

## Transcribing True Father's Autobiography and Caring for a Pet Dog

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The South Chiba Parish has conducted transcription of True Father's autobiography as a part of witnessing activities. I would like to introduce the testimony of Dr. Watari, a fifty-three-year-old housewife who joined the church eight years ago and was guided spiritually through practicing transcription for her son from the bottom of her heart.

Around June, last year, Ms. Watari's son refused to attend high school due to some incident. Seeing her son shutting himself away from society, Ms. Watari suggested she get him a pet dog. Fortunately, he agreed and willingly chose a small two-month-old dog to raise. After about a month, the dog suddenly refused to eat and became increasingly vulnerable. Ms. Watari hurriedly took him to an animal hospital.

After the diagnostic test result, the doctor said there were abnormalities in the heart and the liver but he needed further examinations. The doctor referred them to the Tokyo University Veterinary Medical Center. Ms. Watari felt at a loss upon realizing that the dog she had gotten for her son

was sick. To be honest, she felt like shouting, "We don't have money to spare for an ill dog! We can barely feed the family! However, her son said, "I think the dog came to me for a reason. I want to do my best to help him." Ms. Watari and her husband decided to do their best to grant his wish and headed for the medical center.

As a result of a computed-tomography (CT) exam, the dog was diagnosed with congenital abnormality of the liver in addition to an abnormality in the lung and the heart. The doctor said, "I have never seen such a serious case," and pronounced, "I'm sorry but the dog will not live long." He then prescribed medicine for supportive care and sent them home.

However, Ms. Watari could not give up hope. She started transcribing with all her heart so the dog would get better by the next appointment with the doctor, which was scheduled for the following month. She continued transcribing daily with strong belief that her son would recover if his dog did. Furthermore, she offered her sincerity through forty minutes of Hoon Dok Hae every day.

A month later, to everyone's surprise, the doctor told the family that the dog's heart and lung had recovered to a nearly their normal states. The doctor said with astonishment, "He couldn't have recovered to this degree through medicine alone. There must have been another, invisible factor." Furthermore, a few months later, the doctor concluded that the dog was healthy enough to tolerate the surgery to correct the congenital abnormality of the liver. After undergoing the surgery, the dog is now twice as healthy, eats well and gives comfort to all members of the family.

Looking back on those days, Dr. Watari said, "I cannot help thinking that my son's encounter with the dog was not chance but necessity. My son learned the preciousness of life and gained a lot of courage from the dog. He had shut himself away from society and stayed home all day, but now he can go out. He enjoys taking his dog out for a walk. He was able to graduate from high school and is now undergoing rehabilitation to be reintegrated into the society."