



FOLLOWING THE MESSIAH

Experiences with Sun Myung Moon

If the Messiah was on earth today would you follow him?

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Background

I grew up in a terraced house in Nottingham, my dad was a builder. I was christened in the Church of England. I tried going there a couple of times but I found it boring. Sometimes on Sundays I heard church bells ringing and felt called to go to a church. Eventually, I had tried out all the denominations within walking distance, always determined to continue but never finding anything to keep me there.

A few times I decided to read the whole Bible, but couldn't get past Chapters 4 and 5 of Genesis where lineages are explained in detail. I did a GCE in religion so eventually I did study the Bible.

I felt a special affinity to the moon, I thought it was trying to tell me something.

After I finished my degree in mathematics I decided to do a Post Graduate Certificate in Education in Bristol but intuitively felt it was only temporary until something important happened. By this time I didn't believe in God. I believed that when your body is dead you are dead.

I spent Christmas 1975 in Florence on holiday with Brian, a friend I had known for eight years. Walking the streets on Christmas day we heard an argument at a book table between a Christian and a person with very logical answers to everything. We were both fascinated by those answers, even though we didn't believe in God. Looking back I think that the person with logical answers must have been a member of the Unification Church.

I was teaching maths at a school in Bristol and met Pete, the teacher of religion. We had a lot of arguments. I would ask him questions like, "Do dogs go to heaven?" The only thing he said that affected me was that he had been cured of cancer and had experienced God at that time. So I told God that if He existed then He should let me know. I waited for something to happen in the school's morning assemblies but nothing did and I forgot about it.

I was in my apartment one evening with Brian and his brother. They were talking and I was lying on the sofa. Suddenly, out of the blue, I felt a warm feeling spreading from my heart through my body. At the same time I had incredible peace of mind. Intuitively I knew it was God. Then I was floating out of my body. I could see myself from above. A voice told me that my body is just a shell, you can take it off like a coat. I felt so happy that I decided I didn't want to go back into my body but then abruptly I was back. The next morning I woke up so excited that I knew God existed.

I went to the evangelical church that Pete attended. I could relate to all the things they said about being born again but felt very uncomfortable when they said that others were going to Hell. It didn't seem fair. I just happened to be lucky enough to have had a spiritual experience. One day a missionary came to talk at the church. She worked in Africa with people who had leprosy. I told God that if he wanted me to do something like that, He just had to tell me.

Girls in the school where I worked persuaded me to join a camping trip to Wales. They needed a female teacher otherwise they couldn't go. I didn't like camping in chilly Britain but I bought a down sleeping bag and joined them. On that trip in Wales I bought a leaflet that changed my life.

On Good Friday 1976 I bought hot cross buns and went to visit Brian. We were wondering what to do over Easter. I wrote down hotel phone numbers on the leaflet, which had been in my bag since the

camping trip. At the bottom of the 'Wake up Wales' leaflet a message stood out. It said 'Come to a farm for a unique weekend.' We went to the farm near Swindon and heard the Divine Principle.

The Principle explained everything in a logical manner; God's original ideal, His broken heart when He lost mankind and how He has worked throughout history to reverse each mistake step by step. The explanation of how the 2000 year history of the Jews until Jesus has been repeated by the Christians clearly showed that we are living at the time of the second coming of Christ. The only problem is, will he be rejected again?

During the weekend I was in the bathroom when everything became bright with a feeling of electricity. I saw a shampoo bottle and the words No More Tears, No More Tears went over me like waves. We stayed an extra day to hear the life story of Rev. Moon. On the train back to Bristol, looking out of the window I saw the cows and fields as if for the first time. I felt spiritually alive and we were both crying.

We were invited to a meeting at the Lancaster Gate headquarters. Christians were outside giving out leaflets and telling people not to attend the meeting; so, being a Christian myself I took one. I read the leaflet which said that members bow to Rev Moon. I didn't believe it as I had already met the members and knew they were sincere and sensible.

I compared the Principle with the Bible every night after work and prayed about points which differed from Christian teaching until I received answers. I didn't want to change my life and tried to prove the Principle was wrong. When deciding what to do during the Whitsuntide holiday, I realised that I couldn't go on living a selfish life while the Messiah was on the earth and rather unwillingly I knew I had to follow him.

