

**SIGN POSTS: Clear Goals, Clear Growth**  
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**Only I, Nichiren, at first chanted Nam-myoho-renge-kyo, but then two, three and a hundred followed, chanting and teaching others. Likewise, propagation will unfold this way in the future. (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 93)**

I've heard of many districts this year making concrete goals to double the number of new members they had join last year. People have been inspired by the point SGI President Ikeda has been making that we grow when we have clear goals. Seeing that many districts that have not had goals for years now have them — for new members joining (and sticking with the practice), for discussion meeting attendance, etc. — makes me excited about how our organization will grow.

But to many districts it might seem impossible to double last year's new memberships, even with a clear goal. Maybe last year there were no new members in some districts. I have confidence, though, based oddly enough on a renewed study of biology (my second worst subject in high school) that expansion is just waiting to happen. Reading Boyce Rensberger's *Life Itself*, which explains about cell division, I was fascinated by his description of how human life starts out as a single cell that splits and splits and splits until in a few months there are several trillion. (I must have been snoozing during this part of biology class.)

This splitting of cells reminded me of "The True Entity of Life," where Nichiren Daishonin says that at first he was the only person to chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo. But then "two, three and a hundred followed, chanting and teaching others." According to biology and Buddhism, there's nothing more natural than expansion. Here science and religion agree — at the very core of life is an incredible energy to grow. It's as if life itself has a clear goal. And it follows that an organization based on the law of life, an organization with a clear goal, has to grow. With clear goals, the sky's the limit.

**WT**

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