

## WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

### **Cyberspace District?**

How about “virtual meetings” at a “Cyberspace District”? These activities could extend the lifeblood of faith to guests and members in the following situations: people in remote areas; people without transportation, who do not live within driving distance of other members; guests who are initially too shy or ambivalent to come a live meeting; people initially housebound with agoraphobia or social phobia; and people who work the second shift plus weekends and aren’t near any “morning-available” members.

The format could be a moderated chat room, real-time or delayed-time; delayed-time might be more convenient. Access could be for authorized members and guests behind a firewall. Authorization would prevent members who don’t need it from using it as a way to avoid their human revolution [in a real district], and a firewall would save slanderers from making more bad causes for their lives....

The SGI-USA could encourage chapter leaders to distribute lists of local public libraries that have Internet-ready PCs, which could extend participation to otherwise qualified persons without their own PCs — especially if delayed-time conferencing is used.... Is there any chance that Cyberspace District will materialize soon? It would help a great many people!

— GERALD T. AITKEN, Walden, N.Y.

### **Walk in My Moccasins**

I think one of the great things about the SGI is its tremendous ability to change. Any other organization that had gone through the tremendous changes it has in the last seven years would have collapsed within six months. I especially like the open dialogue in the “Mailbox” section. Although it does not express the opinions of all readers, to me “Mailbox” feels like a great opening to see diverse views of many members.

I had to laugh at the letter from David Kadin (“Keep Your Focus”) in the Oct. 10 “Mailbox.” At first I thought it was just a joke, but after reading it I felt great sadness. I wonder if Mr. Kadin has ever been discriminated against because of his color or sexual orientation. I wonder if he has ever been laughed at or made fun of because of a physical disability or mental impairment. I wonder if he has ever been in a war, saw his good friends die up close and had to carry their bodies out to the chopper.

To me Buddhism is about compassion and social change. The fact that [SGI members have] begun to talk about discrimination (which has existed in this organization as well as society), I think is a tremendous event that I congratulate this organization and the *World Tribune* on.

As for Mr. Kadin, I don’t know your background, but if you really feel that the letters of discrimination you read in the *World Tribune* are “malarkey,” and if you are tired of reading “whining that this person’s point of view has been overlooked, or that person’s cultural background has been inadvertently denigrated, or some other person has suffered some injustice,” then I might very gently suggest to you that you might want to get to know some of “these people” that you talk about. If you were to do this, it may enlighten you, surprise you and possibly even shame you.

Part of my job duties is working with Native Americans. Remember the old saying that “You don’t know who I am until you have walked in my moccasins for awhile.” Well, Mr. Kadin, I suggest you run out and buy a pair of moccasins.

— CLINT WILLIAMS, Salem, Ore.

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