

Dietrich F. Seidel and Elisabeth M. Seidel

Edited by Jennifer P. Tanabe

# **Beloveds, Forever Together:**Letters of Eternal Love

By Dietrich F. Seidel and Elisabeth M. Seidel

Edited by Jennifer P. Tanabe

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#### Acknowledgements

Dietrich and Elisabeth Seidel wrote these letters to each other, letters filled with emotion, deep theological thought and spiritual inspiration. This publication, which makes their writings available to history, is possible only because they both kept safe their spouse's precious letters.

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#### Introduction

Love stories are unique, encompassing not only the deep relationship forged between two people but also the different personalities and experiences they bring into that relationship. Dietrich and Elisabeth Seidel's story is no exception.

Dietrich was born in Austria, in the middle of World War II, with a German father and Austrian mother. He grew up with a deep love for God and considered entering the priesthood. Instead, he chose to study science. But after meeting members of Reverend Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church his love of God was channeled into theological study and teaching.

Elisabeth was born in the French Alps. Her father refused to allow her to attend church, which made her curious to know what special teachings he did not want her to learn. After high school she left home and worked as a tourist guide, traveling around Europe. In Italy, her roommate introduced her to the Unification Church, where she committed herself to a religious life.

As members of the Unification Church, both Dietrich and Elisabeth lived celibate lives as missionaries, each in their own country and later in the United States. They were introduced to each other by Reverend Moon as potential marriage partners in 1977. The rest, as they say, is history.

This volume offers some glimpses into that history. It is in the form of letters, written in English by Dietrich (whose native language is German) and Elisabeth (whose native language is French) over the course of their four decades of married life during periods when they were separated from each other. Many are pure love letters, while others include practical matters of concern while their spouse was far away. The final entry is a letter written by

Elisabeth to her beloved Dietrich after he transitioned into the next world.

These letters reveal not only their deep love for each other but also their struggles to overcome various challenges. Elisabeth had to work out the feeling of abandonment she inherited from her grandmother, who was an orphan. It was very difficult for Elisabeth to be separated from her loved ones without having a feeling of not being cared for. This became a serious issue during the various separations from Dietrich, which were necessary due to his studies and work. Dietrich's letters reveal the impact this had on him as he faced his own challenges to complete his doctorate and at the same time support his wife and children.

Beyond their personal struggles, though, they faced the very real difficulty of marriage between families of enemy nations. Dietrich's father was a Nazi and his mother Austrian; Elisabeth's family are French and they suffered greatly during World War II at the hands of Austrians and Germans. Even if Dietrich and Elisabeth did not understand this immediately, it was Reverend Moon's intention that the couples he matched were not only to learn to love each other and establish families of true love but were to bring about reconciliation between enemy families:

Imagine two enemy families who have cursed each other throughout their lives, people who would never dream of living together. What would happen if these families joined together through a cross-cultural Holy Marriage Blessing? A son from one family and a daughter from the other family become husband and wife, love each other and build a happy home. Would the parents in each family curse their own children? When their son loves this beautiful daughter of a hated enemy, and she, as their daughter-in-law, were to give birth ... the grandparents would smile with pleasure. In time the two lineages that were once soaked with enmity will be transformed.

Sun Myung Moon, *God's Ideal Family and the Kingdom of the Peaceful, Ideal World.* Inaugural Convocation of the Universal Peace Federation, Lincoln Center, New York, September 12, 2005.

This theme of building a world of peace through their marriage centered on God fills their letters, both inspiring and challenging them through the years. For their marriage is not just between two individuals, but between representatives of enemy nations. For their families to embrace such a son or daughter-in-law was far from easy.

To make matters even more challenging, the Unification Church received a torrent of unfavorable media coverage, both in the United States and in Europe. Many of the members' families were understandably worried about their adult children, who were portrayed as having joined a dangerous cult. Marriage between young men and women of different nationalities, arranged without their parents' involvement, added to their concerns. Both Dietrich and Elisabeth experienced disappointment when their parents' initial positive response to the marriage changed as a result of the negative impression of the Unification Movement given in the media. When they traveled to Europe they were confronted with the task of defending not only their faith, but also their beloved marriage partner, in the face of such a negative atmosphere.

It should come as no surprise to any reader that, given Dietrich's theological pursuits, many of his letters contain deep discussions of religious and philosophical issues. To better understand these writings, a brief introduction to Unification theology is in order.

The teachings of Reverend Sun Myung Moon, founder of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC), also known as the Unification Church (UC) or Unification Movement, are called the Divine Principle (DP). In essence, they teach that the divine Creator originally intended humankind to live as one family under God. Our first human

ancestors, Adam and Eve, failed to fulfill this ideal; instead, human beings multiplied a world of sin and suffering.

Therefore, human salvation requires the establishment of a true family, the original ideal of creation. Unificationists believe that Reverend Moon inherited this messianic mission from Jesus, and together with his wife, Hak Ja Han, they stand victorious in the position of True Parents. During his lifetime, Reverend Moon acted as a matchmaker, often bringing together representatives of different nations to hasten the process of creating a one-world family of peace. In later years, couples from all faiths were encouraged to rededicate their marriages, receiving the holy wine and a blessing on their marriage from Unificationist Blessed couples.

Marriage is regarded as much more than a wedding ceremony. It is a sacred, holy union, and a sacrament, an instrument of salvation and healing whereby the foundation for God's original love, life and lineage is reestablished. Through the Marriage Blessing the couple is restored to God's lineage and can establish a "Blessed family" with children born directly into God's lineage ("Blessed children"). Before participating in a "Blessing" ceremony, in which large numbers of couples receive a holy blessing on their marriage, the couples drink sacramental "holy wine" to cleanse their lineage. The Blessing ceremony itself includes sprinkling of "holy water," the recitation of vows, and the exchange of rings. This is followed by a period of continued celibacy, a purification time to offer the marriage to God.

