

Principle Life

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a magazine of internal guidance and inspiration

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God wants to be the center of true love.

The Path to Happiness

Father

What is the criterion of happiness? What is the true blessing? These are things to think about. To determine the true definition of happiness we should know the relationship between the individual and the whole. When an emergency strikes a nation, that is an opportunity for the true patriot to emerge. You know the story of David and Goliath. That emergency was David's opportunity to confront danger. David represented the good force and Goliath represented the evil force, not just for David, but for all of David's people. The more they were united with David the more they would hate Goliath. God and spirit world would view Goliath as their adversary as well. Thus, the battle between David and Goliath was not just a personal battle, but a showdown for the universe and God.

The true beauty of that confrontation was that David stood as the champion of the godly forces and was determined to die for the cause. That was David's greatest opportunity to show his true loyalty and service to God, and in doing so he could find his own fulfillment. What happened? By winning that battle and fulfilling God's will, David was totally united with God and the people.

David's victory was a victory for God and all people of the world. When the people offered David whatever he wanted after his great victory, David did not ask to be king but only for a few sheep to make his living. The people were disappointed and asked if he didn't want more. God would say that David deserved not just a herd of sheep but the crown of the king.

When David walked down the road of battle, death might have been at the door, but do you think his march was still a happy one? There was opportunity for glory and victory, but he also could have been defeated and killed. This was the opportunity that could bring David the greatest happiness and fortune. Thus, the road of death is not necessarily a terrible thing, and sometimes dancing and fun is not always happy either. You determine your happiness and blessing by your attitude and motivation. These provide the meaning of your happiness. If you prepare yourself for the good cause without sleep or food, it may seem to be a suffering way of life but it is rewarding nonetheless. That person has a future and hope, and no one can take it away.

What kind of people truly felt happiness and reward in history? People who had great wealth and were always happy? And learned scholars? What about politically powerful people? What did bring happiness? You tell me that the ideal, true love, and the opportunity to confront life and death situations bring happiness and all of these are correct. Many things could represent a happy life, but the unity of a subject and object who are one in true love for the sake of mankind sums up everything. They become the central figures of everything. We could say that they become the central figure or personality with true love, and anything that contributes to that goal will bring the true happiness and blessing.

When you say that something is “central”, does it include God or not? All of mankind? The whole world? The past? The present and the future? The center of true love includes everything. If you ask God what He desires, He will reply that he wants to be the center of true love. If you ask men and women, they will answer the same. That includes black, white and yellow, and also all things of creation. But if you depart from the central theme of true love, no ideal or love is good enough.

Would you rather own something precious or trivial? What is something precious that you want to own? Why do we need parents, a husband and wife, and children? Some people think that such things just give them a hard time, but actually these relationships are the workshop for the center of true love in which you can come to personify true love.

Why do we have five senses? Through our senses we can feel true love. Our eyes want to shed tears of joy at seeing true love. There is no boredom in true love, and you always want to see and hear more and more true love. With true love all of your senses are filled with joy and your whole body is a chunk of true love. If you are nothing but a chunk of love, then when you are rolling down the Himalayas you will burst into pieces when you hit the bottom and the entire

world will be shaken. When you burst, it is not just you as an individual but the center of true love which is bursting.

God is almighty so that He can protect true love and keep it intact. No one can accuse God of misusing His power because He will only use it for true love. When you represent central true love, the whole universe will act to protect you because you will be the most precious entity in the cosmos. If by chance true love should be hammered into pieces, God would reassemble the pieces into something better. Certainly then God would never release love because it would be so precious to Him. Nothing is more precious to Him than that.



God is supreme in love.

*Only after you know
this love to the depths of
yourself can you feel
how wonderful it is.*

God is intimately concerned about our marriages.

On the Blessing

by **Barbara ten Wolde**

One of the first things I was amazed to discover after my blessing was how much God is intimately concerned about our marriages. I already had an idea of this through watching Father talk about the blessing and about matching us, or through hearing of his counseling of couples. But after the blessing I was jolted to experience how quickly and precisely God would answer any prayer concerning the relationship, and how interested Father and Mother were as to how things were working out.

From such experiences, one can begin to grasp what a blessed couple means to God. Understanding this is to know how precious is the spouse that heaven has given one, and how precious the relationship that will unfold between oneself, one's spouse and God. If one finds one's relationship in a jam, where couples in the fallen world consider separation and divorce, God will assist in breaking up the jam and enabling a flow to continue.

