## In Memory of Hiromichi Shimoyama

Ken Owens March 30, 2015

Our beloved brother, Hiromichi Shimoyama, ascended on Friday, March 27. His loving family was by his side.

Let us support Mr. Shimoyama and his family at this important time, and pray for his peaceful ascension.

A full bio and Seonghwa Ceremony information will be posted here shortly.





My Brother, Shimo

For over 35 years, I've known my brother Hiromichi Shimoyama. Having worked together documenting our True Parents' activities all over the world, Shimo (as I always called him), is truly my brother. It's

hard to realize that with Robert Davis, Ken Weber, Joan Haley and now Shimoyama, those who were at New Future Films and New Future Photo, are departing us at such a surprising rate.

There are just too many stories and experiences to recall, having worked together, recording most of the historical events that our True Parents have done. But one thing is for sure: he loved and understood our True Parents with tremendously deep affection. He knew them from public events to very private ones.

Having grown up in Japan, he wanted to be a cinematographer, eventually making movies for the big screen. But, like other members who were career-minded, he met the Unification Church, and gave up his dream to serve God and True Parents. Yet, his dream was given back to him after much hard work, fundraising, and witnessing, as he was given a chance to film True Parents' activities in America. Arriving in 1976, he recorded many historic events and became a leading member of New Future Films.

I joined New Future Photo in May of 1980, and since then worked side-by-side with Shimo at countless events around the world. We always arrived very early at an event to set up. I didn't need to be there that early, being a photographer, but I did so to help the video gang had to set up lights, sound, cables, tripods and everything else to document the event from several different angles. In later years, when it was just the two of us left to document events, I would help Shimo bring equipment, set up as much as I could, and even helped with the video while he got audience shots or needed a break.

One of the more difficult things Shimoyama had to do was stay with the camera at very long events, especially when True Father spoke for hours and hours and moved around a lot.



After each event, and taking down everything, he would be very tired. At the end of the day, he would make sure the batteries were charging, tapes marked, new tapes ready and he then would put a towel over his eyes and would instantly fall asleep, snoring, usually within 30 seconds. Then, after we got back to New York, he would spend days editing the entire event into a documentary to be shown to True Parents and for use at other events.

Throughout my almost-42 years in the Unification Church and 33 years at New Future Photo, I worked with Shimo the longest and the closest of any Unificationist I knew. He became the brother I never had.

I know that True Parents loved him very much. I hope that the first-generation Unificationist brothers and sisters can understand how valuable he was. And I hope that the second-generation Unificationists can someday understand the man who filmed our True Parents for over 34 years, and know him as well.

Hiromichi Shimoyama is not only a historic person, he's also my dearest brother and friend.

Thank you, Shimo! I will miss you dearly!

## Ken Owens

























