

***Paul Yasutake,
Los Angeles, California 1970***



In the spring of 1970, I was a student at Los Angeles City College. I heard an announcement that there would be a meeting introducing a new philosophy from Korea. I was majoring in philosophy and was especially interested in Oriental philosophy at that time.

The meeting was on the way to my physics class, so I stopped by and talked with Gary J. and it turned out that I was the only student who showed up. He invited me to the “Unified Family” center on Virgil Avenue that afternoon. I went there, and while we were talking, he started drawing circles on the blackboard, and in that way he taught me parts of the first chapter.

I was drawn not so much to the philosophy but to the atmosphere of love in the center. I thought it was a new hippie commune, but they all had short hair and were from many different nationalities.

One evening a Jewish guy named Gary Fleischer, who had red hair, gave a séance in which Moses spoke through him. It was all new to me, but I felt good being there.

I remember when I was given the lecture on the last chapter. There was a group of members outside of the room praying for me. Little did they know that I already knew the “conclusion” that the Lord of the Second Advent was already here. I had borrowed a copy of Miss Young Oon Kim’s red book and read the last chapter first.

God showed me in so many ways that this was the road to take. I felt that the Divine Principle was true and that the Messiah was on the earth!

I hung around the center going to evening meetings, but at the same time I was attending Zen-meditation sessions. On one particular

weekend of meditation, the Zen master had an individual session where he would give a new name to the devotees. For some reason, I declined to get a name and passed up becoming a Buddhist. Instead I joined the Family.

It was at a weekend workshop in Morro Bay, California, at a campfire meeting that I decided to join and decided to move into the center at Courtney Avenue, which overlooked the city of Los Angeles.



In December of 1971, I first met True Parents at the Los Angeles airport. They spent one night in the Los Angeles center on their way to Toronto before going to Washington, D.C., to start the providence in America.

Since then, I served on the One World Crusade in 1972, attended Belvedere 100-day training in 1973, served as a New York City church leader (New Rochelle) in 1974 and served with the Barrytown 3-day, 7-day, and 21-day workshop staff. I studied with the first class at the Unification Theological Seminary in 1975. In 1977 I was with MFT; 1977 Connecticut State Leader; 1980 New Hampshire State Leader; 1981 IOWC commander; 1982 Florida State Leader; and in 1986 I was with the American Freedom Coalition (AFC) for Florida and Hawaii. In 1996 I served as the National Messiah in Bosnia and the American Freedom Coalition (AFC) in Connecticut. In 2000 I held a mission in Bridgeport, Connecticut.