In 2011, the men’s division will continue studying “The New Human Revolution,” challenging ourselves to study one volume each month. In December 2011, we are studying Volume 23. The excerpts below are provided to support the men’s division study and can be used at men’s division meetings. Every man is encouraged to have his own copy of each volume 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. Volume 23 will be available shortly and has been excerpted in installments in the following issues of the World Tribune:

Dec. 10, 2010, WT, NHR insert chapter 1, installments 1-20 The Future Chapter
Jan. 21, 2011, WT, NHR insert chapter 2, installments 1-21 Light of Learning Chapter
Feb. 4, 2011, WT, NHR insert chapter 3, installments 1-20 Courage Chapter
March 25, 2011, WT, NHR insert, chapter 3, installments 21-41 Courage Chapter
April 15, 2011, WT, NHR insert, chapter 3, installments 42-52 Courage Chapter
May 13, 2011, WT, NHR insert, chapter 4, installments 1-21 Bold Struggle Chapter
Sept. 16, 2011, WT, NHR insert, chapter 4, Installments 22-41 Bold Struggle Chapter

In 2012, we will study excerpts from “My Dear Friends in America”, focusing on guidance from 1990.

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The Future Chapter

The universal foundation for a humane life and the basis for humanistic education are to be found in a life lived with gratitude. (World Tribune, Dec. 10, 2010, p.D)

The Light of Learning Chapter

One always feels uncertain when facing new challenges, but the key to growth is to overcome that fear and press onward, step by step. (World Tribune, Jan. 21, 2011, p.F)

Those who are facing stiff challenges are earnest. That seriousness provides the power to discipline and strengthen oneself and achieve remarkable growth. That’s why adversity can be considered “the mother of happiness.” (World Tribune, Jan. 21, 2010, p.G)

Mastering the lessons posed by hardship forges character and enables one to understand other people’s sufferings. Facing adversity is a required subject for achieving great success. .” (World Tribune, Jan. 21, 2010, p.G)

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Courage

In order to make our lives into a great and moving drama, trials and tribulations are indispensable. We should look forward eagerly to angry, pounding waves of adversity. We must press forward through the long, dark night with endurance, effort and unceasing determination. Adversity is the ideal stage for the appearance of champions of Soka..” (World Tribune, Feb. 4, 2011, p.C)

“I believe that victory in life is by no means contingent upon your educational background or amount of knowledge. Rather, a strong will and perseverance in achieving your goals, no matter what obstacles you
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face, are the sources of victory and the most essential qualifications for revolutionaries. ..” (World Tribune, Feb. 4, 2011, p. D)

One can’t inspire people with mere logic. The words and actions of an earnest spirit are the only means to stir others’ hearts and awaken their spirits. (World Tribune, Feb. 4, 2011, p. D)

Those who make the greatest effort achieve the most growth. Those who are bearing the most adverse karma also have the noblest mission. This is the teaching of Nichiren Buddhism and Shin’ichi’s conviction. (World Tribune, Feb. 4, 2011, p. E)

... As the great Russian author Leo Tolstoy wrote, “When people awaken to their true mission in life, they can solve all their problems.” (World Tribune, Feb. 4, 2011, p. E)

As Nichiren writes, “The greater the hardships befalling him, the greater the delight he feels, because of his strong faith” (WND-1, 33). In facing and triumphing over such persecution, we can attain Buddhahood in this existence and carry out our human revolution. (World Tribune, March 25, 2011, p. F)

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**Bold Struggle**

Self-awareness means to awaken oneself, that is to say, to become fully enlightened to one’s essential nature. As Mr. Toda did in prison, it is vital to gain the conviction that one is a Bodhisattva of the Earth and to dedicate one’s life, in the spirit of unity with the mentor, to realizing the great vow of kosen-rufu. Our mission is to realize happiness and peace for all humanity. When this awakening occurs, it is as if a door opens in the heart of one who was previously concerned only with one’s own happiness, revealing the supreme and noble path of altruism stretching out ahead. This is the direct path to transforming one’s life-state and to human revolution. (World Tribune, Sept. 16, 2011, p.C)

“Buddhist practice is about making a wholehearted effort and giving it one’s all. Describing a stalwart champion’s struggle, the Daishonin writes: ‘The lion king is said to advance three steps, then gather himself to spring, unleashing the same power whether he traps a tiny ant or attacks a fierce animal’ (WND-1, 412).” (World Tribune, Sept. 16, 2011, p. D)

‘To discard the shallow and seek the profound is the way of a person of courage’ (The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin, vol. 1, p. 402) (World Tribune, Sept. 16, 2011, pB)

“We can’t transform our karma or carry out our human revolution unless we strive our hardest, to the point of tears. That’s why from the perspective of Buddhism, there’s nothing as precious as a struggle.” (World Tribune, Oct. 14, 2011, p. B)

Suggested Questions for Discussion:

1. What is the correct attitude to have when we are faced with great adversity or difficulties?
2. How can we awaken to our mission to realize happiness and peace for all humanity?
3. What does it mean to “discard the shallow and seek the profound”?