After I joined I went to the morning prayers and saw everyone bowing before beginning to pray. I remembered the Christian leaflet and I did not want to bow. I knew the Principle was true but it was not easy to believe that Rev. Moon was the Messiah. I prepared breakfast with an African sister called Phyllis instead of attending the prayers. Phyllis was fasting every other day and she asked me a few times if I had had a dream but I hadn't. Then I had my first dream of Rev. Moon. In the dream he was loving and very humble. He said he was one of the brothers but I realised who he was and felt incredibly unworthy to be talking to him, on the same level, face to face. I felt I had to get on the floor to show respect. I could now understand the woman in the Bible who cried over Jesus feet and dried them with her hair. I bowed to Rev. Moon in the dream. I realised that Phyllis was fasting and praying until I had the dream.

Later after visiting Korea I realised that bowing is their natural way of greeting and that shaking hands is uncomfortable for oriental people.

Sometimes we would go to the cinema together and I would ask God to speak to me through the movie. One such movie was Excalibur. While watching the movie I experienced a terrible shock when Guinevere was seduced by Lancelot in the garden. I realised that God was shocked at the Fall in the Garden of Eden between Eve and Lucifer. Even though He knows all possibilities, in His purity He could not imagine such a tragic thing happening.

Aberdeen

I was asked if I would like to be a pioneer and if I was willing to go anywhere. I answered yes but I would rather go to Aberdeen. I left for Aberdeen with a one way train ticket and some fundraising leaflets. I found a one bedroom flat in Powis Place. The first Korean disciple, Won Pil Kim, visited me there. He made sure the members who came with him and myself had places to sleep in the bed or on the sofa, then insisted on himself sleeping on the floor. He said that the carpet was a luxury compared to the first shack he shared with True Father. I gave him my down sleeping bag to sleep in.

After a few people joined we needed a bigger place. I had been told that I should not leave Aberdeen for the first 40 days. During the 40 days I heard that my sister was ill. I didn't want to leave Aberdeen to visit her so I went to Interflora to send her flowers. Next door was an estate agents office. Flicking through the brochures the word Affleck kept grabbing my attention. I thought it was a strange word, it reminded me of genuflect in the Catholic Church. I took a closer look at the house on Affleck Street and knew it was the one for us. It was the right size and so close to Union Street.

I had no luck getting a mortgage so we decided to do a nine hour prayer walk around the outskirts of Aberdeen. Going up the first hill I was praying constantly. "Please let us get the house, we need the house, give us the house" over and over. Before reaching the top of that first hill I heard God's voice saying, "OK OK OK, I heard you." I didn't pray for the remainder of the walk.

I went into the first bank I passed one morning and asked to speak to the manager. I told him that I wanted to buy a house and he wanted to know how I would repay the loan. I told him that I sell things. He asked if I sell African violet pot plants. I said some of our members do. Then he said I could have the loan. He had obviously bought a plant and been impressed by our members.

Mike Breen was working on the oil rigs. I met him one day and he had two or three hours before his train left to England. I taught him the Divine Principle and gave him the book. He joined some months later and eventually he went to Korea and wrote a book about Sun Myung Moon's early life. Paul Dracup was a diver on the rigs. He would visit me on his two weeks off before he drove to England in his new Alfa Romeo. I asked him to go to a weekend workshop in Dunbar and he always said next time. Eventually he promised that the next time he was off he would definitely attend the workshop. Two weeks later he arrived only to tell me he had an appointment in England. He left, but came back an hour later. His Alfa Romeo had overturned and was a write off. He went to the workshop and joined.

David Malloch was at University in Aberdeen. He heard the Principle and cried when he heard True Father's life story. He joined immediately and wanted to quit university to be a full-time member. Luckily he agreed to finish his degree. David's father had been a Christian missionary and wasn't happy that David joined us. He wanted us to close down the Unification Church in Aberdeen. David's belief in the Principle was strong and he wasn't persuaded by his father but it was not easy for him. Later David and I met David Earle who was doing a PhD at the university. He wanted to attend a workshop in Dunbar but always had a squash game at weekends. Even when he broke his racket he just bought another. He finally joined and will hopefully tell his own story one day.

At this time True Father had asked each one to find one person each month or 1-1-1. I think this was one of our failures.

I had some deep prayer experiences in Dunbar. One time as I prayed that I would remain faithful even if I was the only follower left, I had an intuition that the worst that could happen would be if it took three generations, similar to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob who are regarded as one, in the eyes of God. I hope that it doesn't come to that.

