



EDITORIAL
 FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR
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The Power of Community

How will kosen-rufu be achieved? In one person's view—through the power of relationship and community. As Soka Gakkai Nichiren Buddhist, securing the peace and happiness of all people on the planet is our personal vow and collective vision as we face the reality of the Latter Day of the Law. The scale of our vision is vast, requiring an intergenerational, gradualist approach—passing on the heritage of faith from generation to generation. In the present moment, our practice enables each of us to instantly tap into the universal Mystic Law of life.

The means to transform our era is to awaken as many people as possible to their innate limitless value, to their innate Buddhahood, one dialogue at a time. This is the aim of our Seeds of Hope campaign (see p. 3). It is only by reconsidering what it means to be a human that we can find a way forward out of the darkness.

FAITH IN PEOPLE

Having faith in the essential goodness of humankind is an extremely difficult barrier to break through. It requires a shift in consciousness at the deepest level. Almost everything we see, that we experience in these times seemingly contradicts that belief and affirms the

opposite. Such doubts in our own Buddha nature and that of others, are functions of our fundamental darkness that hinder our ability to connect with the infinite.

To overcome such programming, we must seek out “good friends” in faith. Nichiren Daishonin says: “Even a feeble person will not stumble if those supporting him are strong, but a person of considerable strength, when alone, may fall down on an uneven path...Therefore, the best way to attain Buddhahood is to encounter a good friend.” (WND-1, 598). Such friends are found among our SGI community and in our mentor, SGI President Ikeda.

Making the shift in consciousness to realise that you yourself are Nam-myoho-renge-kyo and so are all others, is only possible when we are in spiritual relationship with others. As aligned with the African philosophy of Ubuntu, being in a community of care, of guidance and support, is required for those of us who seek to engage in human revolution. Having a mentor who has firmly established the path or orbit of Buddhahood within themselves and belonging to a community of support and practice are essential requirements.

Such is the power of community. Change will come from the soil of communities.

Communities of art and creativity, communities of locality and of common interests, communities of spirituality, communities of food security and education, communities of solidarity.

An interlinked network of communities across the nation will have the power to shift society. When we plant our feet firmly in the actualities of the local community, we can develop all larger perspectives from that starting point. SGI-South Africa is a community-based organisation. Please read in this issue the amazing stories the community of our members in KwaZulu-Natal experienced during the recent unrest. (p.3)

As President Ikeda has urged, in his 2006 peace proposal, “We must find the fulcrum on which people can develop the strength of will required to be proactive, robust and engaged. Unleashing the vitality of ordinary citizens—one by one—is the only certain way to bring into sight the horizons of a new civilization, a new era of the people...The activities of the SGI constitute a humanistic movement based on Buddhism that seeks to develop robust individuals who can respond to the challenges of our age.”

Let's sink our roots deeply in the soil and, together with others, create a robust network for good which spreads throughout our nation, the continent and the globe. ■