

VOICES: When you encounter 'difficult' people, how do you use your Buddhist practice to overcome the situation?

Members from Arizona Territory respond:

In order to overcome difficulties with people, I do not see the people as being "difficult." I try to see them as just ordinary people. I also view it as the other person's responsibility, as well as my responsibility, to be nice. If I have been nice to that person, then I did my job successfully. This, to me, is being a Buddhist.

— RUBEN MAJOR, Phoenix

I am learning to truly appreciate the "difficult" people who help me generate chanting campaigns because they are a benefit to my practice. When I was chanting to save my job, I didn't appreciate my "difficult" person. Because of my heartfelt daimoku during that time, however, I have learned much more about my life and I better understand her role in my growth. Now I chant to appreciate "difficult" people.

— JANET STACEL, Mesa, Ariz.

Being in the business I am in — the restaurant and cocktail business — we encounter a lot of difficulties with people. The best way we have found is to try not to show the angry nature that they try to produce. We try to answer their problem with a positive view, which we can get from SGI President Ikeda's guidance.

— FRED KESSLER, Tempe, Ariz.

When I encounter a negative person, I turn the situation around. I think, "I'm not going to let anybody disrupt my day with negativity." I turn around, smile and chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, either out loud or to myself. My attitude is, "Thank you, Gohonzon, for giving me the opportunity to change this situation around!"

— MATTIE HALL, Phoenix

I immediately search my attitude and make a determination to win. With a warm smile, I engage in a friendly dialogue.

— NORMA TOWNER, Mesa, Ariz.

I think I'm the most "difficult" person I encounter. So I try to maintain my life-condition, and hopefully that will have an affect on the person I'm dealing with.

— JESS REED (and son, Johnathan) Mesa, Ariz.