

**A CALL TO ACTION  
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Sometimes, there are moments in history that define a generation. Moments that people look back to and read about in history books; moments that define the dignity of an age, when people were willing to give their whole lives for a greater cause — one that benefits the whole of humanity.

Young men and young women of SGI-USA, we are now living in such a moment. It is a moment of infinite potential and defined mission. It is a moment that will never come again.

This Nov. 18, we will celebrate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Soka Gakkai, our “value creation society.” Seventy years ago, two men (presidents Makiguchi and Toda) dared to defy the trends of a society headed for war, death and unspeakable suffering. They lived in a military state, where it was considered more honorable to die in war for one’s country than to prevent war. It was a society that sacrificed the many in order to realize the ambitions of the few.

These two men created a movement that uplifted the value of human life, exalted the mission of caring for others as the greatest human activity and elevated the ordinary citizen to the loftiest stature. They offered a practical means for attaining individual happiness and for achieving lasting reform in society. And... they went to prison for these beliefs.

How did we learn about these two men? How is it that we came to be a part of this value-creation society? The fact is these two men had a successor in young Daisaku Ikeda. This successor has realized every single thing that these two men lived for. His accomplishments actually exceed them.

But, if the successor has no successors, how can this movement continue? Who will continue this legacy for generations to come?

We stand at the dawn of the greatest year in Soka Gakkai history, 2001. As we look around in America today, who is enacting the mission of being successors? We have to ask ourselves this question. We have to decide, right here, right now, what we are living for! It is our historic mission to rise up and succeed our mentor. The men and women of our organization have given their lives so that we may do this. Nothing we could ever do will bring greater joy and happiness to them than this.

This is a call to action. It is now that we must set the tone for 2001—the “Year of Total Victory for the New Century.”

First, young men and women of America, we must rise up and finish what we started in the year 2000 — propagating the Law to the fullest extent of our abilities. Let’s embrace our fellow citizens across the country and share with them the practical means for attaining lasting happiness. Let’s overcome all our doubts, all our confusion and cowardice and boldly engage in shakubuku.

Second, let’s redouble our efforts to promote students to apply to Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo. In this citadel of humanistic education, our mentor is placing his greatest hopes and expectations. Let’s make sure every prospective student in America has the best chance to consider this historic opportunity. If we don’t inspire them, who will?

Finally, let’s begin preparations toward our zone youth culture festivals for 2001.

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Let's sincerely chant and rack our brains to uncover the quintessential thing that we, as youthful successors, want to convey to SGI President Ikeda.

It is often said that the measure of a person's greatness lies in those who succeed him. The same could be said of a generation. I never cease to be amazed and encouraged by all of you, the youth of SGI-USA. Now is the time for our generation, to seize the day.