

***Dan Fefferman,
Berkeley, California, 1968***



I joined the “Unified Family” in November 1968. Like many early members I had been strongly prepared. I came from a secular Jewish family but began searching for God when I moved from Los Angeles to Berkeley to attend the University of California in 1967. I was a musician as well as a student. I first experienced God directly while listening to George Harrison’s “Within You, Without You” from the Sergeant Pepper album. A few months later, on my 19th birthday, I had a powerful experience with Jesus, sharing his Passion. I studied the works of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and listened to the recorded sermons of the great preacher, C.L. Franklin, Aretha Franklin’s father. On New Year’s Day, 1968, the first God’s Day, I was meditating in my room and had a vision in which key parts of the Divine Principle were revealed to me. The spirit world introduced me to my Spiritual Master, whom I sensed was the Messiah of this Age. I knew I was destined to meet this man in the flesh, but it would take nine months of desperate searching until my spiritual mother, Helen Ireland Subrenat, finally met me one evening on the Berkeley campus. I heard the Principle over the next few days and moved in at the end of the week.

We used to sing a lot back in those days. We sang before every meal, plus prayer meetings, evening programs, and Sunday services. I started writing songs fairly regularly. The first was “Come on in the Kitchen.” I wrote that when I was preparing to break my first three-day fast.

Quite a few songs would follow. Mike Leone and I used to love “We’ve Got to Use Our Blessings Wisely.” There was also “The Kingdom of Heaven’s at Hand,” which I remember writing at Ashby

House to the tune of a country-Cajun song called “Louisiana Saturday Nite.” During a visit home to Los Angeles I wrote “The Lord Is One.” The tune to the verses is original, but the chorus is based on an Appalachian hymn, called “Talk About Suffering.” Then came “The Marriage Has Come.” That has both an original melody and lyrics. I wrote it in honor of the 777-couples Blessing while I was in Korea in 1970 after a fact-finding trip to Vietnam. That trip brought us also to Japan, where I experienced the zeal and sacrificial spirit of the Japanese movement for the first time.



Dan Fefferman (with guitar, left) and Neil Winterbottom in Vietnam, 1970

When I got back to the United States, I wanted to write something that would capture the spirit of the Japanese movement and share it with the American Family. That was “Generation of Righteousness.” It was also based on my first deep experience of God’s heart through a recording of Doris Orme’s channeling. I remember praying to God: “Give me a song that the whole movement can sing.” I went up to the attic of our center on Warring Street, and 15 minutes later I came down with “Generation of Righteousness.” So I have to say it was a

work of inspiration. One more that needs mentioning is “The Day of Hope.” I sat down and wrote that in Baltimore during the first Day-of-Hope tour, as a theme song. After that, it became harder to introduce new songs into our movement, but I’m hopeful that some of my newer songs may one day make it in the “mainstream.”

Over the years I’ve had many missions, but I think my songs may end up being my most lasting contribution, beyond the lineage-legacy that comes through my two wonderful daughters, Donsu Spratt and Kaeleigh Moffitt. And, of course, I was blessed in the 1800-couples Blessing in 1975, to the former Susan Finnegan. That has been a happy and exciting adventure I will save to describe on another day; and I expect for it to continue for eternity.



Dan gives a sermon at Ashby House, Berkeley, c. 1971

Speaking of missions, most of my public responsibilities in our movement have related in one way or another to human rights. I’d like to describe how I was led in that direction. I had been in the civil rights movement in high school, but had grown disillusioned with politics. After joining the Unification Church, I was praying seriously about my academic future. I heard a voice directing me to pages 481-487 of the University of California, Berkeley catalog: the pages where

“political science” started and ended. That course of study hadn’t even entered my mind, but looking back I understand why spirit world led me to take that step. My missions related to human rights include:

- Leading rallies in support of America’s commitment to Vietnam in Berkeley in 1969-71
- Secretary General of the Freedom Leadership Foundation and Editor of the *Rising Tide* newspaper, promoting human rights and opposing communism in the 1970s
- President of CARP under Chung Goo “Tiger” Park, when we were battling the radicals over Latin America and supporting Solidarity in Russia
- Publications director of the American Freedom Coalition in the late 1980s and early 1990s
- President of the International Coalition for Religious Freedom fighting for the rights of our members throughout the world

I’ve also been blessed to work as Unification Church state leader or regional coordinator in Idaho, Illinois, and California, to have led International One World Crusade teams in dozens of states, and to have travelled to all 50 states in one year to represent our church in various public-relations forums. All of these missions enabled me to meet almost every month with True Father in state leaders’ meetings during the 1970s and 1980s, and occasionally even to have intimate meetings with True Parents at their breakfast table, fishing expeditions, etc. Despite the many ups and downs of my own spiritual life and the vicissitudes we’ve all experienced in the Unification Church as an institution, one thing has always remained constant for me: I remain confident that the Spiritual Master I met in the spiritual world on January 1, 1968 is none other than Sun Myung Moon, our True Father.