

Testimony Upon Receiving the Hyojeong Family Award 2018

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Describe your experiences before and after joining the church (spiritual experiences, personal difficulties or struggles, family situation, social environment, beliefs, etc.).

DAN: I am Jewish, born of the priestly tribe of Levites, in June 1949. My father was raised in an orthodox Jewish home. My mother was also Jewish but raised in a family where religion did not play a large role in family life. So, although my parents were both Jewish, their religious upbringings were very different. In fact, so different, that the marriage didn't last long and they were divorced before I was six months old. In my formative years, I had no father, which created an enormous longing in my heart. I grew as a little boy, and then as an older lad, longing for a father. I met my father for the first time when I was nine years old. It was also the day when I was placed in his home that he shared with his 2nd wife and their new daughter. It was not out of love, but out of obligation that my father took me in. I was an unwanted obligation, and so the following nine years were even more painful than the first, filled with disappointment and rejection.

Finding True Parents in 1972 at the age of twenty-one, was the single most-life changing event, and totally unexpected. I discovered my true self. My life found purpose, direction and meaning. Joining True Parents made my life worth living for, worth working for, worth fighting for. However, the transition of identity from Jewish to Unification was a bit bumpy. Hearing the Divine Principle was pleasing in part, and also challenging. As a Jew I believed in God, but was also raised to avoid any doctrine having anything to do with Jesus. I did believe in a coming Messiah - I was waiting for the first coming since I was raised denying that Jesus was the Messiah. And so, it was in the middle of the night, while sound asleep, during the time when I had not yet completed my hearing lecture presentations of the Divine Principle that I had a dream. It was a very short dream where a voice came to me and simply said that the Master (which is what True Father was called in those days) is the Messiah. That dream put me on a serious path to study deeply and to pray about the truth of the dream revelation. Three days later the Holy Spirit came down upon me and my life was changed. I immersed myself in the Divine Principle, the Unified Family, and everything and anything having to do with True Parents, and I never doubted True

Parents these past 47 years.

PAMELA: I was born in Los Angeles, California on September 23, 1946. I joined the Unified Family in Berkeley, California, on August 15, 1969, just a month before my 23rd birthday. On my birth father's side, I am a descendant of British colonial families who arrived in Maryland and Virginia in the early 1600s. My mother's great-grandparents were pioneers of California in the 1800s, making me the 4th generation born and raised in the area of Oakland/Hayward. I grew up in a Christian home, but my mother had been married three times. My parents were WWII Veterans, my mother serving in Europe, and my birthfather, and stepfather, serving in the Pacific. I grew up in a patriotic family and had good morals. Both my parents suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder, due to the war. My family life was fraught with emotional and mental abuse. For years, my stepfather used isolation and restriction as punishment, and I would spend weeks, even months, in my bedroom. I was allowed out for school hours; but in the summertime I was literally imprisoned. My stepfather was overly severe; and although he apologized for it in later years, saying he was afraid something would happen to me and he had to keep me safe, the mental and emotional damage I suffered made me unstable. When I wasn't in my room, I was like Cinderella - I did hours of housework and attended my parents. I had the Bible to read in my room, and that is how I learned that God is the Father of mankind. I was especially influenced by the Psalms, reading them out loud and discovering that my loneliness and suffering was shared with a Jewish king thousands of years past, and I found his love for God irresistible.

One summer day I was so depressed I couldn't get out of bed. I had no energy, no life. I wept with despair. Buried under my blankets, I whispered to God, "Dear Heavenly Father, you are the Father of mankind; and I am mankind. So that means you are my Father, too. My first father left me, and my second father reviles me. Would you please be my father instead of them? Can I be your daughter?" That was the prayer I made, crying my heart out. I begged God to be my Father and let me be His daughter. I felt a deep peace, and a ray of hope; I felt a tremendous love inside me. One day I would be free, and I could live a good life. I began to look forward to life, to feel a little excited. When I was freed from my room, I went out into the world a new person, excited to meet people so I could show them God's love through my smiles and encouraging words. Even though my parents wanted to love me and my sister, they suffered from mental and emotional pain; my mother was often in bed during the day, and for years she visited a psychiatrist. Fortunately, my mother was a woman of prayer. Even though she was so unstable, she witnessed to me about her faith in God. She taught me that God could hear our prayers, and God would never betray us. She said my stepfather was sent by God to protect our little family.

