

Early Moldovan Member's Testimony: How Many Miracles Do You Need to See?

Sabina Nadejdin
2011



Flag of Moldova

I was born in 1984 in Moldova, which is located between Romania and Ukraine and was then a republic of the Soviet Union. It is now an independent country. When I was young, it was quite difficult for me to understand why all the churches in my hometown were closed, the buildings transformed into such things as museums, art galleries or gymnasiums. Meanwhile, every night my grandmother would open a cabinet door to reveal a small altar with crucifixes and religious icons. During the day, she would emphasize the importance of the Communist Party and obedience to its regulations, while every night she continued to pray to God. Somehow in her heart she was able to reconcile obedience to both the Communist Party and to God. I wished to join the Communist Party after I graduated high school, become its leader and make them accept a concept of God and human spirituality. However, God led me toward another path.

From childhood, I felt that God was beside me. Where I grew up, my friends and people around me used alcohol and drugs almost every day. An internal voice guided me and protected me from making mistakes.

One day, when I was seventeen years old, I heard the words "Gospel of John 9:25" mentioned in a movie. I later looked that verse up in the Bible and read, "He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I know, that though I was blind, now I see.'" Reading the verse piqued my interest in Jesus' teachings and from that moment, my life changed completely. I began reading the Bible and came to respect Jesus as a serious person.

Nobody guided me, and I had many questions. I started to visit different churches; I talked with priests and other people, but I didn't receive adequate answers. Later these questions became profoundly significant to me. I couldn't sleep well. I couldn't eat well. I lost weight. Sometimes I closed myself in my room with stacks of books and did not appear outside for days.

When I did go out, I began to spend more time with nature. When I went to a lake, into the forest or climbed a high hill, I talked to God. I started to feel God and holiness every moment. I heard nature talking to me; in the trees and grass, even in the stones -- I felt God.

After reading a passage in the Bible about Jesus and Mary Magdalene, I determined that I would remain sexually pure. I told God that I would never have a wife or relationships with women. I stopped looking at attractive women, even ones on television. If I saw a beautiful woman, I closed my eyes. I trained myself not to see women even in my dreams. In this way, I purified my spirit.

Later, I wrote a story about the Second Coming, and I started to tell my friends that Christ would soon come. Some of them felt that I might have gone crazy. I told them I was absolutely sure that Christ would come during my lifetime. From the roofs of the tallest buildings in my city, I talked to Jesus. I screamed and cried. "When will you come? I'm waiting for you. Please, come down! I promise I will be with you. I will hold on to your right hand, and I will do all that you tell me to do!" I almost became crazy. Many times, I wanted to abandon my life and go somewhere to witness to people, as Jesus did two thousand years ago.

First contact, early days

God came to me through a humble sister, Olga Bobrova, who invited me to listen to Divine Principle in June 2004. I told her that I'd been searching for her for a long time, because I understood that she wanted to unite all religions. This was also my dream, but I didn't know how to realize it. Later I learned that she had suffered very much all her life, that she made many spiritual conditions, and that the communists had imprisoned her.

When I heard the Divine Principle, it destroyed my preconceived notions. I was shocked. It answered all my questions, while causing new ones to arise. Every day after lectures, I came home, fell down on the floor and cried for hours. I opened the Bible and saw it with different eyes. I felt as if Jesus had come to me and explained all that happened two thousand years ago. Yet, I could not accept some points of Divine Principle. For a couple of months, I struggled with these. I went from church to church asking priests about True Father. They said many terrible things, but my heart told me something different.

I felt my life depended on finding the answers to two questions. The first was, Does the spiritual world exist? In the Orthodox Christian tradition, we even pray to saints, so I had had a certain belief in spirits. I thought simply that believers are living with Jesus in Paradise and bad people are suffering in hell, but I hadn't thought seriously about it. I visited different churches and asked about their beliefs. When I found that some believe that spirits are dead until the Day of Judgment, it challenged me. Confusion deepened when I read messages from the spirit world from Lenin, Marx, Hitler, Buddha, Mohammed and so on. Frankly speaking, initially, these seemed to be lies. It was a serious challenge for me to accept them. I was confronted with whether a spiritual world exists where all the physically dead are living, conscious and able to send messages. (Eventually an entirely different understanding of the spirit world opened to me through Father's teachings.)

The second question upon which my life depended was, Does Sun Myung Moon come from God or Satan? With these questions and my Bible, I went to a monastery for three days. I studied only the Book of Revelation and prayed. I made a fire and slept in the forest without food, without water. Only on the second day after confession and Eucharist in the monastery, did I allow myself to drink the holy water. During those three days, I felt God's presence every moment.

On the third day, I had to be at my job, which was a hundred miles away, by 10:00 AM. I left the monastery at 6:00 AM, but it was a wild place without people or cars.