There are many amazing and wonderful tales concerning the recent matchings, and faces and lives have been brightening: all a further testimony to God and our Parents. . . . But there are also disappointments and uncertainties. It's important not to be disheartened by the one before us. Each of us is or will be matched to an uncut diamond; how soon and how beautifully our spouse will be shaped greatly depends on ourselves.



The greater the suffering,
the greater the depth of love to follow.

It's important not to come to the matching with a certain image of what we want, or feel we need, in a spouse. In the fallen world people are generally attracted to mates on the basis of immediate needs. When God and our Parents are involved, they look not at what we are but at what we have the potential of becoming and at what our lineage can become. Although the rewards may not be immediate, have patience with one's spouse and one's self. Over the years, seek out what God wants for your spouse and for yourself to become.

I once heard Father counsel one struggling couple, commenting that the problem was that the brother wouldn't accept his wife for what she was. He proceeded to say that he knew what type of woman the husband wanted and purposefully did not give him such a wife because that was not what he needed, and that he should not try to make his wife into the type of person he had wanted, first, because she would never become that, and second, to become a well-rounded person the husband desperately needed the woman Father had given him.

Once Father asked the sisters gathered at a Sunday morning talk if they wanted to be blessed. "What if the man you get blessed to has only one leg?" he queried, laughing. "Would you be willing to take a saw, cut off your own leg and give it to him?" He continued hilariously, asking about the arm, eye, etc.

When we talk about marriage... long for it... we so often think about what we will receive. We think about the end of our desperate loneliness, about someone who will help us realize all the things within our characters which are so buried that we can't even get to them, and about someone who will always be intimately there, who will love us, who will fulfill our sexual needs, who will comfort us in sorrow and laugh with us in joy, who will protect us and defend us, who will honor us and support us.

But who among us is so whole? Am I? Are you? So often our longing is for someone who is perfect. Are you prepared for a cripple? Some of us are obvious cripples; but it's amazing how even the most confident and talented appearing among us may indeed be confident in some areas, but in other more secluded areas that involve the marriage relationship may be lacking.

What if you are confident in your mission and then suddenly find yourself matched to a cripple? Are you willing to allow yourself to become crippled that your spouse might walk whole? Can you descend to his/her level that you may begin to build the relationship that will eventually lift him/her up? Can you be patient for that day (year) that, in greater wholeness, your spouse can lift you up?

In the marriage of friends, prior to my own blessing, I had a number of years

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Marriage is hard work.

to watch the expectations of the blessing be consumed by the reality of it. God gave me time to think about and prepare for mine. I realized that marriage is hard work, and the more stable and mature one is when entering it, the more prepared one will be to allow God to create the miracles of give and take that one needs to build a fruitful marriage over the years. It's much easier to grow and change as a single person. Growth enters a new and much more complex and cumbersome dimension in marriage (though very rewarding).

Observing this, I had to change my whole way of looking at my life in the church. I had been pocketing my needs and longings for that day when my prince would come to draw them all out and fulfill them. I realized that in all practical fairness to God and my future spouse, I had better have these out and resolve them myself in preparation for the work to come in marriage.

I became serious about committing myself to love those around me. It's difficult to love. It takes so much time, energy and patience. It takes the capacity to force oneself beyond the fear involved in reaching out to another, not knowing how the other will respond, and not being at all confident that one has what one needs to respond back. We become so vulnerable in loving.

I began to pray for those who repelled me instead of avoiding them, and to serve them secretly or openly, making time to listen to them and help them. I also had to face my own loneliness and self-hatred, instead of saying, "Someday I will get blessed and my husband will resolve it all."

To my amazement, I began to find internal peace and joy for the first time in my life. The more I gave, the more I learned and the more I had to give. In opening up to others, God began to teach me many new and beautiful things; I discovered that I wasn't so terrible after all. I could resolve the bulk of my loneliness even without a spouse, and I lost my impatience for the blessing to come to me. My desire to be grafted onto the tree of life was allowed to overtake my personal desires.

We often hear that the wife is in the position of mother and the husband in the son's position for the first three years of marriage. Aside from all else, this is a very practical way of beginning a marriage. It just doesn't work to try to build a relationship with two people "on the take". If things are going to grow, someone has to give. (And if the sister isn't capable of being a mother first, perhaps the brother can be the father.)

