

## *David Sang Chul Kim, Taegu, Korea, 1954*



I was born in 1915 in Seoul, Korea as the only child to a father of Christian background and a mother of combined Buddhist and Confucian background. My grandmother was a devout Buddhist follower and was spiritually open; she was associated with many religious groups in Korea. Many astrologers, Buddhist priests with psychic powers and other interfaith spiritual groups and people came to our home continuously. This interfaith-oriented background in my family helped me to research higher truth not only from Christian churches but also from religions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Shamanism, and other small groups with Messianic expectations in the various mountainous regions in Korea. I know now that God prepared me to help God's dispensation.

My wife, Eui Hong Kang, who came to Kunsan city to look for a job after graduating from Seoul Teacher's College in 1940, was a teacher at the Presbyterian Church school. We met at that same Presbyterian Church (where I served as deacon and choir director) and married on January 6, 1942. Another reason she came to that city to interview for a job was to avoid her parents' demand that she marry based on her parents' recommendations. So, she ended up marrying me. We received the Blessing as one of the 36 Couples in 1961.

It was in the first week of February, 1954 when I accepted Father as the *Messiah* to come, as prophesied in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, as the *Second Coming* of the founders of the major world religions in other non-Christian sacred books; and as the *Righteous Man*, Chung Do-Ryung in the book called *Chung-Gam-Rok*, a prophetic book written during the Lee dynasty in modern Korean history.

I accepted him before I met him in person and even before hearing the lectures of the Divine Principle from the late Mr. Eu.

It happened this way. My alumnus, Mr. Lee, visited Father's small Taegu group around the latter part of January 1954 and returned with a report that this group, so spiritually powerful, could communicate directly with heaven. Based on his strong and persistent pressure, I finally decided to make an appointment to see the leader of the group.

Contrary to my expectations, the leader of the group in Taegu (supposedly Father), was not there. Only Mrs. Se Hyun Ok was in the house. In Korea it is very unusual to break a previously arranged appointment. So, when I came to Taegu, with all my pride and arrogance, I was very upset that the leader of the group was not present. However, my anger and indignation softened when Mrs. Ok talked about her visions seen in her early morning prayer.

In 1950, during the Korean War, I had experienced God's intervention in a time of crisis which saved my life from the communist atrocities in the southwestern region of Korea. Suddenly an "old, gentle, loving man" with purple robes appeared in the midst of my deep prayer, clearly giving me instructions about what to do from that time until the United Nations troops liberated that region. Thus my life was spared. I clearly remember that "old, gentle, loving man" and his clear voice instructing me on how to survive in the midst of the Communist occupation.

In that house Supreme God appeared a second time in front of me, this time through Mrs. Ok. Suddenly, her body shook and jerked, and the voice of God controlled her, and totally occupied her body and mind, causing it to act differently from Mrs. Ok. Now, God was speaking directly with a man's voice, just the same voice I had heard in my vision in 1950 in the form of an "old, gentle, loving man" in purple robes. With awesome feeling and deep reverence, I listened, immediately humbled myself and became obedient. I heard God's voice solemnly say:



President David S.C. Kim and Mrs. Kim at a UTS graduation ceremony.

“Listen, dear Sang Chul! I have been training you for 30 years since the age of 9, for your search of the truth through various religious experiences and groups. The time has now come and this is the place I wanted to lead you to. Unconditionally surrender. From now on, your new name is David, after King David who destroyed Goliath in the Old Testament. You will be going overseas for pioneer missionary work for this group.”

From that moment I have followed Father with unwavering faith and total dedication. On May 1, 1954, according to the dispensational timetable centering on Father, a trinity was formed, including Mr. Eu, Mr. Lee, and myself, which pledged to follow Father and his truth. The next day, Father called us, along with one other person residing in Seoul, and explained to us the need and purpose of starting an organization even in the midst of continuing persecution of Father and his early followers in both Pusan and Taegu. Thus, I became one of the five charter members of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity.

As God announced through Mrs. Ok, I was sent overseas as the first pioneer missionary to the West, first to England and then to the

United States, where I have served for more than 50 years. My Blessing as part of the 36 Couple category took place in 1961 while I was pioneering in Oregon, where I arrived on September 18, 1959.

Providentially speaking, my wife [ascended 2010] and I are the eldest of elders in our church, the grandparents of overseas missionaries in our movement and the oldest of the 36 Couples now living in the United States. We received the Blessing simultaneously: my wife in Seoul, Korea and I in Portland, Oregon in the United States. After hiring a lawyer and fighting the immigration authorities, my wife and five children were finally able to join me in 1965 to support my work in the United States. We were married 69 years ago in 1942, and we have been Blessed for 50 years now, setting records in our movement. What a blessing the Kim family received from Heavenly Father and True Parents.

We have five children and ten grandchildren now. Our children are mature adults, and the younger generation are all young adults to whom we give love and try to pass on our movement's traditions and teachings before we move to the next world. In this way, we are fulfilling our responsibility as parents and grandparents.

At the same time, as one of the oldest 36 Blessed Couples on earth, I am honored to be called "Grandpa Kim," a title bestowed upon me by all the loving first- and second generation church members, as a result of my early IOWC and Unification Theological Seminary work. We love you all dearly, just as Heavenly Father and True Parents love you. Nothing more, nothing less. We want you all to inherit True Parents' heavenly blessing and traditions.

Above excerpted from testimonies published in *The Words of David S.C. Kim: Let Us Learn from the Past* edited by Jennifer P. Tanabe (2009) and *The Ideal Family to Be or Not to Be: Testimonies of a Life of Faith* by Jennifer P. Tanabe (2010).