

**IN MY LIFE: DILIGENT CONCERN
BY MARK KAPLAN
SGI-USA YOUTH DIVISION STUDY COMMITTEE**

Live so that all the people of Kamakura will say in your praise that [Shijo Kingo] is diligent in the service of his lord, in the service of Buddhism, and in his concern for other people. (“The Three Kinds of Treasure,” *The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2 [2nd ed.], p. 238)

Recently Landmark Area in San Francisco started a Community Involvement Group that has fed the homeless and helped ship relief supplies to those suffering from Hurricane Mitch in Honduras. Our efforts have definitely had a positive effect on those around us, but I wonder if this is the true meaning of victory in our community?

There has been starvation and disasters for thousands of years of human history and there are many organizations dedicated to moving from crisis to crisis helping those in need. But to my knowledge until today there has never been an organization dedicated to changing the world’s karma, attacking world problems at their root.

Flawed beliefs lead to flawed action and negative consequences for everyone. Although I was touched by the tremendous efforts being expended by good-hearted people to reverse the effects of incorrect philosophies and deluded ways of running the world, in the process I became much more determined to live up to my mission to propagate Buddhism.

In 1260, Nichiren Daishonin, who lived in a world rocked by starvation and disaster, said in the “Rissho Ankoku Ron,” “You must quickly reform the tenets in your heart [and then you will live in a land that suffers no harm or disruption] (MW-2 [2nd ed.], p. 40). In 1277, he encouraged Shijo Kingo to gain respect and credibility in the community where he lived so that others would be led to the truths that Buddhism has to offer. To me this is the real path to Victory in the Community.

WT

Title: Diligent Concern
Subject: World Tribune 03/12/99 n.3233 p.2 WT990312p02
Author: Mark Kaplan
Keywords: Community Concern Diligent Kaplan Life Mark Tribune World