Nevertheless, I continued to suffer greatly from age 15 until I found the True Parents in 1969, when I was 22. I was used to rejection and blame and being unwanted. Yet I also felt the warm sunshine of God's love. My Heavenly Father never left me, we walked together, and when I left home at age 19, I believed that I could overcome all difficulties in life by serving and comforting others who suffered more than me. One early spring morning in 1969 the face of Jesus Christ appeared to me in the clouds. It was just amazing. I closed my eyes and shook my head because I thought my eyes were tricking me. Jesus told me that the Messiah was on earth; and again, some months later he told me, "You are the Bride of Christ. You will have a special child from heaven." I was passionate to find the Messiah, and I began to study many books on different religions. I set out hitchhiking in Europe, to travel the world and find him. I told everyone I met "we are one family of God, we are all brothers and sisters, God is our Father." During my travels, I sought out sick people to care for in exchange for lodging and food. One day while living on a very small island in the Mediterranean, I received in my meditation that I should return to America, and I would meet the Messiah. On July 4, 1969, I returned to California, and forty days later I met the Unified Family. I was witnessed to by my friend David Stadlehoefer; and Dan Fefferman taught me the Divine Principle. After I moved into the church center, every day I would return from my respiratory therapist job in the hospital, and run to the prayer room, falling on my knees with tears of gratitude. I had found my true home at last. After all was said and done, I realized that my years of suffering had prepared me to be able to follow True Parents for a lifetime. After finding True Parents, my life made sense.

Write your testimony about your Blessing (your attitude and heart before and after receiving the Blessing, spiritual experiences, your relationship with your partner, etc.).

DAN: It is clear that the True Parents matching of couples are first for the sake of world peace and second for the couple. As a Jew and with most of my family tree obliterated by the Holocaust of WWII, I had an ancestral mistrust of anything Christian. My Catholic/Lutheran spouse Pamela, though a loving person herself, carried an ancestral disdain for Jews. So our marriage was not easy and we had to work out many, many challenges, and sometimes we were not able to resolve the issue, so we had to simply forgive and forget. However, God gave us four beautiful children, all of whom have themselves received the marriage Blessing and as of today, twelve even more beautiful grandchildren. There is no question how blessed we are and how grateful we are to True Parents, who gave us purpose and strength to endure difficult times.

PAMELA: There are two points that stand out for me:

After I left home, I did not plan to get married or have children. I did not want to bring children into the

world to suffer as I had. I planned to do God's Will and comfort and heal people. Then I heard Divine Principle and discovered how much God wanted a family. That changed my mind. I had confidence that God would help me be a good wife and mother.

During the years I was kept isolated in my room, I discovered the life stories of Holocaust survivors. Those life stories taught me courage, and I felt I could overcome all my suffering if I could see that my life was a blessing in learning to love through all circumstances. I told my Heavenly Father, "Until I have suffered as these Jewish survivors, how can I expect You to love me? I must have the great faith shown." I carried such determination throughout my mission years before the Blessing.

In 1975, True Father asked American members to tell Heavenly Father what kind of characteristics we desired in a spouse. I prayed, "Please choose for me a man of God. I want to marry a man of God." I was surprised and moved when True Father matched me to a young Jewish man. Dan is a first generation American, born to Jewish parents from Austria and Poland who had escaped Hitler in 1939. Although his grandparents also came to America, his grandmother's family died in Auschwitz. God matched a Christian girl whom Jesus guided to True Parents, to a Jewish boy from the priestly tribe of the Levites. We went to a little room to talk. I had no idea what to say; I simply accepted him as God's choice. But he had three questions for me: 1. Do you pledge your absolute faith in God and True Parents? (yes) 2. Do you pledge absolute fidelity to the man that God chooses to be your spouse? (yes) 3. Do you pledge to raise children to filial piety and purity? (yes) Then he said, "OK, I agree." Then I said, "What's your name?" Even though we were both American and spoke English, our cultural differences were so vast we didn't even have the same concept of God or prayer. Our ancestors were enemies; even our parents carried strong prejudices towards each other. Dan's father said to him, "How could you marry a goyim? You are dead to me. Your children are not my grandchildren." My husband wept knowing he would never again be welcomed in his father's home. And we, as a newly married couple, had nothing in common except our love for True Parents and the providential Will of God. When True Father stood our couple side by side, he said, "Beautiful children, wonderful children," with a big smile. And my husband and I always remembered that during the hard years of the historical providence of restoration. Sometimes we couldn't even talk to each other or be in the same room. It was so difficult. There were times when all we could say to each other was "beautiful children, wonderful children" and nothing else. Dan and I were restoration partners, walking together on the path to heaven. Whether we admired each other or despised each other, we belonged together. We could never leave each other. Many times I invoked the ODU principle in our marriage, in order to separate but stay together. When my husband slept in another room, I reminded heaven that it was no problem, we were practicing ODU. We needed time and space and needed to consider new strategies to continue.

