

WORDS TO THE WISE THE SPIRIT OF PROPAGATION

Our desire is to share this blessing equally with all people, and we, together with them, will attain Buddhahood.

—“The Dragon Gate,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol 1, p. 251

FROM SGI PRESIDENT DAISAKU IKEDA:

The following excerpts of SGI President Ikeda’s guidance on propagation were taken from Faith Into Action (now available in SGI-USA bookstores and by mail order).

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The dual nature of practice, for ourselves and for others, will never change. Practice for ourselves constitutes chanting daimoku and doing gongyo with faith in the Gohonzon, while practice for others constitutes teaching others about the Mystic Law.

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How can one propagate the Daishonin’s Buddhism without knowing about other teachings in the world? When based on the Mystic Law, all laws of the world and society begin to function in their most valuable way. All endeavors in human society—in the fields of politics, economics, learning and so on—become revitalized. They come to display their full potential and attain new life. The lifeblood of Buddhism pulses within society. Cut off from secular affairs, Buddhism cannot reveal its full validity.

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People may sincerely think they are practicing Buddhism, but if they do not tell others about Buddhism, neglect to take action for kosen-rufu and give no encouragement to fellow members, then they cannot be said to be correctly practicing the Daishonin’s Buddhism. Attending discussion meetings, giving individual guidance and sharing thoughts and opinions with our friends—these and other activities we of the SGI undertake are in direct accordance with the Daishonin’s teachings. And the Daishonin would surely applaud our efforts.

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Nichiren Daishonin said to one of his lay followers: “I entrust you with the propagation of Buddhism in your province. Because the seeds of Buddhahood sprout in response to the proper influence, one expounds the teaching of the one vehicle” (MW-5, 151). Forming connections with other human beings is important. For each of us, everything starts with developing connections with others, forging bonds of friendship and winning their trust.

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When something needs saying, it is our duty to speak out. When something is right, we should say so; and when something is wrong or mistaken, we should likewise point that out. Cheating, lies or scheming should be denounced with alacrity. It is precisely because we have done this that the Soka Gakkai and SGI have developed to the extent that they have. To say what must be said—that is the spirit of propagation and the essence of the Soka Gakkai and SGI.

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There is no need whatsoever to be impatient in propagating Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism. Rather, it is preferable that strict standards be applied when granting admission

to the organization, to the extent that those eager to join will find that their wish is not easily granted. One must absolutely never have an easygoing or careless attitude when it comes to allowing people to receive the Gohonzon.

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It is our hearts that changes others' hearts. Friendship changes people. Travelers who pull their capes over their shoulders and brace themselves determinedly against the cold wind naturally relax and change their outlook and actions when warmed by the sun.

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Propagation is the action of the Buddha's envoys. We should treasure and most highly respect those who carry out this noble, benevolent practice.

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"You've done well. You were able to plant the seed of Buddhahood in your friend's heart. That's a splendid thing." So saying, you should praise and encourage one another, sharing one another's joy as brothers and sisters. Touched by such a family-like atmosphere, more and more people will begin to take faith in true Buddhism. Love and peace are the lifeblood of a true home.

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We exert ourselves to spread Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and carry out other activities so that we can accumulate good fortune and become happy. We do all this for our own sake, not for the sake of the organization and most certainly nor for the sake of our leaders.