

EDITORIAL: Looking for a Breakthrough? Something Has To Change

With the new year upon us, people are looking forward to 12 months of resolutions met and achievements made. There's something about the calendar flipping to a new year that gives us renewed hope that we'll be able to do this year what we haven't yet been able to do.

But can we?

There's a saying that goes, "If you want something you've never had before, you have to be willing to do something you've never done before." On the organizational level, General Director Zaitzu has called for us all to employ new thinking to achieve our goals. On an individual level, too, new thinking or a new attitude will help us go a long way toward the fulfillment of our desires.

Doing the same old thing in the same old way never results in something new. Breakthroughs occur when we take a novel approach or see something from a fresh perspective. In a word, to get the right job or perfect relationship or to overcome chronic illness demands wisdom.

And wisdom comes from faith. To quote SGI President Ikeda:

*Faith is the source from which
all solutions flow
Faith is the engine that propels us
in the thrilling voyage of life,
a life victorious and transcendent.*

But even wisdom is not enough if we don't make steady efforts. It is not enough to simply chant lots of daimoku, believing idly that things will somehow work out. We chant to tap the Buddha wisdom we have within us, but based on this prayer and wisdom, we must then act consistently and persistently, with great hope for the future. There is no substitute for effort. And as so many people have proven, failure comes only to those who give up.

Recently, Raisa Gorbachev, speaking at Kansai Soka High Schools in Japan, made this same point to an audience of young people. "In our lives we may sometimes encounter painful experiences, leaving profound wounds in our hearts," she said. "It is also true that all of our dreams may not always be fulfilled. But there is always something that we can achieve. There is always a dream that we can realize.

"So those who will triumph in the end are those who get back on their feet and move forward no matter how many times they fall," she continued. "It is up to the strength of our spirit whether we can fight to the end. 'Death' comes to those who have stopped in mid-stride, not to those who are simply tired."

The way to practice Buddhism is with the "same mind as Nichiren." No matter what hardship he encountered, no matter how stunning the setback, Nichiren Daishonin remained focused on how to help people. He was hopeful and courageous because of his profound compassion for humanity. We are all capable of developing this depth of compassion.

Many of us expressed our determination at the start of this year with the words "Something has to change." More often than not the something that has to change is us. Our change in thinking, our change in behavior, our human revolution will help us all do this year what we haven't done before.

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Subject: World Tribune 01/16/98 n.3174 p.2 WT980116p02

Author:

Keywords: Attitude Breakthrough Change Editorials Guidance Looking Opinion Something Tribune World