

Never Give Up - The DP Personal Touch Team And Me

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In 1967 I joined the Unified Family (that was the name of our movement then) at the age of 21 in Los Angeles, CA under Jon and Sandy Schuhart. My first mission away from Los Angeles was in New Haven, CT, then New York City and finally to Washington, DC in 1973 to work for Dr. Bo Hi Pak. I worked for Dr. Pak for over six years and this opportunity truly formed the foundation for my heart to open and my filial piety for True Parents to grow and develop.

Also, from Dr. Pak I learned to value the uniqueness of each person and how to forgive and forget. This is a blessing of which I am still unworthy. I pray everyone has a mentor in their lives that can help transform them the way Dr. Pak did for me.

I was blessed in 1975 and have three children and four grandchildren. This journey has not been easy, and continues toward completion. I am grateful for the unconditional love from my family that carries me through, day in and day out.

Like most of us who can relate to the Golden Age eNewsletter, our early days are so precious and they were the mold that formed us into what we are today.

I have been given many opportunities over the years to stretch and grow my love my skills, and to develop a humble heart. These include accepting the positions of Pastor, Youth Ministry Director, Sunday School Director, Local Education Director and Subregion BFM Coordinator, and more. The key here is "I accepted" these opportunities, even though I knew I was not qualified. When we accept what God puts before us, He always sends us what we need to accomplish if we humble ourselves and ask God to show us the way.

Finally, I began to think, "I really am making a difference." It was then that my physical body started giving out, refusing to take me where my mind wanted to go. I can no longer walk without a walker or stand for any length of time. My fingers, ridden with arthritis, make it painful to type (although I still type, just a whole lot slower) and my scoliosis makes it painful to walk or sit straight without leaning heavily to the left.

Depression set in. I didn't see a place for me to contribute any longer. I was ready to make the transition to the spirit world, thinking that there I can move. But that time never came, and I kept asking God, "Why am I still here? What am I supposed to be doing?" My dear family and my brothers and sisters in faith tried to tell me there is purpose to my life, but I could not see it.

Over a period of about a year of moving in circles between being grateful, I could still think, and being depressed that I could not physically actualize my thoughts, I finally realized I have a lot of unfinished business to accomplish.

I began a search for where I could still contribute to God's kingdom on earth and how I could perfect my family responsibility. I started watching Morning Devotion with Dr. [Chung Sik] Yong. I made Hoon Dok Hae conditions and determined not to burden God with my situation. Revelation after revelation

emerged and the way forward was slowly revealed.

I offered what skills I have to my DC, VA, MD community to help in any way possible that didn't require a lot of physical movement. Dr. Achille and Rev. Patton accepted this offer and opened this path wide and clear. Still, even though I appeared to be happy, I was deeply sorrowful. Somehow, I did not feel joyful or complete. I sincerely prayed "Heavenly Parent, what am I missing? What do you want me to do?" True Parents' internal guidance, especially when conveyed through Dr. Yong, pushed my conscience to do more. One morning I woke up and the words "never give up, I am with you" appeared before me. Powerful!! Meaningful!! Lifesaving words that I continue to live by each day.

COVID hit. Yikes!! As terrible as COVID is, the migration of communication to virtual has been a blessing for me. I was able to join an online education team. Even though I had been teaching Divine Principle for many years, I did not believe myself as qualified to teach as the brothers and sisters on the team, so I took the administrative role. This was not as satisfying, but it did push me into working diligently to develop my teaching skills, focusing on how to communicate the heart of God. I continuously studied the DP and read everything from True Parents about teaching, and I worked day and night to become the best teacher, friend and mentor I could be.

One day I got a phone call from two sisters (Lisa Take and Egii Dojoodorj) who had a guest they wanted me to teach. We didn't just teach this guest; we helped to raise this lady and brought her entire family to the cosmic blessing, all while supporting and raising up the spiritual parent to be the best she could be. Since then, we have helped bring three couples to the Cosmic blessing and through the 43 Day Journey. God has sent another couple and an 18-year-old girl we are currently teaching and raising.



We named ourselves the "DP Personal Touch Team." We meet every Sunday at 9:00am for a DP session. We teach our guests all the way through the Second Advent, give testimonies about how True Parents have changed our lives and connect them with the larger community. We become involved with the lives of those we teach, and raise them to the blessing and beyond as they start their families.

The spiritual parents of those we have taught and embraced have continued to join our trinity and we are now five in number consistently joining on Sunday mornings to support this effort to bring more of God's children home. CARP is even sending a young person to attend when we teach the 18-year-old girl.

I also offer to teach for those going out to witness and who then need someone to teach their guests. They call me and I will teach, over ZOOM, on the spot or be available for any appointment time.

Billy Graham said, "I can't die yet, I have too much to learn."

Yes, I am learning and growing every day. Thank you, Heavenly Parent and True Parents!