

## Revelations from the Horizontal God

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We first-generation members were adult learners. We were like children who at a certain point gained minds of their own and therefore had to make decisions and act on them in order to learn. Because of that, our best learning was not in the classroom but on the street.

That's where Father learned, and that's where he sent us. But first he had to convince us to go there, and not just go there, but go there with no self, with nothing but the love of God.

One important lesson to learn was, What is my life mission? I see Father as using a Socratic method, where the teacher asks the questions that draw out the answer the student already knows. In this case, the teacher put me into an environment that drew out the answer I already

knew. One great environment, of course, was MFT (mobile fundraising teams).

Two educational testimonies here: The first was at the end of a weekend workshop at Barrytown in 1975. It was a big workshop, with fifty or more New York youth, brand new to our church. I had heard through the grapevine that many MFT members in America from other countries were leaving for immigration reasons and wondered what was going to happen to the MFT. What happened was Father came to speak to these young people who had just finished their first weekend workshop. I was a group leader, watching from the sidelines.

Father gathered them on the soccer field, in the lovely sunshine. He spoke for an hour, perhaps, with Col. Han interpreting. Father step by step explained, with the most exquisite logic, God's will for the universe, arriving at the undeniable conclusion that the only thing that any human being of integrity, faith and love would ever want to do with his life would be to go to MFT, right now, this evening.

Now, I didn't count noses, but as far as I could see, the result of this astounding message was that each of these brand new workshop graduates signed up at that moment for MFT. I thought, whoa, this is, like, dangerous.

But then it happened to me.

Maybe six months later, at a 6 am Belvedere Sunday service, Father's talk turned to the subject of fundraising, and he kindly issued the invitation to anyone in the audience who felt so moved to join up with the MFT right then and there (Never mind your current mission or central figure, it's just you and me and God.). I didn't feel pressure, I didn't feel his gaze, I just felt, yep, this is the right thing for me to do. And I was off -- little realizing that that step was a watershed moment toward UTS and a Ph.D. and all that has become of my life. And everything I experienced on MFT -- that was Father's education.

### Speed and intent

Father is famous for long sermons, but here's a counterpoint to that. After a long sermon at Belvedere on a Sunday morning, Father finished, we had the closing prayer, Mother joined him onstage and they started their usual walk through the middle of the audience and out to the driveway. About three steps from the stage, Father suddenly stopped and said, "Wait a minute, I didn't cover what I wanted to talk about today." He stood right there and in three minutes gave the most concise, clear, organized, erudite, principled statement I have ever heard. It was like, boom, boom, boom, thesis, argument, conclusion, signed, sealed, delivered -- in three minutes. He reached the conclusion, and he and Mother proceeded to their car. I'm thinking, why doesn't Father just come and speak for three minutes, say what he wants to say, and go? Answer: because he wanted to touch my life.

Mother touched my life as well, one day in the "old dining room" at East Garden, with a bunch of Ph.D. students. It must have been the day that Father entered, looked for a minute at us brainy brains with our brains full of what Hyo Jin nim called "brain candy," and said as his opening sentence, "You believe in the spirit world, don't you?" Dead silence. I've been thinking about how to answer ever since.

So we're at lunch, and Mother didn't say anything; I was across the table from her and a little diagonal, and all she did was slide her big glass of milk over to me. If a picture is worth a thousand words, a glass

of milk is worth a thousand lectures. Father gave me spirit world and Mother gave me milk.

### **Love lessons**

Here's how Father taught me to be open and public about my love for my wife. At a gathering of two hundred or more at East Garden for Hoon Dok Hae with True Parents, out of the blue, Father called my wife and me up to the front. You've probably seen, or heard of, Father telling couples to kiss in front of everyone. That's exactly what he told us to do. Being prim and proper and, like, people shouldn't see us kissing, right? We did a little pro-forma kiss. No, no! Father got up, Not like that! You have to really kiss her! Give it all you've got!

Well, I'm not the most manly man, but anyway I picked her up in my arms and spun her around a few times as we kissed. I've never seen people do that in front of Father! Okay, good, sit down, and on with the Hoon Dok Hae. Wow, I thought, what was that all about? Years later, I found out. My wife told me that she had had a dream in which Father was kissing her and whirling her around. So, she concluded, what Father was doing was telling her that I'm in that position.

