

Receive a Windfall from God

Message by Rev. Tetsuo Watanabe, President of SKK
Meishu-sama's Birthday Service, December 22-23, 2010
Hall of Worship, Atami, Japan

Good morning, and welcome to Meishu-sama's Birthday Service.

With deep gratitude, we have just completed this year's Birthday Service for Meishu-sama. As part of the service, I sincerely requested that we practice Meishu-sama's Teaching of "Paradise Must Reside in our Hearts," and we must also exemplify His attitude of inspiring others like an "uplifting, warm, spring breeze." I also prayed that we be allowed to receive courage to become a person whom God and Meishu-sama will use as a valuable instrument for the Divine Light Program in order to create Paradise on Earth.

At this service, we were honored to have the presence of Kyoshu-sama, and also to have the opportunity to receive Johrei from him, and to receive inspirational guidance from his wonderful talk. I would like to further study his words in conjunction with the Teachings of Meishu-sama with you. Together we can continuously strive for perfection of self in the realm of faith and we can then create prototypes of paradise in our homes and in our communities.

Introduction of the Overseas Members

I would like to introduce to you the overseas members attending today's service:

4 from Korea

1 from Australia

1 from Canada

2 from the United States

1 from Russia

2 from Portugal

6 from Italy

57 from Thailand

56 from Brazil

We have 132 people for 9 different countries in total. Please welcome them!

Renovation of the Crystal House and New Publications

First, I would like to share two announcements for you regarding new publications and the renovation of the Crystal House. Under the supervision of Kyoshu-sama, the newest edition of

the Collection of Meishu-sama's Poems entitled, "Mountains and Water" has just been reprinted today. If you read Japanese, I would highly recommend it as valuable reading as Meishu-sama said that without knowing it, and by repeatedly reading the Collection of Poems with appreciation, you can polish your soul by receiving the high vibration of the words through your eyes.

The other announcement is about the renovation of the Crystal House as Kyoshu-sama mentioned earlier. The Crystal House is prototypical of an ideal, crystal-clear world, and symbolic of Meishu-sama's love and compassion for humanity. As he explained in the Teachings, "I want to show this God-given beauty of nature to as many people as possible." We will do our best to give earnest service toward the completion of the Crystal House. Through this renovation work, I am sure that each of us can be spiritually elevated to be a pure divine instrument of God to manifest Meishu-sama's love for humanity.

Serendipity- A Means to Acquire Happiness

As you may know, Dr. Richard Heck, and two Japanese researchers, Dr. Akira Suzuki and Dr. Eiichi Negishi, jointly received the 2010 Nobel Prize in Chemistry last October. I was very delighted to hear this news.

The Nobel Prize Award honored their development of the palladium-catalyzed cross coupling in organic systems. What this means is that they discovered the process of chemical reactions that palladium as a catalyst creates combining multiple repelling carbons. Researchers around the world use this process in the production of pharmaceuticals and molecules related to LCD technology in electronics such as computers, cell phones, and other very beneficial and necessary tools in our daily lives.

The energetic and healthy, 80 years old Dr. Akira Suzuki answered questions during a recent interview on a NHK TV broadcast. Dr. Suzuki described how he won the award using one English word, "Serendipity."

The word "Serendipity" refers to a possibility to make amazing discoveries while researching an unrelated topic. What Dr. Suzuki wanted to convey to the audience in his interview, I believe, was that the good fortune of receiving the Nobel Prize Award was a coincidence of his constant effort and accumulated research.

But I do not believe that Dr. Suzuki received this award due to his earnest and continuous effort only but also because of what I perceive as his attitude of passion and love for his fellow human beings, and his strong desire to make a contribution to society through his research.

I say this as I heard the two researchers did not file for a patent for the discovery of this technology. An article in the Nikkei newspaper supports this fact. An overseas colleague of Dr.

Suzuki asked him, “Why did you not apply for the patent? If you had secured the patent, you would have been a billionaire by now!” Dr. Suzuki humbly responded, “Because I did not apply for the patent, many more people were able to benefit from it.”

After reading the newspaper article, I was touched and inspired. I am not saying that when applying for patents there is an egotistical motivation, all I am saying that in this particular situation, I was simply very impressed by his actions and words.

Receiving a Windfall of Fortune

Describing an unexpected event of good luck, you may say, “I have received a windfall...” Expecting a windfall, doing nothing but just looking up at the sky, you seldom get desired results. Well, on second thought, if and only if your ancestors or you in your previous life had accumulated great virtue, it might happen to you, but rarely does this occur.

What would you need to do then to receive these windfalls of fortune? I know there is a good way to do it. It is to create a receptacle to receive it. You will not be able to receive windfalls without it. Did you know who gives permission for this? It is God.

God always wants to grant humans, beautiful windfalls, namely happiness, but because we have not created these wonderful receptacles, He cannot give us these blessings.

How, then, can we create it? There is a proverb which states, “Good things come to those who wait.” I, however, would suggest, “Good things come to those who are purified.” It is paramount that we become purified first in order to receive good fortune and happiness.

When I mention that we need to become purified, it is not meant to be through a passive sense such as illness, poverty or conflict. I am referring to an active and enjoyable way of purification through the practice of love for others.

This active attitude can be implemented through our three pillars of salvation. Let us not only receive Johrei, but also give Johrei to someone you care about. Eating pure, organic foods, you should not only purchase it for yourself, but also share the food and information with others who are interested in it. You can explain the significance of this type of food and the process of how it is grown through Nature Farming so one can maintain their health. The art endeavors we become engaged in should not be limited to solely appreciating the beauty of the art, but to be actively creating beauty in our immediate environment for all to enjoy. Creating beauty can have many manifestations such as clearing our minds and hearts, speaking to others in a positive manner, doing good deeds for others, beautifying our environments and giving joy to others, etc. In this way, we can foster love for others within our surroundings and we can then gradually create these wonderful “receptacles” to receive the windfalls of good fortune from God.

