

**WOW! The Job of Truly Living**  
**By CATHERINE MCKINNEY**  
**Cleveland, Ohio**

*Retirement.*

In the past, when I heard this word all I thought about was no longer having to work. Then I read an article in a recent *World Tribune* in which President Ikeda says we can never retire from life. I thought: "This is so true, Catherine. As long as you are alive, you have the job of truly living life. It may or may not pay a lot of money, but if you live every day with respect for yourself and others, you'll never be without what you need."

I watched my friend Mary Nicholson prepare for retirement so gracefully. When Mary and I used to go to the movies, I'd want popcorn, drinks and the works, but Mary always spent money wisely. That's why she could move her daughter and grandchildren with her to Florida into a beautiful home.

Whenever I tell Mary how much I admire the way she lives her life and how she prepared for leaving the workplace, she always encourages me by saying: "Catherine, you can do it, too. It's never too late." She says that if I work at it, I can do what took her years to do, because of the nature of my work and my Buddhist practice.

I'm proving her words true by changing my spending habits. This year, when I go to the Florida Nature Culture Center with my daughter, who introduced me to Buddhism, I'll see Mary, too. I can't wait!

Practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism has helped me grow to understand many things: My past has brought me to the present; I am responsible for my life; my happiness comes from showing proof of the Mystic Law and sharing my faith; and chanting for myself and others means I'll always have a job. Wow.

Knowing this makes me very happy.