When I was 16, I had promised God with all my heart that I would never love any man more than I loved Him. I kept that promise for 40 years. I am grateful that God chose for me the husband that understood such a promise. Dan and I both came from broken families; our parents combined had 15 marriages and 11 divorces. With such instability in our families of origin, how could we possibly create a true family for God? We did not know a thing about marriage and parenting. Aware of this, we made a plan early in our marriage that Dan would create our family traditions, and I would make sure our children had happy memories. Parenting for me was a mixture of pain and joy. Many times, I cried in repentance because I was unsure if I were doing the right thing. I often asked Heavenly Parent to show me what to do, to act and speak through me, not to His glory but because I had no idea how to be a parent. It is ironic that I eventually co-authored two parenting coach manuals. I believe our Blessing and family is a miraculous victory of God's love and a testimony of absolute faith and obedience in following True Parents.

Write your testimony about receiving the True Parents' Special Hyo Jeong Family Award in a form of addressing gratitude to True Parents. (Required)

Addressing gratitude to True Parents:

DAN: Our Dear True Parents, When I first heard that our couple would be the recipients of the Hyo Jeong Family Award, I cried quite deeply with tears of gratitude. Even though I have always had a very Able-like heart to God, True Parents, Divine Principle and to the life of faith, I have also, for most of my life course been in Cain's position. That has made me wonder if I might even be a direct descendant of those Jews of two thousand years ago and their shameful outcry to 'crucify him'. If so, I hope my life course can contribute to the restoration of a wrong that is even greater than the murder of six million Jews in WWII. Ten thousand expressions of gratitude to True Parents! Ten thousand expressions of gratitude to True Mother who carries the baton of leadership on earth! Ten thousand expressions of gratitude to True Father, leading the charge from the spirit world! Og Mansei True Parents! Og Mansei True Mother! Og Mansei True Father! Forever and forever and forever! Aju! Aju! Aju!

PAMELA: Our Beloved True Parents, We are deeply honored to represent Heavenly America at the HyoJeong Family Award Ceremony during your birthday celebration in February 2018. It felt as if we were attending a magnificent heavenly feast that united the spirit world and earthly life. The beauty and glory of your birthday celebration is still reverberating in our spirits and hearts. To be selected, to be

remembered for such recognition, came as a complete surprise to us both. In fact, we could not even speak about it because we did not have any words for such a conversation. We remained quiet and prayerful for the whole week before we were notified to come to Korea, two days before our departure. During the week of prayer, I repented day and night remembering many mistakes I had made with my children and husband over the years. I apologized to each one but could not find peace in my heart. Then I realized that such an award may be in our family name, but that our family represented the blessed families of America. With that understanding, I sat up straight and smiled for the first time. I wanted to bring home the good fortune of such heavenly recognition and share it with all our American blessed members. We are profoundly grateful and uplifted to find ourselves the recipients of such benevolent grace, given to comfort and liberate Heavenly Parent. We cannot consider to be recognized without gratitude for the Chung Pyung Providence of ancestor liberation and blessing, wherein lies the secret to our family's health and happiness. We truly feel we are living together with our ancestors and our descendants in vertical alignment with True Father in spirit world, and attending True Mother on earth in her unprecedented mission as God's Begotten Daughter.

Reflection on the reason why you think you were selected to receive the True Parents' Special Hyo Jeong Family Award

DAN: I am very sure that if my house was burning down in a fire, the Hyo Jeong Family Award plaque would be the first object I would grab to save from the flames. Is it wrong thinking or reflection of a wrong attitude when I say that the award for me is a quiet vindication of our couple's life course? It is how I feel. And it means so much to me and to my spouse.

PAMELA: I thought that perhaps it is because we are almost fifty years in our American movement, and we had blessed all our children. But then I realized that although it may be our name on the precious award plaque, the words written in marble belong to so many American blessed families, and on behalf of them we received the plaque. These beautiful words describe many Blessed Central families in America: "in recognition of having dedicated themselves to realizing Heavenly Parent's family ideal by inheriting true love, true life and true lineage from True Parents through the Blessing," and also, "lives guided by a heart of filial piety for Heaven anchored in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience," and finally, "shining rays of hope throughout the world by engaging in remarkable activities promoting family values."