The nearest town was five miles away. I thought it impossible to get to work on time, but suddenly in this quiet, wild place, a car appeared. The driver took me to a major road and told me I should wait on the roadside with two other men waiting for transportation to town. At that moment, however, I saw a lady on the opposite side of the road and some internal power pushed me to speak to her. I felt foolish, crossing the road to ask her how to get to town, but she answered, "Wait a minute, and you can come with me."

A minute later, a factory gate opened and a bus appeared. We were the only two people on the bus, which was factory-owned; it was not public transportation. As we neared town, the woman said she lived near the public bus terminal and guided me there. I had to ask, "Heavenly Father, is this a woman or an angel?"

It was a large terminal and I was the only one there. When I learned that the next bus would not leave for two hours, I knew I would not get to work on time, but I thanked God for helping me so far and began to read my Bible. A few minutes later, a man appeared and asked, "Are you going to Beltsy?" "Yes!" I said. He said, "Let's go! I'll take you." I was astonished. I realized that God is able to create miracles through people.

At nine o'clock, I was at home in Belts and my mother was bringing me breakfast. I told her I wasn't hungry. I hadn't had breakfast for three days but I felt strong enough to move mountains.

A few days after returning, I decided to say a special prayer to change my life. It was a wonderful day, but downtown, where I live, loud music was playing and the streets were crowded with people who had come for a beer festival. On the way at home I said, "Father, why is it like this? Today is the most important day in my life." After a few minutes, heavy rain began to fall. The music stopped and all the people ran away. The city became very quiet. I came home, sat on my bed, opened the window and I heard only pounding rain.

My prayer was profound. I was wet from tears. I felt God's spirit while listening to the rain's melody. For the first time in my life, I ended the prayer "in the name of True Parents, Amen!" As I said "amen," I opened my eyes to a lightning flash. Tremendous, powerful thunder resounded at the same time, and I fell to the floor. My house shook.

I arose from the floor and screamed, "Jesus! What do you want to tell me? Am I right, or am I wrong?" I felt Jesus' answer -- How many miracles do you need to see?

That day, I decided to join the Unification Movement and began to follow Rev. Sun Myung Moon. My highest dream had been fulfilled -- I had met the Messiah. Heaven called me to choose, so I left university, left two jobs, left my sick mother and went to Moscow for workshops.

Putting new-found truth into practice

After returning to Beltsy, I joined a witnessing team and resumed my university studies. I also opened a lecture center in my house and began inviting my friends and neighbors to the center.

In February 2006, I registered a civic organization, Alliance for a Unified World. During 2006, we conducted more than forty service projects for the benefit of the country. Our newspaper Culture of Peace was distributed by the thousands in more than thirty Moldovan cities. That same year, I passed the state examinations and received my law degree. My degree work was about UPF and about True Father's work, "Peaceful Resolution of International Conflicts."

On July 5, 2007, I was blessed with a wonderful sister from Ukraine. In May, then national leader of Moldova Ronald Koonce suggested I study at Unification Theological Seminary. I received this request as a call from God. For three years, I studied at UTS. On winter and summer vacations, I raised funds to support the providence in my country. I was also involved in the U.S. providence, mostly during my internship.

After earning my masters of divinity degree, I went back to Moldova with a head full of ideas and a desire to immerse myself in the providence.

We have five leaders who are mainly responsible for the providence in the country. I am now responsible for witnessing and the internal education of guests. I initiated monthly witnessing meetings, where our members meet to discuss our church's current situation and perspective. As best as I can, I try to encourage our members to be dedicated to the church and to True Parents and to be confident in their faith. I am also involved in many other activities.

I translated the Lasting Imprint seminar material into Russian and we started to promote it by all possible means. It worked. Members started actively inviting their friends and relatives. We invited people from the street and through the internet. People started to join.

Another initiative we began was a "theological club." While in the United States, I had an opportunity to study Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and other religions. I have visited around forty churches of different denominations, mosques, synagogues and Buddhist, Hindu and Baha'i temples, as well as new spiritual and religious movements. I wanted to share my experiences with people of my small country, which lacks religious diversity.

We hold weekly meetings where we try to find answers to fundamental questions from the perspectives of ten to twenty different religious and spiritual movements. In this way, we are creating relationships with people who are interested in spirituality. With this nondenominational approach, members find it easier to invite their guests to such meetings. We expect our guests to naturally find the superiority of the Unification Church viewpoint, and we then invite them to study Divine Principle. Every week new people are coming. More than twenty people are coming to attend these meetings. Usually a third of them are guests.

The church in Moldova was strong and worked hard even without me. Our brothers and sisters are wonderful servants of God and True Parents. I just hoped that my return to Moldova would help to strengthen this desire to serve Heaven.