Unification Church members regard Reverend and Mrs. Moon with great reverence, referring to them as True Parents, individually as Father Moon and Mother Moon, True Father and True Mother, or simply as Father and Mother. They often refer to the movement as the "Family" and to each other as "brothers and sisters." It was common practice among Unificationists to end letters "In the Name of Our True Parents," or something similar ("In Their Precious Names," "In Their Names," and so forth). These endings were often abbreviated ITPN, or ITN.

For a deeper understanding of Unification theology, the reader is encouraged to read *Unification Insights into Marriage and Family: The Writings of Dietrich F. Seidel* (Lulu Publications, 2017), which contains Dietrich Seidel's autobiography as well as theological and practical reflections on marriage from a Unification viewpoint. Study of *Exposition of the Divine Principle* (HSA Publications, 1996) is also recommended.

Jennifer P. Tanabe, Ph.D. Red Hook, New York, June 2017

# After the Marriage Blessing in 1977

Dietrich and Elisabeth were matched and Blessed by Reverend and Mrs. Moon in February 1977, as part of the 74 Couples Blessing. As was the practice at that time, couples were asked not to begin their life as a married couple for the first seven months after this ceremony. For this separation period they could communicate and meet, getting to know each other; but they were to remain celibate and act as brother and sister.

Dietrich was completing his studies at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in Barrytown, New York, and after graduation he spent the summer in Omaha, Nebraska as a missionary at the local Unification Church center. Elisabeth was initially living in the New Yorker Hotel,<sup>2</sup> as was common among members in the New York area, and so they were able to meet on several occasions. In the summer, Elisabeth moved to a house in New Jersey and worked at a jewelry factory there for several months.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Over 100 Unification Church members gathered to meet Reverend and Mrs. Moon on February 18, 1977. Over a period of several days, Reverend Moon met with these members, introducing or "matching" couples together, recommending them as marriage partners. Dietrich and Elisabeth were one such couple. A total of 74 couples accepted these recommendations and received the marriage sacraments of "Holy Wine" and "Holy Water" before pledging themselves as "Blessed Couples" on February 21, 1977.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The iconic New Yorker Hotel was purchased by the Unification Church in 1975 for use as meeting rooms, offices, and as accommodation for visiting church members as well as residence for single members living in the city.

In September, Dietrich returned from Nebraska and moved to Toronto, Canada, where he began his doctoral studies at St. Michael's College. Elisabeth had hoped to join him immediately, but this was delayed. Finally, she was able to go to Montreal as a missionary and visit Dietrich in Toronto, where they began their family life.

Introducing this section is an excerpt from Elisabeth's autobiography, describing the time period leading up to their Blessing.

## "Angels in New York"

Excerpt from Elisabeth's Autobiography

In 1976, I moved to America and participated in the Washington Monument and Yankee Stadium campaigns.<sup>3</sup> At the end of the year, I had a dramatic car accident in New York while I was crossing the street. As the pedestrian light was changing from red to green a car tried to beat the light and came full speed towards me, hit me in the back and I was thrown on the ground. In one split second, I was praying to God, "My life is for you." The car rolled over my body and I sensed the car being lifted up at the places that could have hurt me, as if a band of angels were there to help me.

The driver came out of his car and shouted at me. Then he left. There was a crowd around me, looking at me, seeing how much I was hurt. One man said he called an ambulance. A lady sat beside me waiting for the ambulance and she said, "I saw Jesus and he saved your life." Still semi-conscious, with some internal injuries and a broken arm, I never forgot what the lady said. After a few days at the hospital, I slowly recovered and renewed my faith. My love for God became stronger, including my love towards True Parents and all humankind.

A couple of months later, Father Moon announced a Matching and Blessing to take place in February 1977. Colonel Pak said to me, looking at my arm, "After a big indemnity comes a big blessing."

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Celebrations of the United States Bicentennial at which Reverend Moon gave speeches on "God's Hope for America" and "America and God's Will."

I truly experienced the love of God at the Matching and Blessing ceremony. When introduced to my husband, Dietrich, and looking deeply into his eyes, it was like a spiritual experience, going through a tunnel all the way to heaven and sensing God and His profound love.



Dietrich and Elisabeth after the Matching

God was looking at me through Dietrich. For these two days of celebration I truly experienced the kingdom of God on earth. I was smiling non-stop so that a few days later I even felt cramps from smiling too much. As the 74 Couples Blessing group at the New Yorker Hotel, we felt close to each other as true brothers and sisters. Tasting God's love through True Parents at the Blessing ceremony is the peak of one's life. Our couple was from Austrian-German and French backgrounds, and we were well aware of the enmities between our nations. We are working for world peace and God's kingdom on this earth, thus on the way all things need to be healed with lots of forgiveness, repentance and new beginnings.



Some of the 74 Couples including Dietrich and Elisabeth (upper left) with David S.C. Kim and his wife

## "Heavenly Father performed a miracle"

February 25, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

You are more in my thoughts than my studies and I still find it hard to fully get back to my class schedule. It feels to me that Heavenly Father performed one of His miracles to bring us two together. My whole outlook on life is changed since I became a married man. If I look at my four seminary brothers who also received Heavenly Father's blessing, I see many parallels in our struggle to find our way back to our studies. I am praying that God may show us how we can love each other in a supportive way so that we can fulfill our missions better than before.

