

GLOBAL FRIENDSHIPS FOR PEACE
SGI President Ikeda Meets With
Mrs. Elsie Tu—Champion of the Common People

MRS. Tu, an 85-year-old Englishwoman living in Hong Kong for almost fifty years, became known as the “mother of democracy of Hong Kong” for her dedication to the people of China, first as a Christian missionary, and later as an educator and social servant. She risked her life by standing up to criminal gangs and the corruption in the police force of Hong Kong, and established the now famous Mu Kuang English School in the slums of Hong Kong.

SGI President Ikeda first met with Mrs. Elsie Tu at the Urban Council Public Library in Hong Kong in January 1974. Then an urban councilor, she expressed her thanks in receiving a gift of 4,500 books donated to the library by the Soka Gakkai. They met on two more occasions, in December 1983 at the Hong Kong SGI Culture Festival, and again in February 1991 at the opening of the World Boys and Girls Art Exhibition, also in Hong Kong.

As an example of a true humanitarian, Mrs. Tu was once noted as saying: “If you wish to find happiness, do good. Life is a one-way street with no turning back. Therefore, if there is something you can do for others, step forward and volunteer. If you put off that opportunity, you are letting your own chance for happiness slip away from you.”

Plaque of Commendation From Bolivia’s Del Valle University

IN a ceremony held on October 1 at the Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall, President Ikeda was honored by Del Valle University of Bolivia in recognition of his unflinching efforts to promote peace, culture and scholarship.

Founder and rector of the university, Gonzalo Ruiz Martínez, and his wife, Julia Ostria de Ruiz, met the SGI leader in Japan to present him with a Plaque of Commendation, as well as an official invitation to visit the city of Cochabamba, where the university is located. The invitation commends the SGI for the relief activities it carried out in the aftermath of an earthquake that struck the Cochabamba area in May of this year.

On this occasion, they discussed topics such as education, the ancient civilizations of Bolivia, and Simón Bolívar (1783–1830), the heroic leader of South American independence. Dr. Ruiz also expressed his desire to have President Ikeda lecture at Del Valle University in the future.

Honors From Philippine Province

GOVERNOR Juan G. Frivaldo of the Province of Sorsogon in the Philippines conferred honorary citizenship on SGI President Ikeda on September 25 at Tokyo Makiguchi Memorial Hall.

The SGI leader was presented with a certificate naming him the “Adopted Son of Sorsogon,” along with the keys to the province in recognition of his efforts in pursuit of peace, freedom and justice. He commended the for courageously carrying on the mission of his predecessors, presidents Makiguchi and Toda, not only in Japan but throughout the world. □