On a deeper plane, Eve took Adam's manhood, the key to perfection and freedom. Eve is the one who can restore this, even at the sacrifice of her own needs. Father has said that when the woman fulfills this mission, bringing fullness to her husband, he will possess the capacity to turn and bring fulfillment

and womanhood to her.

In the process of working with spiritual sons and brothers, I began to see what physical mothers could do in twisting the lives of their sons in the name of mother's love. I saw the negative influence my own mother had in my brothers', as well as my dad's, lives. I was deeply troubled by those same traits I saw in my own life and worked very hard to overcome them that some day I might be a different kind of mother/wife.

In entering the blessing, I have seen some sisters interpret the mother's role as: "I'm your mother. You have to obey me. You do as I tell you and be as I want you to be!" (Tisk. We women are capable of more subtlety than this!) One of the greatest facets of a mother's love is that of acceptance. No matter what her child may do, she accepts him eternally as her child. I believe that this is the first step to our spouse's freedom. To accept that which is beautiful and that which is ugly... that which is him, now, and love it all.

If we are too busy trying to force the other into the mold of who we think he should be, we are nailing the lid onto the casket of what should be a dynamic relationship of blossoming growth. Men tend to share of themselves less easily amongst each other than do women. A man needs a place where he can open himself freely with no need to "put on" and no fear of penalty.

"The first step to overcoming a problem is recognizing it," is the old cliché. We may not like everything that comes out, but without honesty, there can be no true growth of the depths of the heart (that which we take with us to the spiritual world). Also, when "demons" are allowed to come to light, they are never so great and terrible as they seemed to be when lurking in the shadows of one's soul.

One sister helped me with one important element of this. She gave me the simple balm of being told over and over again, "I need you, I love you, you're wonderful." If you can't say this to your spouse from the heart, ask Heavenly Father to give you a glimpse of what (s)he will become; then you will be able to say such things genuinely. (Remember the story of the frog prince?)

A true mother is a total and sacrificial giver. Thus one must come to the blessing with the desire to receive absolutely nothing for three years. I was surprised in my own blessing at how much I did receive, but took each thing as a gift unto itself. I realized I could not hold onto any such gift or expect it to be repeated. (Though he gave to me yesterday, I won't expect it again today.) How long can you give without resentment? It's important not to destroy what God has done through one with an attitude such as: "I gave to you for the last three years; now you owe me."

Without honesty,
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no true growth.

I've seen some relationships that start out so terrible. It seems as if one (or both) of the spouses are driven to crush the other into the depths of hell. I feel sure that "nothing comes from nothing" and that this must be connected to ancestral (personal to international) karma; not to mention the difficulties that lay in the immediate family background. Either one must learn through love to work out that karma before one is blessed or in the relationship of marriage during the years after the blessing. Heaven in marriage does not come for free.

Talking to a gathering of blessed couples once, Father addressed one couple who had been having a particularly difficult time. He spoke tenderly of the suffering that some couples go through, saying that the greater the depth of suffering, the greater the depth of the love to follow, that their relationship to come would be closer and far richer than that of those who experienced love from the beginning.

I have been deeply impressed by such couples I have known, impressed that they have been able to work through the oppression of the initial suffering and find the beauty beyond.

The blessing is probably the most difficult and most rewarding mission we will be given to accomplish. In it lies much of the cleansing of our lineages, as well as of our own souls. Our entrance into heaven depends upon its successful fulfillment. The true success of our missions is cradled in its arms.

Because it takes so much work, we must realize how precious is the time we spend prior to marriage (and in marriage, prior to having children). The more we strive to understand and truly love and serve Heavenly Father and our brothers and sisters from the depths of our hearts, and to truly love ourselves, the greater the trousseau that we bring to the task. Don't wait until . . . Do it now!



*This human nature is a
cosmic thing; we are all
in the image of God,
having His own nature.*

Go Right

by Patricia Zulkosky

God's grace consists precisely in this:

God wants to let God's self be won by men and women. God places God's self, so to speak, into people's hands. God wants to come into this world but God wants to come into it through men and women. God dwells wherever men and women let God in.

