

**SGI GENERAL DIRECTOR WADA VISITS LOS ANGELES  
OUR SINCERITY DETERMINES EVERYTHING  
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On the morning of Jan. 8, SGI General Director Eiichi Wada and SGI North America Bureau Director Norimasa Saito arrived in Los Angeles for a nine-day stay in the United States. SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima commented that despite the long flight, “Mr. Wada was in great spirits and extremely happy. It was as though he had returned home.”

At each meeting Mr. Wada attended in Southern California, he reminded everyone of the importance and power of the basics of faith, practice and study. He quoted Nichiren Daishonin, who said, “There is no true happiness for human beings other than chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 681), and explained that “doing gongyo and chanting is not an obligation — nor is working to advance kosen-rufu. It is for our own sake and for our own happiness.”

On Jan. 16, Mr. Wada attended a Southern California Zone leaders meeting held at the Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center with more than 1,700 in attendance. General Director Nagashima introduced a video of SGI President Ikeda’s powerful speech at the 51st Headquarters Leaders Meeting held in November of last year (Dec. 15 and 22, 2000, *World Tribune*). Following the video, Mr. Wada shared that President Ikeda is in excellent health. On Jan. 2, he turned 73 years old.

Mr. Wada commented that simply sharing the power of this Buddhism with others — the act of conducting dialogue with friends, relatives and all the people around us — is itself propagation. “The Daishonin explains that the act of *shakubuku* is just like planting the seed of Buddhahood in the field — in the heart of other people’s lives,” he said. “This seed will someday bud and bear fruit with the support of sunlight and water. And depending on the type of tree of course, some will bear fruit at an earlier stage than others. But whenever the bud appears, we should take very good care of it. That’s how we raise capable individuals.”

Mr. Wada went on to recount the early days of his Buddhist practice. “I embraced the Gohonzon on May 18, 1954,” he said. “I started practicing because I was very sick, and within 100 days of practice I was able to recover from my illness. This was my first benefit.

“The first time I met President Ikeda was in 1955. On that occasion, he shared two points with me. First, he told me: ‘You will encounter various obstacles and adversities in life. However, please never leave the Gohonzon.’ His second point was to ‘please follow a good senior both in times of joy as well as sadness.’ He told me never to remain alone in my practice.”

Mr. Wada shared his feeling that for too long, human beings have been abused, enslaved and made tools for the sake of religion, politics, education and economics. “We are now enacting a struggle, together with President Ikeda,” he said, “to reverse this relationship so that these human institutions come to exist for their true purpose—to serve the happiness of the people.

“In order to change the world in this way,” he continued, “we must struggle against the abuse of existing authority. Through our efforts at propagation, we can expand our realm of friendship, trust and happiness throughout our immediate surroundings. What is important is our sincere heart. Our sincerity determines everything.”