

PIONEERING PEACE IN TRINIDAD & TOBAGO

The Emerald Isles Area hosted a meeting Oct. 24 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, with Soka Gakkai Vice President Kenji Yoshigo and approximately 200 members and guests. The meeting opened with a video showing of “Daisaku Ikeda Up Close,” which chronicles the life of SGI President Ikeda. A cultural program featuring songs, dances, poems and steel-pan performances showcased Trinidad and Tobago’s rich, diverse culture.

After a former temple member who had returned to the SGI shared her experience, Vice President Yoshigo spoke about the temple issue. Quoting “The Three Kinds of Treasure,” “The real meaning of Shakyamuni Buddha’s appearance in this world lay in his behavior as a human being” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2 [rev. ed], p. 240), he clarified that the benefit of the practice of the Daishonin’s Buddhism appears in the positive changes one displays in his or her behavior.

Mr. Yoshigo noted that the Daishonin recognized that we all have problems, but by chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and fusing our lives with the Gohonzon, we can tap the courage and wisdom to challenge these. Then, we can make every possible effort to win in our daily lives. Only by showing actual proof of faith in our daily lives, he said, can we deepen our confidence in this Buddhism and our innate Buddhahood.

In this regard, Mr. Yoshigo urged the members to first set specific goals, so that they can have clarity when offering prayers to the Gohonzon. He asked everyone to renew their determination for their own and others’ happiness, thus calling President Ikeda to visit Trinidad and Tobago in the near future.

The SGI president, in appreciation for the members’ dedicated efforts over many years to share the Daishonin’s Buddhism in the Caribbean, sponsored a luncheon for the members held after the general meeting.

—TED MORINO and MICHAEL HENRY