

**LETTER FROM THE SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR
'My Deepest Thanks for Your Efforts'**

To all the members and friends of the SGI-USA:

Please accept my deepest thanks for your support during this past May commemorative contribution. I especially appreciate the many individuals who volunteered their time at the community centers or opened their homes for this activity. Thanks to everyone's efforts it was a total success, with an even greater number of participants this year than last.

Throughout last month, I received a lot of personal correspondence from members across the United States expressing their appreciation and joy to participate in this annual activity. Many people have deepened their understanding of contribution and renewed their determination to contribute to American kosen-rufu. From all the positive response, I feel the attitude is changing from "How can the organization help me?" to the spontaneous spirit that "I am personally responsible for kosen-rufu in America and the growth of our organization."

SGI President Ikeda recently attended a representatives conference in Mie Prefecture, Japan, where he talked about enjoying good fortune. He said:

In a letter titled "The Unity Between Husband and Wife" [addressed to Nichigen-nyo, wife of Shijo Kingo], Nichiren Daishonin states, "You will grow younger, and your good fortune will accumulate" (The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 1, p. 158). Those who exert themselves assiduously in faith become youthful and enjoy good fortune. This is the benefit from the Mystic Law. We can live out our lives with a youthful spirit. And although one's body changes as years go by, "What matters is one's heart" (MW-5, 289). The sun rises in the hearts of those who fight for kosen-rufu, illuminating them with youthful brilliance.

Buddhism is win or lose. Faith is an eternal battle for kosen-rufu. Great strength and limitless hope well up within us when we struggle for kosen-rufu with strong faith.

With this guidance in mind, I hope all of us can renew our faith and practice with the youthful spirit of starting fresh from today. Let's advance forward, taking everything in a positive way, using our obstacles as springboards toward our glorious future.

We are now into the month of June, soon to begin the latter half of 1997, the Year of Great Advancement Toward the New Century.

I am determined to make a fresh departure toward the remainder of the year, striving to get to know each member's heart. Together, let's advance toward the 21st century, achieving great victories in our lives.

I sincerely offer my best wishes to you in all your endeavors. I am praying for everyone's continued good health and happiness to blossom. Please convey my best regards to your family and friends.

Once again, thank you very much.

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