

DEAR SGI-USA MEMBERS,

Thank you for all your efforts so far this year. We are now preparing for the year 2000, which the SGI has named “Raising the Curtain on the 21st Century — The Year of Youth.” With our Nov. 18 commemorative meetings nearing completion, we will soon launch into the first quarterly focus for the new year: propagation.

I recently spoke to a woman who enthusiastically described her joy at having a friend — for whom she had been chanting for years — begin to chant herself. I was moved. Why does this exuberance well forth from our lives when we speak about our Buddhist practice, our SGI organization or our quest for peace and the people’s happiness that we’ve inherited from Nichiren Daishonin?

When we tell even one person about the Lotus Sutra, we become an envoy of the Buddha. As the “Teacher of the Law” chapter of the Lotus Sutra says: “If one of these good men or good women in the time after I have passed into extinction is able to secretly expound the Lotus Sutra to one person, even one phrase of it, then you should know that he or she is the envoy of the Thus Come One. He has been dispatched by the Thus Come One and carries out the Thus Come One’s work” (*The Lotus Sutra*, p. 162).

An “envoy of the Buddha,” is empowered as the Buddha and can take action as a Buddha. When we take action as Buddhas we feel joy.

As we teach others about Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, the highest condition of life — Buddhahood — becomes manifest in our lives. Joy is but one of the results. Whether or not the person we’re talking to is motivated to practice by anything we have said, all efforts to propagate have this same result — fortune develops within one’s life and manifests in our own life-condition.

Our joy can be further magnified when a person we have been encouraging actually begins to chant and we can clearly see the changes in their lives.

“We exert ourselves to spread Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism and carry out other activities so that we can accumulate good fortune and become happy,” President Ikeda reminded us in February 1990. “We do all this for our own sake, not for the sake of the organization and most certainly not for the sake of our leaders” (*Faith into Action*, p. 157).

I sincerely hope that everyone can experience the great joy and benefit that accompanies telling others about our Buddhist practice. By beginning the new year with a focus on propagation, we hope to produce a momentum of joy and benefit throughout the year.

Fred M. Zaitso, SGI-USA General Director

Title: Dear SGI-USA Members

Subject: World Tribune 11/19/99 n.3269 p.9 WT991119p09

Author: Fred M. Zaitso

Keywords: Dear Encouragement Fred Guidance Members Propagation Zaitso