

I received precious Devoted Daughter-In-Law Awards, but I still feel inadequate

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Hello, my name is Rumiko Yamasita and I am from Yeongwol County, Gangwon Province, Korea. I am incredibly grateful to be here today at this significant event of the Second Peace Festival and share with you a little bit about my life. In November 1997, I was married in the forty-million-couple International Marriage Blessing hosted by our True Parents, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Three years later, in February 2000, I moved to Korea. It has already been twenty-one years since that very cold winter day. Right now, I live with my husband, Tae-young Yun, my two sons, who are twenty and twenty-one, and my parents-in-law. Three generations live happily together under one roof. Moreover, another family lives in our barn, our thirty-five cows.

As I mentioned, three generations live together in our home. But when I first arrived in Korea, my parents-in-law's parents were still alive, so there were four generations. Isn't that amazing? In Japan, I had worked in a bank, and lived in a family of six with my parents and three siblings. At the time I could not even imagine the tight family bonds that came with such a large four-generational family. However, it was not long before I realize what that kind of love and affection was.



When I was pregnant with my first child, my morning sickness was so severe I could not eat anything. Seeing this, my grandfather-in-law took the bus downtown to buy me hardtack. My grandmother-in-law, worried that her foreign granddaughter-in-law would have difficulty adjusting to married life to a Korean and a Korean lifestyle, cherished me and often told me funny stories. When I think about those memories my eyes still sting with tears of deep gratitude. Four years after I came to live with my husband, my grandfather-in-law suddenly passed on from this world.

After that I spent a lot of time caring for my grandmother-in-law. She had suddenly lost her eyesight and could not see anything. She could no longer stand because her knees were bad, and on top of that she began to suffer from dementia. So, every morning I started my day cleaning Grandmother's room, which had been ruined by urine. My mother-in-law says, "No one can defy dementia." She also struggled because of Grandmother.

Nevertheless, Grandmother was well cared for by our family and after three peaceful years she passed away. Since then, I have engraved the values of family love and true happiness in the center of my heart and have focused more on my faith. Meanwhile in 2009, at a forty-day Ocean Workshop in Yeosu, I was able to discover a deeper meaning to the value of the "joy of life" which I had also engraved in my heart.

For five years beginning in 2013, I became the outreach leader at my church in Yeongwol and now I am leading several volunteer projects as the president of the church Finance Committee. During that time, I received two Devoted Daughter-in-Law Award -- one from the Yeongwol County Government through a nomination by my aunt and another from the Yeongwol Confucian School through a nomination by the president of our church's senior committee.



I received these precious Devoted Daughter-In-Law Awards, but I still feel inadequate. As you can tell, my Korean is still not perfect and cultural differences still sometimes arise. However, with the best of my efforts, if I can be recognized by my family, my neighbors and my community, and I heal even a bit of the pain that Japan inflicted on Korea in the past, I would take this path one hundred times over. Moreover, if I can give even a small amount of strength to True Parents who are exerting themselves to open the way for a true world of peace and a joy-filled future in a heavenly unified Korea, I will invest more effort as I take this path.

to my neighbors and to my community. I have made it to today by raising my sons into mature young adults who are proud of the path their mother has taken.

I endured many things throughout the past twenty-one years. Yet as a Blessed family, I walked a love-filled path striving to spread true joy, in my family,

As my husband and I worship as a family, we continually resolve to become a couple that gives true joy to the world. I hope that many more families in Gangwon Province can become happy families that strive to testify to the value of the Marriage Blessing by leading meaningful lives.

From now on, I will attend my parents-in-law with the same heart of immense love and respect that I have for True Parents. I will love my husband more deeply with the same yearning I have for Heavenly Parent; and I will teach my two sons to become part of Korea's proud future and to build beautiful families just as I did with my husband. Since coming to Korea and meeting True Parents, I have been truly grateful for discovering my identity and realizing what I should live for. As I conclude my Hyojeong Testimony, at this opportunity, I would like to express my appreciation once again for True Parents.

Thank you.