.]
- ◇ “If you pray thinking that what your husband tells you are words from Kami, there will be no mistakes.”
- ◇ “Because clothing, food, and houses are things that have received Kami’s blessings and virtue, if you appreciate these things, you will not be without [necessities] your whole life.”
- ◇ “While spending money, if you have the heart that you are being allowed to spend through the blessings of Kami instead of by your own will, then you will not be inconvenienced in life.”
- ◇ “When shopping, if you allow yourself to buy while appreciating people’s workings and the virtue of the country which allows you to buy goods, then money will naturally build up.”
- ◇ “Because Tenchi no Kami can see through people’s hearts, if you keep reflecting upon yourself, you will not make mistakes (no illness or tragedy).”
- ◇ Words from Sensei when leaving America and returning to Japan, “Even if you are far away, because Tenchi No Kami will receive your prayer from anywhere, even after returning to Japan, instead of being sad, rely on Kami.”



- ◆ Staying at the church for one month while I was learning to sew, I was allowed to observe unforgettable memories of Hirayama Sensei's household and family lifestyle.
- ◆ In the basement, although Sensei was chopping wood, partway though he would stop and turn it upside down, and “tink tink” hit that side with his ax. Thinking this was strange, when I asked, “Why do you do so?”
He replied, “Because if you `chop’ with one breath all the way through, it will scar the earth.” Then someone said, “Those who work in the fields use a pick to dig the earth.” He replied, “That is to cultivate the ground to make food so it does not become disrespectful.”
- ◆ Another young person who was staying at the church spilled grains of rice while washing it. Sensei's mother put them on a newspaper and put it on the back porch saying, “chu-san, please eat.” Wondering what they were, the “chu-san” turned out to be sparrows. [chu is a sound like squeak or chirp]
- ◆ I was allowed to sleep in the same room as Okasama [Honorific like saying “Great Mother”, referring to Hirayama Sensei's mother.] Always before she slept, she sat in front of her dresser with her parents' pictures and as if speaking to living persons, put her hands down to bow, “Father, Mother...” and gave thanks [for that day].

- ◆ In the morning when Okasama would come to the table without fixing her hair, Hirayama Sensei would greet her, “Good morning mother.” When he said, “Mother, if you groom your hair, I believe you will look much younger,” she would go back and fix her hair. When she came back he would say, “Oh, you’ve become beautiful and look much younger.”



Page 5

- ◆ Okasama would crush pears and make wine from them. She would drink this a little at a time. Feeling bad, I bought a bottle of wine and asked her to please drink it. Okasama offered it to the church’s Mitama altar. It disappeared [from the altar] by the next day. However, when I noticed she kept drinking the pear wine as always and not the one I purchased, I inquired about it. It turned out that Hirayama Sensei’s wife took it down and gave it away to some church member. Okasama did not even complain once that it was bought for her [by me], but only kept drinking her pear wine.
- ◆ Hirayama Sensei inherited the passionate faith of his mother who was from Fukuoka.

- ◆ Hirayama Sensei would make, then take down offerings every three days on the three sanbo. Sacramento Church's Yasuda Sensei [Yasumura Sensei] only offered what his believers brought. If only one tomato was brought, he offered only one tomato. Observing this I thought, surely each church is different.
- ◆ I join the family at the evening services held at 8 p.m. Afterwards, Hirayama Sensei prays by himself until 11 p.m. One evening, hearing him praying, I quietly went partway down the stairs to hear what kind of prayer he was making. Listening carefully I heard the prayer, "...Mrs. Hachiya to have a successful return to Japan..." I was appreciative and impressed that he prayed for me during the night in this way. I was deeply moved.
- ◆ Teaching from Okasama:
(Showa 11, mid-January) [1936]

"You hide yourself by saying things about others.
Renew yourself."

