

ARAKITORYO

Pioneers of the Path

2019

100th
Anniversary
TENRIKYO
SEINENKAI



***The Guiding Principles
of
Arakitoryo,
Pioneers of the Path***

1. We Arakitoryo shall dedicate ourselves spiritedly to single-hearted salvation and be the vanguard of world salvation.
2. We Arakitoryo shall sow seeds of sincerity at Jiba so that we may receive the blessings of the Parent.
3. We Arakitoryo shall keep the Divine Model in mind at all times and live with a mind that will bring joy to Oyasama.

**At the 94th Tenrikyo Young Men's Association Convention
Commemorating the Association's 100th Anniversary**

(October 28, 2018)



President Daisuke Nakayama delivering his address

Scenes from the convention



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At the 94th Young Men's Association Convention
Commemorating the Association's 100th Anniversary

Address by President Daisuke Nakayama

I would like to extend a hearty welcome to all of you members who have returned to Jiba. I would also like to thank all of you association members for your sincere efforts to carry out the work of the path as well as the association activities in your daily life.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of Tenrikyo Young Men's Association. It gives me great pleasure that you members of the Young Men's Association have assembled here today from all over the world on this occasion of the association's 100th Anniversary Convention, making this such a grand convention.

Taking advantage of this occasion, I would also like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the successive Shinbashiras and many other predecessors of our association. We can only observe the 100th anniversary today because they devoted their sincere efforts to the association over the past 100 years. Thank you very much indeed.

Two years ago today when we launched our 100th anniversary-related activities, I said in my address, "I am hoping that our 100th anniversary will be 'a life-changing event' for all of us." Two years have passed since then. In retrospect, I realize that my own life has changed a great deal.

I was born as the first son in a branch church located near Jiba. It is a very small church with no subordinate church. I was raised by my

family, as well as by live-in missionary trainees serving at the church and other followers. I attended schools in Jiba through high school. I then studied at Kansai University located in Osaka. Right after graduation, I was adopted into the Nakayama family.

However, I must confess that at first I had a hard time settling into the position I found myself in. On the day I was adopted, everyone around me suddenly started using formal, respectful language to talk to me. People even started calling me “Daisuke-*sama*,” the suffix “*sama*” being an honorific—this was something that had never happened before. Back then, I was just twenty-two years old. Everyone who talked to me like this was older than I was. Wherever I went, people would go to so much trouble for me, and I felt I had to make an extra effort to be formal and polite, as well. My life totally changed; it seemed unreal that I had lived alone in an apartment until just one month before. I could not accept my new reality or feel happy.

This was my situation when the 100th anniversary activities began. I took a fresh look at my own life, asking myself if I was really implementing the Joyous Life or if I was really performing the kind of actions that could bring joy to people around me. I realized that I was doing neither. More precisely, I had never even paid attention to the importance of those things. While I was engaging in the pre-anniversary activities in the lead-up to the 130th Anniversary of Oyasama, I said many times to those who had yet to follow the path that Tenrikyo teaches the Joyous Life. Yet, I myself, who was supposed to be living joyously, did not make efforts to actually implement the Joyous Life in my daily life. I reflected critically upon myself and was convinced that there was no way I could convey the teachings to others if I was all talk

without actually emitting the fragrance of the Joyous Life.

After that, I started to be mindful of implementing the Joyous Life in the course of daily life and tried to transform my words and actions into something that could bring joy to others. I gave thought to what I could do in my current position and circumstances and for whom I could do that. I took notes of what I came up with on my smart phone and translated the ideas into actions.

Allow me to share my personal experience. After each meal, I carry dishes to the kitchen. I used to just say to those who had prepared the meal, “Thank you.” However, one day I realized that I had never told them, “It was delicious!” So I started to make the additional comment every day, although at the beginning I was a little embarrassed. On another occasion, I realized that I was the type of person who only saw people’s shortcomings and criticized them. I used to complain of others’ faults and even speak ill of them behind their backs. Since I started to critically reflect upon myself, however, I have made efforts to focus on people’s strongest areas and praise them. I have tried to praise people not only to their faces but also behind their backs.

