

EVERYTHING BEGINS WITH PRAYER B.S.G. LAUNCHING 1 BILLION DAIMOKU CAMPAIGN

The SGI-USA Byakuren, Soka Group and Gajokai (BSG) members are striving to become the driving force of the youth in our organization and raise the future leaders of SGI-USA who will respond to the vision of our mentor, SGI President Ikeda. We have determined to constantly take action to ensure success in all of the SGI-USA's activities in this significant year of 2001.

To do this, we must "use the strategy of the Lotus Sutra before all others." President Ikeda has said: "The first thing is to pray. From the moment we begin to pray, things start moving. The darker the night, the closer the dawn. From the moment we chant daimoku with a deep and powerful resolve, the sun begins to rise in our hearts" (*Faith Into Action*, p. 152).

Using prayer as our foundation, we are launching a billion daimoku campaign beginning on May 3 and continuing for exactly one year. Our goal is to involve 1,000 BSG members across the country in chanting one million daimoku each toward four goals:

1) To ensure total victory in all endeavors for SGI-USA throughout the year. This includes our May 3 celebrations, May Commemorative Contribution Activity, the opening of Soka University of America, Aliso Viejo and each zone's SGI Family Youth Festivals. This also includes our prayers that President and Mrs. Ikeda will return to the United States and for their successful activities throughout their stay.

2) To solidify the Soka Spirit movement in America, so that Nichiren Shoshu stops misleading others. As BSG members, we are committed to protecting the Bodhisattvas of the Earth, and there is no more direct threat to their advancement than Nichiren Shoshu. Let's completely extinguish Nichiren Shoshu's influence in America this year!

3) For each BSG member to introduce one person this year to this great teaching, helping them to join the SGI-USA. Let's encourage and support one another with the realization that this is the most powerful means by which to revolutionize our lives and become true disciples of President Ikeda.

4) For each BSG member to have personal victories in their lives this year! Let's raise the bar in our daily lives, not settling for mediocre results or compromising with our weaknesses. Once and for all, let's make this the year that we all create a breakthrough and make 2001 the turning point in our faith.

In order to unite our efforts, stay focused and inform all BSG members about our collective progress, we will have a BSG page on the official SGI-USA Web site (www.sgi-usa.org). The Web site will allow us to collect and chart the daimoku being

chanted nationwide, as well as provide a forum for us to encourage and support each other toward our goals. The details about how the daimoku is to be collected will be communicated through each zone BSG representative during this month.

Together, let's unite in prayer and action to advance our movement farther than ever into every area of society while scoring unprecedented victories in our daily lives. Let's become shining examples of the Bodhisattvas of the Earth and people President Ikeda is proud to call successors.