

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S SEPT. 1 ENCOURAGEMENT LIFE IS THE MOST PRECIOUS TREASURE

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On Sept. 1, SGI President Ikeda attended a conference with visiting SGI-USA leaders, including General Director Danny Nagashima, Women’s Leader Matilda Buck and Men’s Leader Tariq Hasan, at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall in Hachioji. They discussed their vision for the development of the kosen-rufu movement in the United States in the 21st century.

“There is no more precious treasure in the universe than life,” President Ikeda said. “But death eventually awaits us all. The important question, then, is to what do we dedicate these immeasurably precious lives of ours?”

“Buddhism teaches the spirit of not begrudging one’s life and of selfless devotion to propagating the Law. It is the decree of the Buddha that we dedicate our lives to spreading the Mystic Law.

“When we do so, our lives fall in rhythm with the positive energy of the universe, enabling us to advance on a course of eternal happiness. We can savor the most wonderful state of being, where we can experience joy in both life and death.”

President Ikeda also talked about the importance of maintaining our health: “We must give utmost priority to our health. That is why doing vigorous gongyo and daimoku is extremely important.

“To create a harmonious balance between work, rest and play—like a seamlessly interwoven symphony—is a manifestation of the wisdom of the Mystic Law.

“If all you talk about is ‘fighting and winning,’ it may turn people off. Talking to people about their hobbies or interests, or about life in general, and listening to their complaints or what they have to say until they are satisfied can actually serve to inspire and invigorate them.

“In any event, our SGI activities are about sowing the seeds of happiness in people’s lives. There is no greater joy than this. No life is more fulfilling or worthwhile.

“Buddhism is action. If we keep sowing the seeds of the Mystic Law, we can transform even the most seemingly barren and desolate expanse into a vast forest.

“While fostering one shining ‘diamond’ after another, please construct a new America.”