One seminarian who got Blessed two years ago at the 1800 Couples Blessing<sup>4</sup> gave me his notes from the guidance they were given regarding the Blessing. I copied some of it and next time I will send you more.

I also add a letter for your father and mother and hope that they are also able to share our joy.

Much strength in your work and may you always feel Heavenly Father's love in your heart.

I send you my love.

In Their Names, your Dietrich

<sup>4</sup> The 1800 Couples Blessing took place on February 8, 1975 in Seoul, South Korea. Many of these couples served as missionaries to countries around the world.

# "Heavenly Father picked me to be your wife"

February 25, 1977

Dear Dieter,

Yesterday so many brothers and sisters told me wonderful things about you. Everyone who knows you seems to love you so much. There is warmth in my heart when I think Heavenly Father picked me to be your wife.



Dietrich and Elisabeth with Reverend and Mrs. Moon after the Blessing ceremony

A group of us went to the Japanese restaurant, and then we went to see the movie "Rocky." I try to keep the heavenly atmosphere of these past days. I feel your spirit with me, I will never forget.

We received another gift from Jean Pierre I wanted to open with you. But at the restaurant everyone wanted to know what is inside (another wonderful photo album). From Mr. & Mrs. Vincenz a beautiful box of candies, chocolates from the French Family, and one card with \$100 inside was not signed. Maybe you know about it.

I hope you could study yesterday and everything is going well in Barrytown. Today I could not pray at 12 as a customer came in at that time, but a little bit later. I will pray more for you. I am sure that you can do such great things for Heavenly Father.

May the spirit of God be with you every day. With all my love, Dieter.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "Everyone is excited about our marriage"

February 27, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you for the notes, and the letters for my parents which I return to you translated. My parents will be delighted to receive such letters! I added also some pictures that Jean Pierre took, maybe you will find some for your parents and if you feel to add also one of them with the letter for my parents. Jean Pierre will make some more copies of them.

Saturday night I found your letter so I could not buy a thank you card for the seminary today. I will send it to you on Monday. For the others I will wait for you Saturday and maybe we can add some pictures.

Friday I phoned the church HQ in France to tell the arrival time of M. Blanchard. In HQ everybody was so excited about our marriage. They already found pictures of you. Everyone sends their best wishes to you.

Dear Dietrich, A bientôt, all my love. In Their Name, Elisabeth

#### "Everything changed in my life"

February 28, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Tonight Christiane Coste and I went to Columbia University. There was a lecture and reception organized by "La maison Française de Columbia Université." We could make very good contacts. One guest will come Thursday.

This was the first time I visited an American university. I liked the atmosphere there very much. While I was walking by the garden to the library room I thought of you. Suddenly I liked the atmosphere of the university so much. I could feel how much hope our Heavenly Father must have with the students and professors, because all new ideas are coming from them.

Today I also try to understand more about you. I read several times your letter and the notes you sent me. Sometimes I think that my husband is a stranger, and sometimes I think that I have known you always. It is

like something or everything changed in my life. I feel a different person because of you. Through you I can discover something more about God.

Dear Dietrich, May God be with you and guide you during this month of March, March the beautiful month of spring. God bless you.

In the Beloved Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "Chosen by Heavenly Father to go this path"

March 2, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your loving and encouraging letters. I enjoyed the pictures very much, and "Le Petit Prince" book, and the thank you card for the seminary which I posted in the student lounge.

More and more I try to get back to my normal study schedule but I have to assure you, as hard as I try right now, I still find it difficult to set my mind on the books. The picture which Jean Pierre took after our Blessing is in front of me on my study desk and I read from your smile that I should try harder with my term papers and other studies.



Dietrich and Elisabeth after the Blessing ceremony

I think of you often and feel your pure spirit sometimes very intensely in my heart. In my prayers I feel very close to you and I ask Heavenly Father to guide us strongly in building our relationship. This was God's original plan to always have His love as the center of our lives and now He invites us to pioneer the mysteries of His love. I am so happy to be chosen by Heavenly Father to go this path with you, Elisabeth. Sometimes I hear the advice to come down from my cloud back to my studies, which I have to admit has a realistic aspect to it. Maybe my struggles consist now of trying to bring my seminary mission up to the cloud and, as you said it, to keep the Heavenly atmosphere which God initiated by giving us His Blessing. Often I have to say to myself: Let us patiently build what will last for eternity.

Dear Elisabeth, recently I walked into a book store and found the French and German language guides next to each other on the shelf. So I bought both of them and hope to bring you some joy by sending you the German edition of the same kind of course as I have now for French. My deeper language studies are planned for the summer but as time allows I will try to make a start in the near future.

May God's love always fill your heart and bind us together for a new life with Him. With all my affection, I remain.

In Their Names, Dieter

#### "We must do several things at the same time"

March 3, 1977

Dear Dietrich.

I am sorry if I disturbed you just now on the phone. I could feel many things were going on in Barrytown. In fact, I just needed to make sure for Saturday as Jean Pierre wanted to invite you for dinner.

Also I wanted to ask you several things concerning the different gifts we received (you didn't see all of them). Shall I write a card and sign for both of us or would you like that I wait until you see the gifts and we decide together what to write back to thank them?

Father spoke to the members at the World Mission Center<sup>5</sup> this morning at 6 o'clock. He emphasized that we must do several things at the same time. This means even if we are so busy in our offices we must witness. He will give each member 50 books and 50 tapes to lend to the guests.

