

## Life amidst a Crowd

Gi-woo Shin

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I am in my last year at Kwangyang Middle School. My parents received the thirty-six-million-couple blessing and are Korean–Japanese couple. They have had eleven children, five sons and six daughters, starting with my older sister, who is a freshman in college and ending with my three-year-old twin sisters. There are thirteen people in my family and my parents have not yet finished.

In order to raise eleven children, my parents divided us into groups of small children in elementary school and older children. The older children take good care of the younger children and the rest follow their examples.

Now, while I'm in my third year of middle school, I have to take care of my four younger brothers and four younger sisters. I am taking care of my younger siblings by changing their diapers or giving powdered milk to my three-year-old twin sisters. I guess my younger brothers are confused as to whether I'm a mother or an older sister.

I can't have my own room, and it's hard to go to the after-school lessons, but I like my family because we have many siblings. I have never felt lonely. My parents love my siblings, it's impossible for me to feel lonely because my sisters and brothers are always with me even if my parents are busy.

We are not lonely but happy siblings, sometimes a small crisis will come, and my parents will fight. I think there is peace between Korea and Japan from my family, but on the other hand, when my parents are arguing, I think there is a conflict between Korea and Japan in my house. At such times, my brothers

and sisters quietly breathe a sigh of relief when the fight is over.

At present, the population problem is serious due to the low fertility rate and the aging population. In the midst of these social problems, I think our family has the best answer.

I'd like to take this opportunity to tell my mom something. My mother, who has been bringing up and raising children for nearly twenty years since my sister's birth in 2000, has had a lot of responsibilities related to her family and has no time for herself. Now that I have grown up a little more, I want to be a daughter who can shower my family with love and share my mother's burden.

Thank you, Mom and Dad, who give birth to and have cared for all of us. Thank you True Parents, who protect our family. I love you.