

VOICES: Do you feel you follow SGI President Ikeda's guidance in all aspects of your life?

Members of San Diego Joint Territory respond:

Until I gave it some thought, I might have said no. President Ikeda is a remarkable individual for whom I have the utmost respect and admiration. I feel this guidance is his sincere effort to help us achieve our human revolution. Although sometimes it's not easy, I find it helps me every morning to first chant to stay focused on my purpose in life, which is to be a positive influence regardless of the circumstance.... I do try to implement his guidance in my life.

—CHERI McIVER, Poway, Calif.

I don't feel that I actually follow his guidance in all areas of my life. That's why I practice and chant and study, so I can bring his guidance into my life. I think that most of us are not perfect people. That's why we strive to follow his guidance. No, I don't follow his guidance in all areas of my life — but I want to.

— VANESSA EAGLE, San Diego

I follow President Ikeda's guidance because I want to be happy. Then I can encourage others. If I'm grumpy, then I can't encourage people.

— TOMEE MOSHER, San Diego

I've been practicing since 1980, but since joining a study committee, my whole family, who practices, has noticed a distinct difference in me. I attribute this to President Ikeda's guidance about study. Ted Osaki, my first senior leader, used to carry around Goshu passages on index cards in his pocket. He told me to study 20 minutes a day, no matter what. President Ikeda talks about leaders for the 21st century. I need to read his guidance with my life, so I can develop a more profound understanding of it. I don't want to become a leader who regurgitates guidance.

— ANDY MARCOS, Mission Beach, Calif.

Absolutely. Organizationally I try to think, would President Ikeda be happy or sad with what I've done? Toward that end, in my home and community, I try to use this as my goal. I may not reach it, but I try.... In the areas that I don't, I try to see my weak points and overcome them. I want to support President Ikeda, so I'm trying to develop my practice more and more every day.

— JOE FIROVED, Santa Ana, Calif.

I discovered that to follow President Ikeda's guidance is to follow my own heart and to be true to myself. Both endeavors have been extremely challenging and have forced me to continually check myself before I wreck myself. I know that when I successfully accomplish things that make me proud, President is proud of me, also. It's a win-win situation.

— CARLA STERN, San Marcos, Calif.

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