


Editor's Note



We would like to thank Zen Master Dae Kwang for his many years of service both as the Kwan Um School of Zen abbot and as editor-in-chief of *Primary Point*. His international travel, teaching and many hours of work in the school office were central in promoting the teaching and vision of Zen Master Seung Sahn and the international character of the Kwan Um School of Zen. The long hiatus in the publication of this first issue with a new editorial board reflects both the magnitude and complexity of the task he undertook, which we've only

come to realize as we've tried to move forward. We want to acknowledge both his efforts in this regard as well as those of the previous editorial staff: JW Harrington, Dorota Streitfeld, Alan Davies, James Kopcienski and Jayne Harrington. We apologize if we have inadvertently left off any names; this was a large undertaking. As for his future endeavors, Dae Kwang Sunim said simply, "I retired from these positions and am now focusing on practicing and teaching."

Ken Kessel JDPSN, *Editor-in-Chief* 

Overwhelmed

Dear Zen Master Seung Sahn,

I feel like I'm going crazy. I'm working for the Legal Aid Society, and the maximum caseload at any one time is supposed to be 75. I have more than 75 cases right now. Starting this Friday, one of the attorneys is going on vacation, which will mean even more new cases for each person (there are three other lawyers). I am quite new to the job and feeling totally overwhelmed. As the number of cases increases, I can do less and less for each person. Weeks go by in which there is no time to devote to some of the cases I already have. I am very worried about this because I'm forced to keep doing a more and more sloppy job. I want to help people, and I like to do a beautiful job. I fear what this will do to my health (pains, ulcers, etc.) I try to have a good attitude, but I am being completely overwhelmed by all this. I am feeling very desperate.

Hapchang with love,
Michael

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your letter. How are you? You are very busy and are helping many people—that is wonderful! If your mind is busy then the whole world is busy. If your mind is complicated, the whole world is complicated. If your mind is quiet, then the whole world is quiet. So, an eminent teacher said, "Everything is created by the mind." Do you know an elevator's job? Many people can push the button wanting the elevator, but the elevator only comes when the proper floor and direction appears. When the elevator is going up, it only stops for up-buttons and coming down it only stops for down-buttons. The elevator understands its correct action sequence. That is only going straight. If you put your mind in order, then it works the same as a computer. Then you will understand your correct action sequence. That is correct opinion, correct condition, and correct situation—Zen mind. Also, that is great love and great compassion mind. If you want that mind you must make your "I, My, Me" disappear. If you don't hold your opinion, your condition or your situation, then your original high-class computer will work correctly. So, you must practice every day.

I ask you: What are you? If you don't understand, only go straight—don't know. This don't-know broom will sweep your consciousness computer clear of "I, my, me" dust. Then clear moment-to-moment working is possible. That is the correct way and the great bodhisattva way. I hope you only go straight—don't know, which is clear like space; don't make complicated, don't make busy, soon get Enlightenment and save all people from suffering.

Yours in the Dharma,
Zen Master Seung Sahn 