I have also done a variety of other things. What I have made a point of implementing is nothing special. I just made small changes to my language, my choice of words, and behavior. These are indeed simple things anybody can do. However, being mindful of these small efforts and implementing those small changes allowed my mind to change gradually. The more I implemented these efforts out of a desire to bring joy to others, the more joy was given to me. The more joy I tried to give others, the more enjoyable each day became. In this way, implementing the Joyous Life as part of our anniversary activities saved me.

While helping save others and bringing joy and satisfaction to others,
I myself was saved spiritually before I realized it.

We are taught in the Mikagura-uta:

Suffering comes from your own mind.

So you should reproach yourself.

Mikagura-uta X:7

We are taught that the cause of all sufferings is entirely within us. The cause of suffering lies in our mind. In retrospect, I had blamed my difficulties and problems on others as well as my position and circumstances before I started the anniversary activities. My attention was directed to others and circumstances.

Further, in the Kakisage, we read:

Sincerity alone is the truth of heaven. Because it is the truth of heaven, I accept it at once and give a return at once: this is the one truth. Understand this well.

Here, sincerity refers to genuinely and honestly wanting to help save others and to bring them joy and satisfaction. If we just exercise the mind of sincerity, use sincere words, and perform sincere actions, God the Parent will firmly accept it at once and give us returns at once. Having accepted our true sincerity, God the Parent will surely give us returns of joy.

We are told in the Ofudesaki:

All human bodies are things lent by God. With what thought are you using them?

Ofudesaki III:41

As this verse indicates, our bodies are things lent by God the Parent. We are by no means living by our own power. What is important is to express our sincere gratitude to God the Parent for enabling us to be alive. We should also make repayment for God's great blessings every day.

The best way to do so while bringing joy to God the Parent is to dedicate our sincerity to helping save others—which is to attain the mind of sincerity. When our human thought that all is well if the present is well for oneself alone is transformed into the mind of sincerity that wishes to help save others and bring joy to others, God the Parent will surely guide our lives in a positive direction.

To begin with, therefore, let us express our sincere gratitude to God the Parent for enabling us to be alive and direct our attention to our own minds without putting any blame on others or our positions or circumstances. Let us transform our words and actions so that they flow from the mind of sincerity. If we do so, our mind and our life will change as well. It is only you who can change your mind and life. Let us, therefore, always try to follow the path of faith with the mind of sincerity while finding happiness in others' happiness so that we can implement the Joyous Life in our daily lives.

Our 100th anniversary is a season for a “return to one, a new beginning.” This day today is not a goal but the beginning of our new endeavor. Before making a new start, therefore, I would like to take this

opportunity to tell you about three points that I think are important in following the path as Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path.

The first point is our spontaneous effort. Tenrikyo Young Men's Association was established on October 25, 1918. Since its early days, the Young Men's Association has always believed that its mission is to serve as Arakitoryo.

The Mikagura-uta says:

When you go into the mountains,
Take with you the wood master [*araki toryo*]!

Mikagura-uta XII:8

As indicated by this verse, “wood master” or “Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path” means those who go into yet unexplored mountains and open up a path. Figuratively, the term means missionaries who go outward to spread the teachings in regions where the teachings of Oyasama have yet to reach. The term also refers to path seekers who go inward to delve deeply into unexplored territory in the realm of their own faith.

What became the driving force in establishing the Young Men's Association was the young men's enthusiasm for conveying and spreading the teachings far and wide on their own, as well as their strong will to deeply pursue the path and attain spiritual growth. This means that the spontaneous efforts of the young men back then were what led to the establishment of the association. Considering that, I think that it is very important that now, 100 years later, we reaffirm the day of origin of our association and carry out our activities by being

very conscious of thinking on our own and taking action.

Times are changing at a very rapid pace. Due to the low birthrate, the population is declining and aging. There will be fewer and fewer young people. Also, with the use of artificial intelligence, it is said that about half the jobs that are available now will disappear, starting with simple unskilled jobs. In 2020, automatic driving vehicles will start to become available, making it unnecessary to drive ourselves to our destination as the vehicles will automatically take us there. With the invention of 5G, the next generation of wireless network technology, the communication speed will become remarkably faster, and the world will change into something we cannot even imagine right now. We, who are living in this fast-paced world, need to think about how we can convey the teachings of Oyasama and what methods we need to use to do salvation work.

