

## Mr. Tamura's Son Connected to the Church after His Seonghwa

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*At the forty-day memorial service, from front row left, are Rev. Cheol-su Pak, Mr. Tamura's son and Dr. Yuriko Ichinohe*

I met Mr. Tamura (ninety-one years old) on June 17, 2014, when I was making house-to-house visits with another sister of our church to distribute True Father's autobiography, *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*. He had lost his wife fourteen years earlier, and was living with his single, sixty-year-old son. Although we were meeting for the first time, he was very friendly and he accepted True Father's autobiography.

When we visited him again after a few days, he said, "I read the book over and over again." Giving us his impressions of the autobiography, he said, "I was moved. Rev. Moon is living for the sake of the world. It is amazing." Although Mr. Tamura was in his nineties, he surprised me with his good memory and vitality. Two months later, he attended Sunday service at our church for the first time.

Then, he began to study the Divine Principle. He also took part in area gatherings and events.

When we held a surprise birthday party for him, he was very excited saying, "Nobody has celebrated my birthday like this before!" It seemed that he was getting most of his meals as *bento*, a prepared lunch in a disposable box or prepared dishes that supermarkets sold since his wife passed away, so we sometimes brought him homemade dishes.

At area gatherings, we prepared one dish per person and enjoyed eating together.

Mr. Tamura would often say, "Everyone here is very bright. I get cheered up when I come here because everyone greets me even though I'm a newcomer." He also said, "I'm happy when the minister or the Women's Association representative comes to talk to me frankly despite their high positions." He told us that although he used to attend other Christian churches or an "Early Risers Club" before coming to the Family Federation, people in high position (ministers, etc.) never talked to him. In July 2015, Mr. Tamura participated in the Blessing hosted by the Aomori District and liberated his lost wife through a special liberation in late 2015. In October 2015, Mr. Tamura suddenly fell ill and entered a hospital.

He continued getting medical treatment at home after the hospital had discharged him, but he passed away in the morning on February 24 last year, aged ninety-three. His son held a general funeral since he was not then a member of the church, but we arranged a Seonghwa Ceremony under the instruction of minister Rev. Cheol-su Pak. We then visited Dr.

Tamura's son with the flowers we had used to decorate the seonghwa ceremony and told him the meaning and value of the ceremony. Since he was acquainted with us from before, he was happy to accept the flowers and agreed to participate in his father's forty-day memorial service. Today, he is learning the Divine Principle and is preparing to receive the Blessing.

I believe I was able to meet Dr. Tamura and his son due to the sincerity and love of the church minister, Rev. Cheol-su Pak, and devotion of all church staff members and foundation leaders including the representative of the women's association, Dr.

Yoshiko Naraoka, who works in unity with Rev. Pak. On the foundation of such heavenly fortune, I constantly ask myself as I follow the path of faith, How can I make my guests happy? I will keep up my effort in witnessing.