Fire from the North

Around that time in 1977 some Christian churches in Britain were receiving revelations that the fire would begin in the north; fire meaning truth.

Someone I met took me to his church to meet his minister. It was the most popular Church of Scotland in Aberdeen at the time.

The minister was saying many things that True Father was saying, especially concerning the dangers of Communism.

One Sunday in that church the minister was preaching about Moses talking to God on a mountain and how Moses' face shone. As I was sitting there at the back of the crowded church I suddenly felt my face burning with the Holy Spirit. The minister then started to preach about me saying that my face was shining the same as Moses' face had done.

The next week I taught that minister the Divine Principle. He was amazed, he had studied both the Jewish history and Christian history but had never noticed the parallels that are explained in the Principle. He was so excited and said that if the Messiah was on earth he would definitely follow him.

Later when I visited his home he said he would lose everything if he followed. His house was owned by the Church of Scotland. He said he had to think of his wife and child. I really wanted him to understand the crucial mission Christianity had - to restore the Jews' reluctance to accept Jesus. I tried to visit him again but he said he had to go to a funeral. I have to admit I was tempted to say, "Let the dead bury the dead".

After the 1978 Blessing ceremony True Father remained in Britain for some time. A Professor from the university had attended Science Conferences organised by our movement and had become friendly with True Father. In fact he invited Father to go fishing with him in Aberdeen. Soon after I had returned from the Blessing, we heard that Father was in Aberdeen. One sister, Laurette, was desperate to see him. I told her that I would take her to the airport to see him leave. I was on the phone checking times of flights when the doorbell rang, Laurette answered and there was True Father walking up the path. He gave me some seed money and told me to buy a church. Father was inspired to see our church centre in Aberdeen and asked me if there were other centres he should see. I told him about Dunbar so he cancelled his flight and drove to Dunbar.

Later the headline in an Aberdeen newspaper stated that the Professor supported Moon. He was bombarded by parents of members who had joined in America and did not want to come back to Britain to complete their studies. At that time the Professor needed the support of the minister; together they could have convinced people and the fire really could have started in the North.

Some years later someone from Aberdeen sent me a newspaper cutting saying that the popular minister had been sent to prison and had lost his job and his family.

Blessing and New Hope

Before I went pioneering in Aberdeen I had been travelling in a team of four around Scotland to fundraise and witness. Sometimes we would stay in our beautiful workshop centre in Dunbar. It was there that I had my deepest experience with God. A room was kept there for True Parents in case they ever came to stay. I used to go in there to pray after returning back late in the evenings. One night I was looking at my favourite photograph of True Father when the whole room lit up and felt full of electricity. I felt waves of God's love flowing over me and the walls and carpet were beating like a heart. My face was burning with spiritual fire, which came from the photo, especially my eyes which felt as if they would burn out. This experience was unique for me because of the time that it lasted. Four hours had passed in a flash. I kept telling God that I needed to go to bed so I could wake up early but I just couldn't leave. I have had similar experiences but none of them lasted as long. I realised what it would be like if we could live with God 24 hours a day as the Principle says we should and as Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."

It was during time I spent on a workshop in Dunbar in May 1978 that I heard that Father was in London. I had never met him and had so many deep experiences that I didn't need to meet him as I had already had confirmation from God about who he was. The week before he arrived I had had a strong desire to do a 7 day fast and had been advised to wait until I returned to Aberdeen after the workshop. When I heard that Father was in London I immediately started to fast. To be eligible for the marriage Blessing I needed to be three years in the church but I had only been a member for two. A 7 day fast was also a requirement. I had received a revelation some weeks earlier that I was going to be Blessed and be responsible for a nation, but thought I should ignore it. The eligible members were called to London on Sunday and I was left behind to be responsible for the guests on the workshop. On Wednesday I received a phone call to come to London as a reserve.

True Father walked in to the ballroom around midnight to talk to us, my first memory is hearing his solid footsteps. During his talk he stopped for a moment and looked straight through me, he is able to see a person's spirit body. At 3 a.m. he asked if we wanted him to start matching instead of waiting until morning. Everyone said yes. I was a reserve so thought I should go out but I was near the front of the ballroom. Father matched the national leaders first. I just had time to see him match the leader of Switzerland before he told me to stand up. I was matched to Halvard, who was responsible for Iceland at that time. We went out to discuss whether we wanted to accept but I couldn't see how it was possible to say no to the messiah so we went back into the ballroom to accept. We were Blessed on the Sunday on the last day of my 7 day fast.

