

For Women: The 'World Tribune' Always in Hand

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In the early, formative days of the SGI-USA, there were no publications or other resources for non-Japanese speaking members to learn about the greatness of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism. And because of the language barrier, the pioneer members had a difficult time inviting Americans to discussion meetings. Consequently, they more often befriended other Japanese with whom they could communicate comfortably.

To these pioneer members, it seemed as if the seeds of kosen-rufu would take a long time to flourish in the United States.

The few Americans who began to meet with the Japanese pioneers initially had a hard time understanding Buddhism. Of course, they chanted and received many benefits. But they wanted to study and learn more.

Recognizing the need to fill this void — so that kosen-rufu could spread throughout the United States — SGI President Ikeda established the *World Tribune*. Its first issue was published in August 1964. The pioneer members were happy to use this new publication, calling it the missile of American kosen-rufu.

I remember the first sentence I learned in English after I arrived in the United States: "How would you like to come to our life-philosophy meeting?" I would always have a copy of the *World Tribune* in hand. It became my bridge across the barriers of language, culture, race and gender; my wedge to open doors, develop new relationships and create lasting friendships.

Today, I still have two subscriptions to it — one for myself, to keep in my scrapbook, and the other to share.

Close to 10 years ago, my family and I moved into our current home. I made a determination then that I would somehow use the *World Tribune* to reach out and get to know our neighbors. Over the course of time, we established a friendship with an older couple on our block. Whenever I see a *World Tribune* article that I think may be of interest to them, such as President Ikeda's dialogue "The Third Stage of Life," I give them a copy of the paper.

Last year, the husband was hospitalized. I found articles about health to share when my family and I went to visit him, and we encouraged him to chant. When the Global Family Festival was held here in March, we invited the couple. They attended and really enjoyed the event. My next goal is to invite them to a discussion meeting!

I think of the *World Tribune* as an invaluable resource for information on how to live life; President Ikeda's guidance is an instruction manual on how we can become happy human beings. I want to share this resource not only with my members but all people with whom I come in contact. Through my experience of sharing this publication with my neighbors, I am beginning to understand the importance of planting the seeds for kosen-rufu beyond my own, familiar backyard.

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