

***Kiyomi Lynne Nishio Sofinowski,
San Francisco, 1970***



I joined the Unification Movement as a student at the City College of San Francisco, on July 4, 1970 at the age of 18 years under the guidance of Rev. and Mrs. Sang Ik Choi. When True Parents visited the United States in the early 1970s, I supported the Day of Hope speaking tours in Northern and Southern California, after which I became part of the One World Crusade on the state level traveling and witnessing with a mobile team to college campuses. I served as a pioneer missionary to Fresno as part of the California One World Crusade.

My next two-year assignment to a Mobile Fundraising Team (MFT) supported missionary efforts in Germany under Rev. Paul Werner, followed by four more years in the MFT missions under Mr. Takeru Kamiyama in the southeastern United States. During that time, I was able to help fund the Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument campaigns at which Father spoke to significant gatherings of Americans as they honored God's purpose for America. By this time, my mother had become a member of the Unification Church and has faithfully supported the work of True Parents as much as she could, even going door-to-door to give the holy wine blessing to her neighbors.

In 1979, I was introduced to my future husband, Michael Adam Sofinowski, Jr., in a matching ceremony in the Grand Ballroom of the World Mission Center (known as the New Yorker Hotel). Three years later we were blessed at Madison Square Garden in 1982 as part of the 2075 Couples Blessing. I was amazed at Father's photographic memory during the matching process because he remarked to me about having grown my hair long since he earlier had spotted me at an

Atlanta MFT gathering with very short hair (like a refugee boy from the Korean war) and spoke about how women should express the feminine aspect of God by their beauty and grace. This was several years and thousands of faces later and Father still remembered!

In 1980, I became part of the CARP ministry in California under Rev. Chung Goo (Tiger) Park, Rev. Hiroshi Matsuzaki, and Rev. Kenshu Aoki, while also resuming some classes at San Francisco State University and California State University at Sacramento (CSUS). I and two other sisters notably pioneered the CARP presence at the CSU campus in Sacramento.

In 1984 I joined my husband in New York while volunteering time in CARP's national headquarters office with the bookkeeping members. Our daughter and only child, Christa, was born in July of 1986. Until relocating to Michael's hometown of Baltimore, Maryland in 1989, I helped to support CARP in the New York City area.

Settling in Dundalk, Maryland, in southeastern Baltimore County close to Michael's parents, I connected to the Baltimore church under Rev. Randy and Mrs. Kumiko Francis. I entered the work force in various inside sales and marketing-related positions. After our daughter entered middle and high school, I supported 2nd-generation ministry activities. In 1995, my parents (Mitsuru and Shizuko Nishio) received the Blessing as part of the 30,000 Couples ceremony.

From the late 1990s to the early 2000s, Cheong Pyeong Heaven and Earth Education sessions were attended by my parents, by me, and by my daughter. These conditions brought much healing to the Sofinowski family. Considering it an honor to be in Cheong Pyeong with the True Parents at the declaration of the Age After the Coming of Heaven in January 2001, we initiated our family's tribal messiahship activity by taking on the development of the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) in Baltimore City since that time. To date, December of 2010, we continue to nurture the foundational team of ACLC clergy and Ambassadors For Peace in Baltimore. We

serve as one of the ACLC coordinators for District 1 and together with my husband serve as an elder couple for Unification Church families in Baltimore.

The longer I live, the more I appreciate the depth of the Heavenly Parent's heart of unconditional love and the unchanging desire of God to bring His children home to the bosom of His love. I am eternally grateful that our True Parents have finally arrived upon the scene of history to teach us the heart and way of true filial sons and daughters, loving God with such a passion that no sacrifice is too great to make. I have been blessed to be alive at the time of True Parents and wish to be worthy of such an honor by serving every day and growing every day. I have immense hope in the True Family members and look forward to their victorious accomplishments.