Interestingly, it may have been around that time that Father announced, at East Garden, that blessed couples should stop having sex. It was an announcement that did not get a lot of publicity. Life lesson: When you're having sex, REALLY HAVE SEX, and if you're not at that level, just stop and take the celibacy track. Both are good.



*True Father speaking to American members that he had given the mission of earning a Ph.D.*

### **Oceangoing experiences**

Following the MFT assignment, Father gave me, directly or indirectly, many missions, and each assignment had a life lesson. After presenting my doctoral dissertation to True Parents, to rounds of applause at a birthday celebration at East Garden, no sooner had I sat down than Father announced my next assignment: national director of Ocean Church. More rounds of applause, as I sat flustered with incredulity that he would do that to me. Father lovingly helped me overcome my disbelief by summoning me to present my acceptance speech. Life lesson: When God has you trapped, just enjoy the cheese.

After a summer out on the waves of Cape Ann, I started to learn the lessons of the ocean. One day, my boat actually caught two tuna. We took one in early, which Father saw as we went by, and we went out again and doggone it we caught another. Again we passed the New Hope, and Father stood on the deck his mouth ajar and eyes bulging that we'd caught this second tuna. That night I got a phone call from Father's captain, "Father said it's too easy for you." I did not catch another tuna all summer. Lesson learned: It's not supposed to be easy.

At the end of the summer, at a leaders meeting on the lawn behind the East Garden house, Father called me to give a testimony about the ocean. As I spoke, standing next to Father, I was inspired by the Spirit and just talked away. I realized in a moment that everything I was saying was what I had heard Father say about fishing and the ocean. Lesson learned: When I unite with Father's wild idealism, I find that all his wild ideas are true!

Moments later I turned to Father and whispered, "How long should I talk?" He replied, "You can talk forever." Lesson learned: Get in Father's space, and you can talk forever.

I soon sat down, and Father commenced to talking about the next frontier, Alaska, how amazing it is there, and on and on about fishing in Alaska, and I was actually in Father's groove imagining it all, when he shouted to me, "Hendricks, will you go with me to Alaska?" and I responded with a sincere, "Yes, Father!" Then he said, "Okay, you just graduated Ocean Church. Now you are the assistant national director of CARP." I turned to my right, and sitting there was Dr. Joon Ho Seuk, national director of CARP. Lesson learned: Father has a plan.

### **Dreams meet reality**

Finally, one morning at the East Garden breakfast table, in 1991, everyone was ordered go to his hometown. Mine's far away, in a small northern California town. I was ensconced as vice-president at the national headquarters and conflicted as to what God wanted me to do. So, as an elder was giving a long report in a language I didn't know, I closed my eyes in prayer. Suddenly I dropped deep down into the space I rarely am allowed to go, where I met God, where I met Heung Jin nim, and I asked, "I know what you want everyone generally to do, but what do you want me personally to do?" That's when I felt a tug on my sleeve.

Col. Sang Kil Han, sitting next to me, whispered, "Father is talking to you." I straightened up to listen, and what Father said was, "I want you to network UTS graduates around the world and have them organize seminars for you to teach Divine Principle to professors and religious leaders. Spend three years doing that and also learn Korean, and then report to me." He then told the elder to continue the report that my prayer had so rudely interrupted! Lesson learned: If you really want to know, Father will tell you.

The kicker is that the next day, Father changed that direction, again over the breakfast table. He told me to stay at HQ because a big project was coming up. I had made my plans, and Dr. Peter Kim told me, before breakfast, "What? Father didn't mean for you just to pack your bags and go!" Well, it sure had sounded like that to me, so there I was staring at my oatmeal totally confused, and Mother asked Dr. Kim what was up. Dr. Kim answered, and Mother and Father chuckled. Father then told me to stay.

Lesson learned: We take revelations seriously, but the horizontal God always has the last word.

Whenever Father directly or indirectly gave me a mission was a teaching moment. He was a parent, teacher and owner telling me, Put yourself aside. Forget who you are, what you want, what you think. You are my son; you want what I want, you think the way I think. And you know that I'm right. I will make of you a million times more than you would ever dream you could make of yourself. I will give to the world, through you, a million times more than you could ever give by yourself. And eternal life to boot.