

SGI-USA MEMBERS ACCOMPLISH 10 BILLION DAIMOKU TARGET

Like leaves falling from late autumn trees, thousands of multicolored daimoku cards floated into collection boxes in the United States and the Caribbean toward Nov. 18 last year. The result of the yearend harvest? Extraordinary success — Nam-myoho-renge-kyo was chanted more than 10 billion times.

The “Victorious America: 10 Billion Daimoku for Justice & Victory” campaign, sponsored by SGI-USA’s youth division, was first announced in the Feb. 26 issue of *Seize the Day*. “Members are frequently asking what they can do regarding the temple issue,” the announcement read. “Praying for the justice of the SGI and praying for all to see and understand the grave errors of Nichiren Shoshu is action we can all take.”

Not just a numerical victory, exceeding 10 billion daimoku fueled wave after wave of victories in the real world:

- Many areas deepened their commitment to chanting, studying and taking action in the Soka Spirit movement. Efforts to locate and talk with temple members dramatically increased.

- Many U.S. temple members decided to disconnect from Nichiren Shoshu in the last few months. This number is equivalent to that of a well-attended meeting at some of the U.S. temples.

- Recently, more than 10,000 temple members decided to leave Nichiren Shoshu in Japan. Last Nov. 30, as we were tabulating our victory 1999’s chanting efforts, Renshu-ji temple in Kagoshima Prefecture, Japan seceded — the fourth temple to do so last year.

Many areas are now discussing their own daimoku campaigns for 2000. One goal we can all focus on is the Tokyo District Court’s final verdict in the Seattle Incident trial, which is expected on March 21, 2000.

—*ROB WEINSTEIN*