1992 January

Shizuko Hachiya – Dictated (92 years old)

Michiko Hachiya - Scribed

Prayer for Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama
Recited at the Konko Church of Portland

これのおしえやのしずめのかみ われらおしえごまめびとの まもりのかみと

此れの 教舎の 鎮めの霊神 我ら教え子信徒の 守りの神と
KORENO OSHIEYANO SHIZUMENOKAMI WARERA OSHIEGO MAMEBITONO MAMORINOKAMITO
To the honorable and eternally virtuous Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama who rests here at the

もちいつく ひらやまのうしのうづのみまえに つつしみうやまいて もうさく

もちいつく平山の大人の宇豆の 御前に 慎み敬いて申さく。
MOCHIITUKU HIRAYAMANO USHINO UZUNO MIMAENI TUTUSHIMI UYAMAITE MOUSAKU
Mitama Altar as the calm and guardian Spirit. We, followers and members sincerely

うしがひとよの みいさおは ふードのみねの はやましげやま いやたかに

大人が一代の御功績は フードの峰の 葉山繁山 弥高に
USHIGA HITOYONO MIISAOWA FUUDO NO NINENO HAYAMASHIGEYAMA IYATAKANI
pray with utmost respect. Your lifetime accomplishments reach higher than the tallest trees surrounding Mt. Hood

みうつくしみの みこころは たいへいようやえの しおじのいやひろに

御慈しみの 御心は 太平洋八重の 潮路の弥広に
MIUTUKUSHIMINO MIKOKOROHA TAIHEIYOU YAENO SHIOJI NO IYAHIRONI
Your affectionate heart is broader that the Pacific Ocean, as far as the waves flow.

あしたゆうべに あおぎたたえまつりつつ われらがいそしむ かんわぎに

明日夕べに 仰ぎ称え奉りつつ 我らが勤しむ 神業に
ASHITA YUUBENI AOGITATAE MATURETSUTSU WARERAGAIOSHIMU KANWAZANI
While we revere and praise you morning and night, through your great virtue

われらがはげむなりわいに うつそみにもいやまさりて みたまのふゆを

我らが励む産業に 現世にも弥勝りて 御霊の恩頼を
WARERAGA HAGEMU NARIWAINI UTUSOMINIMO IYAMASARITE MITAMANOFUYUWO
please continue to bestow divine blessings as we will work and put forth our greatest

こうむらしめたまい じゆうのくにの みたみとあれ

蒙らしめ給い 自由の国の 御民とあれ
KOUMURASHIMETAMAI JIYUNOKUNINO MITAMITOARE
effort to fulfill the Divine Work within our daily lives. We, the people of this free

まことのみちのまめびととある ほまれをおみのほどを つくさしめ

真の道の信徒とある 誉れを臣のほどを 尽くさしめ

MAKOTO NOMICHINO MAMEBITOTOARU HOMAREWO OMINOHODOWO TUKUSASHIME
country, as believers of this way of faith will do our best with honor and dignity,

うみのこの すえとうながく たちさかゆべく まもり あなない みちびき

子孫の 末遠永く 建ち栄ゆべく 守り 教い 導き

UMINOKONO SUETOUNAGAKU TACHISAKAYUBEKU MAMORI ANANAI MICHIBIKI
so that you may protect, teach, and lead the way forever into the future for our

たまえともうす。

給えと申す。

TAMAETOMOUSU

descendants. For this we humbly pray.

Chapter 7: Workings of Mitama Continued

We know Rev. Hirayama and the Hirayama family's spirits continue to support the Portland Church, as we can see and feel their workings.

Rev. Michie Uzunoe (Senior Minister, Portland Church)

Altar Boat. Rev. Michie's visa to come to the United States was taking longer than it should have. Getting worried about whether she would ever be able to go, one night she had a dream she was drifting on the ocean hanging on to an altar table when she saw the Hawaiian Islands ahead. Thinking, "This is halfway to America, I can make it!" after waking up she realized "Kami showed me I am able to go to America," so to wait patiently. She felt relieved. What was strange was that the altar table she was floating on was three-tiered. She had never seen or heard of a three-tiered altar table as one piece before. Months later, upon arriving in Portland, she saw this three-tiered altar piece being used at the Portland altar. Rev. Michie felt Hirayama Sensei's spirit had eased her worries and pulled her across the Pacific Ocean.

