

## Guiding a Member's Parents to the Blessing with Sosha - Sendai Family Church

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*Oomiya Kiyomi, second from the left, with a couple doing "shosha," writing out by hand a quotation from True Parents that the person chose*

I accepted my assignment to a witnessing post seven minutes away by car from my home ten years ago and have witnessed there continually since that time. I found time in my daily life to witness. At times, I would go out for about one or two hours and other days I would visit up to thirty or forty houses. I believed that "witnessing is the path to respond to the providence." Nevertheless, even if I went to a house a few times, most often I would meet rejection and could not bring good results.

However, from around three years ago, our church began "shosha" witnessing [in which the contact finds a quotation from True Parents' speeches and writes it out by hand]. After I took that up, I felt, "I want to make people happy through shosha."

Soon after that, last March, while going house-to-house inviting people to participate in shosha, I met a woman in her seventies. She gave a very clear response when I invited her to do shosha. I told her I was from the Family Federation and surprisingly she said, "That's the same church as my daughter's." She told me her daughter had received the blessing and lives in Korea with her husband. I also learned that the old woman's husband was sick and receiving medical care. As the woman prayed for her husband's health, we did shosha at her house and I gave her a sample shosha set and left. I wondered if I could do anything for her since her daughter seemed unable to visit often from Korea, but when I returned one week later, she apologized to me and returned the shosha paper. I asked her if anything had happened, but she only said she was sorry. I felt she was on her guard around me. She seemed concerned about her husband. I felt disappointment but said, "Please allow me to visit again" and left the house.

I became busy and was unable to visit her for a few months. During one meeting, I was remembering that my zone leader's instructions about the district blessing in September. I was racking my brain for married couples I could invite when that woman came to mind. As it happened, I discovered that one sister on my witnessing team knew the woman's daughter, so she and I went to visit that house together.

We learned her husband's health had worsened. The woman was unsure if he would live out the year. I immediately contacted the daughter in Korea. She told me, "My father opposed the church and does not know True Parents' teachings but my mother studied all the way up to "lecture training." She also called her parents and directly urged them to receive the blessing. When we reemphasized the importance and meaning of the blessing, both her parents agreed. I quickly told my church leader, who decided to hold a blessing ceremony two days later at their house. I felt that once you make a foundation, those in the spirit world can provide great cooperation.

On the day of the blessing, it was difficult to believe the husband had ever opposed the church. He greeted us very calmly. He said, "My daughter asked me to participate; I could not say no" and happily drank the holy wine and received a prayer. During the indemnity stick ceremony, he even said, "Mother, I am sorry" and asked for forgiveness. In the end he said, "With this, I will be able to go to heaven with mother; I had thought I would have to go to hell alone." This concluded a warm-hearted ceremony.

When I saw that the parents and daughter were both sincerely happy, I felt this happiness is God's happiness. I hope to love my witnessing area even more in the future.