Couples spend time getting to know each other before living together after being Blessed. Sometime after the Blessing I left Aberdeen to be responsible for a New Hope team in Hull. There were 20-30 new members who would spend six months on the team before moving to other missions.

One member was Doug from Australia. One day he went to the shop wearing his flip flops and never came back. We knew that he had been kidnapped by his parents but the police wouldn't believe us. I started a 3 day fast. We were contacted from London asking us to send Doug's passport but we didn't.

The kidnappers were paid a lot of money by Doug's parents and they were trying to get Doug a temporary passport. He refused to sign the temporary passport, escaped and came back to Hull.

In Hull God sometimes allowed me to see a person's spirit body if it was necessary to help them. I saw one brother who's spirit body didn't have a mouth. I didn't understand at the time but later I read in a speech by Father that if you tell lies, in the Spirit World you won't have a mouth. Another, very nervous looking, brother had a spirit body that looked like a Swedish movie star. I could give him confidence by telling him how good he looked.

One day a guest from the Home Church area came to the centre, she was looking nice but then for a second as I welcomed her she looked like a witch. It was so scary it made me jump. Then she was normal again. I told the young brother who visited the area where she lived that he should not go there alone. Some days later when I was out, she called that brother and asked him to bring some Principle books for her to study. He went to her house and didn't return. I went round knocking on her door but no-one answered. She seduced that brother and later he was really upset. He had begun living a life of purity in preparation for the Blessing and now he felt unworthy, even though we tried to persuade him to start again.

Once, in Dunbar, I had seen a brother who had a woman from Spirit World dominating him. I realised that was the reason he was effeminate, but I was stupid enough not to tell him. If God gives us an experience it is not just for ourselves but for the purpose of helping others.

40 Days Pioneering

True Father was still in Britain and had asked the One World Crusade to join him there. He asked us all to go pioneering for 40 days and to return with a new member. I went to Bridlington for the 40 days. I knew that I had to be an example for the new members and if I couldn't succeed then how could I expect them to.

I followed the directions Father had given us about Home Church, visiting 360 homes, returning to the 72 best and finding 12 people to teach.

I met Martin and he visited me to hear the Principle. He was from Northern Ireland and was staying with his grandparents in Bridlington to avoid the Troubles in Northern Ireland. One time when he was hearing the Principle I told him that I was not of this world, meaning that I had been Blessed and was part of a new lineage. The lineage from Adam and Eve was a fallen lineage having left God. He misunderstood and for a time he thought that I was the messiah. He told me that after hearing me praying on the beach he had never heard anyone pray like that before.

After 40 days we were returning to the church centre in Hull together but at the train station we met Martin's parents. They insisted that he returned to Ireland with them. I started fasting for 3 days. Then he called to say he was coming to Hull. His parents had taken him to visit his priest who had been quite understanding and told his parents to let him go.

In Hull we visited Home Church areas doing volunteer work. We went to see The Champ film. When I saw the Champ being carried out after being beaten up I had a terrible experience of God's broken heart. I felt that it was what God experienced when True Father was beaten and left for dead in prison. That broken heart stayed with me for 3 days and I could hardly put one foot in front of another as I tried to walk round my Home Church area. Then the pain disappeared and I understood what God had felt like throughout the History of Restoration.

120 Day Workshop

The national leaders of Europe and the State leaders of America were called to New York for a 120 day training. It was 1981 and we should have been in Moscow by then: another failure? True Father was incredibly serious about the situation of the world. In March we were called to East Garden to see True Parents at home. Father was really concerned because someone had shot Reagan that day. Later we watched Father playing table tennis with all the brothers, about 50 of them. He beat everyone except an Austrian brother. After some hours playing he called back the Austrian brother and played him three times until he beat him. It was clear to see his determination to challenge himself. By that time most people had fallen asleep on the sofas as it was already 3 a.m. I stayed all the time watching and picking up the ping pong balls. Then he went to play pool. He would wake up every day to pray at 5 a.m. so it was really difficult to keep up with his lifestyle of only sleeping for a few hours.

At the end of the 120 days we all went to Germany where a matching would take place. As I was already Blessed I could enjoy watching Father matching some of the members I knew from England. Watching him matching is one of my favourite activities.