Martin Buber

Brothers and sisters often offer good advice to me in times of personal crisis. Yet, it is sometimes hard for me to take it and apply it to my life. The straight truth is such a bitter medicine that I refuse it. Yet the same message is often conveyed much more forcefully in a story-sugar-coated medicine, if you will. The Jewish hasidic tradition is one of the richest traditions from which I pull stories for my personal inspiration and guidance. One story in particular has been meaningful in the past year, meaning different things to me at various times. It is the story of how one of the great holy men came to be a great holy man.

Someone asked, "How did you become the great holy man of prayer?"

He answered, "I want you to know that when I was fourteen years old I got married. People in those days got married when they were very young. As a wedding gift my father-in-law made me this special present of a prayer shawl. It was the most beautiful prayer shawl I had ever seen. I really vowed to God that whenever I put it on I would have the most pure thoughts; I would never think an impure thought when I had the special prayer robe on.

"Where I was living I would wake up at five in the morning, run to the synagogue, study for two or three hours, pray, sometimes eat, and by two or three in the afternoon I would already have studied eight or ten hours. Everybody knew that you only prayed late in the afternoon because it took hours and hours to prepare yourself for prayer.

"One afternoon someone walked in at three o'clock, and by the way he



God asks me to find Him not in mystical experiences but in
my relationships with people.

walked in I could tell this guy was a cosaka (holy man). He said to me, 'Hey, listen young man, can I borrow your prayer shawl?' I said, 'It is three in the afternoon and you haven't prayed yet?' He answered, 'I didn't come here to ask for your advice. Can I use your shawl already?'

"When someone asks you to give them your prayer shawl, you have to give it. How can you say, no I won't give you my prayer shawl? So I had to give it to him, but I couldn't control myself. I said, 'Listen, I want you to know that I just got married and this was a gift from my father-in-law. I swore to myself that I would only think pure thoughts when I wear this prayer shawl.' Imagine you've made this vow before God to have only holy thoughts and this guy looks at you and says, 'Okay, good. So give it to me already.'

"So he puts on the prayer shawl. You know it is late in the afternoon and I assume that this person had really prepared himself to pray and that he is going to pray like crazy now. He might cry like a dog, and who knows, he might even jump right out of his skin. I was ready to see the greatest show in the world.

"Do you know what happened? He puts on the prayer shawl and walks to the window that overlooks the market place where people are buying onions and potatoes and things, and he stands there for an hour. I got the creeps. Who knows what he thinks while he is standing there. Every second I wanted to run up and tear off my prayer shawl. But, anyway, I didn't. I just didn't. Finally, after one hour, really, I was so shaky inside because I didn't know what he was thinking while he was wearing my prayer shawl. Suddenly, he goes to the holy ark and opens it. I thought, 'Now the show begins. I'm really going to see some praying like mad.' The only thing he did was put his head into the holy ark. You know, if you rattle off your prayers in the morning very fast, it should take 10-15 minutes. This person put his head into the holy ark maybe four minutes and he was finished.

"What a fake, right? Fooling around until four in the afternoon, then looking out in the market place and all he does is pray four minutes. I couldn't control myself any longer. This was the end. I rushed up to him and tore off my prayer shawl... Now... open your heart strings: The prayer shawl was soaking wet with tears, soaking. Was I ashamed. It was an ordinary Wednesday. I never prayed like that on the highest of holy days. I said, 'I'm so sorry. Please forgive me. But just tell me what you were doing looking out the window for an hour.'

"'Come, I'll show you,' he said. 'Do you see there on the outside there are some soldiers having their basic training. What is a soldier anyway? A little drunkard, right? What is the officer? A bigger drunkard. So the bigger drunkard says to the little drunkards, go right. Would the soldiers dream of going left?'

Right is right and left is left. And imagine a high officer, imagine a general, would come who is the biggest drunkard in the world and he would say, go right. And they would kill themselves to go right. And they might commit suicide a thousand times over but they would go right. And here I was standing on Mt. Sinai, the dwelling place of God, and I hear God's voice telling me to go right... and I am still going left. Why am I going left all the time? Then I began to pray...

"He says to me, 'Don't worry. Your prayer shawl will dry.' By this time I couldn't control myself anymore, and I began crying like mad. I said, 'I don't ever want my prayer shawl to be dry again.' Then he looked at me and began hugging me and said, 'Young man, do you want to learn how to pray? Then pack up your things and I will take you to see the holy master.'"