As I told you my mother phoned me this morning. She said she has the feeling you are such a good person and my brother is very happy that you are from Austria because he always dreamed of visiting this country.

Did you receive news from your parents? Did you receive the pictures I sent to you?

Now I can type; my arm is much better and as I am not too busy if you want me to type something for your studies I will do it with great joy.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The New Yorker Hotel was often referred to as the World Mission Center since the offices of the Unification Church World Missions were housed there.

Have a very nice day.

With love, In the Name of Our Beloved True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

# "My heart was in Barrytown"

March 7, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Kathy just came to my room and brought us a wonderful framed picture of True Parents, and most wonderful yellow spring flowers. Clara was here too with another friend, so I opened the box of chocolates (from Evelyne and the French secretaries at the Paris center). I hope you will enjoy them too. The socks are from Genie Kagawa. Her husband is Japanese so she doesn't know too much about western sizes, but I hope they will fit you.

Tonight one of your professors was at the New Yorker and was looking for your wife! He was very nice and told me that I have such a good husband. You were such a sincere and good brilliant student, and also that you were handsome! He loves you very much, and I was delighted to hear all this.

I received a letter from my father. He said that he is with us with all his heart, that you will be like his son and the most important is that we will love each other for all our life. He also said that he cried a lot when he read the letter but this was of joy. I have the feeling that God wanted our parents also to feel some heavenly and deep joy for this special event.

Dearest Dietrich, please study hard for your exams. True Parents need you very much. Sunday was such a wonderful day. Today was busy at the showroom. I sang all day long inside myself the "Song of the Banquet" while keeping busy, and my heart was in Barrytown.

Dearest Dietrich, I wish you a very good day, thank you very much. And

"May the wind be always at your back,

May the sun shine warm upon your face,

May God hold you in the palm of His hand."

With all my love, In the Beloved Name of Our True Parents,  ${\it Elisabeth}$ 

## "We are tasting just a little bit of God's love"

March 8, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Before I plunge into my studies I want to thank Heavenly Father and you for this uniquely beautiful Sunday we were able to experience together. My heart is filled with indescribable joy when I think of you, and to realize that God led us together to be united for eternity is too much to be contained in my heart. I feel like overflowing and embracing the whole world. We are tasting just a little bit of God's love; how beautiful it will be when the whole world is able to fully welcome God's presence and to respond to His invincible love. The more I think of you, Elisabeth, the more I am convinced that it is only you who can be my wife, and that Heavenly Father protected us for all these years, before and after we joined the Family, that we finally would meet and live our lives together. As I told you on Sunday I feel way up on a cloud and in some way you are now more intensely present in my thoughts and feelings than ever.

Dr. Boslooper, our professor for Biblical Studies, congratulated me today for my wedding and he was kind of surprised to hear that we did not meet before. It is not so easy for the world to understand how Heavenly Father arranges our marriages. Actually in Dr. Boslooper's case there is much understanding and agreement about the way we perform restoration. In my feeling he is very close to the Family and to True Parents and he was the one who pioneered the way for other professors to come and to teach at the seminary.

In my studies I am hopeful to get everything done but also recognizing that a big load is waiting for me in this next two weeks. In Greek, World Religions and Marxism we have written finals, and for Marxism, World Affairs and Systematic Theology II we have to write term papers, which will probably take a longer time than March 18<sup>th</sup>. I thought in my heart: If my love for you, Elisabeth, is really centered on Heavenly Father I have to be able to work with all my strength and do better than before. Our purpose is to make God happy, which is only possible if I also channel all the excitement in my heart into a better performance of my study tasks.

Dear Elisabeth, much strength and joy in your mission. I send you all my love.

In Our True Parents Name, Dietrich

### "Share the happiness of God's Blessing"

March 11, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letter, the gifts and notebook. Please extend my gratitude to Evelyne, France and Genie Kagawa. There is so much more joy around if our brothers and sisters are able to share the happiness of God's Blessing. This week is nearly over and it still feels to me that we were together yesterday.

I feel you deeply present in my daily life and a certain warmth is always in my heart. To think of you is a never ceasing fountain of joy and I am deeply grateful to Heavenly Father that He led us together and gave us His Blessing.

Thank you for the notes about the Blessing from President Salonen. After reading the questions and answers I realized more clearly that with the Blessing comes also responsibility, and that God is counting on us that we may restore in all aspects His ideal of pure love. I feel in a new way like a pioneer. Never before in my life I felt such a deep

and lasting love, and never before the purpose of life became so clear to me. I pray that God can always be in the midst of our feelings for each other.

Today we had our first final exam in World Religions and I am happy that it is done. We had questions about Judaism, Zoroastrianism, Islam and Hinduism and I think it went fairly well. Now there is Greek on Monday and Marxism next Friday, besides two papers I have to write. You see I will be very busy, but thinking of you always gives me new energy and motivation.

In your daily work for Heavenly Father I wish you His strength and love.

I send you all my love.

In Our True Parents Name, Dietrich

## "Your words soften my heart"

March 12, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you for your card. Always your words soften my heart, and brighten my day.

This week was busy as we did several things at the same time: selling newspapers, witnessing, and our usual mission. Each day all departments of the World Mission Center meet for morning service. The New York leaders try hard to unite all the different missions together. After breakfast at 7:30 all brothers and sisters are all over New York. It is like the walls of the city are going to break, and New York will come back to Heavenly Father.

Thursday night I went again to the New World Forum<sup>7</sup> as two guests were coming. Eric is more and more positive and is coming for the special seminar there this week.

