

**PERSPECTIVE: Frank Guidance Leads to New Attitude**  
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Somewhat obsessive about paying for my son Kevin's college tuition, a few months ago I was working full time in a bank and part time at an Internet news service from 8:00 at night until about 1:30 every morning. This left very little time for chanting, faith activities or sleep. I was so tired that I sometimes literally felt like I was going to fall over.

It seemed at the time that SGI President Ikeda's guidance constantly emphasized the importance of getting enough rest. Every time I would read something like this, I would tell myself that I had to change my situation. It became clear that I would have to cut back on my work hours, but I couldn't decide which job to give up. Leaving either one would have cut my income in half.

I went to a conference at the Florida Nature and Culture Center with the idea that I would finally have the time to chant, think about my life, and make some decisions to get it back in control. I felt it would be the perfect place to refresh my practice.

My leaders had encouraged me to seek guidance while there. I did really want to take advantage of this opportunity, and I thought I would simply ask which job I should quit. I naively felt that from the leader's enlightened viewpoint he would clearly see what I needed to do, and would tell me.

That's exactly what happened — but not in the way I expected.

I took full advantage of my time with the leader and poured out the whole history of my practice. I told him how I began chanting 25 years ago and how my first big benefit was the birth of my son. I explained how this profound philosophy and the support of my SGI leaders and friends had made my mother's illness and death and my recent battle with breast cancer both opportunities for growth and victory. And then I told him how I felt my life was out of control now and how I hardly had time to chant. I told him I really wanted to support my members but communication was suffering because I had no time.

I thought he would tell me how admirable it was that I was working so hard for my son's education, and that I was clearly doing my best. But he definitely didn't say that.

He was extremely clear and direct, but also compassionate. He blew my socks off! He said: "I can see you're a capable person, but you're not using your capabilities. You're like a beautiful car, a '97 Rolls Royce, but you have no gas."

He said that I should chant for the treasures of the heart. He said if I chanted more daimoku and really chanted to develop the treasures of the heart and really cared about my members, I would develop the wisdom to make the right decisions about my life. He said I was concentrating on the treasures of the storehouse and the treasures of the body, but they would come if I chanted sincerely for the treasures of the heart.

I told him: "I can't believe how you're talking to me. Nobody has ever spoken to me like this!" And nobody ever had. I wasn't mad or negative; I was just astonished.

This guidance affected me so deeply that I was actually shaking as I left the cafeteria. But I determined to chant exclusively for the treasures of the heart and to chant more daimoku despite my schedule. I started by using my spare time in Florida to chant extra daimoku.

When I came home I continued to chant exclusively for the treasures of the heart, and by the following Sunday I had decided to quit my bank job. Even though I loved this job, I knew I was not using my experience and capabilities — and I was definitely not making the money I needed. I told my manager at the bank that I intended to resign. I felt confident about my decision and ready to find a more appropriate situation. Two days later, however,

I received a call from the bank's regional vice president. He offered me an instant and very large raise, plus the promise of a promotion in January, with another substantial pay increase.

I have now quit my evening job, which is probably the one I should have quit in the first place. By chanting for the treasures of the heart I have taken control of my life and have the confidence to take action based on faith. I had decided to quit my bank job because I was confident that I would get a better job that paid what I needed and that I liked just as much. And I got that job without having to leave the bank!

I'm still chanting exclusively for the treasures of the heart, with great appreciation for my experience at the Florida Nature and Culture Center and a deeper understanding of President Ikeda's compassion in providing us this facility.

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Title: Perspective: Frank Guidance Leads to New Attitude  
Subject: World Tribune 03/28/97 n.3132 p.3 WT970328p03 Boston, Massachusetts  
Author: Hilda Gray  
Keywords: Attitude Boston Experiences Frank Guidance January June Leads Massachusetts Opinion  
Perspectives Practice Tribune World