

WORLD TRIBUNE MAILBOX

Are You Wired?

Technology is good. At least in terms of how we utilize it. The Nov. 7 “Perspective,” “The Wired, Wired West,” talked about the debate between the “haves and have-nots of the information superhighway” at the recent Club of Rome conference. I think the answer is simple. Like money, electric power or anything else, it’s a matter of how we use it — to support life or to harm life. In our SGI organization, I believe more of us should get wired and utilize computers to help advance our movement into the 21st century. For my chapter I keep an MSworks database of all my members and print out quarterly reports which my district leaders update. For the Elementary and Entrance Exams, I printed out accurate lists in minutes rather than searching through past exam result lists as I’ve had to do previously.

I can e-mail calendars, meeting plans and directions to leaders and members which would be otherwise difficult to do over the phone. We do quarterly statistics on-line. Other uses include composing attractive fliers, calendars, experiences and so forth. Many other multimedia avenues are being explored as well. My point is that when we are using computers and technology to support our activities of faith, then it is good. In the SGI we are equal, we work together and support each other. For those without cars or phones, we pick-up or visit them. No one who is wired is better or superior to anyone who is not. The SGI is setting this example for the world. The bottom line is that if we as an organization are more technologically enabled, it will give us more time for the really important things like home visits, discussion meetings and one-on-one dialogue.

— PHIL ORENSTEIN, Long Island, N.Y.

Along With All the Other Buddhist Gods....

The Nov. 14 “Voices” column asked how people deal with questions and comments about a supreme being. Here’s an interesting take on the supreme being that most people refer to as God:

The One God that people are referring to is Yahweh, the ancient Hebrew god of Thunder and War. If you drop the name, you are talking about the same god as the Teutonic Thor, the Yoruba Shango, and also the Hindu god Indra.

Now this is interesting, because the name Taishaku (a Buddhist god — *shoten zenjin*) is actually a translation of Indra. So, if someone asked what we think about God (with a capital G), it is quite truthful to say that we acknowledge him every morning and pray for his protective power to be enhanced by our practice of the Law. And, depending on who you are talking to, it may or may not be appropriate to add, “Along with all the other Buddhist gods.”

— MARK R. RICHARDS, Miami

Long-lasting Greens

In response to Shera Haynes request (Oct. 24 “Mailbox”) for shrubs that are good for altar greens: I don’t have a garden, but I have found a green called Ruscus or Ruskus leaves, which have lasted as long as six months on my altar (with changing the water daily). You can buy this green in many florist shops. So all members, even in the city, can have long-lasting, live greens.

— JOAN MAJEWSKA, Chicago

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