Ask and You Shall Receive. In 1974, shortly before Rev. Hirayama's Five Year Memorial Service, Revs. Nobuharu and Michie Uzunoe were newly wed, in their early twenties, and did not speak English well. It was their first time running a church, and it proved difficult with only \$75 a month to provide for themselves and the church—including almost a dozen hungry young male students who came to visit often. Wanting to give Rev. Hirayama the grand service he deserved but not having any reserves for the service offerings, Rev. Michie recalls praying to Rev. Hirayama, "I am sorry we cannot give you as grand a service as we wish to. If you want a nice service, please help us." Rev. Michie then continued cleaning out the basement of the church, which was still full of old boxes from Rev. Hirayama. Burning a box of empty offering envelopes (holding them up one by one to make sure they were empty), by the time she finished that day, out of those old envelopes she had collected \$150! They were able to give Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama a grander service than they ever imagined they could. We know that even to this day, the new church location, new building, and even the new church extension has been supported by all of the Hirayama family spirits, as they continue to look after this Konko Church of Portland.

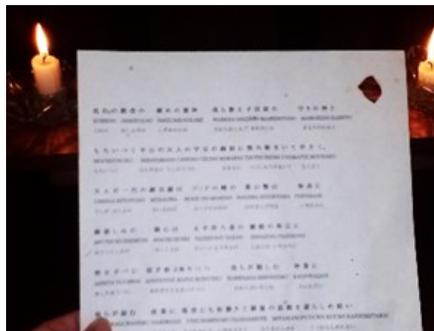
Honoring Church Roots. The Portland Church recognizes the Konko Church of Fukuoka as the Parent Church. Originally, Rev. Michie recalls that because they had to re-register the church and both her and Rev. Nobuharu were from Tsurunominato Church in Nagasaki, they considered it to be the Parent Church. However, shortly after Portland's 50 Year Anniversary, Revs. Michie and Nobuharu both had a growing feeling that something was not right. Through many occurrences, they finally realized that even though relations had discontinued, in terms of the church, they needed to honor the Parent Church of the Founding Head Minister above their own. Making the changes and reaching out to recognize Fukuoka as the Parent Church for the 70 Year Anniversary, through the fluidity of events and great blessings they received, they truly felt Hirayama Sensei and family were beaming with happiness. Respecting the founding minister activates, nurtures, and connects to us his virtue. When the roots are happy, the entire tree will grow strong and healthy.

Rev. Lisa Uzunoe (Associate Minister, Portland Church)

The virtue of the Hirayama family is so strong here in Portland. We are constantly being guided by so many divine arrangements, protection, blessings, and "reminders" from them that we could write an entire book. Two very important lessons I wish to share are the following.

Your Heart - Where there is a will, there is a way. We had activities after one memorial service day, so were not able to visit Hirayama Sensei's gravesite as usual. Apologizing and promising to go on Monday after work, I do not remember if it was traffic or something else, but I ended up not going that day...or the next. Knowing me, I probably came up with some excuse or was too tired. Then, that evening when I went to light the candles at the Mitama altar during prayer service, the end of the wooden match broke, spun onto the Hirayama Prayer sheet and then it ignited. Smothering it immediately to put it out, after removing the burnt ashes, my heart skipped a beat. It had made a hole in the corner of the prayer (the only copy we had at the church at that time as the digital copy was lost). Its shape looked exactly like a human heart. I knew immediately that Hirayama Sensei was asking about the sincerity of my heart. This time, I did not fail to go visit the gravesite the very next day!

Although it has been retyped, I still use the same prayer sheet as a visual reminder that when we practice faith, our sincerity and having a true heart is of utmost importance. Hirayama Sensei was a man of integrity and propriety. I believe he wishes for all of us to carry this on.



Goyo With Gratitude. Since Andy Sensei needed to work on Saturdays, I started to officiate the gravesite services which are on the days before the Spring and Autumn Memorial Services. One such morning, on the way to the gravesite, I was complaining about how it should be the Head Minister’s job to officiate and he should take off work. Turning onto the next street, I heard a thunk in the back of the car. Realizing it must have been the hot pot for the tea offering, I figured there would still be enough hot water left so it should be okay. Upon arrival and inspection, I found the hot pot had not only fallen over, but spilled its contents into the tray wrapped in green cloth that held the main prayer and tamagushi branch. My heart sank as opening the cloth revealed the hot water had “cooked” half the branch leaves brown, and stained green the white side paper and main prayer. (As it was spring and I did not find an evergreen branch in the right shape, it was the first time I used a heavenly bamboo branch for the tamagushi thinking it was pretty and would be good enough. Hard to tell in black and white, but half of the leaves are bright green while the other half is dirt brown.)

