

***Motoko Sugiyama,
Tokyo, 1965***



I joined the church in June 1965 in Tokyo, Japan when I was a college student, studying English literature.

Before joining the church, my personal dream was to work for an international organization and to have my own happy family. On the other hand, I also was seeking “truth” which could give me answers to such questions as “What is the purpose of life? What is the reason and purpose of the existence of the universe? Does God exist?” During my high-school years I was going to a Christian Baptist church in my hometown, while also seeking truth. However, the more I went to the church, the more I was having questions about the true meaning of certain words in the Bible, though in my heart I accepted Jesus as my savior.

The witnessing campaign of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) on college campuses in Tokyo was just starting when I entered college. First, I was invited to the Sunday Service, which amazed me: such moving holy songs and a powerful sermon. By contrast, the worship service in my home town had been very quiet and the congregation was small. Then I heard the lecture after the Sunday Service, which lasted the whole afternoon. I felt that something was very special about this church.

I thought that this lecture was more important than lectures in my college, and I went on to hear Divine-Principle lectures for a whole week, day and night. I was surprised to see my shining face, with a big smile, on the mirror in the ladies room after hearing lectures.

The Divine Principle gave me so many answers to my questions that I almost couldn't believe it. At that time, we had no knowledge

of the terms, "Blessing" and "Blessed Family." I could also never think that we could perfect ourselves to marry according to "the Principle of Creation." Since God had answered my questions and guided me to this church, I determined to devote my whole life to God and to His will. That meant my determination was to live a celibate life to the end. I found out a couple of years later that there had been Marriage-Blessing ceremonies in Korea.

After my elder brothers and sisters in the church joined the 43-Couple Marriage Blessing in 1969, marriage became most realistic to me, and I thought that next time would probably be my turn. On October 21, 1970, I was able to receive the Marriage Blessing with 777 couples in Korea with my husband, Takashi Sugiyama.

When I look back on my life, the things I had given up for God and His will – my two personal dreams, to work in an international organization and to have my own happy family – were actually given back to me.

About Dream #1, True Parents gave me the mission to serve as President of Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) in Japan in order to promote its worldwide activities from 1992-1998 and to serve as Vice-President in charge of the UN Office of WFWP International in order to promote and develop United Nations-related activities from 1998 to the present. It has been a great learning experience to envision how we should build one global family under God working with WFWP and the United Nations.

About Dream #2, True Parents gave me the best husband, a man who is sincere and faithful to God, to True Parents, to his wife, and to his four children. As husband and wife who are always on the front line where each of us somehow was given a separate mission, there have been many separations of the family and moving around a lot between different countries.

Therefore, there were some difficulties and challenges in our family life, and our children had to suffer. However, because of my husband's

unchanging sincerity, faith, and love, there was always a solid and strong pillar to support our family. Thus, I was able also to fulfill my dream of having a happy family as well.

In conclusion, I am most grateful for God and True Parents who gave us the best life-time gifts, "Divine Principle" and the "Blessing."