Won Pil Kim visiting Powis Place, Aberdeen



True Father visiting Affleck Street, Aberdeen



Hull Centre in Pearson Park



40 Day pioneering in Bridlington. A visit from the Hull New Hope team



Father playing table tennis with the European and American leaders

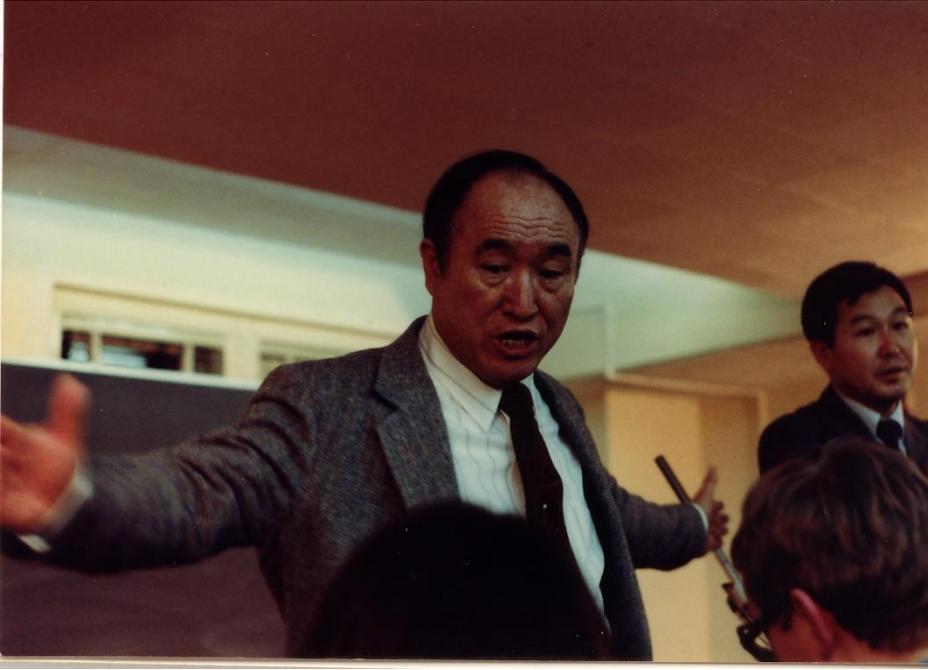




Father goes on to play pool



40 Hour street preaching in New York. Rev Sudo visits with hot drinks



Father giving a serious talk to the leaders in New York in 1981



A visit to Hverfisgata 65A, Iceland in 2013. Childhood memories for our youngest daughters



Faith Jones Blesses the Pentecostal Church in Reykjavik



Rev. and Mrs. Young Whi Kim visiting Iceland



A meeting at Lancaster Gate, British Headquarters



1-1-1 The goal for each person to find one new member each month.
With members who joined in Aberdeen



David Earle, Halvard, me and Paul Dracup



New Hope team square dancing in the woods



The Blessing of 118 Couples took place in Lancaster Gate, London on 21 May 1978. True Parents' eldest daughter represented Mother, who was in the late stage of pregnancy in America.



Speakers Corner, Hyde Park

Iceland

In 1983 I joined my husband in Iceland. The members bought a little house in Hverfisgata and I used the seed money received from True Father in Aberdeen as part of the deposit.

Halvard and I went to Vestmannaeyja for 40 days to pioneer. We lived in a van on the side of the Volcano and we visited homes and offered to do gardening or painting for free. It was there that I met a family of brothers from the Pentecostal Church called Betel. One evening I had a very serious and deep conversation with the younger brother and his wife. I remember that we talked about the Second Coming of the Messiah and how he had to understand everything that normal people had to go through; even the death of a child. Walking back up the volcano the sky suddenly lit up with swirling colour. I thought I was having a spiritual experience but of course it was the first time I saw the Northern Lights.

I also met the Lutheran Minister from the church on the island and continued to visit him in Reykjavik after he moved there. In Reykjavik, as well as doing voluntary work in our Home Church area, I decided to visit Christian ministers until I found twelve who accepted the Divine Principle book. I remember one minister who actually laughed when I mention God and said that He didn't exist. From the way he talked I got the feeling that he believed in Communism. From the ministers who received the Principle book I visited four of them on a regular basis. Kjartan, Solveig and Valgeir from the State Church and Hafliði from Filadelfia, the Pentecostal Church. My heart was always with the Christians, I desperately wanted them to understand that the Messiah, who they were eagerly waiting for, was already here. Just as John the Baptist inherited the mission of Elijah, so True Father inherited the mission of Jesus.

