

***Bunjo Kim,
Daegu, Korea, 1955***



I joined the church in Daegu on February 27, 1955. The five people in our family were living together happily, but then one day my husband became sick. We went to many hospitals in downtown Daegu, but my husband's illness only got gradually worse. People around us said that there was no hope anymore. I felt frustrated, so I went to fortune tellers and exorcists twice, but my husband's illness continued to worsen. My husband even made his will at night. In that situation, I thought I might become a widow at age 27, so I sometimes cried while looking into the mirror. Seven months passed as we tried to cure my husband's sickness.

One day, I heard that illnesses are cured in the Unification Church, so I went there, ready to clutch at straws. At the time, Rev. Yo Han Lee was a pioneer pastor at the Daegu Unification Church, but the church building was in a poor state. Six or seven elderly women were in one room. They were Christian Bible women who had come after hearing a voice, while praying on a mountain, that if they went to the Unification Church, then they would meet the Lord. When Rev. Yo Han Lee saw me, he asked why I had come. I told him that I was there to cure my husband's illness. After that, I attended Unification Church services every Sunday. I had an out-of-body experience while singing Holy Song number 7 during service. After the singing and praying was over, I was convinced that this was the church that I should attend. I came home and proclaimed to my husband and family that I would attend the Unification Church from then on.

I determined that from the next day, I would wake up early, take cold showers, and pray on the mountain for 40 days. I went up a

mountain and prayed for an hour at a time with my head between rocks, shedding tears, and asking God to save my husband. At the time, two Bible women came to our home every day and prayed earnestly for my husband. A week after that prayer devotion, my husband got out of bed, walked outside, and looked at the sun. The people in our neighborhood who saw this said to him that sick people who suddenly get out of bed die within a short period of time. When I heard those words, I felt shaken. However, my husband, who had been sick for seven months, gradually started to get healthy again. At first, he took taxis to attend services at the Unification Church. Then, he did walking exercises every day and started to walk, little by little, as a baby learns to walk. At the time, the only thought in my mind was that I had to save my husband. Later, my husband completely regained his health and considered it to be thanks to True Parents' grace. He was reborn as a core member who was fervent in his prayers and faith while going to church.

Occasionally, when True Parents came on a tour, I would prepare a meal for True Parents with my utmost sincerity, with a heart of gratitude for True Parents' grace of having saved my husband, from a life that he was about to lose, to a true life. True Father enjoyed the meals and complimented me often. Sometimes, Father would ask my husband to stand in front of all the members, assert that he was a righteous person, and ask him to sing a song. My husband was a good singer. True Father called the three daughters in our family the "Three Marias" and loved our family a lot.

My life of faith was enjoyable; it kept me in high spirits, and I devoted myself to it wholeheartedly. In 1959, a 40-day witnessing period began. I entrusted our children to my husband and went out witnessing in the Gyeongbuk Gunwi area. Christian churches opposed us fiercely when they saw members of the Unification Church out witnessing. They believed the words of Mr. Myeonghwan Tak and slandered us in various ways, saying that we were a lewd church.

Despite the slanders, we missionaries had an unchanging heart of love and related to them with smiles. Thus, sometimes they would apologize. Since we were enthusiastic and always had a smile and true love, with the heart of a parent but the body of a servant, they were moved.

Once I went out witnessing in an area and asked someone if I could rent a room. The owner rented out a room to me, so I sang holy songs there and conveyed God's Word to people from there. Since many people came, the house owner opposed me, saying, "I rented the room to you for you to stay alone, but since you gather so many people here, with them going in and out, you have made someone's home into a church. You should leave." So, I found a different house and was active there, but the same kind of problem surfaced, so I had to change my base of activities many times during the 40-day witnessing period. Every time that happened, I consoled myself, thinking about how True Father had to move 13 times in one month while he was pioneering in Daegu. There was a time when Mr. Changseong An came on tour riding a motorcycle. He saw that many people had gathered, complimented me, and was happy. After finishing the 40-day witnessing, I came back to Daegu with seven young people and had them attend a workshop. Among them, Guiju Yeo (72 Couples), Changgeun Hong (124 Couples), and Wonseok Kim (124 Couples) worked enthusiastically on the way of God's Will after the workshop and received the Blessing.

During a different 40-day summer witnessing period, which started on July 20, 1960, I was assigned the mission area of the Kampo region in Gyeonggi North Province, so I went there to witness. I went to the top of the highest mountain in Kampo and prayed to God, the mountain spirits, and my ancestors to work together in one accord to assist me in witnessing and to help me to work hard. In the morning, I had nothing to eat. There were some days that I told the owner of the house that I had been invited for breakfast somewhere, but I actually went to pray on a mountain. One day, I went witnessing and

visited a home. The young owner came out and said, "Yesterday, my late mother came to me in a dream and told me that a precious visitor would be coming to my house today. She told me to prepare a meal for that visitor." The young owner grabbed my hand and received me warmly. I enjoyed the meal that had been prepared for me, and that became our tie. That person started going to church enthusiastically and could feel Heaven working.

In the early days, there were many spiritual phenomena. One day I visited a home where the owner of the house, a woman, said that she was told in her dream, "Your aunt will come to your house so you have to receive her well." She welcomed me warmly and rented me a room which I used for worship services. During the service, more than 20 Christians came to disrupt our worship and attacked us by throwing rocks. So the house owner went out, shooed them away, and later called the police and local government officials.

Later, I was given the mission area of Geoncheon in Gyeongju. When I went out witnessing, I was able to bring the student leader of Musan Middle School to our church. This student allowed me to borrow the local neighborhood office, and there I carried out educational activities. When we had nothing to eat, students would stop by the church on their way to school to drop off their lunchboxes. While eating those lunchboxes, I thought about those students in their prime being unable to eat and their good hearts. It made me choke up and cry sometimes. I am truly thankful to those students.

My husband raised our children at home and kept the house while I was witnessing in my mission areas. Their daddy was considerate and raised the children well enough that the children didn't miss their mommy.

I was given notice that we could receive the Blessing in 1963. One hundred days after Hyo Jin Nim's birth, 24 couples received the Blessing as already married couples. In April 1964, True Parents gave us a

three-year witnessing award, for which our couple was deeply moved to the point of tears.

We were blessed with two more children after the Blessing. Based on True Parents' direction in 1970 that blessed families go out witnessing for three years, I was assigned to the city of Samcheonpo in Gyeonggi South Province, where I went out witnessing. I entrusted my two young sons to their daddy and went out to my mission area. The city of Samcheonpo is a place where Christianity is very strong. Saying that churches need to unite into one, I visited Christian churches and prayed with my hands on the church doors. During this time, young students became connected and visited our church. I often met Christian ministers and missionaries who had opposed us and gave them God's words and told them about my family's history. Some of them received the Divine Principle book and studied Divine Principle in secret, without letting others in their churches know.

My husband took care of the family while I was away witnessing and received the title of "Elder" in the church. He passed away in 1977. During the 2006 Entrance Ceremony to the Cheon Jeong Gung, I had the honor of receiving True Parents' award.