Evelyne – secretary at Paris HQ – sent us two bath towels, in a very beautiful cream color. Evelyne is one of my best friends in the Family. We worked together for a long time in Paris and had a very sincere relationship. Very often she came to me and asked "you did this and this, I don't understand you," so we used to explain together and in the midst of struggles we always finished as best friends.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> *The News World* newspaper, a daily newspaper founded in 1976 as a conservative alternative to New York City`s other daily papers.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> New World Forum was the name of a public lecture and discussion series on Unification-related topics in New York City.

Bernard is in America now, and Mike invited him and me for lunch tomorrow. Then I will go to see Eric.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> is the spiritual birthday of David. I tried to find which kind of card you would have bought. The choice was not easy. I realized I do not know your taste at all. I will give the card to you at Barrytown.

Dear Dietrich, if you write again to me before your exams, please write very short because your studies are much more important. Father is very serious about it.

Tonight I will pray to Heavenly Father that I will be able to serve you and love you the most for all eternity.

In the Name of Our Beloved True Parents, Elisabeth

### "You are encouragement and comfort to me"

March 14, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letter and card and photo. I was overwhelmed with joy that you bought such a beautiful card for David's spiritual birthday. I could not have chosen a better card. Probably our taste is quite similar. You are constantly an encouragement and also comfort to me if I feel that all these books are causing too much steam in my head, and too many ideas are scattering my mind.

Today it is already three weeks ago that we received Heavenly Father's blessing. These were the most meaningful weeks of my life and my heart jumps full of joy to know that someone like you will share this life, which God gave us, with me.

Yesterday I had a nearly sleepless night and went somewhat dizzy to my Greek exam today. I could have done better and I have to try harder next time. Thursday afternoon at 4 pm I will try to reach you by phone in the showroom. Then we can speak about our plans for the coming weekend.

I keep you in my heart and prayers. Have much joy in your mission and continue to fill the streets of New York City with God's smile. Trusting in His strength I send you my love.

In Their Names, always your Dietrich

### "I could see God in your eyes"

March 16, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Some days I felt very close to you, and some days I needed to look at your picture. Since the Blessing I felt that my spiritual world has changed, also True Father is nearer. Tomorrow will be already one month since True Father matched us together. When you looked at me for the first time, I could see God in your eyes. There was so much understanding, goodness, and very deep love. I was so moved at that moment. How happy God must feel when He is at the center of a family. The first chapter of Divine Principle is becoming more real. God can express Himself fully through a family, and that man during his lifetime must experience three kinds of love. It will be a wonderful adventure together to reach perfection!

Dear Dietrich, how are you? You must have had a tough time this week with your studies! I hope everything went well. I am impatient to know which university you will study at this fall. New Mexico looks like such a wonderful state. People there seem more open than New Yorkers. I remember one time Mr. Vincenz sent a postcard from Albuquerque. It looked a little bit like the Sahara Desert with very gorgeous and warm colors.

Concerning New York, there is still so much work to do in order to turn the hearts of the people. Father is very concerned about the results of the newspaper. This morning he arrived at the hotel at 5:30 am. I am sure that he shed so many tears in praying for this city.

Dear Dieter, A bientôt, with all my love, In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

#### "No longer a hermit but part of a whole"

March 23, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

We had a safe trip back to Barrytown and managed to defeat snow, wind and rain. It was very beautiful to have been together with you, and I feel we grew a little bit closer to each other. I think the atmosphere was somewhat more realistic maybe because of the study work I could do during my stay in New York.

Still I feel different when I am around you. No longer a hermit but part of a whole. If I am close to Heavenly Father I also feel your presence more strongly and think I already know you very well. I realize that our spiritual growth enters a new dimension. If I think too much of myself or am not centered on God's will then judgement comes more quickly. God's love is the strongest of all. He wants that we constantly respond to His love and this way always feel deep love for each other.

Now I have good news for both of us. My mother wrote me a very nice letter where she expressed her deep feelings and congratulations for our engagement. The reason my parents wrote so late was their holiday trip to Styria, 150 miles away from Vienna. My mother wrote this letter on March 14<sup>th</sup> and sometimes it takes 5 days to get the mail to Barrytown. I am very happy that my parents responded so positively. When we meet again I will translate the whole letter for you; but one sentence I will try right now (my mother wrote this in her letter): "Thank you for the photo of Elisabeth, she looks like a lovely and good hearted young lady and we hope to make her acquaintance as soon as possible."

I send you one photo from my parents, one from my sister (with her husband and children) and one recent photo

of my two little nieces. For a while we can show them around and later I would like to put them in our album.

Dear Elisabeth I am very proud of you.

With all my love I remain,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

#### "You are such a romantic husband!"

March 23, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

You are such a romantic husband! I already miss you, but I feel that our hearts are together.

Tonight at dinner we had deep talks about True Parents. One of the stories impressed me about Father's heart: When the children of True Parents were in Korea, sometimes Mother spoke to them on the phone. The separation was very long, and while Mother was talking with one of the children she started crying, and Father told her: "I hope those tears are not tears for our own children." Father loves mankind and us more than anything else because this is God's problem to solve. Another time, one child was crying while talking with Father, and Father told him that instead of crying he should take care of the younger children.

Dear Dietrich, I hope that we will be able to educate our children in such a way that they will bring peace to all nations. What is so wonderful concerning marriage in the Unification Church is that we do not have usual or common husbands, but the most extraordinary ones because they speak out for God. And what makes me the most happy is because this is God's choice. And always God gives a wonderful surprise.

I have many other things to tell you. I am very honored and pleased to be your wife. My heart is in Barrytown most of the time.