Actually, some new ways of spreading the teachings are now being developed due to our association members' spontaneous activities—such as “Friendly Conversation Gathering,” to which we invite those who have yet to follow the path so that we can share the teachings of the path in a friendly and easy-to-understand way. Also, salvation work can take the form of activities related to present-day social issues. I believe that it is necessary to study the Scriptures and the Divine Model of Oyasama in depth and apply the teachings to the present world. Our spontaneous thinking and action are important. I am sure that our initiatives will help increase the energy of our churches and, eventually, lead to the construction of the Joyous Life World. Also, as part of the association activities, we would like to come up with various methods for sprinkling the fragrance of the teachings and engaging in salvation

work.

The second point is an element of enjoyment. Are you following the path of faith while having fun? In the questionnaire conducted during the Seminar for Successors held last year, there was a question asking what generation follower the participants were. The most common answer was “fourth generation.” Until the third generation, most followers saw how the first generation lived, or their parents have explained in detail how the first generation was saved. In this way, the faith is more or less handed down naturally. I believe that this is the case for most third-generation followers. However, with fourth-generation followers onward, even though they hear about what the first generation went through, I imagine that it is hard to accept that experience as their own. Given that, what is important from now is how we ourselves live joyously each day as followers and how we reflect our inner joy to others around us.

There is an anecdote of Oyasama entitled “To See Children’s Enjoyment,” which involves an early follower named Kiku Masui. We read:

Kiku Masui made it a rule to visit the Residence every day. However, there were some days when she could not go there for various reasons. On such days, she never failed to abstain from eating salt or cooked food for the whole day. When she returned to the Residence one day after she had abstained from eating salt and cooked food, Oyasama told her tenderly: “Okiku, you need not do such things. The Parent never wants to give children hardships.

This God is never happy to see the beloved children suffer. You need not do such a thing any more. God is pleased only to see children enjoy themselves.” Oyasama knew everything, even things which She had not seen.

Anecdotes of Oyasama, no. 161

Are you finding joy and delight in your daily lives? Oyasama frequently told people to be joyful and take delight rather than telling them to grit their teeth and hang in there. As a matter of course, you enjoy yourself when you do what you like. Also, you take the most delight when you can bring joy to others. Therefore, it is important to convey the teachings of Oyasama and engage in salvation activities in ways that allow the two to overlap, while making the best of what we like to do or what we are good at doing.

Are you refraining from doing what you like, or are you forgetting what your passion is? I am certain that there is a way to profitably use your strengths and passion. Let us, therefore, identify what we like to do and what we are good at doing. Let us explore and try out different methods for making the best of them to sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings and help save others. Let us convey and spread our own joy of faith to those around us so that they may feel having faith is fun.

The third point is world salvation. About two weeks ago, I had an opportunity to listen to a man who had serious issues in relationships. He said to me, “No matter what I do, it doesn’t work.” At first, I listened to everything that he had to say. After listening to him thoroughly, I shared with him my personal experience of having my mind transformed and being saved spiritually. I said to him that I used to

direct my attention to others and put the blame on others as well as my position and circumstances. I had no mind to bring joy to others. Also, I told him that my mindset had changed after I simply started trying to improve my words and actions. He listened to me earnestly and said: “I have never thought of doing something that would bring joy to others. I’ll do what I can while having fun!” By the time he was leaving, his face had brightened. He really seemed to appreciate what we talked about.

After our anniversary activities started, I realized one thing. The work of sprinkling the fragrance of the teachings gradually changed from what I have to do into what I want to do. Prior to that, I used to assign myself tasks. I would count my accomplishments and work hard to fulfill the quota. However, the numbers did not reflect actual salvation work and, therefore, all I was doing was sprinkling the fragrance for the sake of sprinkling the fragrance. Before I knew it, my means for salvation work had become my goal. However, through implementing the Joyous Life, I began to feel the urge to tell people about the joy that I actually felt. That is when sprinkling the fragrance truly became enjoyable.

