

DISTRIBUTE TO: Region through Territory Leaders, Zone and Territory Offices
FROM: SGI-USA Organization Center
SUBJECT: Sensei’s Message - August Men’s Division General Meetings

Congratulations! We have received a message from Ikeda Sensei for the August Men’s Division general meetings! Please have the message read during the meeting.

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Message

To the respectable SGI-USA Men’s Division members: Thank you very much for all of your efforts in holding this Men’s Division general meeting!

First, I would like to express my heartfelt condolences for all those who have passed away due to the current pandemic. I also offer my deepest prayers for the earliest recovery of everyone battling illness.

Amid the turmoil brought about by this unprecedented global crisis, I am sure many of you in the United States have been facing a succession of difficulties. Despite the extreme hardships you may be experiencing, you are continuing to challenge yourselves, though perhaps unnoticed by others.

Among the efforts you are making, your many spirited virtual gatherings are helping to expand our network of Bodhisattvas of the Earth. Nichiren Daishonin would surely praise all that you are doing.

To a practitioner who had been upholding the Mystic Law, Nichiren wrote: “Because we have put our trust in the Lotus Sutra ... though we may suffer for a while, ultimately delight awaits us. It is like the case of a crown prince, the only son of the king. Consider this: How can he possibly fail to ascend the throne?” (“Protecting the Atsuhara Believers,” *The Writings of Nichiren Daishonin*, vol. 2, p. 882).

Nichiren is assuring us that no matter what storms of difficulty we face amid the turbulence of society, as long as we persist in dedicating our lives to kosen-rufu, we are ultimately guaranteed to walk a path of victory in life.

To a person battling severe problems, my mentor, second Soka Gakkai President Josei Toda, once said: “As the Daishonin says, in the face of hardship ‘the wise will rejoice while the foolish will retreat’ (“The Three Obstacles and Four Devils,” WND-1, 637). You mustn’t take the course of the foolish. Use hardship as an opportunity to reflect upon yourself. Practice with strong faith and see what happens. You’ll gain ten times the benefit you have so far!”

In this most trying time, please challenge yourselves with joyful enthusiasm and continue to chant resounding and invincible daimoku with the conviction that “no prayer goes unanswered.” Shining with the supreme light of Buddhahood, please illuminate your families and friends, and continue to send rays of hope into your communities. And please win decisively in every situation as you write an unparalleled personal history of happiness and victory.

I am always chanting daimoku for your families and friends.

To the Men’s Division members, the golden pillars of SGI-USA: Be healthy! Be happy! Be victorious!

Daisaku Ikeda

August 2020