With all my love, in the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

### "I wish we could meet every day"

March 28, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

This is just a short note to say hallo. Thank you very much for your thoughtful letter and all the love that came with it. To have always Heavenly Father's point of view is our goal and daily challenge. God wants us to be most creative by building a family. I was very moved when you spoke about our True Parents and Father's advice to cry first for mankind and then for your own children.

Yesterday I spoke to Dan who received a letter from his wife, Pamela. Pamela wrote what a wonderful sister you are and how much you cared for her in moments of struggle and battle. I felt very happy and was proud of you. I met Pamela briefly in 1975 when she got ready for her foreign mission.

Today we had the first day of classes. Greek again and Mr. Maniatis laid it on us with full steam. My Marxism paper is finally finished and also the exam is over (I hope it was OK; it did not feel so difficult). Now I am working on one Theology paper for Dr. Richardson and on my Master's thesis. This will be a busy quarter but I feel a burst of energy and much hope to be on top of things this time. I wish we could meet every day even for a short while. I will ask around for Sunday if there is any transportation possible. The simplest would be if all the Blessed spouses get together and organize one car. Jan, Mrs. Masuda and you (maybe Mrs. Mikawa as well). I will phone you in your office Friday at 2 pm.

With all my love I remain, In our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "Father did a very good job!"

March 28, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you for your letter and pictures, your parents and sister look exactly as I thought they should be, very wonderful parents. I would like very much to see also a picture of your physical father.

How are you, dear Dieter, with your communism studies? I am getting interested about the subject as I know you study it.

Sunday morning David Kim spoke to the members at Belvedere.<sup>8</sup> He was very dynamic and made us laugh for two hours. He spoke a lot about Barrytown and the latest news there, also that all students have been accepted to enter universities, how much you study intellectual things and that David Kim had to go often to speak to all the students in order to inspire them with True Parents' vision. He also said that when he looks at the Barrytown students and the way Father matched them it was so exactly perfect because the strong point was the weak point in the partner and vice versa and that Father did a very good job!

After his speech I realized much about your way of life in Barrytown, and all Sunday I felt your spirit very strongly. Also your very warm heart.

<sup>8</sup> The Belvedere estate in Tarrytown, NY was purchased by the Unification Church in 1972. For many years Reverend Moon spoke there to members on Sunday mornings, the first of the month, and holy days, beginning at 5 am. When Reverend Moon was traveling, church leaders, such as David S.C. Kim, would speak in his place.

It is still such a new thing to be married. During the day, especially when there is much going on in New York, or pressure, I remember you and I become more quiet and peaceful.

Saturday I went fundraising in Long Island. It was a good experience!

Dear Dietrich, have a good day and a good week. Happy to see you again soon.

With love, in the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

### "Father came 'out of the blue sky"

March 31, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Tonight I was longing to come back to the World Mission Center and maybe get a letter from you. It was so nice to hear from you then! I miss you every day.

Father came this morning at 6:30 to the World Mission Center and spoke until 12:00, mostly about the danger of Communism. Then he said he had a solution to it. Most important is to trust what he said and just do. So he assigned members in pairs to be responsible for different areas of New York. We have to visit homes and bring Divine Principle books and tapes and make friends with different families. Father emphasized to do our usual mission until 5 pm and then go to visit families. And not to worry if results do not come right away, but continue to do it, then the entire spirit world will work so hard and help. He emphasized also unity as the key to success.

We were so surprised to see Father this morning as nobody knew he was coming. He just came "out of the blue sky" into the room where everybody was waiting for the morning service to start. Even Mother did not know where Father was, and they called from East Garden to know if we had seen Father!

Father mentioned that he spoke yesterday to Barrytown seminarians for seven hours!

Eric is doing fine. He learnt something about Reverend Moon's life. He is very open and became closer to the Family.

In the showroom nothing happens. I have the feeling God wants me to search more what I can do for this business and how to make things happen!

I send all my love to you, In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

### "I felt the 'magic and mystical' power of God"

April 3, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

I missed you all day long, but also was very happy you could go back to Barrytown quickly as I know how much studies you have for this quarter.

We met with our small team of five people at 43<sup>rd</sup> Street<sup>9</sup> before going witnessing in our area. Shoji and I went door to door and in the street. It was very positive this afternoon, especially in one bar we could sell many

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, a building owned by and housing the headquarters of the Unification Church in the United States.

newspapers and the people were positive towards Reverend Moon. We already feel so much the work of spirit world.

Shoji asked so many questions and speaks a lot, which is unusual for Japanese brothers and sisters. This afternoon he kept me talking about the Blessing and True Parents.

Tonight Inge gave me a short report about Saturday's morning service (I was in New Jersey) and said that President Salonen talked about what Father directed to the New York leaders the previous day: That witnessing in our area in New York is our internal mission and our usual mission is external, and that our central figure<sup>10</sup> is the person who is responsible for our witnessing team; that two days a week all New York members and the New York area will attend morning service in the New Yorker in order to focus on this witnessing action.

Now this is another new thing and it will certainly take some time until we get organized and harmonized with everybody! Father emphasized also very much about prayer life, and through this God will direct us.

Dear Dietrich, when I heard that you were there in New York on Saturday night, this was the most wonderful surprise of the week. I was so happy to meet you! I felt the "magic and mystical" power of God.

I hope you are well, and send to you all my love, In Their Name, *Elisabeth* 

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> The term "central figure" is used to denote the person in charge of a particular mission. This letter explains that the leader of their witnessing team is to be considered each member's central figure, and not the person in charge of any other mission work in which the member participates.

