

**PERSPECTIVE: CHANGE IS INSIDE AND OUT**  
**DIXON HAMBY**  
**BELLEVUE, WASH.**

An experience I recently had at work enabled me finally to understand with my life, not my head, what the Buddhist concept of “the oneness of life and its environment” really is. In *Fundamentals of Buddhism*, it says: “An environment is the reflection of the inner life of the individual living in it...life extends its influence into its surroundings.” What does this mean? It means that when your life changes, really changes at the most fundamental level, your environment—where you work, live, your relationships—reflect that internal change. This goes way beyond just the immediate environment. Your life permeates the company where you work and it becomes more humanistic.

The place where you live becomes beautiful and safe. Your desires are manifest in your world. When you begin to see and feel this happen, it is remarkable.

Some examples of this happening to me are: A family that is harmonious; a solution-oriented workplace that assimilates a new employee into the new culture, in such a way that their contributions are appreciated and they are given the opportunity to change the expressions of their personality that cause problems for others; I start taking Tai Chi and a world champion moves to Seattle from China and teaches near my work so I can take classes at lunchtime; my love of music of different cultures is manifest in a world music festival where the only venue in the United States is near my home; a lifetime love of baseball is manifest in a magnificent new ballpark; after years of working for a large company my division separates and forms a new, smaller company. So without moving or losing retirement benefits, I gain more freedom and become their Web designer; I have been training for this job for years and didn't know it.

Are all these changes coincidence? I don't think so. SGI President Ikeda said: “All the causes in the past and all the effects in the future are condensed within the present moment of life.” It is impossible to implement the three ways of practice of Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism into your life without your desires being answered. Simply impossible. All that is needed is a consistent daily Buddhist practice and a straightforward “dialogue” with the Gohonzon.

Pray to the Gohonzon about what is in your heart. The good and the bad, the terror, love, impossible dreams, anger—everything. What you really desire. You know what that is; not what you think is possible, but what you really want your life to be.

I know it will work for you because it has worked for me—a flawed, sometimes selfish, “clueless” arrogant individual. And this is how world peace will be achieved. History has shown it won't happen by political or economic movements.

It will only happen when each individual is able to become happy, able to see the desires in their heart manifest in the environment. As President Ikeda stated in his lecture on “The True Object of Worship”: “Once he embraces the Buddhism of the True Cause, however, any individual can create a bright future, for the very moment the individual's desire becomes one with his eternal being the desire is simultaneously achieved in the depths of his life. At that very moment karma changes and an immeasurable eternal treasure gathers to become manifest in the future, just as a totally dark room is illuminated the moment you turn on a light.”

**WT**