When you sprinkle the fragrance of the teachings on others, do you grit your teeth and hang in there? Or do you enjoy yourselves? If we genuinely implement the Joyous Life in our daily lives, we will feel such overflowing joy that we cannot help sharing it with others. We can then convey it from heart to heart and spread the teachings while having fun. This is what we have made efforts to implement in our anniversary activities. This is what is important from now on as well.

A Divine Direction tells us:

Remember that if you save one person, a myriad will be saved.

Osashizu, December 14, 1904

If there are those who may be suffering around us, whether they are our parents, spouses, children, colleagues in our workplace, or others, let us speak proactively to them, reach out to them, listen to them, and dedicate our sincerity to working for their salvation. Such is the first step on the journey toward world salvation. I am sure that the salvation of those around us will lead to salvation for many others. Let all of us, therefore, continue our work as Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path, to draw closer and closer to world salvation.

We are young and have yet to mature in faith. However, it is precisely because we are young that we can take on a variety of challenges without worrying too much about making mistakes. It is important for each and every one of us to try to attain as much spiritual growth as possible through a trial and error process.

Approximately sixty years ago, at the 35th Young Men's Association Convention, the second Shinbashira said:

As for the meaning of Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path, I want you to ponder over this carefully. As I have explained, the term "Arakitoryo" means those who go to spread the teachings in unexplored regions. This is what I want to say to you. Soon, the unexplored regions or the new lands for Arakitoryo to explore may extend beyond the earth and include the moon. We are already on the

verge of a new era when human beings may travel from the earth to the moon. I want you to ponder this point. If it becomes possible for human beings to live on the moon, Arakitoryo should head toward that new unexplored region after spreading the teachings through much of the world here on earth.

Do you have the energy and enthusiasm to go to the moon? Are you ready for the new land? This is what I want you to think about. In seventy-five years, this world might become too small for Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path. Around that time we may be able to routinely travel from the earth to the moon. Imagine that you are in that near future. I have a question for you. Is there anyone who has a dream of going to the moon and establishing a church with a name like “Tenrikyo Moon Grand Church”?

The second Shinbashira’s message deeply moves my soul. I have realized how small my mind was. I now think I should take on new challenges to create a bright future for the path with a much greater perspective.

Recently, there was much talk about Mr. Yusaku Maezawa, the founder of the online fashion retailer Zozo, having been announced as the first customer for a trip around the moon. Yet, almost sixty years ago, that is, ten years before Apollo 11 succeeded in landing on the moon’s surface, the second Shinbashira’s vision had already gone beyond the earth and reached the moon. We should also make our dream big and move forward toward the goal. We should follow the path with

great aspirations.

Building on the accomplishments achieved by our predecessors over the past 100 years and taking great strides beyond where they reached is the way to make repayment for their tremendous efforts.

I sincerely hope that we will keep the teachings of Oyasama in mind and play ever more active roles around the globe while making the best of what we like to do or what we are good at doing. I very much look forward to working with all of you in unity of mind to make the path ever more exciting and enjoyable as we go into the future.

Today marks the beginning of a new era. I see tremendous potential in Tenrikyo. If those of us who are here unite our strength, I am sure that we will create tremendous power so that we can let Tenrikyo quickly shine bright. From today, therefore, let each and every one of us association members proactively take actions here and there while making every effort to achieve ever further spiritual growth. Let us savor the joy of being kept alive every day and enjoy our lives while maintaining our mind of sincerity that wishes to help save others and bring joy to others by making the best of what we are good at doing, so that we can reflect the state of the Joyous Life to the world.

With this, I would like to conclude my remarks on this memorable day today.

Thank you very much for listening.

At the 94th Young Men's Association Convention
Commemorating the Association's 100th Anniversary

**Message by Director-in-Chief of
Administrative Affairs Zensuke Nakata**

Congratulations on holding today's convention commemorating your association's 100th anniversary with such a large turnout of members, for which you have been blessed with very fine weather. It is indeed my pleasant duty to address you on this splendid occasion.

