

## **SGI-USA YOUTH LEADERS—NEW YEAR’S MESSAGE 2000: THE YEAR OF YOUTH—‘LET’S WIN!’**

Happy New Year to you and your family! Thank you so much for all of your tremendous efforts and golden memories created in 1999. Together we are making a new departure!

SGI President Ikeda recently said: “It is always the courage and solidarity of youth that opens a new world, a new age. When youth lose their sense of adventure, their spirit grows old, and their lives become little more than a living death. At this time that will never come again, I call out to you: “My beloved youth! Boldly leave behind an immortal history!” (Dec. 10, 1999 *World Tribune*, p. 5).

For what purpose is President Ikeda asking us to be bold? Undoubtedly, rooted in Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism, it is to care for our fellow human beings, stand up against injustice and rid the world of misery.

President Ikeda says: “The true purpose of religion is to enhance education and culture, and to enable society to prosper in a more peaceful way. This will be the golden rule of the 21st century. I, therefore, reaffirm that making sincere, steady efforts to spread understanding, friendship and trust in our local communities to expand person-to-person links and heart-to-heart bonds constitute kosen-rufu” (Ibid., p.5).

Nichiren Daishonin waged a lone struggle for human happiness in a society insensitive to the common people. All three SGI presidents have waged an identical struggle. We are also practicing and waging our struggle for the sake of happiness of ourselves, our friends, our family and society. This is the POWER OF ONE.

This March 16, we will wage our struggle to open the new century, to create a phenomenal new wave of propagation. The introductory meetings to be held in March are our chance, our first opportunity in the new century, to create an immortal history. This immortal history really boils down to one single thing: a human being becoming happy.

The youth of America proved in 1999 that when we unite nothing is impossible. Together, we created history throughout the year. The substance of our victories was our friendships. Seeking our mentor together, in the year 2000, let’s take the next step to bring in this new century by making these March 16 meetings joyful, meaningful and bustling with many new guests.

As for the three of us, we will challenge ourselves to care for others, and we are convinced that each and every member’s effort to propagate this Buddhism in America will manifest throughout our lives in the form of lasting happiness.

Let’s be courageous, let’s be daring, and most of all, let’s win in the new year.