

**THE MOST COMPASSIONATE ACTION
BY ED FEASEL
SGI-USA YOUTH DIVISION LEADER**

Until the end of February, SGI-USA will be focusing its efforts on propagation. The youth will fully support the organizational direction by helping to create joyful monthly discussion meetings and by holding youth-sponsored introductory meetings during the month of March, when we traditionally celebrate March 16, Kosen-rufu Day.

The outstanding characteristic of the Buddha is often defined as compassion. This compassion has two aspects: to remove another's suffering and to give that person happiness. Sharing Nichiren Dai-shonin's Buddhism is certainly a great act of compassion; it's our effort to give another person happiness.

Recently, a renowned scholar, who is not a member, told me: "While America is doing great economically, we have become a nation impoverished when it comes to the spirit or heart. It is precisely at such a time that the Daishonin's Buddhism can help people overcome their spiritual poverty." From these words, I could really feel that people in society are seeking a new life philosophy, one that they can believe in and that can really lead them to true happiness.

Propagation is the most important action for us but also the most difficult. It must begin with the spirit to help save suffering people, and it must begin with prayer.

Just talking about how great the SGI is or how great Buddhism is won't cause people to begin practicing. The important thing is to grasp what people's problems are and to give them hope and confidence that they can overcome these problems through their practice of the Daishonin's Buddhism. Crucial to this is sharing our personal experiences in faith — it's not just talking about theory.

Propagation is also not the effort of a perfect person trying to help someone who is imperfect. It's about people who are equals striving to overcome their problems together.

It's when we pray with this spirit to help people who are suffering that they will appear in our environment. At first, they may not share with us the struggles that they are going through. At this point, we can go back and chant for them. Then, we can meet with them again, go back and chant again and meet them again. Through this repetitive process, we can finally open our heart as to how to encourage others.

In the end, propagation is a compassionate act to help our friends and family members who are suffering. It is also the means to change our own life and the condition of society.

SGI President Ikeda has lived with this spirit of propagation burning in his heart, and he has realized the unprecedented spread of the Dai-shonin's Buddhism throughout the world. Let's have this same heart and spirit, and let's carry on this most compassionate action of propagation again this year.

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