



Miroku Association USA
Boston Johrei Center

Faith Experience
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My name is Juvenal Martins de Miranda Junior. I am a member of the Boston Johrei Center. I would like to share with you all blessings in my professional, financial, and personal life that I have been receiving since my return to serve and practice Johrei after four years away.

I was introduced to Johrei at the beginning of 2004 by my sister, who was a member and, who also had been participating in the Johrei Center activities for two years. Three months later, I decided to join the church, moved deeply by Johrei and Meishu-Sama's teachings. I was granted the Ohikari (Sacred Focal Point), on March 24, 2004. In the beginning, I was very happy and committed to my activities as a new member, and everything in my life was going very well. My financial condition had improved a lot, which allowed me to take many trips around my home country, and abroad. Unfortunately, over time, I had become distracted, too busy to serve or attend the monthly appreciation services, and I ended up distancing myself from the Divine Work.

In 2015, I made a bold change in my life. I decided to live overseas, so I moved to the city of Boston in Massachusetts. To support myself financially and adapt to the new life I had to work very hard. I have worked in many different kinds of jobs that kept me very busy. The last thing that went through my mind was to go to the Johrei Center to serve or receive Johrei. All the learning about the purpose of Johrei and the altruistic way of living taught by Meishu-Sama, which had inspired me to become a member, were forgotten. At that time, my only focus was on my own new life in the United States. As a result, I became distant from Meishu-Sama and stopped wearing the Sacred Focal Point, the Ohikari.

I was building my new life in the US. Everything was new for me. I thought I was on the right path, but deep down in my heart, I was not feeling like that. I found myself searching for purpose, meaning to life. I knew what Meishu-Sama had taught us about always being grateful, but I was unhappy, unable to show any appreciation for my life. I was working as an Uber Driver, had to deal with long hours, stuck in traffic, which was driving me crazy all the time. I did not have any social life. My routine had consisted of working, eating, and sleeping. I gained about 70 pounds. At that point, my life was getting extremely unbalanced and consequently, I was starting to lose motivation to do things. Zero motivation to work. I watched my financial health turning unhealthy.

In mid-2019, my sister, the same one who had introduced me to Johrei and Meishu-Sama, was really engaged in the Johrei activities in Brazil and every time we talked on the phone, she emphasized the importance of receiving and giving Johrei, to serve at the Johrei Center and, to wear the focal point. She never gave up on me, and after a long time, I decided to look for the Johrei Center. I finally contacted the minister in charge of the Boston Johrei Center. He replied immediately. We talked on the phone for some time, and we met at the center for me to receive Johrei. In my first week of receiving Johrei, the feeling of uneasiness, and discomfort started to fade away. After a few days, I started to become more tolerant and much calmer. Even my car, that often had some kind of issue, was working smoothly. After I went back to serve in the center, I found harmony following the minister's guidance. Little by little my luck was changing.

For over six years I had not worked in my profession, information technology. I was trying to resume the path of my career by preparing myself and applying for a position without success.

For six months I was looking for a new opportunity, when I was finally selected for a position. However, the hiring process was taking too long. I had lost hope for a positive outcome. But after I began giving and receiving Johrei again, serving, attending the appreciation services and making my gratitude offering, I received a positive response, and the final step of the process moved forward. I was just waiting for the last interview, when I was invited to travel on a pilgrimage to the Japan Sacred Grounds for special training. I could travel, but I would put the final interview at risk, because it could be scheduled anytime during the trip. I prayed to God and Meishu-Sama to be allowed to go to the sacred grounds. The interviewer contacted me and scheduled the interview for after my trip.

During my journey, I had the complete attention of the ministers. I learned a lot about Meishu-Sama's life and how the work of our church started. I could feel the pioneering feeling and the great mission that all of us have received from God and Meishu-Sama to actively participate in the construction of Paradise on Earth

Upon returning from Sacred Grounds, the final stage of the hiring process went very well and, with the blessing of God and Meishu-Sama I was accepted. The company I am working in now, could not be a better place. It is pretty close to my home and -- there are a lot of possibilities for growth and professional development.

Today I do not feel anxiety and discontent that were present in my thoughts.

I enjoy the experience of faith again and I am at peace with myself and others, living a meaningful life. I shifted my mindset to express my gratitude to God and Meishu-Sama by being an instrument in His Divine Work guiding new people to find Johrei and Meishu-Sama and to experience the same happiness that I feel now.

I want to express my deep gratitude to God and Meishu-Sama for everything that I have received, for all that I have learned, for the renewal of my faith and, for the greatest permission to participate in the expansion of the Divine Work in the United States of America.