

# SGI-USA MEMO

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**DATE:** September 2, 2005

**MEMO NO:** ORG-032

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**DISTRIBUTE TO:** All Members

**FROM:** SGI-USA Organization Center

**SUBJECT:** Message for World Peace Prayers Meetings

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We received the following message from the SGI-USA national leaders in light of the recent events following Hurricane Katrina. We ask that you please read this message prior to or during your September World Peace Prayer/Kosen-rufu Gongyo meetings.

Thank you very much.

Message from the National Leaders

September 2, 2005

Dear SGI-USA members,

As you know, our country has been struck by an unprecedented natural disaster inflicting untold misery upon our fellow Americans. Hurricane Katrina has devastated southern Mississippi and Louisiana, destroying life and property on a scale beyond imagination. Our hearts and prayers go out to all those affected and to the families of those who lost their lives.

SGI-USA members have been rallying in support of those in need, and our organization has set up two control centers—one at the national headquarters in Santa Monica, Calif., and one in Shreveport, Louisiana. These centers are clearinghouses for information and bases for our relief efforts.

Staff members from the national headquarters, including the general director, have gone to Shreveport to join local members in donating and delivering food and other essentials to those members who had to leave the devastated areas. They are also encouraging their fellow SGI-USA members from New Orleans and elsewhere who are staying with local members. As you may have heard, thousands of people have been bused from the New Orleans Superdome to the Astrodome in Houston. SGI-USA members from the Houston area are at the Astrodome offering their help and encouragement.

Some 300 SGI-USA members are from New Orleans, and most of them have evacuated the city. We are working tirelessly to account for them all. An SGI-USA Help Line (877-424-7744) and e-mail address ([hotline@sgi-usa.org](mailto:hotline@sgi-usa.org)) have been set up to facilitate this effort.

SGI-USA has made a significant monetary donation to the American Red Cross. If you would like to make a tax-deductible financial contribution to support the disaster relief effort for SGI-USA members affected by Hurricane Katrina, please send a check payable to “SGI-USA” and note “For disaster relief” in the lower left-hand corner.

The address is:

SGI-USA Disaster Relief

P.O. Box 1427

Santa Monica, CA 90406-1427

Additional information on how to donate to relief efforts are on our website at [www.sgi-usa.org](http://www.sgi-usa.org).

We all want to help to the best of our ability in this crisis, and the power of our prayers is paramount. Please join us in your respective homes and community centers in chanting abundant daimoku for those suffering from this disaster and for all people around the world who are in distress.

Let’s channel our sorrow and concern into a stronger determination to spread Nichiren’s teaching of hope and empowerment.

SGI-USA General Director Danny Nagashima

Women’s Leader Linda Johnson

Men’s Leader Tariq Hasan

Youth Leader Steve Mortan