

1998 Theme: Victory of the People
By DAVE McNEILL, Managing Editor
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Nineteen-ninety-eight will be another year of victory for SGI members around the world. At a recent meeting in Japan, the SGI announced that its theme for next year will be Year of Victory of the People for the New Century. SGI Deputy President Einosuke Akiya explained that the theme encompasses three major ideas: victory over the obstacles to our peace movement, victory in our propagation campaign, and victory at home, at work, in the community and in our lives.

Talking about victory over obstacles, Mr. Akiya said that our movement to widely spread the teachings of Buddhism is an unceasing battle against devilish forces. Seeing such devilish functions for what they are — such as the Nikken sect, which is out to destroy the SGI — and defeating them is the victory of faith, the victory of the people, he said.

Second, the SGI is an organization dedicated to the people's happiness, so its efforts to spread Buddhism are its lifeline, he said. Prayers for our friends, encouragement, promotion of publications to help people deepen their understanding of Buddhism, and contributing to and thus making friends in the community — all these serve to propagate Buddhism, he said.

Finally, victory in our lives is crucial. Life is a serious battle in which we either win or lose, and most important, we must win over ourselves, he said. By winning over our personal worries one by one, we can develop ourselves as human beings, gaining wisdom and strengthening our character, he concluded.

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