It has been 100 years since the Young Men's Association was established in 1918. During the past 100 years, your association has faced a variety of situations and circumstances. Many members dedicated themselves to trying to carry out the kind of association activities that were appropriate for the times. I truly respect the sincerity of those early members, each of whom made strenuous efforts to strive to fulfill his responsibility as an Arakitoryo, pioneer of the path. Today, as I see so many of you current association members gathered here, I cannot but feel grateful for the deep parental love of Oyasama, who has provided Her guidance over the past 100 years.

At last year's convention, the Shinbashira spoke of the spirit of "restoration." Because he delivered the address exactly one year ago, I am quite certain that he mentioned it in anticipation of the association's 100th anniversary, which you are celebrating today. The term "restoration" refers to inquiring into the foundation of the teachings and returning to the origin.

For a long time up until the end of the Pacific War, the Tenrikyo

community had been greatly affected by the national policy: Followers were unable to convey the teachings exactly as taught by Oyasama, and they were also prohibited from performing the Service properly. With the end of the war, the restrictions were lifted, allowing the people to follow the path and perform the Service just as taught.

At that time, the second Shinbashira announced the time for “restoration,” thereby encouraging the followers to inquire into the foundation of the teachings and return to the origin. He then made various arrangements so that people might be able to settle the truth of the teachings in their minds without mistake and follow the path straightforwardly. The Young Men’s Association also joined in the restoration effort.

What should not be mistaken is that “restoration” here does not simply refer to going back to the previous state by correcting what had been distorted by the militaristic government. Rather, the spirit of “restoration” refers to making progress along the path of faith spiritedly while keeping in mind the foundation of Oyasama’s teachings at all times. That is, we are to follow the path of single-hearted salvation straightforwardly onward to the Joyous Life. Although we are to maintain this spirit in our daily life, being human we sometimes end up using the teachings to serve our own purposes or being complacent about going with the current of the times. I request that you discipline yourselves against such use of the teachings in the spirit of “restoration” and never forget the manner of pondering that always gives priority to the teachings.

In preparation for your association’s 100th anniversary, the Young Men’s Association announced the goal of the pre-anniversary activi-

ties by saying, “Seeing the lead-up to that anniversary as a season for a ‘return to one, a new beginning,’ we are hoping that all members of our association will use this season to make great strides in spiritual growth as Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path, by returning to our founding ideals and by working sincerely to spread the teachings and seek the path.” The 100th anniversary was taken as a season for a “return to one, a new beginning,” and I believe that it was your intention to return your thoughts back to the day of your association’s origin since it has been 100 years since the establishment. It was also your intention to reflect upon Oyasama’s teachings and the path of Her Divine Model at this important juncture so that you would be able to build on the 100-year history and envision a new path for Arakitoryo. Perhaps these things are also what the Shinbashira wanted to teach you when he spoke about the spirit of “restoration” at last year’s convention.

In one respect, you have made decisive efforts to promote activities in the lead-up to your 100th anniversary, aiming for today’s convention. In another respect, just as your president mentioned in his address earlier, you have been preparing yourselves for a new beginning because the 100th anniversary is a season for a “return to one, a new beginning.” So I want you to hold thorough discussions as part of your association activities about how you will be making progress from scratch from now on, using the things I have mentioned as a point of reference. It is particularly important to enrich the substance of your activities so that each and every member will be ever more proactive in carrying out those activities.

What must be consistent across both the association activities in the past 100 years and those in the next 100 years is that they are

geared toward Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path. One of the activities that Arakitoryo take it upon themselves to implement is to spread the divine name throughout the world. Being Arakitoryo, you should also take advantage of your youthful energy to study the teachings, always striving to grow spiritually.

As I mentioned before, we are now able to follow the path freely without worries. About seventy years ago, this situation would have seemed like a dream. Indeed, those days were full of difficulties for Yoboku following the path. In a Divine Direction, we are taught:

A narrow path is easy to follow while a broad path is difficult to follow. Listen and understand well this truth, and ponder over your own situation. Once you understand your situation, you will be able to understand the truth. You might wonder what I mean by saying that a broad path is difficult to follow and a narrow path easy to follow. A narrow path is easy to follow because your mind has alert awareness when you follow a narrow path.