I went to Filadelfia every Sunday for years. I never tried to teach the members but only talked to the leaders of the church. Eventually I went every morning to the Morning Prayer meeting, where not many other people attended apart from the leaders. Then the leader asked me not to come anymore. I told him that I never witnessed to his members but he said I was witnessing just by being there. I said I wouldn't attend unless God told me to come, then I would have to do what He said. Sometime later I felt strongly that I should go again to the Sunday service, so I went. I was walking out after the service finished and the assistant leader, Sam, ran out after me and reminded me of some Principle videos I had wanted him to see. He said he would like to have them so I gave them to him.

I prayed every day for years for those ministers. I had failed to convince the Church of Scotland Minister and I really didn't want it to happen again. I was attending Valgeir's church one evening, the church was full and I desperately wanted him to understand. I had been very open with him on my visits about Rev. Moon having the mission of the Second Coming and needing Christianity to follow him and to claim a nation for God. I was in early pregnancy at the time with my fifth child, I had had a spiritual experience that the name would be Quentin, so I assumed that it would be a second son. In that church I prayed that I would even offer the child if it could help the minister to understand. A few days later I had a miscarriage.

I was also praying for an Icelandic person to join as many came to hear the whole of the Principle but they found it difficult to change their lifestyle. A lot of young people were dependant on alcohol at that time because the State sold spirits but not beer. The name Patreksfjörður kept coming into my head and I heard a song on the radio called Sailor (leave the sea). I told the Icelandic members that I wanted to

pioneer Patreksfjorder, a small town on the west coast, but they told me there was nothing there. I couldn't forget it so I decided to go there even if only for 21 days. There were only 300 houses so after knocking on every door and nothing happening I thought I should have listened to the members. I walked along the beach shouting at the spirit world telling them they ought to make it obvious why they wanted me there. Someone should open the door and say, "Come in, sit down", not that I expected it to happen I was just relieving my frustration. I decided to return to the homes that I had noted down as 'not home'. One of the first houses I went back to was opened by Tommi, he said, "Come in" we walked up the stairs to his flat and he said, "Sit down". I couldn't believe my ears, I was so shocked and asked him if he believed in the spirit world. He told me he was just reading a book about it. He left his fishing work, came back to Reykjavik and joined.

Eventually I had a dream that showed me that Valgeir wouldn't respond to the Principle and I should move on. Halvard had already been in Russia pioneering for two years leaving me with the four children in Iceland. He then moved to take responsibility for Latvia so we decided to join him there. I knew God would guide me to a special Christian in Latvia to replace Valgeir.

Latvia

Language was the first problem in Latvia. The two eldest children went to a Russian primary school but I wanted to speak Latvian. There was a 50-50 divide. On the street I met a young guy, Edgars, who spoke English. I told him that I needed a translator but I would have to tell him what I was doing first. I taught him the Principle and he went everywhere with me when I needed a translator. I bought a smart looking fur coat from the market and together we even went into the Parliament building to meet politicians and the President's office to see the President. It was amazing where you could go in Latvia if you were English.

I knew there would be a church minister there who I should meet. I visited twelve ministers, twelve politicians, twelve professors and four media people but didn't find that special person, the John the Baptist for Latvia. I had seen a picture of the young Archbishop in the newspaper but had been warned to avoid him as he was very fundamental. Eventually I decided that I should at least visit him to make friends. I made an appointment to see him. I knew immediately at our first meeting that he was the special Christian that I was meant to meet. He told me how he had been called to be a minister during Communist times. He also explained that after he became Archbishop he felt he should personally hold the morning service in the Dome Cathedral. I knew that he could make Latvia the first nation to be returned to God if he could accept the second messiah.

I went to the Cathedral every morning for his service and I could sense strongly that Jesus was walking beside me, He wanted to help me. I taught the Archbishop the Divine Principle and gave him the book. I taught him about the Mission of Jesus and how John the Baptist didn't follow Him. He said it was speculation but I told him strongly that it was revelation. I pointed out that in the Bible it says that only two of John's disciples followed Jesus. John had had a revelation about Jesus but then continued to baptise separately from Jesus, at a different part of the river.

The next day in the service, the previously chosen Bible reading for that day stated that two of John's disciples followed Jesus. What a coincidence! The Archbishop would usually give a sermon explaining the Bible reading, but that day he didn't talk about the reading. He read some old scriptures instead. Was he affected by my explanation?

