

Matthew and Marianne Goldberg gave the Marriage Blessing to 430 couples

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What seemed like an impossible task has now become reality for Matthew and Marianne Goldberg of Crofton, Maryland, as they reached their Heavenly Tribal Messiah goal of giving the Marriage Blessing to 430 couples.

Support from the Maryland community played a major role in the Goldbergs' accomplishment. "Our faith community formed a mutual support group led by Tomiko Duggan. Those brothers and sisters are truly wonderful in their support," Matthew said.

Jim Boothby, pastor of the New Hope Family Church, the church that the Goldbergs attend, was also a source of support. Pastor Jim challenged himself to a 40-day Blessing condition in June 2018. Although some days the Blessings didn't take place until late at night in a gas station parking lot, he knew God was behind him. "Pastor Jim Boothby is constant and affirming as he sets an example himself and encourages others through sermons and personal contact," Matthew said.

Initially Matthew had little faith that this goal was even possible. But after hearing his wife express that she was serious about this goal, he knew he was going to support her. "I knew in my heart that this work needed to be done. I did not want to leave it to my descendants," Marianne said.

Marianne completed several Blessings in which she met people at a shopping mall. "I carried an approach book and a little lunch bag with holy juice, an ice pack and holy water," she said. Matthew showed his support by cooking and cleaning while his wife was out. But when Matthew did go out with Marianne, his efforts did not go unnoticed. "Sometimes Matt would come along and pray. Everything worked better at those times," Marianne said.

Approaching, meeting and interacting with people from all walks of life showed the Goldbergs that outward appearances were not as significant as they imagined. "I think we see people from a more compassionate viewpoint now. We met so many different people, and some surprised us when they accepted the idea and the Blessing toast and prayer. It helped me at least to overcome [my habit of] judging people," Matthew said.

At times when Marianne felt tired, she leaned on True Father's words for support. "He once said, 'When you try to accomplish something important, your life will be extended,'" Marianne said.

After attaining their goal of blessing 430 couples, the Goldbergs will continue to educate their tribe through various avenues such as Women's Federation for World Peace, Universal Peace Federation, prayer breakfasts and meetings in their home.