Here again, I felt I was being reminded by Kami-Sama and Hirayama Sensei that a complaining heart is not accepted, as it is one that has forgotten the blessings and protection we receive. Apologizing in front of Hirayama Sensei’s gravesite, I thanked him for reminding me that true goyo is done with gratitude and joy.



Chronology

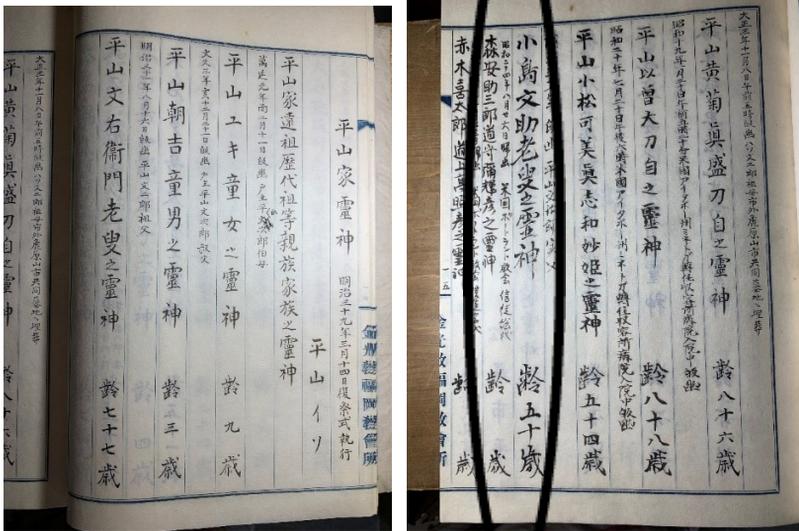
- 2/11/1856 Iso Hirayama born
- 7/26/1880 Bunjiro Hirayama born**
- 12/14/1892 Komatsu Hirayama born
- 1893 Suzuko Matsushita born
- 6/18/1903 Bunjiro Hirayama arrives in Tacoma
- 1915 Bunjiro marriage to Komatsu Tanabe**
- 6/12/1917 Komatsu Hirayama arrives in Seattle
- Feb 1919 Konko Kyo Association in Seattle established**
- 7/20/22 Iso Hirayama arrives in Seattle
- 5/1/1930 Bunjiro Hirayama ordained as a minister**
- 4/1/1931 Konko Church of Portland established**
- 9/14/1931 Church moved to 53 NE Holladay Street
- 8/1933 Komatsu Hirayama ordained as minister**
- 5/1/1938 Church moved to 122 NW 3rd Street
- 12/7/1941 Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama detained after Pearl Harbor**
- 9/7/1942 Iso Hirayama detained
- 9/8/1942 Rev. Komatsu Hirayama detained
- 12/6/1943 Rev. Hirayama transferred to Minidoka Camp
- 1/20/1944 Mrs. Iso Hirayama passes away, age 87**
- 7/20/1945 Rev. Komatsu Hirayama passes away, age 52**
- 10/16/1945 Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama departs Minidoka Camp
- 4/27/1949 Rev. Hirayama marriage to Suzuko Matsushita**
- 7/5/1949 Church building 1317 NW 3rd Ave purchased
- 6/5/1959 Rev. Michiaki Yoshiki arrives in Portland
- 4/25/1965 Portland Church 35th Anniversary
- 9/17/1969 Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama passes away, age 89**
- 1/15/1972 Mrs. Suzuko Hirayama passes away, age 79**
- 5/17/1972 Rev. Isao Goto becomes deputy Head Minister
- 5/1/1972 Rev. Nobuharu Uzunoe becomes successor, age 25
- 10/1/1976 Rev. Nobuharu Uzunoe becomes 2nd Head Minister
- 6/27/2002 Rev. Michie Uzunoe becomes 3rd Head Minister
- 12/18/2010 Rev. Andrew Uzunoe becomes 4th Head Minister

Appendix

(Historical data and records of Rev. Hirayama and family in America were mainly found through Ancestry.com)

#1

Mitama Records from Fukuoka Church



Bunsuke Kojima. Birth father of Bunjiro Hirayama.

Passed away at 50 years old in Meiji 31 (1898).

