

***Michiko Miyamura Wilding,
Shibuya, Japan, 1965***



When I first met my spiritual mother, Misako (Futaba) Hirasaka, it was September 1965, and I was 16 years old. We were in grade 11 at Kyobashi High School in Tokyo, Japan. She was cleaning the campus before school, and I was wondering why she was doing that every morning. Even during the lunch break she was talking about something very serious to the teachers. I was curious about what she was talking about.

One day she asked me to answer a survey, so I did. The survey was asking if I believed in God, spirit world, life after death, and so on. I gave my answers to her, and soon after that she asked me if I was interested in studying "English conversation." I said, "Yes."

She said that an American missionary was teaching English to high-school students. She took me to the Headquarters of the Unification Church in Shibuya. When I entered the small room, they all welcomed me with a big smile. I felt a warm and bright light in the room. There I met Diane Fernsler (who later was blessed in the 43-Couple Marriage Blessing in the United States). She was 19 then. I was really moved by her spirit. She taught us English conversation and songs. She taught us about Halloween and showed us how to play "Trick or Treat" inside the church. We didn't have that kind of tradition in Japan, so I enjoyed that game very much and still remember how I enjoyed it.

I felt that Diane had come down from Heaven, and her spirit was so pure and beautiful. I wanted to see her and stay with her all the time, and that was the reason why I wanted to continue going to English-conversation class. During the winter break, Misako wanted me

to hear the Divine Principle, so I went to hear it every day. I didn't have any Christian background, so I didn't quite understand what they were talking about. That winter she invited me to attend a four-day workshop, so I went. Many high-school students from all over Japan came to attend. Rev. Ken Sudo greeted us. He was so humble. At first I thought he was just the caretaker at that building. The next morning I was so surprised to see him on the stage giving a powerful lecture!

On the third day, I realized that the Messiah was on the earth, so I accepted the Principle and pledged to God that I would offer my life to Him. I am grateful that I kept the pledge that I made that day nearly 45 years ago.

When I think about my life, the reason why I joined the church so early on was because of my mother's sacrifice. She passed away when I was 12, and I struggled a lot after I lost her, asking where she went all the time. I didn't know about the spirit world, so I was walking in complete darkness for four years. I believe that she paid indemnity for me to meet the church so early. A few years later, I witnessed to my father, who laid the foundation for Shiawase-Shoji (the first business that True Father established in Japan).

He became a full-time member and served True Parents for 30 years, ascending into the spirit world in 1998 at the age of 88. He is resting in the Oze Church cemetery, and I am so proud of him.

I was blessed in marriage to Alan Wilding as part of the 1800 Couple Marriage Blessing, and we have four beautiful children (Victoria - 31, Adrian - 28, Marianne - 26, and Amy - 22) of whom I am so proud.