

## FROM SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR NAGASHIMA'S SPEECH REAWAKENING OUR JOY AND CONVICTION

**'The key for next year is simple,' says SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima. 'It is joy — your joy, my joy and the joy of every single member. When people feel the joy of faith, it is contagious.'**

Thank you for everything this year. I am full of appreciation for everything you have accomplished and I believe that next year, the Year of Expanding Dialogue, will be even better.

We all felt at this CEC that now is the time for us to cheerfully spread the seeds of happiness across America. In other words, now is the time to do *shakubuku*, to share Nichiren Daishonin's teachings with our friends. But our campaign has to start with ourselves first. That means reawakening our conviction in the Daishonin's teachings, our joy of faith. The Year of Expanding Dialogue indeed begins inside each of us.

After everything that has happened since Sept. 11, our fellow citizens are suffering. They are looking for the answers to life, the solutions to problems big and small. And we have the solution. We must realize the urgency to propagate the Law for the sake of all humankind.

Why do people get up each day, work and raise families? They are looking for happy, fulfilling lives. But in the Latter Day of the Law, their own inner negativity keeps them from finding it. They are seeking the Gohonzon, no doubt about it. This is our conviction, this is our mission — and this is our joy.

One topic that came up in relation to having enjoyable activities next year was our practice of gongyo at our monthly discussion meetings. Because we have so many guests and new members attending our meetings nowadays, it was our feeling that it might be best to shorten gongyo at discussion meetings. This could make our friends feel much more comfortable. The weekend before Thanksgiving, I attended four district meetings and noticed that sometimes guests were uncomfortable sitting through a full gongyo. They had not even met anyone yet, and they did not necessarily know what was going on. To be honest, I felt sorry for them. From now on, we want to suggest just doing parts A and C of gongyo at our district meetings to make them even more inviting. We want everyone to feel like they have just come home.

The key for next year is simple. It is joy — your joy, my joy and the joy of every single member. When people feel the joy of faith, it is contagious. They can overcome any problem, and their joy spreads quickly to others. This is the way we can reach all of our goals and expand our organization. This is the way we can change our country and the world. I want each one of you to become completely happy.

How exciting it will be to experience the next 10 years of the kosen-rufu movement in the United States. We will see many, many people join our movement. We will accumulate the "treasures of the heart" from working together as the SGI-USA family. We will witness America become a better place and the world move closer toward peace. With these dreams, let's do our best in 2002!

## **SGI-USA GENERAL DIRECTOR DANNY NAGASHIMA NAMED TO SECOND TERM**

Danny Nagashima was unanimously nominated for a second term as SGI-USA general director by the SGI-USA Council, Dec. 1. Mr. Nagashima's new term, which was approved by the SGI, will end in November 2004. Mr. Nagashima is the third general director of the SGI-USA, a position he assumed on Dec. 3, 1999, completing the remaining two years of General Director Emeritus Fred Zaitu's third term.

A naturalized U.S. citizen, Mr. Nagashima was born in Kawasaki City, Japan, in 1949, and moved to the United States in 1973. He is a graduate of Gakushuin University in Japan and received a master's of business administration from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has held various national responsibilities in the SGI-USA and has lived in New York, San Francisco and Los Angeles, his current home.