

WORDS TO THE WISE: CARING FOR OTHERS

You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both practice and study arise from faith. Teach others to the best of your ability, even if only a single sentence or phrase. (“The True Entity of Life,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 95)

From SGI President Ikeda:

*If only large meetings were held, it would be difficult for all members to gain heartfelt understanding and make a deep determination in faith. The importance of giving detailed consideration to the situation of each person through one-on-one dialogue cannot be emphasized too strongly; giving individual encouragement should be our primary concern. The SGI has developed to the extent it has because we have steadfastly adhered to this principle. (August 1997 *Living Buddhism*, p.36)

*True concern for others manifests itself as unconditional friendship. To be considerate means that the more someone is suffering, the more love you show them. It gives you the courage to help another stand up. And it means recognizing another person's unhappiness for what it is, trying to understand and share his or her suffering. This will enable you to grow and at the same time help the other person become strong. Consideration is training ourselves in the art of encouraging others. (Aug. 15, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 10)

*Finally, leaders should be second to none in taking action. We have to take the initiative ourselves, encouraging those who are suffering and visiting those who are unwell and need to be cheered. We have to spring to action quickly — with a light step, warmth in our voice and a friendly, down-to-earth attitude. To the extent that we take action, kosen-rufu will advance in our local communities and the greater progress we will make in our human revolution. (Oct. 24, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 11)

*Even just a few words spoken with honesty by a person of pure faith can deeply penetrate another's heart. On the other hand, if one's words are vague and uncertain, they will lack the freshness and the power to move others. (Sept. 19, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 13)

*I have constantly stressed how important it is for leaders to personally go to the front line of activities, to see things for themselves, to meet with people. Wherever leaders have done so, there has been tremendous growth. Where leaders have grown arrogant and failed to make such personal efforts, however, there has only been stagnation. (Nov. 7, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 7)

WT