



**EDITORIAL**  
FROM THE GENERAL DIRECTOR  
**LOREN BRAITHWAITE KABOSHA**

## “Could there ever be a more wonderful story than your own?”

**W**hew! January moved so fast and now February is charging ahead. The opening of the Year of Youth and Dynamic Progress has certainly been dynamic. Everyone is facing a lot. Mentally, emotionally, physically it is tough to live in this pandemic world in which a state of chaos is heightened. We are being challenged to move forward with increased uncertainty as to the new shape the world will take, while coming into greater awareness of the need to amplify our power for good as human beings, individually and collectively.

South Africa has a profound mission. Fidel Castro, the President of Cuba, expressed the hopes of many world leaders and of the ordinary people in South Africa and throughout the world when he said: “Let South Africa be a model of a more just and more humane future. If you can do it, all of us can.”

We should take as our heritage the several exchanges between President Ikeda and President Mandela. As Ikeda Sensei wrote to Tata Mandela in 1990:

“February 11! How mystic that this was the very day that Josei Toda, my mentor in life, was born! When I heard the news of your release I recalled my late mentor, who fought to the end of his life for humanism and for the dignity of all people. On that day, at that moment, I sensed the cogs of history beginning a new revolution. The surging time of liberty and human rights has begun to flow majestically from the land of South Africa toward the entire world and toward the new century.”

We should be boldly South African! We should be proudly South African! And today, South Africa is ailing. Since the beginning of this year, we have had physical attacks across all spheres of government. Our nation is still

recovering from the deadly and destructive events of last July. Many have picked up and left. And as Nichiren Daishonin declared in the Goshō titled *Great Evil and Great Good*: “Great events never have minor omens. When great evil occurs, great good follows” (WND-1, p. 1119).

Our nation is great and we have everything we need to transform it into a land in which all can experience respect and human dignity. The transformation of our land is not up to politicians, who are a reflection of the age, although they will have a part in it.

The Lotus Sutra has the power to enable all people to realise both individual happiness and social prosperity. We each, without exception, are Teachers of the Law, are Bodhisattvas of the Earth. We pledged to be born at this time with a mission to spread joy and to transform our lives, our families, our country, and to transform the arc of history.

### **OUR PROFOUND MISSION**

How profound is our mission. We fulfil it with our very lives, our very beings. By living fully in our bodies, by expanding our consciousness, by growing into the vastness of our hearts. As Nichiren wrote to the Ikegami brothers who faced stormy tribulations, “Could there ever be a more wonderful story than your own?” (WND-1, p.499)

In *Great Evil and Great Good*, Nichiren declares, “Since great slander already exists in our land, the great correct Law will spread without fail...What could any of you have to lament?...you should all perform a dance... When Bodhisattva Superior Practices emerged from the earth, did he not emerge dancing?” (WND-1, p. 1119). At the Ceremony in the Air what kind of dance were you doing? Collectively what kind of dance are we doing that will change the destiny of humankind? In February—let’s dance! ■