

FROM OUR READERS

Always Good

Despite falling asleep at a planning meeting yesterday, I managed to read the November issue, and was quite impressed. *Living Buddhism* is always good, but this one is superb. The first article I read was on the Fourteen Slanders, and that was interesting. However, two that grabbed my attention were the “Ten Points to Derive Maximum Benefit From Our Practice” by Jeanny Chen, and “Little Victories” by Mark Bennion. It doesn’t mention whether or not his wife practices, but I take it from the description that she doesn’t. Both were excellent articles.

Amy O’Donnell, Houston, TX

Mark Bennion replies: “*She practices. How do you think she put up with me all these years! Actually, practicing Buddhism together has been one of the keys to building a life together.*”

What Is Truly Important

I just read Mark Bennion’s experience in the November *Living Buddhism*. I want to thank him so much. My life as an artist (musician and graphic artist) seems to have been similar in some ways but also different in some ways.

I had the opportunity to work as a musician for some eighteen years and then two years ago I found that I could not continue. Although I had had many opportunities during all those years to play the music I wanted, I also had to support myself by playing anything that came along. Well, I just decided I could not do it anymore.

I kind of fell into doing computer graphics and realized I had artistic talents that I never realized before. Anyway, I still have struggled in the last few years with the idea of making my living as an artist. I still play but not full time. I just wanted to thank you for pointing out what is truly important in life, and also for sharing President Ikeda’s guidance on accomplishing things on a daily basis in society.

I have been chanting to understand what it is I should be doing with my life. In a small way your experience was an answer to my prayer. I don’t need to worry so much about what it is I am doing on a daily basis, it is more how I do it, and my vision for my life and the life of those around me.

Mike Walters, New York

Much-needed Dose of Medicine

I want to thank Jeanny Chen for opening up her life to us. [November issue] Jeanny’s experience was a much-needed dose of medicine for me. Although I am not a new member, I recognize that sometimes we tend to forget the basics of our practice. Then we start to practice out of formality instead of practicing with the determination to change our lives to show actual proof to ourselves and the world. Reading Jeanny’s experience brought that home for me. This practice is not a magic wand! It is just a matter of looking at yourself in the mirror and facing your reality! This is so difficult to do. However, with the power of faith in the Gohonzon we can do it! We can do our human revolution!

Connie Brooks, Atlanta

Bangkok

I am practicing Nichiren Daishonin's Buddhism with Soka Gakkai Thailand (SGT). The article in the November issue of *Living Buddhism*, "Ten points to Derive Maximum Benefit From Our Practice" impressed me very much. I made my own copy in Thai and presented it at our district discussion meeting. The members loved it and asked me for copies (in Thai). Thank you, Jeanny, for writing such a wonderful article!

Pornchai Pornchai Kingwatanakul, M.D.

Bangkok, Thailand

London

We are Buddhists who practice in London and subscribe to *Living Buddhism*, we have read "Ten points to Derive Maximum Benefit From Our Practice" and we were very inspired by it. So much so, that we have copied it and distributed it to members in our district to encourage them to come to meetings and make more effort for kosen-rufu in England. Jeanny, if ever you come to London, please let us know, you can come to our discussion meeting and inspire us in person Thank you for sharing your life experience with us, you have not only inspired us, but others as well.

Martin & Robert, Streatham District, South London