This story has had different meanings to me at different times in my life, and yet it has always re-stimulated my desire for a mystical experience with God. I don't know what it is that I expect—perhaps something like a burning bush or vision. I have longed for such experiences many times in my life. Yet I have not experienced them. This is not to say that I haven't experienced God, only that I haven't had this other-worldly kind of experience. And the more I longed for such an experience and worked for it through long and tedious prayer conditions, fasting or other such conditions, I was always disappointed, and sometimes even disillusioned and doubtful. But, in my waiting and listening, I have found that God is asking me to find Him not in the mystical experience but in my relationships with other people.

Through all of these searchings I have had a poster on my wall which says: "You must cultivate the attitude that every moment of your life is for other people, SMM" Yet, it never made an impression on me that this was the way to find God. Actually, it made the greatest impression on me when it fell down and I didn't get around to putting it back up. Then I would look at the empty space and recall the words. When I put it up again, I never noticed it.

But these words of Father's have taken on special meaning as I have had experiences of finding God in brothers and sisters. Sometimes it came through my sacrificing to reach out to others, but the most profound experiences have come when I have allowed others to reach out to me. It is much easier for me to love others than to believe that others or even God could love me. The amazing thing to me is that as I am learning to believe that I am lovable, I am finding it easier and easier to turn right, so to speak. It is easier to hear God's voice and to want to respond through a kind of mutual love. As Buber says: "God dwells wherever men and women let God in."

*The amount of God's
own feeling you experience will
determine the depth of
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The spiritual child I found was Nancy Neiland.

Discovering Myself

by Nancy Neiland

I went to Waterbury, Connecticut during the 40 day pioneering condition. Most of the last five years of my life were spent in an office: first assisting the foreign missionaries, and, most recently, working with Reverend Chung Hwan Kwak. Therefore, the opportunity to leave the office in order to pioneer was a terrific liberation for me, enabling me to grow in many ways that one may not think possible after spending most of my time inside a building.

I don't want to explain all of the external things that happened to me because I think that you can hear from other people the miracles God does work. I want to testify about something internal I learned.

There is a quote from the book *The Bridge of San Luis Rey* by Thornton Wilder with which I would like to preface my testimony:

There is a land of the living and a land of the dead. The bridge is love; the only truth, the only survival.

As I mentioned, I have been almost exclusively in the city of New York for the past five years. Even though it may be difficult to admit, I think that the last few years I haven't really been "living" in the "land of the living." I think in one sense I had died. But I thank God for the privilege to go out to find the land of the living once again. I don't know how many people went out pioneering or how many actually found one or more of the 69 spiritual children who moved in during this period. What I do know is that the spiritual child I found was Nancy Neiland. I imagine that some of the rest of you had a similar experience. Yet, based on how it happened, I am beginning to think that it isn't absolutely necessary to go to 40 days in a "wilderness" of sorts to find yourself; God can work that miracle no matter where you are.

I wasn't in touch
with myself.

God showed me the "me" I was especially through two people whom I met in Waterbury. I think that before I went out I didn't really remember who I was anymore. I was certainly not in touch with myself. I know now that I had become too engrossed in the world I made and hid in. Under the shadows of my "sacrifice", I told everybody who would listen, and sometimes even those who didn't listen, that I had to slave away in the office. But I stayed inside and away from people and society for so long that I didn't know who people were anymore. Yet, I think through my pioneer experience God showed me things about Himself, myself and others. And I learned how important and invaluable each person is.

I think one of these two people revealed my past self to me. She was an older lady who lived in the building where I was staying. I went to her church, and then she expected me to adopt it as my summer church. She felt I was her "convert" and that was all that mattered to her. She expected me to go to the prayer meetings, Bible study, Thursday night services, etc. Everytime I saw her on the porch in the evening and tried to speak to her about her potential as a person, she greeted me quite nastily, attacking me because I wasn't living up to her expectations of me. Because of that, she became upset and angry. She didn't want me to be her friend; she just wanted me as something to "show". I began to notice the big chip on her shoulder. I think that she really hated the world because she kept telling me that the world did her injustice after injustice. I suppose I didn't help matters any by being there because she probably thought I was doing her another injustice. I began to realize that, before going pioneering, I felt the same way about the world. I didn't know how to be a friend anymore. I lived only in negative concepts of myself and my situation. I began trying to avoid her, and then thought that perhaps brothers and sisters wanted to avoid me, too, for the same reasons. I looked at myself again, and thought and reflected through prayer and study. By honestly seeing myself, I was shocked.

