



## Passing of our Beloved Second-Generation Sister, Reiko Watanabe

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb  
November 21, 2016

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our dear beloved second-generation sister, Reiko Watanabe, of the Ocean Community Church in North Carolina, ascended to the Spirit World on Saturday, November 19, after a battle with cancer. Reiko was a cheerful and affectionate sister with a bright and optimistic nature. With a deep understanding and a loving heart, she was a wonderful elder sister to many of the younger brothers and sisters in the Atlanta Community where she attended college. All who knew her were touched by her sincerity and openness. She is survived by her parents, Shinichi and Kazuyo, and her older brother Takayasu.

Let us come together to support Reiko's family during this important time and pray for her victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world, confident that our True Father and many saints are waiting for Reiko with open hearts and arms.

Following is Reiko's biography and information about her Seonghwa Ceremony.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ki Hoon Kim".

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim  
Continental Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Balcomb".

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President



### **The Victorious Life of Reiko Watanabe April 5, 1994 - November 19, 2016**

Reiko Watanabe was born on April 5, 1994 in Yonkers, New York. She was the younger of two siblings, born to Shinichi and Kazuyo Watanabe. She passed to the spirit world after a year-long battle with colon cancer, but her memories remain strong in the lives of the many people she has touched.

Reiko lived in New Jersey for the first eleven

years of her life and moved down to Newport, North Carolina through her father's job at True World Marine in 2005. In North Carolina, she began her journey through middle school and beyond.



Ever since she was little, Reiko had a special gift in the realm of art. She was artistically driven and dreamed of becoming an animator, working for film giants like Disney, Pixar, Dreamworks, and Studio Ghibli. She won several art show contests locally throughout her middle school and high school career. To pursue her goal, Reiko has striven for excellence both academically and spiritually. She graduated from West Carteret High School in Morehead City, NC in 2012 at the top 10% of her class and was accepted into Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in Atlanta, Georgia on a scholarship. During her time in college, she attended church regularly at Atlanta Family Church. There, she became an older sister figure and mentor to many of the younger blessed children in the Atlanta community. Through her deep heart of understanding and strong will in serving others, she was able to connect with the younger brothers and sisters on a very personal level and lead them to a life of love. In 2013, she took a gap year from college to take part in Generation Peace Academy (GPA) to grow internally and find her place with God. Through GPA, Reiko was able to gain lifelong friendships

that helped her overcome some of the most challenging obstacles in her life and together with her peers, she developed a strong sense of faith and devotion to our Heavenly Parent.

Reiko was a cheerful and affectionate sister who held an optimistic view on life. Her intrinsic humor and enthusiasm had the power to turn any frown upside down, and she attracted people with her sincere and honest personality. Despite losing her life to cancer, Reiko has won at life. A loving, passionate, and inspiring person, she has proven time and time again, that she is truly a daughter of God who has impacted the lives of so many people with hope and happiness.

Reiko is survived by her parents, Shinichi and Kazuyo Watanabe, and her older brother Takayasu Watanabe. Please keep her family in your thoughts and prayers. God bless.

### **Seonghwa Ceremony**

The Seonghwa ceremony for Reiko will take place on Wednesday, November 23, at 10:00 a.m. at

Munden Funeral Home & Crematory  
2112 Arendell St.  
Morehead City, NC 28557

Visit Reiko's [In Memoriam](#) page.