

FROM SGI-USA YOUNG MEN'S LEADER STEVE MORTAN'S SPEECH FOCUSING ON JOYFUL PROPAGATION

Next year will mark the 50th anniversary of SGI President Ikeda's inaugural propagation campaign in Kamata Chapter, where the chapter accomplished 201 new Soka Gakkai households in a single month. This changed the organizational momentum for all of Japan. This year, in that same spirit, the young men of SGI-USA will focus on creating a great momentum of propagation in the United States.

Starting with the February Women's meetings, let's support them by bringing guests to their joyful gatherings. In March, the youth will sponsor introductory meetings in the districts to commemorate March 16, Kosen-rufu Day. Our goal is to gather 25,000 youth and guests. These will be four-divisional meetings led by the youth, and we humbly ask the members of the men's and women's divisions to create these meetings together with us, as we are determined to make them enjoyable and meaningful for all ages.

It is my determination and prayer that the SGI-USA youth will experience personal joy and confidently share this Buddhism. When President Ikeda was in his 20's, he completely dedicated himself to propagation, determined to help those who were suffering the most. Through this intense training in spreading the Law, he was able to develop his life.

Inspired by President Ikeda's life, let's create our own stories of an American *shakubuku* spirit which we can share with our future generations. With our personal victory, let's us bring President and Mrs. Ikeda back home to America.