

# YOUTH STUDY JANUARY 2001 WHAT DOES "MISSION" MEAN? WHAT IS MY "MISSION"

## By Youth Study Committee

Buddhism expounds the principle of "three thousand realms in a single life-moment." This principle holds that each life-moment is endowed with 3,000 different functions, which influence not only our own lives but those of all around us. They also influence society, our natural environment and the earth, and encompass the entire universe. Therefore, once you have decided to do something, the 3,000 functions and your entire being start working to help you reach your goal. The entire universe also starts moving toward the fulfillment of your goal. If you pray, "This is how I want to be," and continue to work toward your dream, you will gradually realize the future you have envisaged.

An ascending life, where you keep striving to grow and improve—this is what we mean by human revolution. Human revolution doesn't mean becoming something special or different from who you are; it simply means striving to improve yourself, no matter what challenges you face. Your future self does not exist in some far-off place; it exists in the heart and mind of your present self. That is why you have to face and tackle the realities that confront you. Just wishing to be a certain way and not making any concrete efforts will get you nowhere. (Feb. 25 *World Tribune*, p. 5)

## INTRODUCTION

*While working on the study page, we on the Youth Study Committee talked about the strong connection between a person's happiness and life's mission. This month and last month, we have been having a dialogue about "mission" with the youth of SGI-USA. From our collective experience, we have learned that to live toward our mission or discovery of our mission is a way of creating happy lives.*

*After reading our thoughts, please write your personal responses about how you view "mission." We really want to print your thoughts, and make this a Study Page dialogue that includes many different voices and perspectives.*

*Please send your responses via e-mail to [seize@sgi-usa.org](mailto:seize@sgi-usa.org), or mail to Seize the Day, 606 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica, CA 90401.*

## By David Joray, Washington, D.C. Youth Division Study Committee

The idea of mission has always been a difficult one for me to grasp. Though I grew up practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and have been pondering the question, "What is my mission?" for as long as I can remember, I admit that I am still baffled.

For many years, I accepted what other people — namely my parents, my professors or my seniors in faith — wanted me to accomplish and I can say that, to this day, I have achieved the dreams of many others. However, even after accomplishing these

great things, I was still left with an empty, incomplete feeling in my heart. These troubled feelings became so negative that they began to compromise my faith. No longer did I understand what “my mission for kosen-rufu” signified. Why was I practicing? Was it for my parents? Was it for the SGI or for President Ikeda?

It was then that I decided to embark on a personal campaign, chanting every day to specifically discover what this idea of mission was all about and what it meant to me. This was several months ago and I feel that now I have a greater understanding. And though some might say that it has taken me years to figure this out, an important thing to remember is that everyone is different and that everyone has his or her own pace.

President Ikeda once said, “The purpose of faith is to become happy.” In today’s fast-paced world, where there exist so many opportunities to live life to the fullest, and where there are so many people who want you to do one thing or another, remember that your mission in life—your mission for kosen-rufu—is to become happy. It’s a very easy thing to forget. Fortunately we have every new day to rediscover our mission.

**By Ken Saragosa, Orange County, Calif.  
Youth Division Study Committee**

The topic of mission has been very useful to me. This is a word that we hear a lot. When I was a kid, I would think about *Mission: Impossible*, and I imagined that my mission was something that would come to me, and that I could “choose to accept it.”

As I got older, I began to ask myself, “What is my mission?” It dawned on me that I was *waiting* for my mission to appear. I was looking for some sign about what my mission was, even wanting people to just tell me what my mission was!

Through my prayer, and through reading President Ikeda’s guidance, I realized that my mission was *my* mission; it was something which had to come from within me. I also realized that mission didn’t mean becoming something I didn’t want to be, or living up to an ideal which I didn’t think I could handle. Rather, realizing my mission is just another way of talking about realizing what my hopes and dreams are, and appreciating my unique talents and abilities.

According to Buddhism, every single person has unlimited potential. Whether we believe it or not, each one of us has something unique to offer the world. In reality, the question isn’t whether we believe what Buddhism says; it’s whether we believe in our own true potential.

Mission is another word for dreams. It is another way of saying, “I will become the person I always wanted to be.” And it means believing that “I truly have something to offer the world.” I realized that we don’t express our mission just within SGI activities, or within our jobs or careers. We express our mission in our families, in our friendships and in all our relationships—everywhere that we are is the place that we realize our mission.