Osashizu, November 1, 1889

Perhaps early predecessors dreamed of being on a broad path—following the path freely—while trying their best to search for whatever they could do to put the teachings into practice despite the severe circumstances. They endured great difficulties and did everything they could, believing and hoping that the day would eventually come when they would be able to follow the path freely. That hope was their motivation to go through the difficulties.

On the other hand, because we take the freedom to follow the path for granted, there are times when we put ourselves in a difficult situation. Perhaps there are people around you who know the teachings of God the Parent but think that they do not need faith because they have no problems in life. They might say that they will follow the path when they need to—such as when they are faced with some problems in their life.

We should not overlook the fact that our everyday life itself is thanks to God the Parent's workings. I hope that you will work patiently with those who are unaware of how indebted they are to God and try to bring them understanding about the importance of following the path of making repayment for the blessings they receive from God.

The banner here reads, "Be grateful and take on new challenges." I have high expectations for you to take on new challenges by proactively carrying out new activities in the days ahead. I also hope that you will always be grateful for God's daily blessings instead of taking them for granted. Being grateful for the blessings will allow the activities that you carry out as Arakitoryo to gain momentum and eventually bear fruit in the years to come.

I want to re-emphasize that the spirit of "restoration" should be maintained by all of us following the path leading to the Joyous Life.

It is necessary to organize activities that cater to the needs of the present time. Just as you cannot bring understanding to those who only understand Japanese if you speak to them in a foreign language, you cannot expect your activities to be effective unless they suit the needs of the times. However, if your activities are not firmly grounded in the foundation of the teachings given by God the Parent, who is also God

of Origin, God in Truth, then you will not be able to accomplish the goal of the activities.

This path is the path of single-hearted salvation that leads to the realization of the Joyous Life. Please take this as your foothold as you association members strive to implement the Joyous Life, starting with whatever you can, and thereby make steady progress in bringing about world salvation, taking one step at a time. If you are to aim for world salvation, you must first start making one effort after another to help those around you who may be having problems.

As a former member of your association myself, I request that you take to heart the address that your president delivered earlier and carry out your association activities at the forefront of the path in high spirits.

In a Divine Direction, we read:

If you set about spiritedly, God will become spirited. If God becomes spirited, God will make the entire world spirited.

Osashizu, May 30, 1907

I hope that the enthusiasm with which you carry out your activities will call forth more and more actions from other members. God the Parent will then accept your enthusiasm and sincerity in carrying out your activities and provide you with ever more blessings. In this way, I want you to make all people in the world—who are our “brothers and sisters”—spirited.

Thank you for listening.

At the 94th Young Men's Association Convention
Commemorating the Association's 100th Anniversary

Pledge by Chairman Yoshihito Ando

There is no greater joy than to have been able to hold the 94th Tenrikyo Young Men's Association Convention, commemorating the association's 100th anniversary today in the presence of distinguished guests.

October 25 marked the 100th anniversary of our association's establishment in 1918. I am filled with 100 years' worth of gratitude as I think about the guidance of God the Parent and Oyasama, the deep parental love of the successive Shinbashiras, and how generation after generation of our predecessors have conveyed and maintained the teachings.

Those of us who have been entrusted with this association at the turning point of 100 years have regarded this commemorative season as a season for a "return to one, a new beginning." Under the slogan "Work with your mind—open up the world" and the guidelines announced last year, "Be grateful and take on new challenges," we pioneers of the path have engaged in missionary work and sought the path to deepen our faith while also experimenting with new methods.

Regarding missionary work, under the theme "Sprinkling the fragrance from heart to heart," we have constantly kept salvation work in mind. Rather than engage in missionary work with temporary enthusiasm, we have tried to consciously convey Oyasama's teachings from heart to heart with passion.

With the second Sunday of every month designated as "Arakitoryo

Nioigake Day,” we have made efforts from April of last year to bring new people to a place of worship like a church or fellowship. Also, in June this year, in order to allow a renewed atmosphere in the church, we conducted the “Worldwide Nioigake Month” under the theme “Bring new worshipers to start a chain of salvation work” all over the country and overseas, an initiative that had never been done before. Although at times we struggled to bring any new person to worship, we were able to experience God the Parent and Oyasama’s warm encouragement. We will never forget the joy we felt when we were able to bring new people to worship, which later led to salvation work.

