

Greeting by Masaaki-sama
December Thanksgiving Service
Sydney Johrei Centre, Sydney, Australia
December 2, 2018

Good morning!

Thank you, Rev. Horacio, for inviting me to Australia with this opportunity to meet all the members. It is my first time meeting all of you and I'm really grateful for this opportunity. Also, I would like to thank you for your warm welcome. When I was in Japan, Rev. Rubens brought me a wine and I heard it was from all the members in Australia. Thank you for your kind gesture. Also, thank you Ana for your kind words just now representing all the members. I was very touched by your strong faith and commitment to this divine work that is moving forward with Kyoshu-sama.

As for myself, with all this purification happening in our church, I thought for certain I was following Kyoshu-sama, my father, but my determination may not have been strong enough. Now I know that people in Japan and Australia and all around the world are standing by Kyoshu-sama and, as you know, in Japan, many people lost their jobs and their churches for this. This firm attitude of Japanese members made me rethink my determination, whether I truly wanted to serve Meishu-sama through Kyoshu-sama, whether or not I really wanted to walk this path and dedicate my life to the true divine work of Meishu-sama. It was thanks to the members in Japan, members in Australia and members all around the world, who are seeking the true message of Meishu-sama through Kyoshu-sama, that my faith grew during this purification. I am truly grateful for that.

As some of you know, this is my second visit to a foreign country since this purification began. First, I went to Frankfurt, Germany, in September, and this time, I was able to come to Australia - my first visit to an English-speaking country since the purification started. Before I went to Germany, Kyoshu-sama thought that we needed a way to transmit Meishu-sama's message to the Christian people and we had a long discussion. We thought that we couldn't escape facing who Jesus Christ is because we know that in Christianity, Jesus Christ is the Messiah. But we say that Meishu-sama is also the Messiah.

For many years, I think people of our faith have been questioning, *who is the Messiah? Is it Meishu-sama or Jesus Christ?* We were partly wanting to answer that question and we prepared the leaflet that Rev. Horacio just mentioned. The message in it starts with "Jesus Christ sacrificed his life on the cross, shed his blood and atoned for our sins." But he didn't

end his life dying. He was resurrected through the forgiveness of God, and then he became the Christ, the Messiah.

At the same time, he left the teaching that each one of us must be born anew to see the kingdom of God. If we do that, we can be brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ. I think that the true meaning of what Jesus has taught us hasn't been revealed to humanity for a long time. But Meishu-sama, finally, 2000 years after Jesus Christ, came to this world and said that he was born anew as the Messiah. Jesus Christ said you have to be born anew to see God's kingdom, so we see there is a link through this span of 2000 years. I believe the will of God is that each one of us has a soul named Messiah, that we can be God's child named Messiah.

People in Christianity and most people in the world have thought and still think that Jesus Christ is the only Messiah, that we don't have the spirit of Messiah within us. But as time passed, I believe the will of God, after 2000 years, came down to Meishu-sama. It was not in the Middle East, not in the United States, not in Europe. The message came to Meishu-sama, who was at the edge of the world.

Meishu-sama said that Japan is the Far East of the world and is located at the edge of the world – I think this has a symbolic significance to it. I believe this means that the message Meishu-sama received is for all humanity. The fact that he received it at the edge of humanity means that this message is for all humanity. And what Meishu-sama finally achieved was being born anew as the Messiah. I believe it was Meishu-sama's destiny to be born anew as the Messiah, and I believe this is our destiny as well. I believe we are destined, it is God's will, to awaken to the soul within us named Messiah.

Meishu-sama said that his Messiah means the second coming of Jesus Christ; he said that the second coming of Jesus Christ and Messiah are the same thing. We believed that the second coming meant only one person, and one day this someone would come. But I think that the existence of Meishu-sama is telling us that each one of us can be the second coming of Jesus Christ if we admit that we have the soul of Christ, the soul of Messiah within us.

