

**VOICES: How can we as SGI-USA members take action to help people in other countries suffering from war, poverty, starvation, disease, human rights abuses, etc.?**

**Members from L.A. #4 Joint Territory respond:**

I think the easy answer for this is to chant daimoku for them, whoever and wherever they are. Although it seems simple to chant, it really isn't because I don't think I can imagine what people from these countries are going through. Maybe we could start some kind of pen pal campaign so we can know who we are chanting for. After all, if we can write to someone and show them love, compassion and encouragement through our words, isn't that kosen-rufu?

— DIANE NOLAN, Costa Mesa, Calif.

I subscribe to *Life* magazine, and the idea occurred to me to cut out pictures of people in impoverished areas throughout the world. I put these pictures in a folder, and I chant for these people. I also cry for them. My boyfriend is from Guadalajara originally, and he was going there to visit his family. I asked my neighbors and friends for any clothing they could donate to people there. I asked him to pass these on to anyone he met who was in need.

— BRENDA DUCHEMIN, Irvine, Calif.

I would like to see an SGI missionary program for people who want to spend some time in dedicated service to kosen-rufu. These missionary workers could go to other countries, or anywhere in our own country to help members and nonmembers. I would also like to start an organized effort by all divisions in my area to visit the elderly, the sick and those who are struggling. I think that many more people would be encouraged to do home visits.

— KATE LLEWELLYN, Newport Beach, Calif.

Nobody knows where they will be next month, or next year, so I really think it's important that on a daily basis you do what you need to do to develop as a human being so that no matter where you go, you can make the most effective contribution as a human being in your interactions with people. I honestly think that Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism teaches you to develop as a true human being. Somehow we have to relate that to the people we come in contact with, whether its in the United States or in another country.

—ED KING, Edwards Air Force Base, Calif.

It's sometimes hard to chant a long time, but my mother tells me to chant five minutes for myself, 10 minutes for my members and try to chant 10 minutes for kosen-rufu. With all the problems around the world, I feel this is what we need to do as members.

— VICTOR JACKOWICH, Victorville, Calif.