

## The Golden Age Newsletter is the expression of heart of our senior members

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I am honored to be asked to write for the Golden Age Newsletter. Even though I no longer live on the East Coast in New England, I feel living in NYC for two years during my church presidency I got to know so many of you. One of my greatest pleasures was to attend the Golden Age banquet every year in NJ. The honoring of those turning 60 was a special moment. I think we all remember when True Father turned 60 and we celebrated in NY. It is a significant milestone in our lives and should be honored and celebrated.

This newsletter is the heart of our senior members expressing themselves through the written words and testimonies of their lives. Every community once a year would be wise to honor and appreciate those elders in their community. In Korea, in December of 2018, True Mother spoke to a number of American leaders at breakfast. Among those present were the current and former security members from East Garden. She said, "You are an important group as elders. You lived with and saw the True Parents for many years. Your experience and testimonies are important to share with others. You have an important position as elders. Please work toward National Restoration." We are all in that position because we attended True Parents for so many years.

Like all of you, our lives have revolved around our love of God, our True Parents, and the tenets of our faith. As we age that doesn't change, but our physical abilities to do things has slowed down for a lot of us. This is also a time of reflection on the life we have lived. We need to remember that God has been with us through all the ups and downs. His love is unchanging. Ours might have changed but a parent's love for children never ends no matter what they have done in their life. After all, we are all God's children.

Two years ago, I became a grandparent for the first time. It was life-changing to see my daughter go through her pregnancy, give birth, take care of a newborn and work at the same time. We were very much there for her and her husband through the whole process. It brought back memories of all the things we went through raising a family. The fruit of all of it was to see my daughter, after one child, say to her mother, "How did you do it with four?" We found ourselves chuckling inside as she connected the dots that her mom and dad went through all this same stuff.

Currently, I am President of the Senior Pastors Association - SPA for short. We are volunteers from all 14 districts around North America. Our purpose is to be a plus to the communities in which we live. We try to support our younger pastors, take care of elders by helping them stay connected and finish their life well, and give honest feedback to our leadership here in America. We encourage elders to share their lives with others inside our movement and with all those they meet. There is so much to get involved with wherever we live. People are everywhere. Opportunities abound for learning, creativity, and education. I just recently moved to Loveland, CO and I've met so many new friends. I joined a senior bowling league once a week. After the first bowling meet I told Marjorie, "Everyone is sure old in this league." She said, "Yes, they're your age." She was right! I've met a retired Methodist minister and an Associate Pastor of a Lutheran church so far and it's been fun. People are amazed when you begin to tell them what you have done in your life. Most of us have traveled overseas, visited a lot of states, eaten all kinds of food, played every kind of game, know all kinds of different faiths, and know people from all around the world. We have so much to offer to others and the apex, of course, is the Blessing. We all treasure our Blessing, and it is the greatest gift we can give to others.

My wife Marjorie and I are both in our 70s. We relocated to Colorado three months ago, following our children and grandchild. It was a big switch after 30 years in New England. We are active in a lot of different things in our Colorado community and supportive of the activities on the national level. It is a great feeling being older, loving your children and grandchildren, being part of a larger community of close brothers and sisters and sharing the spiritual gems given to us by our True Parents.

My closing words to you are: Take care of your health, be prayerful in your mind, tune into the Word, remain engaged in relationships with others, and always remember Heavenly Parent loves you more than you can ever imagine.