#4

1910 United States Federal Census for Victor B Hirayama

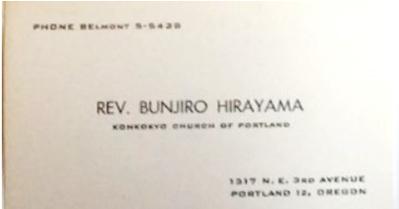
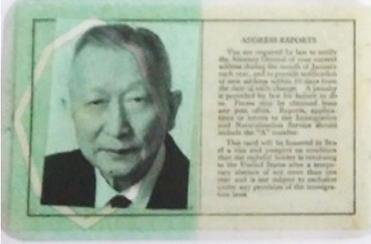
Washington Pierce Tacoma Ward 5 District 0266

Serial	House No.	Ward No.	Family No.	Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Marital Status	Years in U.S.	Children	Birthplace	Father's	Mother's	Immigrant	Naturalized	Speaks E.	Occupation	Industry	Employed	Out of Work	Weeks of Work	Can Read	Can Write	Attended School	Over 18	Mortgage
10				Victor B Hirayama	Head	M	Jpn	30	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English	Sign maker		1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
11				Yoshiko Hirayama	Wife	F	Jpn	27	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
12				Yoshie Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	12	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
13				Yoshiko Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	10	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
14				Yoshie Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	8	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
15				Yoshiko Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	6	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
16				Yoshie Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	4	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	
17				Yoshiko Hirayama	Daughter	F	Jpn	2	0	0	Japan	Japan	Japan	1903		English			1	0	0	0	0	0	0	

1910 United States Federal Census
 Hirayama, Victor B. Lodger. Male. Jpn. 30 years old. Single. Japan.
 Immigrated 1903. Occupation Sign maker.

#5

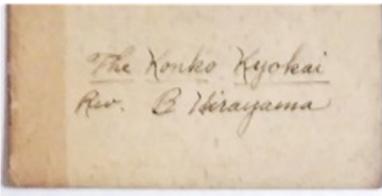
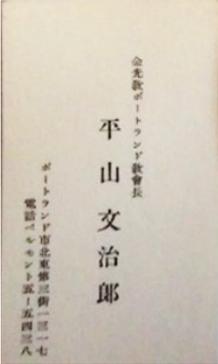
Cards found within Rev. Hirayama's wallet.

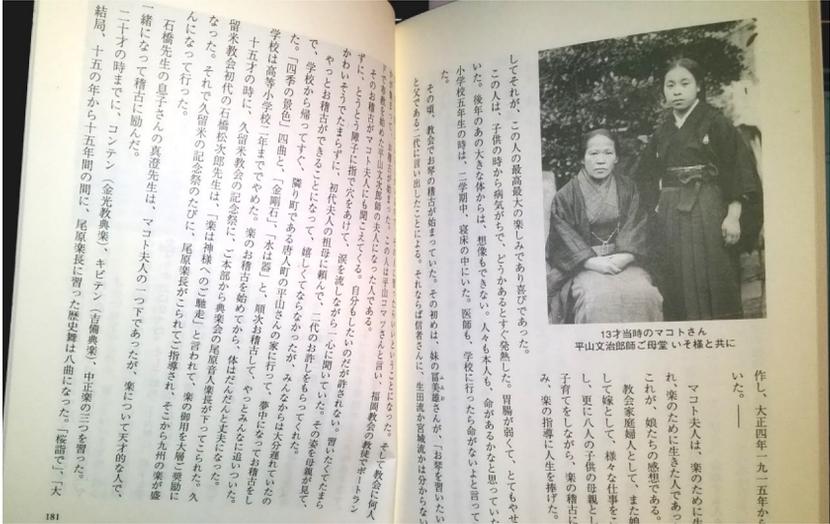


Business card in English and Japanese



Rev. Hirayama's handwriting





Article by Rev. Makoto Yoshiki from
Fukuoka Church 110th Anniversary Book

Rev. Makoto Yoshiki (Daughter of Fukuoka Church's
Second Head Minister, wife of Third Head Minister)

Stated, "I wasn't able to learn [the koto], but learning from Komatsu
Hirayama, I was [finally] able to absorb it."

