

**Keep Moving Forward**  
**By VALERIE THOMAS**  
**SGI-USA Youth Division Study Committee**

**Be diligent in developing your faith until the last moment of your life. Otherwise you will have regrets. For example, the journey from Kamakura to Kyoto takes twelve days. If you travel for eleven but stop on the twelfth, how can you admire the moon over the capital? (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 254–55)**

On the way home late one night, driving in an area that I was not at all familiar with, I managed to get myself very lost. What should I do? Should I try to retrace my route? Should I stop and ask directions? Quickly weighing my options, while at the same time trying to not get even more lost, I decided to just keep going. Taking highways I had a feeling were going in the general direction I wanted to go, I eventually got home. I kept moving forward and I got where I wanted to be.

OK, maybe developing my faith and my life is a little more complicated than maneuvering unfamiliar streets and highways, but I think that what Nichiren Daishonin is stressing in this Gosho is similar to what I experienced that night. “Don’t stop — keep moving forward and you will reach your goal,” he is saying.

September marks the anniversary of starting my practice within the SGI. Whenever this month comes around I reflect on what I have accomplished and how far I have yet to go toward my goal, toward developing my faith. When I started to practice, I figured it would take me a few years to become “happy” and then I wouldn’t need to practice so strongly. But when I look back now, I realize that I didn’t really understand what that goal was — I didn’t know what happiness was.

Now I understand that happiness means to achieve all that I want to in my life so that I can live without regret. To do this, I need to develop my faith and practice for the rest of my life. “The journey from Kamakura to Kyoto takes twelve days” — I am not sure how many days the journey of my life will be, but I am sure I will continue to advance in my faith and practice until my journey ends.

**WT**