### "A fountain of joy for our Heavenly Father"

April 5, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

What a meaningful Sunday morning we could spend together. I am very grateful to Heavenly Father that He gives us the chance to get to know each other more deeply. You are such a precious wife and every time we spend some time together life looks more meaningful and I feel much encouragement.

Just now I finished the paper for Dr. Richardson's Theology II class and feel a new start for the new term. Most of the time in this coming three months I will spend on my Master's paper and on preparation for the comprehensive exam.

I received a heartfelt picture postcard from your mother. When I read it I could feel a warm and loving spirit, even if I could not understand every word.

I think of you and your hard work in New York City: Selling newspapers, office work and taking care of spiritual children and in all of these I want to be together with you in spirit.

Let us be a fountain of joy for our Heavenly Father. Dear Elisabeth, I keep you in my prayers and wish you a fulfilling week in all your endeavors to advance God's Kingdom.

With all my love I remain, In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "Sunshine on my shoulders"

April 5, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It was like sunshine on my shoulders last Sunday being with you. I did not notice the time passing by. In the afternoon I went with a Japanese brother to the area which we are responsible for in New York City. It was a good impression. People looked nice and the area is rather quiet. Yesterday evening we went back there and met a good person who just bought the newspaper in the morning and was very interested about it.

My mother called again this morning and as a good surprise she said she would like so much to come to America as my brother and his wife intend to come also! So as soon as we know when we will have our civil marriage ceremony she can arrange the travel and stay maybe one week, either the first week of July or the end of September. I think they will adapt their plan for this summer to come to NYC.

What about your sister and husband? It will be so wonderful if they could have a chance to understand a little bit more of our movement in coming to USA. Being in another country it is much more easy to be open, and I feel they will be such great value for God. Maybe they will come too with your parents, it will be a huge family all together!

Dear Dietrich, I think you are the kind of husband each woman would like to marry.

I send to you all my love and look forward to see you again soon,  ${\it Elisabeth}$ 

### "We have eternity before us"

April 10, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

This was a rather quick departure after Father's talk and I want to apologize for all the commotion because of my certifications for the documents. It was nice that you introduced me to Cheryl and I regret not talking longer to her. Next time we will have a more peaceful get together. As soon as Mike finished his work on my documents I thought I could still find you if the bus had not left. But you had left already and I really felt lonely at that moment. But then I remembered our Father, how he continuously sacrifices for us and that it is our part to learn how to be a public person and to put God's will before our own. I felt comforted and very united with your mission for this day to go out and find Father's children. Father gave us such a strong resurrection talk in the morning, so it is now our part to transform this energy into our daily work.

I felt especially close to you this weekend, Elisabeth, and our little night shift behind the typewriter brought us somewhat closer. You moved my heart when you told me on the bus that we have eternity before us, so we don't have to run against time in case we should miss out to see each other as often as we could have.

Now it is already Monday April 11<sup>th</sup> and in my heart I celebrate our 7 weeks since we received Heavenly Father's blessing. Truly time flies by so rapidly and we have to use every day very preciously. Yesterday evening most of the seminarians, including myself, saw the movie "Jesus" on TV and I was very impressed about the last part of this production. I realized again the suffering heart of our Father in Heaven, but on the other side the tremendous joy and

hope which springs forth in His heart if He watches the persistent work of our True Parents.

It is always a brand new feeling for me to realize that we are attending the Messiah right now, just as Jesus' disciples did 2,000 years ago. I was especially moved by Peter's speech when he told the disciples that the crucifixion was the result of their failure to witness to the Messiah. The Romans did not know who Jesus was, and the Pharisees had only vague feelings about Jesus, but the disciples lived with him and took part in the presence of his spirit. Today I see how much patience and forgiveness we need for those who accuse our True Parents out of ignorance, and how much more dedicated and convinced we have to be in the defense of our True Parents in order to restore the failure of Jesus' disciples.

Dear Elisabeth, you have a firm place in my heart and I feel peace, tranquility and encouragement coming from you. Heavenly Father wants to tell me many things through you so I will continue to work in order to reach an open heart. Next Monday is Parents' Day<sup>11</sup> and I look forward with great joy to see you then.

I greet you with all my love,
In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> One of the four major Unification Church holy days: God's Day, Parents' Day, Children's Day, and Day of All Things.

## "I discover your country through you"

April 14, 1977

Dear Dieter,

It was so wonderful yesterday to receive your long letter! Sometimes I ask Heavenly Father why you are such a wonderful husband, full of attention! I am so surprised about Austrians; I discover your country through you.

More and more I understand how God was longing to love man and to be loved by man. Until He met with True Parents His heart must have been so bitter because He could not experience love. One night, it was a few days before the matching but still I did not know about it, I was feeling that I was six years in the Unification Church but it was feeling like 6,000 years! And for a short moment I could understand a little bit how God felt. It is like I waited for you for 6,000 years!

I meet nice people in my area, always they touch my heart. This is the moment during the day where I feel God closest. Also here for my work it is like something is going to happen. I spoke with Mrs. Vincenz on the phone about it. She is very understanding.

So I will see you for Parents' Day.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "You are every day my source of deep joy"

April 20, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

After our somewhat dramatic meeting on Monday I am now safely back into my usual study schedule. I hope you enjoyed deeply the celebration of Parents' Day in the evening. I heard many beautiful things about the program and my comfort is that you can tell me more about it when we meet again. I feel sorry about the inconvenience I caused for you and know that I have to be more careful next time, especially to watch out for a heavy Korean meal with much kimchi on an empty stomach. With your prayers and care I felt completely restored the next morning when we met with David.

