

Words to the Wise: TAKING ACTION

[Y]ou are one of the very few whose action matches his will. Your faith is stronger than the faith of others.... (“Propagation by the Wise,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 171)

From SGI President Ikeda:

* The German poet Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) writes: “How may one get to know oneself? Never by contemplation, only, indeed, by action. Seek to do your duty, and you will know at once how it is with you.” It’s all about taking action, taking that first step. If your aim is to swim across a vast ocean, it will do you no good to get cold feet before you even take the plunge. Rather, you’ve got to make a move, keeping your sights on your goal in the distance. (Aug. 8, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 12)

* What is necessary for us to realize fresh progress and unleash new energy? The first step must be to take action ourselves; to begin something ourselves; to create some kind of drama. That is the only way. And those who take the initiative will be victorious. (Nov. 7, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 8)

* Anyone can set up a chapter. But that by itself is meaningless. What really counts is whether that serves as an inspiration for everyone, including the leaders, to advance with fresh commitment in their journey of faith. The crucial thing is not the organization per se, but whether the determination to achieve kosen-rufu is established in the hearts of members. The way to achieve that establishment is to keep making earnest efforts to encourage and support each person — to engage, with one’s entire heart and being, in inspiring discussions with each. (July 25, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 5)

* I want each of you to rise to the challenge of revolutionizing the area where you live into an ideal community and to do so with the determination to start from where you are right now. This means building a good SGI organization in your local area — and building it yourself with loving, painstaking care, the way an artist pours his or her heart and soul into creating a work of art. (Oct. 24, 1997, *World Tribune*, p. 11)

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