Let Others Smile Through What You Do

Mr. Konosuke Matsushita, the founder of Panasonic, Inc., is known in Japan as “God of Management,” and is one of the most well-known people who know about this secret of good fortune. I understand there are many stories depicting his personality, but today, I would like to introduce you to one essay from the book entitled, “*Twenty-four Inspiring Stories to Bring You Happiness*” written by Kazuyoshi Nakayama.

Once while inspecting his factory, Mr. Matsushita saw an employee polishing light bulbs while looking unhappy and bored. He approached the worker, picked up one of the shiny bulbs he had polished and said, “You are doing a great job!”

The disgruntled employee said in response, “It is boring to do the same thing over and over each day.” Mr. Matsushita said to him, “You know those children who are studying hard and who love to read books? They cannot read at night if it is dark. They are able to read in a well-lighted room because of the bulb you polished. These children are now able to study books of their choosing and increase their learning capacity, so what you think you are doing is not merely polishing light bulbs, but you are creating hopes and dreams for those children through your daily efforts.”

Furthermore, Mr. Matsushita said, “I want you to know that the light bulbs that you polish also light up dark alleys so that women can walk safely at night whereas they were fearful before. So as you can see, we are not simply manufacturing a product, but are supporting dreams of children, the safety of women and the happiness of people through our light bulb.”

This sounds altruistic and inspiring, doesn't it? Mr. Matsushita founded Panasonic through the creation and development of new products, reinventing many home electronic devices such as two-way sockets and innovative washing machines that made the lives of the consumers more convenient. He gave the utmost effort toward directing and developing these new inventions in order to make his customers happy and to make their lives easier and more efficient.

This can also be said about the two researchers who were awarded the Nobel Prize. They envisioned the happiness of their constituents through the development of their research projects.

We should strive for the same awareness for our daily lives whether working in your office, doing daily Hoshi activities at the Johrei Center, housekeeping or volunteering at community events. You should be conscious of the fact that you are facilitating the happiness of others through your actions in whatever you do. You can try to visualize people smiling during each activity you are engaged in. You should be conscientious and mindful that everything you do, you do in the spirit of love and for the happiness of others. This attitude will result in making a

difference in the lives of others and manifesting their happiness. God and Meishu-sama will be pleased by the results, and they will send a tremendous Light to purify our souls.

Gratitude and Love for Others

I also believe that the act of expressing our appreciation is part of the process of making others happy. When Kyoshu-sama attended a Boy Scouts of Japan ceremony last August, he gave a message to our Kyusei Boy Scout members. He said, “The words ‘thank you’ are an expression that God and Meishu-sama delightfully love to hear. The feeling of appreciation should constantly be kept in our hearts and verbalized in each situation we encounter. We can also say words of gratitude for every physical object we possess, and through that lovingly care for each item. These words and actions of appreciation and love create Light and it will resonate throughout the Divine world. I believe that this process will reflect back on this earth plane as a state of peaceful heaven and manifest as in a beautiful environment.

Kyoshu-sama’s message spoken to the Boy Scouts can be applied to members of this organization as well. We should remember this attitude and put it into action in our daily lives. The expression of our gratitude is not only limited to the words “thank you,” but it can also be conveyed as “I am sorry,” “How are you?” “You must be tired,” “You have done a great job!” or “Excellent!” These expressions can also show appreciation depending upon the context of the situation you are engaged in.

You might wonder how these expressions can demonstrate your gratitude, so let me explain what I mean. The expression “I am sorry” can be considered an apology. I think, however, the intention of your appreciation and caring for someone else can be expressed through those words. The inquiry “How are you?” can also reflect your love and feelings for someone else and convey the message “You are important to me and are the one I care about right now.”

There are words that acknowledge others for what they have done and who they are. These expressions are derived from the principle of love for others and can give joy to them. Gratitude and love for others are deeply intertwined with each other as concepts. Gratitude is created where love and compassion prevail. Love and compassion originate where gratitude exists. Where there is love and compassion, Light is manifested, and God purifies you and others you are in relationship with. He brightens your surroundings and creates a prototype of Heaven. Subsequently, however, you should show your appreciation for the blessings of God through your heart, words and actions that are in alignment with His Love.

I am sure that God is very happy when you make daily efforts of faith through donations, participation in Hoshi activities to support others and prayers for the well-being of humanity. The many ways you have been practicing love for others with gratitude become a vortex for attracting good fortune.

Conclusion

What I have presented today, the way of living a life manifesting love for others can be one example of developing “totally new and creative activities” as Kyoshu-sama spoke about earlier. Through this activity, you will be able to create a firm, unshakable receptacle to receive a “windfall” from God. I believe that once you have created such a receptacle, you will simply have to wait for that windfall to come to you in the perfect time and in the perfect way to support your need.

Meishu-sama wrote a poem that reads:

Those who strive their best to do the right thing,
Passing every day cheerfully and courageously,
Find happiness without end. (Prayer Book, 78)

And the poem Kyoshu-sama selected and we chanted today:

God loves those people most
Who keep working steadily, and patiently,
While having high hopes and big dreams.

We should strive to practice love for others while always remembering that this is how Meishu-sama will create his vision of an ideal world.

I would like to conclude my message today with a sincere prayer that you may have a wonderful and meaningful New Year. Thank you for listening, and have a great Holiday Season!