

**THIS IS OUR TIME  
BY STEVE MORTAN  
SGI-USA YOUNG MEN'S LEADER**

First, on behalf of all the young men in their 20s, I want to thank our seniors in the young men's division for inspiring us to seek out SGI President Ikeda.

Today we have an unprecedented mission. Our generation has emerged. This is our time to take the lead in the young men's organization and create our own history. This is our time to create the type of SGI-USA that we want.

Our initial step to secure a total victory in 2001 will be to fully support the February Women's General Meetings. Let's do anything they ask us, making sure they have the greatest meetings ever.

To celebrate March 16, Kosen-rufu Day, in 2001, we will hold introductory meetings in the district, spearheaded by the youth. While we will take full responsibility for sponsoring these introductory meetings, we ask that the men's and women's division members please promote them to their friends as well. The youth will work together with the district leaders to hold these meetings.

This year, we surpassed our goal and had 16,000 participants in our March 16 celebrations. For 2001, the national and zone youth leaders have decided to challenge a goal of 20,000. Let's generate an unprecedented wave of propagation together.

In America, young men face many struggles in our confusing modern society. The key to completely changing our situation exists in the basics of Buddhist practice and engaging in the mentor–disciple relationship. So many young men are strengthening their own connection to President Ikeda. To make our mentor's heart our own, to understand his intent and to fight to realize his vision for kosen-rufu—this is what it means to walk the path of mentor–disciple. It is through seeking this path that we are able to bring forth our greatest potential.

Together with all of you, I am determined to find and help raise many capable people. How many great leaders can we develop to shoulder the responsibility for kosen-rufu in the 21st century? I am looking forward to fighting side by side with you and our mentor, President Ikeda, developing the greatest young men's organization in the world. Let's welcome President Ikeda back to the United States with "Total Victory for the New Century."