

SGI PRESIDENT IKEDA'S MESSAGE TO THE MEN'S DIVISION THE TRUE WAY TO LIVE WITH DIGNITY AS MEN

SGI President Ikeda's message to the men's division conferences, held the last two weekends of August at the Florida Nature and Culture Center, commemorating Aug. 24, Men's Division Day.

I want to express my appreciation and congratulations for the great efforts you have made in attending these conferences for the SGI-USA men's division members, whom I deeply respect.

As a member of the men's division myself, please allow me to send my congratulations.

Shijo Kingo is considered one of the greatest predecessors of the men's division members. Nichiren Daishonin says to him, "It is better to live a single day with honor than to live to one hundred and twenty and die in disgrace" (*The Major Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2 [2nd edition], p. 238).

I firmly believe that as men's division members, we should create a solid history of faith through living our life to the fullest for the sake of kosen-rufu. This is the treasure of the heart, the greatest human value. In faith, in character, in society—in every realm of our lives—let's climb the slope of growth and development without taking a single step back. This is the true way to live with dignity as men.

I earnestly hope that all of you, the SGI-USA men's division members, advance refreshed, making each moment a new start. Aim to be victors in life and victors in faith, with the spirit of eternal youth. And never forget to respect women and warmly embrace youth.

I pray that all of you enjoy good health and prosperity, and that your families be endowed with boundless good fortune. Please convey my best regards to the men's division members in every district of the SGI-USA.

August 20, 1999
Daisaku Ikeda