

**PERSPECTIVE
MAKING MAY 3, 2001, MY OWN
BY DORIS MCCLOSKEY, CHICAGO**

‘What is May 3, 2001?’ asks Doris McCloskey. ‘It’s a beginning for promoting world peace in my own neighborhood as SGI President Ikeda would.’

My trek toward May 3, 2001, began some 36 years ago. You might say that I stumbled onto the path toward enlightenment. Many SGI comrades of my era don’t think of themselves as pioneers (those who blaze new trails) but as road warriors. You know who you are.

As a reluctant bodhisattva, I learned how to practice, how to follow my seniors in faith, and that May 3, 2001, was 30-some years away. I didn’t pay much attention to any of this for the first several years. I was never what you might call a “good Buddhist”—I couldn’t keep my mouth shut or do anything unless I was first convinced of the value in doing it.

But I started to ask myself: “What is May 3, 2001? Is it a destination? A goal?” I realized that it was somehow connected to the mentor–disciple relationship between SGI President Ikeda and me, as it is for President Ikeda and presidents Makiguchi and Toda. So I began to chant about the mentor–disciple concept.

In 1980, President Ikeda told a group of us in Washington, D.C., to chant a lot between that time and May 3, 2001. I wasn’t sure why he had emphasized this. Two years ago, I reflected on this direction and increased the amount I was chanting again. The question remained for me: “What is the significance of May 3, 2001?” After pouring over my collection of President Ikeda’s writings, I concluded that it *is* the mentor–disciple relationship. Not just feeling it or realizing it. May 3, 2001, is the time to *manifest* it. I believe this is what President Ikeda is telling us.

How many times have we read in our publications about the importance of raising capable people, of protecting, raising and supporting the youth? Of the importance of activities behind-the-scenes? And, I ask myself, “How long will it take for you to get it?”

I was hit hard most recently by part of President Ikeda’s poem, “Raise High the Banner of Humanism and Advance Toward Lasting Peace!” (Jan. 19 *World Tribune*), where he says:

*I ask each of you, too,
Together with me,
And in my place,
To deepen the dialogue
Of real human exchange and communication,
In all cultures, among all
peoples of the world.*

What can I do to repay my debt of gratitude to President Ikeda and manifest the mentor–disciple relationship? I can go to my local discussion group meeting six blocks from my home. I can talk with my local alderman about President Ikeda’s concepts in his peace proposals. I can become active in my community and talk with people there on a daily basis.

What is May 3, 2001? It’s a beginning for promoting world peace in my own neighborhood as President Ikeda would — as a pioneer, blazing new trails.