

## ***Takeshi Furuta, Tokyo, Japan, 1965***



I joined the Unification Church in Tokyo in May 1965 when I was a graduate student at the University of Tokyo majoring in international law. In October 1970, I was blessed with Yukiko Kikuchi as one of the 777 couples.

In April 1973, I was sent to the United States to serve as a lecturer at the International Training Center in Tarrytown, New York and then at Barrytown, New York. While in Barrytown, I was urged to study at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS), so I enrolled and graduated in 1983. After graduation, I briefly served as a commander of the International One World Crusade (IOWC) and was later assigned to CAUSA International.

From 1984, I served as an interpreter for Dr. Sang-Hun Lee when he gave lectures on Unification Thought to English-speaking members in Asia, the United States, and Europe. During my 19-year stay in the United States, our daughter, Kamiye, was born in 1977; our son, Kenshin, was born in 1980.

In August 1991, I was sent back to Japan to work as a Tribal Messiah and was appointed as the church district leader in Fukui, my hometown, where I served until July 1993. Subsequently, I was appointed as the president of the Japanese Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP). I served in that capacity until May 1995. Thereafter, I served as the executive director of the Professors World Peace Academy in Japan (PWPA-Japan) until 1997. Since then until today, I have been serving as a senior researcher at the Unification Thought Institute of Japan.

Looking back, I think I have been fortunate in various ways. First,

I was raised well by my parents. Even after I disappointed them by giving up on an academic career to join the church full-time, they understood me and did not try to force me to abandon my faith. Second, I was blessed with a woman who proved to be a very good wife and mother and was given very wonderful children. They have grown up to have deep filial piety and generous, sharing hearts.

Last but not the least through my service in the United States, I was able to establish a personal relationship of heart with True Parents. For all these things, I am very grateful and am determined to continue to fulfill my mission and responsibility in the days ahead.