Write about the life of your family and how you are educating your children.

Life of faith, traditions and faith education in your family

DAN AND PAMELA: True Parents and church life and Divine Principle have always been at the center stage of family life while our children were growing up. We always got them up at 5:00 am every Sunday morning for Pledge. We always invested in sending our children to Church workshop retreats so they would have the chance to interact with other 2nd generation and to learn Divine Principle. We encouraged them to be leaders among their friends. We raised our children with awareness that our family existed for the providence of restoration of heaven on earth. We explained to our children that our family was born to walk an historical path, and that we must overcome our challenges with love and truth. When our children were very young, we taught them Bible stories. We said, "Here is the way that God's chosen people act in the world. Look at the choices they made in order to be strong and victorious in life. These are your ancestors." As the children grew older, we told them, "You belong to the true lineage of heaven. You are the second generation. Wherever you go in the world you have a home with any blessed family, and their children have a home with us. You may have lots of friends in school, but other blessed children are your true and eternal friends. In fact, they are your cousins. We are one family under God. Always be loyal to each other." Our family is imperfect in so many ways. We all know it, and we never ever think we are ideal, exemplary, or perfect.

How do you guide your children to ethical and moral education, purity education, academic education etc.

DAN AND PAMELA: Our children are now adults with their own blessed families. When they were young and went out the door to school each day sad or grouchy, as their mother I often told them, "Find someone today more sad than you and take care of them. Help your friends and you will feel better." Our children learned the joy of living for the sake of others very early in life. Also, we were a business family, so our children gained business skills at an early age. When we lost our business during a national recession, we struggled financially for ten years. We told our children, "This is the time to live by miracles. We may not have much money, but we are rich in love, so God will provide all we need. You will see." We said, "We cannot buy you nice things now, we don't have money; but we can teach you how to raise money so you can buy the things you want." Our poverty allowed us to educate our children in self-reliance. As their mother, I sometimes had to borrow money from their piggybanks to buy food for dinner. I know they would have gladly given me their quarters and dimes, but it is truly difficult when a parent must ask for the coins of their child's piggybank to buy food, and I just couldn't ask. Sometimes it

was so difficult I resorted to fasting so I could feed my children. It's really painful to think of those days. As far as academic education went, we taught them that more important than school was their life of faith and their love for God. It was important to have both; but if they did not know what they wanted to do as a career, we discouraged them from going to college until they decided. College is not a place to hang around. We encouraged them to get life experiences through jobs and service programs, until they chose their career. Then go to school to get the skills needed. Today they are all successful in their careers; our daughter Eunha, is a nurse in Seattle; our elder son David is in marketing and management, living with his family in Colorado; our two younger sons, Christopher and Will, are real estate business owners in Maryland.



Introduce your social outreach activities.

DAN: - Witnessing: My focus is with ACLC. I have developed a Divine Principle power point series designed for Christian clergy and others of Christian faith. For the last six years I have been active in teaching Christian ministers in Las Vegas, Maryland and Virginia. I encourage the ministers to bless their congregations, as was done by Rev. Giddens of the Unity Baptist Church, in Las Vegas. Due to the providence of the age, we are now able to speak directly and boldly about Divine Principle and True Parents. And the clergy who now come to listen are so much more sincere in their search than those of earlier years. My wife often accompanies me in these teaching sessions.

- Volunteer work: Weekly men's group, and counseling members. I am available to travel anywhere to teach the Divine Principle. Fortunately, I can support my own travel and lodging.

- Other activities: I am a business co-owner, together with my second son, and because of the success of our company, I am able to participate and contribute financially to any providential activities.

PAMELA: - Witnessing: I am active in ACLC, UPF and WFWP. I support my husband's Divine Principle teaching presentations to Christian ministers, and to tribe groups that blessed members gather for education. I am active in the monthly ALC program sponsored by UPF and enjoy being a Reader of Hoon Dok Hae as well as inviting guests to learn and study our True Parents words. I am active in WFWP-USA as a Board Member. I currently assist the WFWP-USA President to design one-day educational seminars for leadership, and reconciliation skills. I also wrote a proposal to the Board suggesting a national development team to secure long-term funding from sustainable donors, with the goal to realizing WFWP-USA to become self-reliant.

