

GET REAL!
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I love the TV show *The Practice* on Sunday nights. I always watch it and if I'm at an SGI activity, I tape it. I never miss it. But in September my television died, meaning no *The Practice*. Because of this, I decided to renew my three-year-old determination to finish reading all 12 volumes of *The Human Revolution* by Ho Goku (the pen-name of SGI President Ikeda). Volume 10 opens with Shin'ichi Yamamoto (the character representing President Ikeda in the novel) in Osaka on Jan. 4, 1956. President Toda had entrusted him to lead what seemed to be an impossible campaign. He was just 28 years old at the time, but his determination was absolutely firm that they would be victorious. He had only seven short months to accomplish their goal and achieve an unfathomable result.

President Ikeda writes: "When Shin'ichi heard what President Toda expected of him in the forthcoming Kansai campaign, he responded to his mentor's call without a moment's hesitation. However, even at that moment he was all too painfully aware of the wide gap which lay between reality and the goal.

"At first Shin'ichi sank into despair. Although he told no one, he was in constant torment, day in and day out, with the baffling problem of how to unfold the campaign. In the midst of his painful search for a solution he was about to scream out in agony, when one after another, like rising clouds, passages of the Goshō appeared in his mind. These passages sharply pointed out to him how to turn the impossible into the possible. They told him that the key to victory did not necessarily lie in numerical strength but in the indestructible unity of even a few people, and clearly revealed that the power of faith was unlimited. Shin'ichi now thoroughly realized that the only thing he could count on were the Gohonzon and the Goshō" (December 1977 *Seikyo Times*, p. 15).

Every morning while President Ikeda was in Osaka, he would start the day by doing gongyo with the local leaders. At that time he would encourage them with a Goshō study pertaining to what struggle they were going through. He did not talk to them about the election, because this campaign was not about politics. He knew that the best way to achieve the goal was for each and every member to be happy, to have joy of faith.

When people are happy, they want to share their joy with others. Therefore, he encouraged the leaders to visit each member and encourage them. Because of these efforts, many members became happy and were inspired to introduce many other people to the practice. They were able to accomplish something seemingly impossible, becoming completely successful in what is known as the Osaka Campaign.

As I read this, I was also inspired. Our SGI organization is so precious. We are working toward peace and the happiness of people. It's easy to forget why we have small activities like our district general meetings this month and large meetings like our 40th-anniversary celebrations. Each of these activities is a step closer toward world peace. Through this process it is also important that we challenge our own dreams. This is one of the best ways to welcome President Ikeda back to America. If we have the same resolve as our mentor, President Ikeda, we will definitely achieve all our goals and celebrate a great victory toward May 3, 2001.