

For Women: A Matter of Determination, Not Time
By SYBIL SEPASSI
San Diego Region WD Leader

One of the goals of our women's division commemorative meetings this year was for everyone to bring a friend. This idea struck a chord in me: I realized that what was missing in my practice was actively sharing this Buddhism with others.

But working full time, raising two teenagers and participating in SGI-USA activities already seemed to completely fill my schedule. I wasn't sure how I could also squeeze propagation into my schedule.

I opened the Goshō in search of some direction or encouragement. I was inspired by a passage I read in "Reply to Shiji Shiro": "You can now expound to others even a phrase or sentence of the Lotus Sutra because of your close relationship to it in some past existence. You must realize this" [Citation?].

Instead of complaining about my lack of time to propagate Buddhism, I decided to chant to meet someone who was suffering and with whom I could share this great practice. Within a few days, a co-worker asked if we could take a walk on our lunch break. I had always wanted to get to know her and gladly agreed. As we walked around our building, she began to talk about a disturbing problem she was having with her supervisor.

I told her that whenever I have a difficult relationship with someone, I chant Nam-myōhō-rengē-kyō for that person's happiness. One's life-condition surely influences the environment in accord with Buddhism's teaching of the oneness of life and its environment. As a result, something always happens in that relationship to change for the better, I told her.

She asked, "How do you say those words again?"

A few days later, she popped her head into my office, her face beaming. "Guess what?" she said. "I chanted all weekend, and I feel great! And, by the way, the problem with my supervisor has resolved itself."

We've continued our walks and dialogues. She is looking forward to attending a district discussion meeting and wants to learn more about how this practice works.

So, I now realize that it's not a matter of how much time I spend but rather how much determination I have to introduce people to Nichiren Daishōnin's Buddhism. Doing so is not only a wonderful benefit, but a great privilege.

SGI President Ikeda recently said: "We are the busiest, but also the freest of individuals — free in the truest sense of the word. We are free to attend SGI meetings. We are free to talk to others about Buddhism. We are free to work for kosen-rufu. There is no greater happiness than this."

With the spirit of "I Will Do It," I am determined to make many more friends and express my care for them by sharing this Buddhism with them in a natural way.

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