

**For Women**  
**My Mission & the 'World Tribune'**  
**By SANDRA KNOBLOCH, Texas Region WD Leader**

In 1987, after 10 years of a successful career in early childhood education, I quit my job. The bureaucracy and paperwork were exhausting, and it was diverting my focus from the children. I also decided that I could be a better SGI-USA leader if I weren't so tired all the time. I took a job working as an administrative assistant and increased my involvement in SGI activities. But while working with adults, I realized that both my real strength and real mission were working with children. I missed being in the classroom and made a determination to return.

I have to confess, making that decision was scary — I knew that I would have to start from scratch. Before leaving my first job, I was recognized as an innovative, creative educator, but none of that mattered now; it was both humbling and humiliating as I went door to door looking for teaching work.

I initially could only get work as a substitute teacher. To pay my bills, I also taught adults at night school. During this period, I found fortification by chanting heartfelt daimoku and reading SGI President Ikeda's guidance in the *World Tribune* — especially when I had little food in the refrigerator. Having access to his encouragement never to be defeated was the catalyst I needed to persevere.

Although I had read the *World Tribune* throughout the 25 years of my practice, it was through this experience that I developed a clearer understanding of the link between the *World Tribune*, the quality of my practice and joy in my life. When the newspaper arrived with President Ikeda's guidance, it was as if a friend had come to visit. I felt as if I could sit down and communicate with this friend who, no matter what my circumstances, always knew my heart. It always helped me focus on my mission, and it imbued me with a sense of purpose and identity. All of my crises of the moment were put into perspective; I felt renewed and clear-minded again.

Recently, President Ikeda wrote: "The SGI is not in pursuit of some abstract intellectual doctrine but a complete, real human revolution — one in which people change their fundamental attitudes and ways of thinking and focus their minds, their actions and their lives on the highest good.

"Essentially, this revolution takes place when our lives are in the state of Buddhahood. When we fuse our lives with the enlightened life of the Buddha, we can tap the power within to fundamentally change ourselves."

This was the type of spiritual nourishment with which I weekly renewed the courage and confidence I needed to persevere until I achieved my goal.

Through my connection to President Ikeda via the *World Tribune*, I changed my attitude, which led to me getting my life back on the path of my mission in the classroom. Today, I teach a pre-kindergarten program for children with special needs. I love going to work every day, and I know I'm making a difference in my students' lives.

The same day I signed the contract for my job was also the day I was appointed women's division region leader. It was a reminder to me that both my life's work and my SGI-USA activities are of equal importance, and it was in both areas that I needed, as President Ikeda had encouraged me, to have victory in my daily life.

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