

**THOUGHTS ON HOME VISITATION**  
**BY JAMES HERRMANN, SGI-USA YOUNG MEN'S LEADER**  
**AND BOBBY DEBOZI, SGI-USA GAJOKAI LEADER**

**Bobby:** Big Daddy James, now that winter is over and spring is here, I am totally looking forward to the warmer weather. Time to kick back, smell the roses, maybe start standing in line for the new *Star Wars* flick...

**James:** Yeah right, Bobby "D" – what about the YMD General Meetings coming up?

**Bobby:** Dude. That's all the way in July. I have plenty of time!

**James:** That may be so, but a wise man once said, "Plant your seeds early."

**Bobby:** Huh?

**James:** Haven't you heard the expression, "Success comes with preparation." This means prepare early! By starting now, we can make the cause for incredible meetings – meetings where lots of YMD are winning in their lives.

**Bobby:** Seriously, though... I have so much on my plate as it is – work, school, my district planning meeting, May contribution...

**James:** A key to the success of the YMD Meetings is home visits. The beauty of it is you can do it at any time. There is no set Gakkai Standard Time (GST) for visiting your members at their home (7–8:30 p.m.). You can do them when it's most natural for you and the other person. For example, we have a lot of guys who have insane schedules all around the country. Regardless of how busy they are though, they always begin their day with morning "G" (gongyo). Therefore, morning home visits before work to do gongyo together are very popular among the YMD in some areas. Home visits provide us opportunities to meet someone new in the organization, you know make a new friend, as well as visit our old friends. We can also check the spiritual health of our friends-in-faith and encourage those who are struggling.

**Bobby:** So true, my friend. Focusing on home visits toward our YMD General meetings can refresh *our* spirit to seek out our friends, rather than waiting for them to seek out our tired, *X-Files* watching, potato chip eating...

**James:** (*interrupting*) Speak for yourself! We can also create true friendships with our members and share their goals, dreams and struggles.

**Bobby:** Especially after such successful March 16th meetings. It's the perfect way to maintain those relationships with those who came out, including the guests.

**James:** The SGI's strength lies in the one-to-one connections created through home V's. After all, I've never been home visited by a priest. Have you?

**Bobby:** Come to think of it, NO... You know, it's kind of ironic that many young men's division leaders avoid doing home visits. The reason why may be that they just don't know how to do it, probably because they have never been visited themselves. That basic one-to-one dialogue is the way leaders are fostered. Youth can learn how to truly care for their members by doing home visits or accompanying their leaders on home visits. Home V's are a highly underrated part of our practice.

**James:** Even as a leader, I end up getting inspired by home visits. I recently visited a young man who has been practicing for only two weeks. Prior to visiting him, I brushed up on my knowledge of the basics. When I met with him, he said: "I have been chanting for only two weeks and have changed my entire life. Man, when you chant for something, you HAVE to expect it to happen." I was blown away! I could only say, "Wow, that's right!" Long story short, I went prepared to encourage this guy, and instead he shook the core of

my life!

**Bobby:** Whoa! There are so many YMD we don't see. It's not because they lack faith! They are out there fighting in society – challenging work, school or other projects – and maybe their schedules don't allow them to attend many meetings. It's through home visits that we can share President Ikeda's recent guidance, or give them opportunities to participate in the SGI through other channels, like the May contribution activity or subscribing to the publications.

**James:** ...Even encourage them to attend the Grand Culture Festival in the Fall!

**Bobby:** Home V's are a great way to prepare for the YMD General Meetings, but "Home Visitation Campaign" sounds so... '80s!

**James:** Let's leave that up to the local areas to decide what they want to call it and how they would like to promote it.

**Bobby:** That's best! I can't wait to report to President Ikeda about the great people I meet during my home visits! It's truly wonderful that every member can write to him directly and develop their own personal connection with him.

**James:** Definitely! The whole act of home visits goes right along with some of the basics of practice we have been polishing up on: propagation, study and practice. Backed up by sincere "D's" (daimoku), everyone is sure to win in their lives and the YMD General Meetings will be a celebration of those victories! Hey, when does that *Star Wars* movie come out, anyway?

**Bobby:** Never mind – I have my own saga to create. And it starts here and now!

**President Ikeda:** *As the Daishonin states:*

*"If you cannot get across a river 10-feet wide,  
How can you cross one that is  
A hundred- or 200-feet wide?"  
You must win, no matter what  
Where you are right now!  
No one can beat a person  
Who has chanted daimoku  
With all their might–  
For daimoku is the very heart  
Of the Daishonin's Buddhism!  
My young friends!  
Remember the spirit expressed  
In the above passage!  
And take action based on it,  
Courageously and wholeheartedly!*

*(from the poem "Youth, Scale the Mountain of Kosen-rufu of the 21st Century," April 16  
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