Once I visited the Archbishop together with William Haines. He asked us if Rev. Moon was the second person of the Trinity. William explained that our understanding of the messiah is more in line with the Jewish understanding. I continued visiting him until my visa finished.

We were called to Cheong Pyeong in Korea for 40 days, which included another seven day fast. Then Father chose national messiahs and we were chosen for Ireland. My new three month visa had come through for Latvia so I returned there with the children while Halvard went to Ireland. When I visited the Archbishop he had read rumours about Rev. Moon. He said we had nothing to talk about. The Holy Spirit took over and the words that came out of my mouth were, "If you don't listen to me your children will die, my children will die and you will lose all this," pointing to the Cathedral behind us. I was completely shocked at what I said. He said, "Let's go to my office". There I taught him the Restoration through Cain and Abel and the Parallels of History from the Divine Principle. I understand that it is not easy to be a John the Baptist for True Father when you already have a position in society. It might feel as if everything will be lost but in fact you would be claiming the nation for God.

I had to leave Latvia again because of the visa so we joined Halvard in Ireland in December 1996. I love Latvia and was heartbroken to leave. I returned for a short visit when True Father went to Latvia on his speaking tour in October 2005 and I invited the Archbishop to the meeting. I continue writing to him.

Ireland

The Irish Catholic Bishops were not so open to meeting with us although the nuns were more open-minded. We organised a Bridge of Peace ceremony in Glencree where people of different faiths met in pairs on the bridge and became friends. I was paired with a catholic sister who worked for unity of Christians and Jews. She later attended Rev. Moon's eightieth birthday in Korea.

I regularly attended meetings of the International Church of Christ. Their members were young and inspired and were actively witnessing on the streets of Dublin at that time. I taught the young leader some of the Divine Principle. He believed that his Jewish family could not go to Heaven because they were not Christians. I tried to convince him that God will not give up until everyone is one with Him and then there will be no further need for religion. I heard that later he left his church.

I was asked to give a sermon in the Redeemed Christian Church of God, where most of the members were from Africa. Once a month they prayed and sang at all night meetings and I joined them at some of those meetings. Eventually the Pastor who was my friend was convinced by his superiors that we were not Christians.

We had many meetings of our Universal Peace Federation, attended by our Muslim and Sikh friends among others.

In 2005 True Father wanted to come to Ireland on one of his world speaking tours. Some European countries, who were part of the Schengen agreement, would not allow Rev. Moon to enter. I knew it would be Ireland's shame in the future if he was not allowed to enter. We visited the Minister for Justice and also spoke to immigration authorities at Dublin Airport to make sure that he would not be prevented from entering. We were told that Koreans do not need a visa to enter Ireland and there was no reason to stop him. Some people tried to label us as a cult and attempted to influence authorities to stop the meeting. They also tried to influence the Gresham Hotel to cancel our meeting. It was an incredible relief for me when I received the call that they were through immigration and on the way to the Hotel.

I waited outside the hotel room while True Parents were inside in case they needed anything and heard them listening to some of his previous speeches. Father reads his speeches daily knowing that God was speaking through him at the time he gave the speeches and he wants to remember everything that was said. I followed behind when they went to the main ballroom to speak and saw them behaving like typical grandparents with their two year old grandson. Father spoke for hours in Ireland and felt there was a similarity between Ireland and Korea.

We gave out approximately 1000 autobiographies for free outside the GPO in Dublin entitled "As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen" by Reverend Sun Myung Moon, in order to give the Irish People a chance to understand that he is the second coming of the Messiah.

Jardim

True Parents invested a lot of time and energy in South America, to raise cattle and to fish in order to find a way to provide food for the world in the future. Schools were built in Jardim, Brazil and the neglected region of Chaco in Paraguay. New Hope Farms were established in Jardim as a model to show how humanity can live together in Peace. In the year 2000 our family went to stay in Jardim for 40 days and I think it was the closest we came to living in Heaven on earth. Our youngest daughter cried when we got on the coach for the drive back to the airport. Each family had a small apartment. We met together to eat on the verandas of the dining room. We studied together in the mornings and were free in the afternoons to see the ostrich farm, the wild parrots in the trees or to ride horses. We had family sports each Sunday and entertained each other in the evening with performances that we had prepared during the week. The Korean members seemed surprised when some of us, men and women, performed a ballet.