She shares how she was weak when she was young, but after
practicing koto, she began to get stronger and healthier—she lived
for Tengaku (koto and dance). She practiced hard, and later taught
and spread the Kibi music and dance in Kyushu. She praises,
"Komatsu built the foundation of Tengaku [sacred music] at the
Fukuoka Church."

REGISTRATION CARD

REG. NO. **10005** OFF. NO. **10371**

1 **Bunjiro Hirayama**

2 PERMANENT HOME ADDRESS: **306 6th Ave. So. Seattle**

Age in Years **38** Date of Birth **July 26 1880**

RACE

White Negro Oriental Indian Alien

U. S. CITIZEN **Japan** ALIEN **Japan**

15 I affirm that I have furnished above answers truthfully and that they are true.

16 PRESENT OCCUPATION: **Contractor** EMPLOYER'S NAME:

17 PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT: **306 6th So.**

18 NEAREST RELATIVE: **Hatsu Komatsu Hirayama**

Bunjiro Hirayama

REGISTRAR'S REPORT

46-1-19 C

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT

HEIGHT		BUILD			COLOR OF EYES	COLOR OF HAIR
T-1	T-2	Medium	Short	Slender	Medium	Stout
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
					29	30

31 This person has arms, legs, hands, eyes, or to his education, physically disabled.

32 I certify that my answers are true; that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature or mark, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

SEP 12 1918

Division No. 10, City of Seattle,
411 Hinchley Building,
Seattle, Wash.

(SEAL OF LOCAL BOARD)

Registration Card

Bunjiro Hirayama
 Permanent Address:
 306 6th Ave. So. Seattle

Age in Years: 38
 Date of Birth: July 26th, 1880
 Race: Japan
 Alien: Japan
 Present Occupation: Contractor
 Nearest Relative: Komatsu Hirayama

Height: Medium 22
 Short 23
 Build: Slender 24,
 Medium 25,
 Stout 26
 Color of eyes: Brown
 Color of hair: Black
 Date of Registration:
 Sep 12 1918

Division No. 10,
 City of Seattle

#8

Sacramento Church 60th Anniversary booklet
Rev. Yasukichi Yasumura

[Excerpt from 40th Memorial Service Prayer]

You were born in Oshima, Yamaguchi Prefecture, Japan in 1885, and grew up surrounded by the warm nature of Seto inland sea. As a youth, you came to Seattle, WA in 1902. Through the spiritual guidance of Mr. Bunjiro Hirayama who later found the Portland Church, you entered this way of faith...

#9

1926 After Rev. Katashima combined the two Seattle groups and formed the Seattle Mamichikai, Mr. Otsubo became its President. Board members were: **Otsubo**, Uyeda, Kuniyuki Koujyu and Soujyu, **Hirayama**, **Yamada**, Mitsumori, Hasegaawa Mokichi, Nagata Raikichi.

They bought a house able to hold two ministers, and 130 members.

In that same year, Mr. Otsubo went to Honbu to become ordained as a Konkokyo minister.

Sometime in between, due to internal conflict (presumed to be with Mr. Uyeda), Rev. Otsubo left the Seattle Mamichikai. He had also been taking care of the Tacoma Mamichikai.

1929 November 18, Rev. Otsubo established the Konko Church of Tacoma. The main families were Nishimura and Niiyama, with a congregation of approximately 65 families.

(Translated from Journal of Konkokyo Research Institute Publication #37)

#10 Konkokyo's 50 Years in America p.18

Rev. Hirayama items



Various Stamps



Goshinkai – Scroll with printed Divine Call. Most churches read it aloud during the Ikigami Konkō Daijin Grand Ceremonies.



- (Left to Right, Top to Bottom)
- “Founder 50 Year Grand Ceremony”
- “Goshinmai” (Sacred Rice/Paper)
- “Konkokyo North America Portland Branch”
- “Portland Youth Group”
- “Portland `Little Church”
- Also, “Women’s Group” stamp



Brush pen, stone and ink

#11

Records dictated from Fukuoka Church via phone.

#12

Rev. Komatsu Hirayama Death Certificate.