During the experience with this woman, God led me to a wonderful lady whose name also happens to be Nancy. She was older than I, and when she asked me what I was doing in Waterbury, I told her I had come to pray and to re-create myself and re-establish a stronger relationship with God. Through knowing and loving her and discovering a genuine friend, I also discovered who I was. She also had a self-discovery. I didn't immediately tell her I was a Unification Church missionary. Although I had told almost everyone else right away, for some reason, I didn't tell her. I spiritually felt it was important not to, but to become a true friend to her instead. We became very close, meeting three times a week and talking for hours. In our friendship we talked a lot about life,



Father is the most normal of normal people.

about goals, about God and His love. It was amazing to me: I experienced loving someone and had the same experience from her. I discovered that Mr. Wilder is right: the bridge between the land of the living and the land of the dead is truly love.

In Waterbury, I began to remember that as I smugly sat in New York year after year hiding, I know that I had absolutely zero confidence to go door to door and meet people because, I recalled, I was just looking for converts to fulfill some result. It didn't have enough to do with being a true friend or building a relationship of love. Somehow, I never really believed I could go to a door and sell our church or our religion. Consequently, I found it very hard to witness. I didn't realize that witnessing isn't a matter of selling something but of offering the God within myself to people. Therefore, I didn't know how to love people and become their true friend, although Father has encouraged us to do this time and again. I couldn't do this until God gave me the opportunity of meeting Nancy and I saw the contrast between Nancy and Marie, until I saw what I was and the kind of person I wanted to be for God and our Parents.

In Waterbury, I remembered something Rev. Kwak said in a speech he gave early this summer. He said that one of the qualities which impressed him most of all about Father is that he is the most normal of normal people. He has been around Father and Mother so much and yet he considers them to be so natural and normal. I reflected on how unnatural I was because I had divorced myself from myself, and, letting myself be riddled by fear and guilt, I had ceased to see God in myself. Some of you may have had the same experience. If you have, or find yourself in that situation in the future, I urge you to put aside your fear and guilt. It belongs to the past. Repentance is one thing, but simply opening the wounds again and again does more damage than good. One thing to remember is that God feels that pain again and again when we do. I believe that He wants to forget it. We should, too.

I received a revelation in prayer one Sunday morning while in Waterbury. I took it down in shorthand because I felt it was important. I have had spiritual experiences before, but this time God clearly said to me:

You have My forgiveness. Learn to be a true person. Learn to be true, above all, to Me and then you will automatically be true to yourself and to others. Learn through Me, freedom. Learn to go toward life with open arms and embrace it instead of shutting it out with folded arms. Serve people. Love people and you will have served and loved Me in the process. Once again, you do have My forgiveness. Now go forward and forget the past. Look inward, look around, and let's build our kingdom.

I reflected and thought: "He's right. I have been dwelling too much on my own problems and my own guilt and my own fears to be able to be used as His instrument instead of going out of myself and loving someone or something." But, through meeting various people and having them react to me as Moonie, whether I was persecuted or not (and many times I was), I learned that it didn't make any difference. God gave me and showed me how to have the confidence that I not only have a very personal, very real and very unique relationship with Him that nobody else has, but how essential it is to constantly build and develop that relationship. And I think I had forgotten that. Maybe some of you have forgotten those things too. But I urge you not to forget it and, if necessary, to start over again. I am sure that in the realm of God's heart, it is never too late. God hasn't forgotten you or forsaken you.

I saw the kind
of person
I wanted to be.

I decided to fast the 39th day of the condition because my friend, Nancy, another lady and I were going to have dinner the night of the 40th day. I prayed all day that God would give her an open mind and heart. I knew I would have to reveal my true purpose in coming to Waterbury. I had gone through the whole summer without telling her, but I knew that she loved me and I loved her, and that that love was also God's. We had talked about so many "vertical" things but I really couldn't have known how she would react to my identity. I had done whatever possible, praying for her from the first day we met. I had faith that God must be doing something with her. I simply had faith.

