

**NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE FROM  
SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR DANNY NAGASHIMA  
YOUR VICTORY IS AMERICA'S VICTORY**

Happy New Year! I am so happy to greet this new year together with all of you. SGI President Ikeda has referred to this as the century of life and the century of hope. Finally, this new century has dawned! This is also the year that we will see the opening of the Aliso Viejo campus of Soka University of America.

As we enter this new year, President Ikeda and the entire world are focused on the United States. We have the honor of being the people who embrace Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and take responsibility for establishing this philosophy in American society.

The SGI's theme this year is "The Year of Total Victory for the New Century." This is the year where we show victory in our lives—not just for our own sake, but for the sake of the new century.

Every new year, many of us set goals. I myself have a huge list of goals. Every year I review that list and cross off those I accomplished, adding new ones to the list.

This year, I want to urge you to set your own goals. Don't hesitate. Since this is such a special year, why not think big? Why not embrace big dreams? And then, based on your sincere prayer, take action every day, even a little bit, to make progress toward your dreams.

"Total victory" means showing proof of benefit in every aspect of our lives—in our jobs, our families, our relationships and our areas of responsibility in the SGI-USA. I hope you are convinced that challenging yourself to accomplish the goals that you set is the very best cause you can make toward "total victory" in the new millennium.

As we greet a new year and new century, now is the time for us to advance with an awareness of the great contribution each one of us can make. When President Ikeda talks about his hopes for America, I believe that *America* means every one of us. As each one of us reveals our true ability, and as each one of us strives to create happy and meaningful lives, then America will express its greatest potential.

Together with our mentor, we are creating the dawn of a new era. This is the enactment of a great drama, and you are the main actors. Your victory is America's victory; your victory is a victory for the new century.

Thank you so much for all you've done this past year. Because of your tremendous and sincere efforts, I am determined to work harder than before to support all of you.