ACK INK in OWN handwriting. Each item careful investigation. Like BLACK ink or as correspondence to State Bureau of Vital

United States Department of Commerce Bureau of the Census **AUG 6 1945** **CERTIFICATE OF DEATH** STATE OF IDAHO State File No. 144724 Local Reg. No. 26 Reg. Dist. No. 240

1. PLACE OF DEATH: **Jerome**
 (a) County Jerome
 (b) City or town Huck
 (c) Street Address or R. F. D. No. _____
 (d) Death Occurred Inside Outside _____ city or town _____
 (e) Died in Home Hospital Other place _____
 (f) Name Hosp. or Inst. _____ Stayed 133 days
 (g) Lived in this county 2 years 10 months 15 days
 Note: For a person residing in THIS county LESS than 1 year, give FORMER residence under Item 2.

2. USUAL RESIDENCE OF DECEASED: (Always fill in these)
 (a) State Oregon (b) County Multnomah
 (c) City or town Portland
 (d) Street Address R.F.D. No. 122 NW 3rd Avenue
 (e) Deceased lived Inside Outside _____ city or town _____
 (f) Citizen of what country? Japan
 (g) How long had deceased lived in Idaho? 3 years
 (h) Former residence (city, state) Portland, Oregon

3. (a) FULL NAME KOMATSU HIRAYAMA 109a

U.S., Final Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers, 1942-1946 for Bunjiro Hirayama

Minidoka, October 1945

1989	HIRATA	Chikaya George	1217	M	10/9/06	W	A	2790718	Prod	5/8/42	Seattle, Wash.	Term with Grant	4/12/44	Chicago, Ill.
1989														
1990	HIRATA	Izumi	1810	M	11/30/06	W	A	2782025	Prod	5/7/42	Tacoma, Wash.	Term with Grant	8/28/44	Elizabethtown, Ky.
1991		Izumi												
1991		Yumi Yoshiko												New York, N.Y.
1992	HIRATA	Shizuo	3078	M	5/26/06	W	A	2582182	Prod	5/8/42	Seattle, Wash.	Term with Grant	10/16/44	Seattle, Wash.
1992		Izumi												
1996	HIRATA	Hiromi	1817	M	2/16/06	W	A	4013084	Prod	5/7/42	Trousdale, Ore.	Term with Grant	3/16/44	Portland, Ore.
1996		Izumi												
1997	HIRATA	Takashi	1787	M	2/27/06	W	A	2681940	Prod	5/7/42	Seattle, Wash.	Term with Grant	10/16/44	Seattle, Wash.
1998		Izumi												
1999		Hiromi												
2000		Hiromi												
2001		Hiromi												
2002	HIRATA	Izumi	1810	F	10/24/06	W	A	4451798	Prod	5/8/42	Seattle, Ore.	Term with Grant	7/21/46	Portland, Ore.
2002		Hiromi												
2004		Sanji Kenneth												
2005		Shizuko George												
2006	HIRATA	Kiyoshi	1488	M	5/18/07	W	A	4170281	Prod	5/16/42	National, Wash.	T-0	8/28/48	San Jose, Calif.
2007	HIRATA	Sakiko	1788	F	7/8/09	W	C		Prod	5/13/42	Seattle, Wash.	Ind-Dep	4/18/48	Portland, Wash.
2008		Yoshiko												
2009	HIRATA	Genzo	1810	M	5/21/06	W	A	3904264	Prod	5/30/42	Portland, Ore.	D	9/6/44	Spokane, Wash.
2010	HIRAYAMA	Kenji	2002	F	6/20/06	W	C		Prod	5/7/42	Stock, Alaska	Ind-Dep	4/27/44	Jerome, Idaho
2011		Kenji												
2012		Kenji												
2013		Kenji												
2014		Kenji												
2015	HIRAYAMA	Tom	2002	M	10/17/06	W	C		Prod	5/7/42	Clatsop, Alaska	Ind-Dep	5/7/44	St. Douglas, Wash.
2016		Shunji												
2017		Kenji												
2018		Kenji												
2019	HIRAYAMA	Joe	2387	M	8/21/06	W	A	3789111	Ind-Dep	11/1/42	Stock, Alaska	Ind-Dep	3/25/44	Barry, Tex.
2020	HIRAYAMA	Dunlap	1808	F	1/16/06	W	A	3524800	Ind-Dep	11/1/42	Portland, Ore.	Term with Grant	10/16/48	Portland, Ore.
2021		Kenji												
2022		Izumi												
2023	HIRAYAMA	Kenji	1810	M	2/11/06	W	A	4223510	Prod	5/7/42	Portland, Ore.	D	7/20/44	Portland, Ore.
2024		Izumi												
2025	HIRAYAMA	Kenji	1810	M	2/11/06	W	A	4223510	Prod	5/7/42	Portland, Ore.	D	7/20/44	Portland, Ore.
2026		Izumi												