- Volunteer work: I use my certification in creative writing from UCLA, to facilitate two writing groups for seniors, encouraging them to write their life stories for the sake of their descendants. I plan to expand more of these groups this summer.

- Other activities: I am an Advisor for the Africa New Hope Association (ANHA) that supports the unity of diaspora African blessed families. I love writing and am working on a book of short stories about life in Africa, based on my missionary experiences in the Congo.

Describe your efforts to lead an exemplary life as a family (family relationships, couple relationship,

relationship with your children, social relationships etc.).

DAN: Our children have now grown up and are taking responsibility for their own families. As their parents, we are less assertive than when they were younger; yet we always seek to impart our love and blessing to them. Similarly, through our twelve grandchildren we have a new opportunity give them the love that we may have missed in the growing our own children, their parents. I find that developing and deepening my relationship with my spouse is a lifelong endeavor, and I am grateful that we did not give up, and we still have the opportunity to continue that growth every day.

PAMELA: At one point years ago, our children were scattered. Then as each one received the marriage blessing, they brought their spouses home to live together. This was a wonderful time of bonding and relationship growth for the whole family. We were able to emotionally support the newly blessed couples in our family, and we could welcome grandchildren altogether. At one point we were twelve members crowded in our Bowie home, including two grandchildren. We have been living in three-generation lifestyle for fifteen years (minus the two years we lived in Las Vegas 2011-2013), with our different children's families. Our children love and care for their parents. I less and less think of myself as an individual, but more as a group member. I don't make decisions without considering the impact it will have on my family. I have been challenged as my adult children make their way in the world, and I have learned the delicate balance of when to assist and when to step back. I have also learned the power of tearful prayers while I must remain silent. To support our children in their marriages, my husband and I have had to work hard on our own relationship, and strive to heal the past, to forgive and unite more than ever. One time a Korean leader asked me about my husband's lifestyle. I said, "Dan Stein is a 24/7 kind of guy. He doesn't care if it's day or night, he is available for the Will of God and also to our family. Anyone, anytime, anywhere, can call upon him. I have finally accepted his lifestyle, and I seek to support him with comfort and positive approval. We have realized how important it is for our children to see us victorious and peaceful in these hopeful years following providential restoration. Most my social relationships are with other blessed families; my wish is that all our blessed families can realize their dreams during True Mother's time on earth. I encourage everyone.

What is in your opinion of the mission of Hyo Jeong Blessed Families?

DAN AND PAMELA: To continue on the front-line Heaven's work. To be a witness to True Parents by our daily lives. When I, Pamela, was a pioneer missionary for True Parents to the Congo in 1975, I followed a formula that True Father had revealed to me in a dream in 1972. In my dream, I was standing on a stage and True Father said, "Look all around you." I saw thousands and thousands of African people, like a sea stretched out before us. He showed me the three stages of growth and said, "Here is the formula for success: Feed the people; educate the people; bless the people." That is the formula we followed in the Congo, and in that way we could transmit the true love of God. Now, 43 years later, that formula is still the best one for success. Our mission is to make sure everyone we meet knows they are truly loved by God, so we must feed the people, educate the people, and bless the people. Not only through telling but also by showing substantial true love..

Describe your goals towards accomplishment of the Vision 2020 as a Hyo Jeong Family.

DAN: Having already completed 308 generations of the ancestor blessings and liberations of our couple, we are now also focusing on the ancestor liberation and blessings of our children's spouses (whose parents are less able, or less committed to this effort). And while this is our goal, we also continue to support other blessed families by giving Divine Principle presentations at their social gatherings where we conclude with a Blessing wine toast. I would say our focus is on giving the Blessing to as many people as possible and continuing to educate with True Family Values and work together to create a peaceful and safe environment.

PAMELA: We are actively pursuing the realization of the 430 Tribal Messiah goal by first fully loving Heavenly Parent, and continuously educating and developing relationships with our tribal blessed families; working together with our providential organizations to create a safe and loving environment. As of this date, we have blessed approximately 250 families. We are working with other blessed families to support them to accomplish the 430 Tribal Messiah victory as well.

Other:

PAMELA: Every morning, I listen to one of True Mother's speeches on my cell phone. Even though I don't understand the Korean language, I listen to Mother's voice as if I am drinking heavenly nourishment. I believe if I study and practice her words and her ways, I will become a very beautiful daughter of God during my lifetime. Also I want to say how handsome my husband is when he is teaching the Divine Principle. He looks young and strong and I am very proud of him; I am so grateful he is my eternal spouse.