And all the while I wondered how to tell her, she was wondering how to ask me. She told me later that she couldn't figure it out but she knew there was something I wasn't telling her. During the middle of dinner she said, "You know so much about Jo and me, but who are you?" At that point I could tell her. At that point I think I was beginning to know, and I felt that was God's lead in. I said, "Well, what I say to both of you may shock you, but I wanted to tell you tonight, too." I then explained that the reason I went around the world, and lived in Manhattan even though they thought I was crazy was because I worked in my church's international headquarters office. Then I told them I belong to the Unification Church, Reverend Moon's church. God had been working. At that moment she took my hand and with tears in her eyes said, "God is judging me so much right now because had I known this four weeks ago I would have been prejudiced. But I love you because I know you and I am so pleased that you are from such a wonderful place I never knew existed before. I really had a prejudice against your church because of all I had read, but I don't have a prejudice against you. Now I know why a person like you belongs to your church. Please teach me." Later in the evening she chuckled and said, "Your witnessing

technique worked perfectly with me.”

Even after her husband came to New York and met our members, he said, “They are real people. You can trust what they say about anything.” I felt that God showed me the bridge of love between the land of the living and the land of the dead by working with me to develop a close, deep relationship with someone. And I felt He was really claiming me to come back to the land of the living once again.

During this 40 day period I began to feel good about myself once again. I began to think that God must feel each one of us is really a precious person, not because we may know how to do some external thing but because we are His children. God’s desire is to save each one of us. I felt God wanted very much to save me because I was drowning before I went out.

Thoreau, in a very simple sentence, summed up a truth: “Birds never sing in caves.” I built my life in a cave here in New York. And maybe some of you live in a cave, too. Before I went out, I thought that the 40 days were a beginning and an end. I thought that I would go out for 40 days and then come back to normal. No. It wasn’t the beginning and it definitely is not the end. It is one step and it is part of the process of growing. I have come out of my cave and now I believe it is possible for anyone. I refuse to go back to death. I want to face Satan and not give him any advantage. I find it much better to begin and end my days with God.

Even though it may not seem like a traditional practice among pioneers, I read a lot of books about positive thinking this summer. I felt that I really needed those words to build self-confidence. I felt that God could speak to me through those words, too. And I think He did because, through study of this sort, I began to have confidence in myself, a confidence I didn’t have before I left. Therefore, I also want to share with you some “spiritual vitamins” from a book called *Love* by Leo Buscaglia.

Dedicate yourself to love. Why? The main goal is to help unfold your true self.

(I thought that this is really what Father is saying, too. He encourages us to find out who we are. He encourages us to be natural and normal people, and then people will naturally be attracted to us.)

And help others to become strong and perfect themselves as unique individuals. Give them the opportunities to show their feelings and express their aspirations and share their dreams.

Combat the forces of evil through an active love which is a

concerned one, interested in each person's free quest for self-discovery. Be a model; being a good human being is the greatest thing you can be. Forgive yourself for being less than perfect. Understand that change is inevitable; when it is directed in love and self-realization it is always good. Be convinced that behavior, to be learned, must be tried out.

Learn that you cannot be loved by all men. You may be the plum, but some men do not like plums. You can become a second rate banana, but you'll always be the very best plum. And you can find as a second rate banana that your loved ones only want the best banana and discard you, and then you can spend life trying to be the very best banana but it's not possible if you're a plum. Or, you can seek again to be the best plum. It's up to you.

Endeavor to love all men and even if you're not loved by all, don't love to be loved, love to love. And if the love you offer is rejected by one, don't pull away in fear or pain or disappointment. It is not the other person's fault; it is just that he wasn't ready to accept what you offered. If you are rejected by one, hundreds of others await love.

I think, perhaps, that is what I found. There are hundreds of others who are awaiting love. But until just recently, I could never seem to know how to get out of my shell or my cave and start to sing that love with people. I was not a bird because I didn't know how to be, or even that God wanted me to be. But I want to encourage you to be who you are—be the best plum you can be for God. I am also grateful to have gone out. I was able to search and find just who I am and who God is through me and in me.

Like a vast majority of pioneers, I can see much more clearly now that each one of us can make an indispensable team with God. We just have to have that kind of confidence, God does give us His forgiveness. He wants us to go forward and forget the past, to look inward, look around and to build our kingdom.

*I committed my life to
this mission a long time
ago.*

*It does not matter that
there may be danger
around me, for I have
already given up my life.*