Between April last year, when we started the missionary activities throughout the country and overseas to bring new people to worship, and October 25 this year, we were blessed to be able to bring 69,951 new people to worship, a result appropriate for this 100th anniversary occasion.

In terms of seeking the path, under the theme “Implementing the Joyous Life in our daily lives,” we focused on the important relationships between parent and child and husband and wife. Focusing on “Practicing filial piety and maintaining harmony in our husband-wife relationship,” we have made efforts to implement the Joyous Life by first changing the orientation of our own minds and to develop our ability to convey the teachings in our own words.

However, when attempting to implement the Joyous Life, there were many times when things did not go well and we went through difficulties with the people closest to us like our spouses and siblings due to our negative habits and temperaments. But it was in these times that we drew encouragement by talking with our fellow association

members and by listening to faith experiences of how they changed the orientation of their minds, and, as a result, we were able to find the strength and energy to try again. At times when we were troubled and even felt like giving up, it was our fellow members of this faith who reached out with a helping hand. I am filled with utmost gratitude for having been able to welcome this day because our members helped one another despite the many times we were disheartened.

Last year, a fellow association member told me, “I don’t understand the emphasis put on the 100th anniversary activities and don’t know what to do.” At that time, I painfully felt the difficulties of conveying our thoughts to another person and having others participate in our activities. But during the past year, that member and I have worked together under the slogan “Be grateful and take on new challenges,” and his efforts resulted in an unbelievable number of people coming to his church. He is now playing an active role at the core of the 100th anniversary activities.

Today, we will conclude the 100th anniversary activities. From now on, it is indispensable to follow the guidelines set forth in the president’s address and to rely on the teachings for a basis to make decisions while being aware of what occurs around the world and trying to respond flexibly.

It is those of us who are assembled here today who will write a new chapter in the history of the Young Men’s Association. Without being afraid of making mistakes in the future, we intend to fulfill our duty as Arakitoryo, pioneers of the path, who are to take on the challenges of this uncultivated world. We will all, in a unity of mind, utilize the skills and talents we are endowed with and project the Joyous Life to

the world with a sincere mind. Having pledged this, I would now like to conclude.

Overseas Chapters' Conventions



Hawaii Chapter (May 19, 2018)



Brazil Chapter (June 9, 2018)



America Chapter (June 16, 2018)



Colombia Chapter (June 16, 2018)



Mexico Chapter (June 30, 2018)



Taiwan Chapter (September 16, 2018)



Europe Chapter (September 8, 2018)



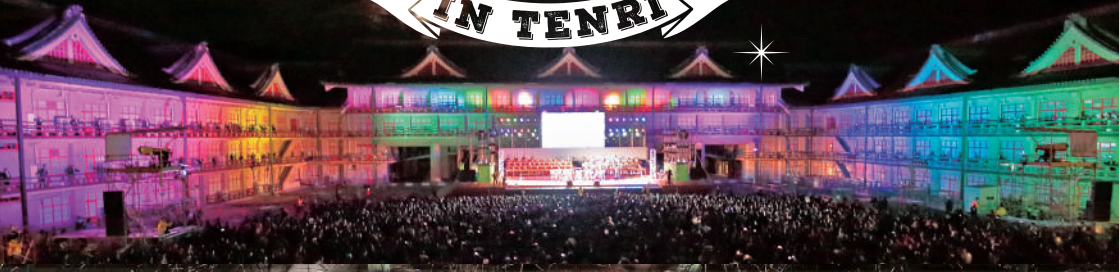
South Korea Chapter (December 9, 2018)

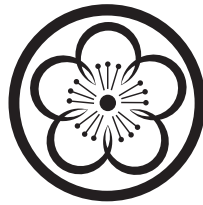




TENRIKYO
1918 SEINENKAI 2018

NIGHT **100** Fes フェス! STAGE
IN TENRI





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Tenri, Nara, Japan