

Four Radio Stations To Add SGI President's 'Recollections'

By JEFF FARR, Associate Editor

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Radio listeners in four additional cities will soon be able to tune in to SGI President Ikeda's recollections of leading world figures. Popular with Los Angeles listeners since its debut in April, the program, titled *Values and Visions: Portraits of Global Citizens*, will in the next few weeks debut in Honolulu, San Francisco, Seattle and Las Vegas.

The series starts on Aug. 9 in Honolulu, to be broadcast every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on KZOO-AM (1210). San Francisco's KVTO-AM (1400) begins the series Aug. 10 and will broadcast it every Sunday at 12:30 p.m. In Seattle, KEZX-AM (1150) will begin the series Aug. 16, playing it every Saturday at 2:30 p.m. KLAV-AM (1230) in Las Vegas plans to start the program the first week of September, although the day and time have not been decided. In addition, Keiko Kimura, the show's producer, is in negotiations to have stations in several other states pick the show up.

Values and Visions is based on articles that have been appearing in both the *World Tribune* and *Living Buddhism* (as "My Recollections" and "Daisaku Ikeda's Recollections of World Figures" respectively). In this series, President Ikeda has shared his insights into what makes figures like Rosa Parks and Cornell Capa great and talked about his encounters with them. Many Los Angeles listeners have been calling GMG, Ms. Kimura's production company, with comments on the show, about 90 percent of them positive, she says.

Broadcast every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. on KALI-FM (106.3) in Los Angeles, *Values and Visions* has attracted a largely Japanese-language audience, although English-language listeners have also shown interest. (The show is half in Japanese and half in English.)

Many listeners were impressed by President Ikeda's piece on Jose Abueva, former president of the University of the Philippines. Japanese forces occupying the Philippines during World War II killed Abueva's parents, but he has harbored no hatred toward the Japanese and has in fact worked together with them for peace as the university secretary of the U.N. University at its Tokyo headquarters.

One listener, a soldier stationed with the Japanese army in the Philippines at that time, said Abueva's story reminded him of the many friends he lost in the war. Another listener, a Hiroshima survivor, said the show made her recall her parents' death in the Hiroshima bombing.

Ms. Kimura's original intent in producing the series was, through the insights in President Ikeda's essays, to give hope and courage to people who are struggling. Although not an SGI member, Ms. Kimura also felt it her responsibility as a member of the media to introduce President Ikeda's efforts for peace to an audience that may only know the negative image of him created by the Japanese media. Many listeners have called to say the series has indeed changed their idea of the SGI and President Ikeda, Ms. Kimura says. Many said they were impressed by the SGI president's activities in society, and now realize the SGI's excommunication by the Nichiren Shoshu priesthood was a good thing.

So far, GMG has completed 16 segments. Ms. Kimura is planning to finish 10 more episodes in coming weeks. Plans for an English-only version of the show are also in the works.

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