

**Mike Leone,  
Berkeley, California, 1968**



I joined the church in Berkeley, California and moved into the center on December 31, 1968. I lived there for about two years with – among others – Dan Fefferman, Pam Stein, and our older brother, Jeff Tallakson, and our older sister, Helen Ireland. My spiritual parent is Farley Jones. He met me at Sproul Plaza on the campus of the University of California at Berkeley. Edwin Ang was our Center Director, and a great one at that (this was before he became blessed to Marie — the first Asian-American couple). Not too long ago, I went with Dan Fefferman, Rick Hunter, and others to his 80th birthday party up in New Jersey.

Well, as things happened, Farley was called to Washington, D.C. by Miss Young Oon Kim to be the new President of our church. Farley asked me to move to Washington to assist him and to become the “National Treasurer.” That began my move and long stay from California to the East Coast (38 years and counting — although I moved around a lot, even back to California. But the District of Columbia and the East Coast became my real home. There are so many incredible stories, some of which I hardly remember anymore.

But I want to share with you the one that kept me from ever leaving God, True Parents or this sometimes crazy church. This happened within a few years of my moving to D.C., – around 1972-1973. I decided that I wanted to know and understand more about the concept of a lonely and broken-hearted God. I went on a three-day fast and read as much and thought as much as I could about that for a number of weeks. Nothing happened for two to three months — I didn’t have any deep realizations about the heart of God — nothing!

In my life before the Unification Church and after joining the Unification Church, I have had many spiritual experiences — seeing auras, spirits, being able to know things before they actually happened, asking for and receiving shooting stars in the sky, etc. I had more spiritual experiences than I deserved or needed, but I had never heard God speak. I had heard the voices of spirits, but never the voice of God. (I'm always amazed when people say, "God just told me this or that." I remember one center director who each morning would say: "God spoke to me last night and said...."

Well, back to my story. After hearing nothing from God for a few months about His heart, I almost forgot I had ever asked. Then one day I was walking down 16th Street in D.C., near our Upshur house and — bingo! God actually spoke to little old me. I knew it was Him, because the voice encompassed my whole being — spirit, body, all of me. He only said two words and has never spoken to me again since. It was —"I'm Lonely." After that, I started bawling like a baby and said, "that can't be right — you are God Almighty — how can you be lonely?" Well, those two words changed my life and kept me around for almost 42 years. I came to understand a little about the heart of God and the heart of True Father and True Mother — I couldn't easily do things that might break their hearts even more.