I think this is a simple message. It is very simple and clear, but it is a huge message. It is a grave message not only for us members of Meishu-sama, but it is a huge message for people of Christianity, for people of Judaism, for everyone around the world. I think when God started His creation, He planned to send Jesus Christ to the world to atone for our sins. He also planned that 2000 years later, Meishu-sama would come and complete the task

Jesus Christ began. I believe we are living in a very important time for God.

The true salvation of God, as I said it in Germany as well, hasn't been completed by Christianity. It is our mission, it is our task to first accept and believe that we have the soul of Messiah within ourselves. If you truly believe in it, if you truly feel the joy of it, that you can be a child of God, that you also can receive the soul of Messiah and be born anew, I think it is something extraordinary. And I think it will make you want to tell other people, not because you have to, but because you really want other people to know this truth – the truth that everyone can be the second coming of Christ and that everyone has the soul of Messiah within themselves.

We are much smaller than Christianity, but I think the task God is entrusting to us is so huge that I tremble. Sometimes I feel that I can't respond to God's expectations. But if this is the true message God wants humanity to know, I am quite sure God prepared a way for us. I think hard times are coming. People will say, "you don't have the soul of Messiah within you, Messiah is only Jesus Christ, or Messiah is only this someone." Maybe we will be denied in various ways, but if this is the truth and each one of us really has the soul of Messiah within ourselves, some people will really react to our message and feel that *maybe this is the truth I have been waiting for*. That is what I think Kyoshu-sama is trying to do through his messages, with his presence every day. I personally want to be a part of this great mission and that is why I am coming here, to really complete the task of God that started 2000 years ago.

I believe it is also our mission to bring this message to the whole world. As I said, it is a simple message, but I think we have been satisfied to be children of humans and say, "No, I'm enough. I want to see only human happiness, human salvation. It is ok for me to end my life being a child of humans."

To become a true child of God means that you cannot be your own master. God is your master, and this might be quite a difficult decision because you want to be your own master. You don't want someone controlling you or someone above you. But as you all know, God is, of course, above us. He is our parent and I think our true joy comes from serving Him, not humans.

I think our true joy, our true happiness, our true salvation, can come only when we start to serve God and aim to become His children, aim to become someone that God really feels happy for. Each one of us has to ask ourselves, "Do I really want to serve God, or do I want to serve humans?" I believe that, in essence, by serving God, we are truly serving

humans in the end.

It is not that we are negating care and love for other people, or doing as much as we can for humans. These things are of course important and we must love others as much as possible. It is that the most important person for us is God. I want to dedicate my life serving Him, and wishing that one day, God will say to me, “You are my child.” I believe the happiness I would feel if God said this to me would be something unimaginable. I think it would be the greatest happiness I can have – we can have.

I want to live my life seeking this true happiness, and I wish for people here the same. With joy and happiness and believing in this true message, I want to walk with you and people from all over the world. Please do read the leaflet and please do hand it to people you think might like the message. Let’s spread this true gospel that Meishu-sama left us.

I think Meishu-sama will be very happy if we walk that path. And not only Meishu-sama, but Jesus Christ and God are also with us. We don’t have to separate ourselves from Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ and Meishu-sama are united with the soul of Messiah. Jesus Christ and Meishu-sama are two, but they are one. Christianity and our church are separate, but they are one because the will of God is one. Because there is one God, the message of God is one. If the Christian God and our God is the same God, then the message we believe in should be the same.

I am quite sure that there are people waiting for this message. I don’t know how much we can do during our lifetime, but I am really looking forward to believing in and carrying this message to the whole world. If people really start to believe in this message, I think the world is going to change. We say *we believe in this God* or *we believe in that God*. But if we are united with the name of Messiah, then that is when we truly can be one, we truly can be brothers and sisters. If we are all united with the name of Messiah, that means we are all children of God. As Meishu-sama talked about paradise on earth, when all people are united with the name of Messiah is when paradise on earth is complete. Our task is huge, but with courage I am really looking forward to moving ahead.

I want to come back to Australia as much as possible, and if we really believe in this message, I think today, this year, will be a new start for the divine work of Meishu-sama to go to a completely new stage. Let’s stick together, believe in this message and go forward. Thank you very much.