

**TOWARD A VICTORIOUS CONCLUSION OF 2001
GENERATING WAVES OF DAIMOKU, DIALOGUE AND PROPAGATION
ACROSS THE COUNTRY
BY DANNY NAGASHIMA, SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR**

‘Now more than ever, we must focus our efforts on daimoku, dialogue and propagation to bring about lasting change.’

The Sept. 11 terrorist attacks have affected the whole world, ushering in a new phase of human history. This tragedy compels us to reflect on what needs to be done to establish indestructible peace on this planet. Now more than ever, we must focus our efforts on daimoku, dialogue and propagation to bring about lasting change.

In light of our focus on daimoku, I recall a quote from SGI President Ikeda: “Destruction comes about in a moment. Construction comes about only after desperate struggles.” We have learned that the destructive forces inherent in humanity can be extremely powerful. And now is the time for us, in response, to create colossal waves of daimoku across the country that generate the power of the Buddha—the power that can surmount the negative forces that were unleashed on Sept. 11.

The Daishonin states, “If you care anything about your personal security, you should first of all pray for order and tranquility throughout the four quarters of the land, should you not?” (*The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, p. 24). In this passage, he teaches us that our great confidence and prayer are the cornerstones of peace. So many people are living passive lives, overcome with a deep sense of fear. But I believe that we, as Buddhists, have the mission to change everything for the better with our prayer. Such a confident sense of mission to create peace is what all people need to establish within themselves at this time.

The great good of peace cannot be generated through mere idealism, but through the active pursuit of dialogue. I feel strongly that we, the members of the SGI-USA, should take responsibility for assuring that the 21st century does not become another century of war and destruction. The foundation of lasting peace will only be secured by our steady actions to engage in dialogue with people one by one. Through dialogue, we can move humanity on a profound level toward the pacifism of Buddhism.

The fact that evil forces have gained such influence over society indicates that the time to propagate the Daishonin’s Buddhism widely has arrived. I hope that each district can accomplish the goal of introducing two new members by the end of this year. This is one concrete step we can take—a step we can carry out with joy and enthusiasm. The Daishonin states: “Great events never have minor omens. When great evil occurs, great good follows” (WND, 1119). The great good of introducing our friends to Buddhism, imparting joy and relieving their suffering, will ultimately lead to global peace.

The SGI-USA has begun a campaign of “10 Billion Daimoku and 1 Million Heart-to-Heart Dialogues” toward Jan. 2, 2002, President Ikeda’s 74th birthday (see the Oct. 26 *World Tribune*). By chanting at least 45 minutes a day for peace and engaging in two dialogues for peace each week with our friends to achieve this goal, we will be empowered by a fresh new energy with which we can confidently propagate Buddhism in America. Our efforts will become the driving force to create a lasting peace throughout the world, as each of us is a creator of peace.

This month, we will also be holding our district commemorative meetings throughout

America. It has been announced that next year's SGI theme will be the "Year of Expanding Dialogue" (see the Oct. 26 *World Tribune*).

We are messengers of peace. Our districts are oases of peace. With this awareness, let us joyfully and proudly engage in our daimoku, dialogue and propagation movement and hold joyful discussion meetings throughout November.