US Financial Accountability Rosters of Evacuees at Relocation Centers 1942-1946 for Bunjiro Hirayama

#13

Oregon, Marriage Indexes

Hirayama Bunjiro Matsushita Suzuk 4 27 49

Oregon, Marriage Indexes, 1906-2009 for Bunjiro Hirayama						
1940-1965 Grooms H						
HIRAYAMA	BUNJIRO	MATSUSHITA	SUZUK	4	27	49
HIRO	EDWARD	GERSTNER	IRENE	6	17	48
HIRE	RICHARD	DIZNEY	MARIL	6	19	48
HIRONAKA	NOBORU	ITO	MARJO	7	20	47
HIRONAKA	SHIGERU	NAKAMURA	YOSHI	1	16	46
HIRONAKA	DALE	BRYAN	MYRLE	8	29	47
HIRSCH	ARE	LASCO	SOPHI	3	06	48
HIRSCH	CARL	WELLS	PEARL	0	01	50
HIRSCH	CHARLES	DAVIS	MARTH	4	17	47

#14

Konkokyo 50th Anniversary book page 52.

#15

Rev. Hirayama 30 Year Memorial Service Prayer written by Rev. Nobuharu Uzunoe (Portland Church Second Head Minister)

Excerpt:

...You came to the United States from Japan as a youth along with your hopes and dreams for a successful business. Together with your wife and mother, you saved people through the Konko faith....

From the seed planted 80 years ago by Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama, the membership flourished, and many people were saved. Many people in this area are able to practice faith because of you.

Since the beginning, you have aided in the faith development of others who later became active in the various Konko Churches. Included were several of your friends who, influenced by your devout faith, became ordained as Konko-kyo ministers. These ministers were:

- Rev. Kamekichi Otsubo of Tacoma,*
- Rev. Yasukichi Yasumura of Sacramento,*
- Rev. Asataro Yamada of San Jose, and*
- Rev. Fumi Niiyama of Gardena.*

We are grateful to you, Rev. Bunjiro Hirayama. Because of the foundation you have laid, the Konko Faith exists in North America.

#15 continued

**From the Konkokyo Headquarters Library Konko Newspaper
Ninth Year of Taisho Era (1920) February 1 issue
Article by Mr. Kamekichi Otsubo:**

Here in America, there is no Konko church, but a devoted Hirayama Bunjiro couple. After my first son died, they heard from an acquaintance of mine that my second son's life was in danger with the same illness. Supporting with deep empathy said, I will give prays for you, so please have your entire family pray wholeheartedly together. Kindly gracing me with Goshinmai [sacred rice/paper], they brought me into the faith.

Email from Rev. Yomisu Oya (8/1/05)

Konko Church of Sacramento – Rev. Yomisu Oya 2005

I was asked to write three brief faith stories [by the Young Adult Seminar], the most significant experiences/examples of faith, blessings/divine arrangements received for my Church, a believer, and my family.

My Church

Seventeen years old Yasukichi Yasumura came to Seattle, WA in 1902. In 1922 he was introduced to Konko Faith by Mr. Bunjiro Hirayama and joined the faith gathering in Seattle. In May of 1930 he was ordained as Konkokyo minister. Having received the Mediation of the 3rd Konko-Sama, the late Rev. Yasukichi Yasumura started Mediation in his room at Enkoji Hotel on M Street in Sacramento on June 16 1930. The following year he established the Konko Church of Sacramento. The late Rev. Hiromichi Kimura in 1969, and I in 1992 succeeded the work of the Mediation...

Daughter of Rev. Yamada (Founder of the Konko Church of San Jose) Rev. Haruko Ishiwata interview

... According to Rev. Ishiwata, their families [Hirayama and Yamada] were so close, they considered adopting one of their daughters. "They [the Hirayamas] didn't have kids and my parents had an older daughter, my sister, so they wanted to adopt me. But I wanted to go to California with my family."