Father came to see us and spoke to us in the main hall and outside in the nature. He really loved Brazil and went there a lot for fasting and praying and making indemnity conditions to restore the world. He would fish from early morning until dark offering the fish as a sacrifice to prevent future disasters. All mistakes must be restored through restitution. True Father discovered the spiritual law of indemnity and lived his life making offerings in order to restore families, nations and the world back to God.

Korean Dong

In 2001 Unification Church sisters from all over the world were called to Korea. I had just got a job as a civil servant in Dublin but delayed my starting date so that I could go to Cheong Pyeong for the 40 day sisters' workshop. At the end of the 40 days we were each given responsibility for an area of Korea (a Dong). My area was Dae Dok Dong. We were told to stay in Korea for three years educating the people in our areas. In this way the messiah could have been accepted on the national level. It is crucial that a nation accepts the messiah and establishes a nation centred on God.

The Christians had inherited the mission of the Jews, to guide all people back to God. They had opened the way to a spiritual kingdom. True Parents were given the mission to establish a physical nation where God could dwell on earth with mankind. Since the Fall of Man, God has worked systematically to find one person who could restore one family, which could expand to a nation, the world and the cosmos.

It was difficult for me to decide whether to accept the job in Ireland or to stay in Korea. The Deputy Prime Minister of Ireland was in the Department I worked in, so somehow I felt that I was meant to be there. I visited my Dong twice a year for three years and delivered Unification Church newspapers to every door. The newspapers explained the purpose of the Blessing Ceremonies, which are marriages enabling us to be grafted into the new lineage. I still wonder if I should have sacrificed my job and my children and stayed in Korea for the three years.

The Final Sacrifice

In July 2012 Father asked sisters from every nation to come to see him in Cheong Pyeong, Korea. He explained that he wanted us to be able to be with him in Heaven when we went there, but that no one had reached the necessary standard of being one in heart with God. He wanted to give us the Seal before Foundation Day but no one was eligible. He asked us when we had become afraid to speak out. Korean Christians had still not accepted him so he had to start again as a pioneer.

The last time he spoke to us in the main hall he walked to the back of the hall to see everyone. As he left he said this might be the last time we saw him.

On 19th July I was lucky enough to go to the Palace for 5 a.m. prayer so I saw him one last time. He told us that God embraces him when he goes to sleep. He explained that he knew from the age of 12 that he was from a different origin. He asked, "Did the world come to an end yet?" we may not believe it but if he said it, then it would happen. He said that we couldn't understand what he was saying, but that was good because if we understood it would be horrible. He told us that because we had answered his call to come to Korea the Royal Seal would be bestowed on us, so that we could be with him in the spirit world.

He was healthy and I didn't realise at the time what he meant. I think that in order to prevent looming disasters he made one last deal with God to give us a time extension, another chance to save the world.

As we waited at the gate house to leave we saw his electric car taking him fishing. We were all tired after waking at 4 a.m. but he never rested.

He became sick a few weeks later with pneumonia. Back in Ireland after he died I dreamt of True Mother saying she wanted to tell us how Father died. She said he went out on a boat fishing.

He understood what he was doing when he went out fishing for long hours at the age of 92 and the necessity of such indemnity conditions for the sake of God and mankind.

"My purpose is the same today as it was yesterday. It is to create one world with God at the centre, a world brought together like a single nation without boundaries. All humanity will be citizens of this world, sharing a culture of love. In such a world, there will be no possibility for division and conflict. This will mark the beginning of a truly peaceful world."

Sun Myung Moon



Japanese sisters visit the Dome Cathedral, Riga



Latvian members with Dr. Seuk



Cheong Pyeong, Korea



Dae Dok Dong Office



Dae Dok Dong Church



True Parents arrive in Jardim, Brazil





Jardim





Jardim





Jardim





I caught a piranha



Performing a ballet in Jardim



Jardim, Brazil



Cheong Pyeong, Korea

Patricia Iversen graduated from Loughborough University with a B.Sc. (Hons) degree in Mathematics and from Bristol University with a Post Graduate Certificate in Education. She taught mathematics at a Bristol school. She joined the Unification Church in 1976 and was matched by Rev. Moon to a Norwegian. They have four children. They were missionaries in Iceland, Russia and Latvia. The family moved to Ireland in 1996 where Patricia worked as a civil servant in Dublin.