

**SGI PRESIDENT'S NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE  
To My Dear SGI-USA Members**

To my dear, esteemed fellow SGI members in the United States, who are working so tirelessly for kosen-rufu, I wholeheartedly wish each of you a very, very happy new year!

It is my sincerest wish that you will each advance in your endeavors in the year ahead, enjoying the very best of health and brimming with unflagging enthusiasm and vitality. I pray that you challenge and surmount all obstacles with courage and a sense of exhilaration and emerge triumphant so that you can lead lives of unsurpassed happiness and value.

Please be confident and utterly assured that the original Buddha, Nichiren Daishonin, is protecting us without fail, just as we are rigorously supported by all Buddhist deities — the protective functions inherent in the universe — and all Buddhas and bodhisattvas throughout the ten directions. So please enjoy your life and faith to the fullest. Forge a courageous practice; lead a courageous life.

Buddhism is concerned with winning. Those who win attain Buddhahood. Those who lose taste only sorrow and defeat. It is essential that we win. Faith is the driving force for victory.

Nichikan Shonin said of the Gohonzon we embrace, “If you have faith in this Gohonzon and chant Nam-myoho-renge-kyo even for a short while, no prayer will go unanswered, no offense unexpiated, no good fortune unbestowed and no righteousness unproven.”

I close my heartfelt message to you with my deepest prayers that this year, too, will be:

A year of dauntless composure!

A year of high spirits!

A year of total victory!

A year of health and fulfillment!

A year of conviction and optimism!

A year of opening our hearts in friendship to one another!

*Daisaku Ikeda  
New Year's Day*