

**SIGN POSTS: Applying Nichiren Daishonin's Writings to Daily Life
Learn First, Then Teach**

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You must not only persevere yourself; you must also teach others. Both practice and study arise from faith. Teach others to the best of your ability, even if only a single sentence or phrase. ("The True Entity of Life," *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 1, p. 95.)

When I first started to practice this Buddhism, I was eager to share it with others. Because I lacked the confidence and understanding to share my practice in my own words, I memorized an explanation of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism and the SGI that I could give to anyone. But it didn't seem effective — no one was very interested.

Recently I spent time with my family in the town where I grew up. I had the opportunity at a party to see several of my parents' friends whom I had not seen since my childhood.

I was surprised when many people showed interest in my Buddhist practice and the SGI. One guest was interested in the comparison of Buddhism with Western religions.

Another guest wanted to know the differences among Buddhist sects. And other guests were interested in the diversity of the SGI membership, SGI's history in America, and why I had been drawn to this practice.

What I realized through this was that each person I spoke with was interested in a different aspect of my practice. I realized that having one memorized explanation, although it might feel "safer," does not fit the needs of every person and allow me to fully "teach others."

Developing my practice and study has definitely increased my ability to explain this Buddhism to others. I not only have deepened my confidence about my practice, but I also have developed a deeper pool of knowledge of Buddhism and other religions that I can draw on in any situation, at any opportunity to share my practice with others.

So I am more committed than ever, as Nichiren Daishonin teaches in this Goshō, to develop my practice and study, not only for my happiness but for the happiness of others.

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