In 2010, the men’s division will be studying “The New Human Revolution,” challenging ourselves to study one volume each month. In December 2010, we are studying Volume 12. While we are not meeting in the month of December, we hope the excerpts provided will be helpful for you. Every man is encouraged to have his own copy of “The New Human Revolution” which is available at your local SGI-USA bookstore or through the mail order service on the SGI-USA website. Page numbers may vary depending on the edition.

*******************************************
Fresh Hope

[Shin’ichi] stated with firm resolve: “Throughout our lifetime, no matter what storms may rage, let us continue to advance with the dignity of a mighty lion king and the lofty spirit of a soaring eagle. And, with the awareness that the Soka Gakkai is the king of the religious and philosophical world, let us, as disciples of Nichiren, carry out a proud struggle for the sake of the Law!”  Pages 9-10

Shin’ichi could not rest even for a moment. He was resolved to live out his life in accordance with Nikko Shonin’s admonition, “Until kosen-rufu is achieved, propagate the Law to the full extent of you ability without begrudging your life” (GZ, 1618). Indeed this was what it meant to inherit Nichiren’s teachings. It was the Soka Gakkai spirit.  Page 11

Our organization, our movement, is sustained by individuals. When those people fundamentally transform their inner attitude, awaken to their life’s mission and bring forth their highest potential, they can change anything. That is why the quiet, steady endeavor to guide and encourage people in faith is the very lifeblood of the kosen-rufu movement.  Page 13

It’s easy to receive small benefits from practicing Nichiren’s Buddhism. But producing the great benefit of changing karma is another matter. This is because it is not possible to change our karma unless we deeply examine the true nature of our mind and character – which has shaped our destiny – and then work to polish our life and achieve our human revolution. Toward this end, we need to devote ourselves wholeheartedly to carrying out our mission for kosen-rufu – an endeavor that requires chanting Nam-myoho-renge-kyo with resolute faith, challenging obstacles and striving to do away with injustice.  Pages 46-47

Community Spirit

We grow when we push ourselves beyond our limitations, when we challenge ourselves to go further than we think we can. By doing so, we can break through our shell, become strong, expand our state of life and carry out our human revolution. This is the way of Buddhist practice.  Page 114

“Nichiren Daishonin declares that by making the correct teaching the basis of our lives and transforming our minds and our life tendency, we can change our external circumstances and build indestructible happiness. This is possible because the self and the surrounding environment are essentially interconnected, a concept elucidated by the Buddhist principle of oneness of life and its environment.

“In other words, all phenomena in the universe are encompassed within one’s own life and, at the same time, one’s life pervades the entire universe. That is why we can change any situation with our faith and earnest efforts. This is a fundamental tenet of Buddhism. Therefore, no matter what happens, we needn’t become discouraged. If we become weak and lose our momentum, we will be defeated.

“I hope you will act with courage. Courage is strength, Courage is wisdom. It is the driving force for victory.”  Page 122

Shini’ichi next discussed what is necessary to lead a strong and correct life and build happiness: “The important thing is to maintain faith in the Gohonzon throughout your life, and to always practice with the Soka Gakkai, the true harmonious community of practitioners of Nichiren Buddhism. People cannot exist in a vacuum. Alone, people
tend to become weak. That is why, in order to construct a life of indestructible happiness, we need good-hearted fellow members and an organization to help us deepen and persevere in faith.

“From that point of view, it becomes clear just how wonderful it is to practice within the Soka Gakkai, the organization that has inherited and is carrying on Nichiren’s spirit. Page 124

**Dance of Life**

*Shin‘ichi addresses a group of youth division leaders after hearing their reports about a successful culture festival which had just completed.*

As Shin‘ichi listened to their remarks, his face gradually clouded over. He then asked the youth leader: “Did you make an effort to express your gratitude to the support staff who cleaned up?”

“No,” the leader admitted.

Shin‘ichi could see that these top leaders of the youth, intoxicated by the festival's success, had unconsciously allowed pride and complacency to take root in their hearts. His stern rebuke rang through the room: “You're all very pleased with yourselves, aren't you?”

They stared silently at Shin‘ichi.

“While you were all busy patting yourselves on the back for your success, I was giving my all to encouraging those members working hard to clean up the stadium grounds and directing traffic. The culture festival was a success precisely because of their behind-the-scenes efforts…” Pages 237-238

**Glorious Future**

*Shin‘ichi devotes himself to encouraging the students who were struggling with their studies in the newly established Soka High School.*

It was the teachers who were most amazed by Shin‘ichi's actions. Seeing him meet with the struggling students rather than those who were doing well deeply touched them. They realized that helping even the worst student become the best was the true spirit of value-creating education, and they determined to do their utmost toward that end.

Shin‘ichi's encounter with the students turned out to be a great source of inspiration for students and teachers alike. In later years, one of those students would go on to become a university professor. Page 324

**Questions**

1. *Through out volume 12, Shin‘ichi puts special emphasis on encouraging each person he meets on the front lines who is dedicating his or her life to kosen-rufu. What steps can we take as men’s division members to follow in Shin‘ichi’s footsteps and encourage our fellow members and develop capable leaders?*

2. *How can use faith to challenge our limitations and develop a strong unyielding spirit for kosen-rufu and create a dynamic momentum in our lives?*

3. *What will victory be for you in 2011?*