

**EDITORIAL**  
**REFRESHING OUR CORE SPIRIT**  
**BY JEFF FARR, MANAGING EDITOR**

**Believing in humanity — our own and everyone else’s — is the true spirit of propagation and the core of our practice.**

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima has been traveling the country to encourage all of us to refresh our spirit of propagation, or *shakubuku* spirit. Trying our best to inspire our friends to take faith in Nichiren Daishonin’s Buddhism is forever the central challenge of our Buddhist practice. It is the most basic of all the basics, from where all our benefit ultimately comes.

“We have to open a way forward, burning with the spirit of propagation,” SGI President Ikeda has recently emphasized. “We have to use every condition to our advantage, without letting any opportunity slip by” (June 29 *World Tribune*, p. 4).

The starting point for this spirit is believing in ourselves. We may not always think of ourselves as people with a mission, but we are. And our mission is profound: to discover a deep sense of satisfaction with our lives and to make all our dreams eventually come true. In this way, we give our friends a real feeling for the incredible hope Buddhism has to offer.

The spirit of propagation is also about believing completely in our friends, in their potential. When we believe in ourselves, it is of course much easier to believe in others. If we have this amazing mission to become happy, our friends must, too. They may not be aware of it at this point, but it must be their birthright as much as it is ours.

Having this spirit also means believing that we can fundamentally change the world — that *all* humanity has this birthright. If we truly believe in ourselves, if we truly believe in our friends, great faith in humanity follows. This world can be transformed into a happy place, according to the Daishonin. Human culture can unite to thrive in peace.

The Daishonin believed in these three things — himself, his friends and all humanity. His determination was thus “I will be the pillar of Japan. I will be the eyes of Japan. I will be the great ship of Japan. This is my vow, and I will never forsake it!” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, pp. 280–81). Putting this vow into action, he pulled the rug out from under the corrupt religious authorities of Japan, and his followers responded by standing up for their spiritual liberation.

This new faith in human potential has begun its flight across the world. Because the Daishonin believed in these three things, each of us now has the invaluable opportunity to be SGI members, to be part of the continuation of the Daishonin’s dream, to be responsible for ensuring the future of this philosophy.

When you really think about it, the biggest problems in the world result from people not believing in themselves, not believing in each other and not believing in humanity. These have been our biggest struggles for the longest time. With our propagation of the Mystic Law, we are working as hard as we can to break this addiction to self-destructiveness.

It is surely no easy task; changing humanity’s collective self-doubt is not something that can happen overnight. But this is precisely why we must strengthen our spirit — we must become stronger inside than any of the negativity around us. Believing that we can become that strong, knowing that such strength is already inside us, is where the spirit of propagation begins.