

Seung-han Shin and Hiroe Maeda, an International Couple with Eleven Children

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Mother: Hello. I am Hiroe Maeda. I met my husband Seung-han Shin through the International Blessing Ceremony led by True Parents in 1995 and came to Korea. Now, we have eleven children, five sons and six daughters.

Daughter: I am the third daughter of Seung-han Shin. I am eighteen years old. I am doing my best to support my mother at her side.

From a video of the daughter's earlier testimony

"Hello. My name is Gi-woo Shin and I am a third grade student at the Gwang Yang Junior High School. My parents received the 360,000-couple Blessing as a Korean-Japanese couple and gave birth to five sons and six daughters. My oldest sister is now a freshman in college, and my youngest twin sisters are now three years old. We are happy siblings who are never lonely, but there are times when we face small crises. That is when our parents argue. When their relationship is good, it is as though peace between Korea and Japan starts from our family. On the other hand, when they are in conflict, it is as though Korean-Japanese conflict is taking place in our family."

Mother: My husband and I didn't plan to have so many children from the start. However, ever since I was young, I used to think it was a filial duty to show our children to our parents. Since we have many children, people often say that we must be a loving couple. Actually, that is not true. We fight a lot.

Daughter: When I gave a testimony at a rally of one hundred thousand people, I referred to my parents' arguments.

Mother: I often feel sorry for our children. There were many times when they had to cancel plans with their friends to look after their younger siblings. I couldn't give them enough pocket money as their friends received.

Neither could I give them many treats or dress them in good clothes. I also feel that I lack as a mother in

many ways. They may not say much, but I know they have endured a lot. However, they have lived with good hearts and have supported me in many ways. They divide the housework and they do their chores even if they have complaints. I am grateful to them and I feel that I lived up to this day because of them.

After we were blessed, my husband suggested that we wait until True Parents returned from overseas to Korea before we start our family. We felt a lot of good fortune when True Parents returned to Korea after a long time because so many members had been setting conditions for this. I believe it was because of him that Heaven blessed us with so many children.

Actually, my husband was rejected when job-hunting many times because of having such a large family. But he kept trying to somehow find a job so that our children would not starve and suffer. This gave me a lot of strength and I am very grateful to him.



Daughter: From time to time, I felt uncomfortable for not having enough space and time of my own. Sleeping together in a narrow room is uncomfortable. I felt stressed when we got into a fight due to our different personalities. At such times, I used to harbor negative feelings and think to myself, "Why was I born into this big family?" But my mother, who has made great effort in raising us even though she suffered from declining health after giving birth to my younger siblings, made me think about True Mother, who must have faced health issues due to deliveries of even more children, but she has paid devotion toward True Father for the sake of humanity without sparing herself. I think that is incredible, and I always feel very grateful for that.

Mother: Our children have received much support from various enterprises, organizations and foundations. I have told my children to return their appreciation, their thankful hearts, to the nation and the society when they grow up. Our children have studied and worked hard with the goal of being adults who can lend a helping hand to children in difficult situations.

Daughter: I would like to thank True Parents for giving me this precious gift -- a large family. I will work even harder to be filial to our parents and become an essential worker in society.

The whole family: You are a blessing!