

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Pioneers Deserve Praise

As I look around and see the many changes within the SGI, I see growth, change and a new vital future. Many people are asking why it took so long, and I think we are missing a very big point, which is that Nichiren Daishonin expounded that our guidelines of faith should change according to the times and culture in which we live. We fail to see that we are progressing, and that we have many pioneer members to thank for this, and instead I see hostility and blame toward the “old SGI.”

It brings tears to my eyes to think of the dedication and extreme efforts that were put out from members who could hardly speak English. And the hours of home visiting and caring for new members so they may grow and blossom to become happy. The time, effort and nurturing they provided by sacrificing their own lives.

Yes, I must say that at times the guidance and practices could be strict, but I wonder if my faith would be as strong without this sincere concern for my life. We owe a huge debt of gratitude, and yet we feel we have “defeated” the “old SGI.”

Change is hard in the best of circumstances, but I’m sure it has been very hard for our pioneer members to adapt, and I think they deserve our full support. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the pioneer members from the bottom of my heart and say congratulations! Without you we would not have such a firm foundation, and your victory in life is my inspiration!

— LENA E. STRAIT-BODEY, via e-mail

Joyful Parenting

Thank you, Michael Lisagor, for your excellent column (“Clearly A Parent,” April 24). Your witty, heartfelt writing provokes both laughter and tears as I think of how precious my own 7- and 9-year-old fortune “babies” are to my husband and me. The job of parenting is indeed the most profound, difficult and joyful responsibility in the world! Conversely, as a parent, it is excruciating to read or hear about the cases of child abuse that seem to pervade society today.

Due to this Buddhism, however, I remain optimistic. I’m so proud to be an SGI parent because of the positive effect this philosophy and organization have had on my parenting skills and my family. With such a powerful sword, we can definitely influence society to be more compassionate to its most vulnerable members!

I makes all my struggles worthwhile when my kids look into my eyes and say, “Mommy, you’re the best mommy in the whole world!”

— LYNN SACHNOFF, Culver City, Calif.

Thanks for the Changes

I’m so encouraged by the April 3 issue that I had to let you know. The wonderful experience, guidance about the heart, perspectives about issues relating to daily life, the editorial — it all seems so complete. Maybe it’s where my practice is that I was just ready to hear it, or maybe you’ve made some changes recently. (I’m sure you have.) Thank you so much.

— RON WREDE, Seattle

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