

MARINA DISTRICT — MAR VISTA, CALIF.

A little more than a year-and-a-half ago, Marina District in Mar Vista, Calif., was composed mostly of “mature” women and a couple of men. We had been that way for several years—no youth, and too few men to mention. It had been years since we had a new member. The spirit of Marina District could be described as sleepy at best; there was not much excitement happening.

Our area was in the beginning stages of the geographic reorganization, or geo-reo. As a 32-year member and a district leader, I was somewhat apprehensive about exactly how this would be accomplished and what effect it would have. Toward the end of 1997 and the beginning of 1998 some members transferred into our district, but about the same number transferred out — and we were still all “mature.”

For more than a year I had been sponsoring district chanting meetings on Tuesdays. I was praying for youth members, but the result had not manifested yet. In the early months of 1998, a new area and chapter were formed, and we had leaders who took an interest in our district. During one of these Tuesday meetings I heard some new voices. Our area young men’s leader brought another young man who was going to practice in our district — and better still, he was married. My prayer was beginning to manifest!

Since that time, our district has changed tremendously. We have 19 youth and eight men’s division members. Three new members will soon receive their Gohonzon. We even have a men’s district leader now. To say that our meetings are much livelier is an understatement.

While we have not achieved perfection, we are moving in the right direction. Developing people who want to take responsibility for helping other members is now my prayer, and I’m sure that in time it, too, will manifest. Once again I’m reminded that strong prayer can make anything happen.

— *BARBARA EFNOR*