Yesterday our Father was here in Barrytown and spoke to us for about three hours. This time we gathered in the student lounge in a more informal setting and our Father spoke deeply about the world situation, the eventuality of war, and our responsibility when we leave the seminary. In some way we try now in Barrytown to organize ourselves for newspaper selling and witnessing. Probably Red Hook and Kingston will be the areas for our selling teams. We still don't know how it will work out with our studies, but at least we start an initiative to inherit the spirit of seriousness but also joy in the fulfillment of our mission, as we see it exemplified by our New York brothers and sisters. Father gave us more inspiration by talking about his hope and trust in our leadership abilities. If the seniors go out into the field in July, the situation for the restoration of America will be most urgent.

With this letter I send you a letter for your mother. Please if you could translate it into French like you did before and send it back to Barrytown. Also one article by Nicholas Von Hoffman, which appeared in the main newspaper in Kingston, is worth noticing in the midst of media persecution. I hope to bring you some joy with the small photo developed in our do it yourself photo laboratory in Barrytown.

Dear Elisabeth, you are every day my source of deep joy and happiness. Let us give our best to make our Heavenly Father happy.

With all my love, In Our True Parents Name, *your* Dietrich

#### "Cut down the phone bill"

April 23, 1977

Dear Elisabeth.

This is my first letter to you on the machine. I am not yet used to it and it will take me some time to make no mistakes. On the other hand, I realize how important it is to be a good typist. I will try now to type as many things as possible in order to improve this skill.

I was very happy when I spoke to you on the phone. After the phone call was over I realized that we spoke more than twenty minutes and the thought came into my mind that we could choose another time, which would be after 11 o'clock in the evening, so we could help to cut down the phone bill. If it is possible to reach you in the New Yorker without too much trouble, please let me know. After this stingy thought, I will move on and tell you more what is happening here in Barrytown.

We are very much blessed with the many visits of our Father here in Barrytown. Friday afternoon Father came and went fishing on the Hudson River. We had a nice fellowship and watched Father while he was pulling one fish after

another out of the Hudson. Finally, Father shared dinner with us and since a long time this was the closest I had ever been with Father. We kindled a large bonfire and sang some songs, and then Father listened to some reports and gave us a few inspirations.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "Our purpose is the ideal family"

April 24, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Maybe you do not know, but I am very happy to be married with you. In our everyday different actions, I always would like to be with you and share together.

This morning after Father's speech one guest from my area came to the morning service at  $43^{\rm rd}$  Street. She is a wonderful black lady with a very large heart and she came to Yankee Stadium. She had the most original hat you have ever seen on earth! I kept looking at this hat. She was so much united with it, and she was very impressed by the center and the lecture.

Yesterday night we heard a report concerning the New York leaders meeting with Mr. Kamiyama on Father's directions. He said how important it is for restoration to accomplish these three points: mission, 360 homes, 30 newspapers/day.

Most important for New York now is first our mission, then 360 homes, then 30 newspapers a day. The number 36 is very important. Abraham changed the direction a little bit, and God could not accept the offering.

The important point is loyalty and attitude. Our attitude must be absolute. Abraham struggled for three days when he went to offer his son, but then he already offered his son in his own mind. For us, external results may be something different but the most important is our attitude, most important to have internal unity. What I am doing now will affect our future, our children, wife or husband. If the foundation of faith and substance is good,

there will be wonderful children. Our purpose is the ideal family. We must set the right conditions for the foundation of faith and foundation of substance. If not, it is more difficult to establish the ideal family. In the second seven-year course we must establish four holidays like True Parents. If you lay a good foundation, the seven-year course is OK, if it is a failure then it becomes twenty-one years.

Three spiritual children represent the fallen archangel. You are like the mediator between them and God. Without having spiritual children, you cannot really have physical children.

This morning Father spoke about the "Road of Religion and Dispensation." He emphasized very much that we must be courageous and strong. We must be not only men of conviction, but men of action.

Next Sunday is the first of May. If you think you can spend the day in New York it will be very good since Blessed couples have a prayer condition each month on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> with Lady Dr. Kim at the request of True Mother. It will be at 7 pm. And next time I hope to go to Barrytown. I feel there is still so much to see and understand there.

Dear Dietrich, I am looking forward to seeing you. Have a good week and God bless you. Thank you so much again for your wonderful picture.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "Our ideal is the highest man could ever conceive"

April 26, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letter and the translation. I liked your little report about your activities and found the explanation of the ideal family very profound. It comes more and more into my mind that this is God's ultimate desire that we are able to build ideal families, and I find myself loving you more deeply with my growing understanding of God's ideal.

I see these next seven years of our lives as a period of breakthrough, that we together may feel God's heart and overcome all the fallen notions and feelings in our character. Our ideal is the highest one man ever could conceive of, and it is up to us to apply it in our daily struggles for purity and closeness to God. I feel much more motivated if I think beyond my own life for the sake of our children and the future grandchildren to come. If we are able to leave God's footprint on this earth by serving our True Parents, this I would call true happiness.

Many wonderful things happened since we saw each other last Tuesday. Father was, for various periods of time, here in Barrytown every day. Tuesday evening, he came and spoke to use in the student lounge for about three hours, then he left at 4 am the next morning to check out a new fishing site for trout. Thursday, he came fishing on the Hudson River and we had a most wonderful and heartwarming fellowship with him. Father shared dinner with us on the shore and we had a big bonfire. Friday, Father came again and surprised us with a huge fishing net. We all helped together to assemble it and it was so much work that

it took the whole night (for a few of us) and the whole next day (for most of us).



Dietrich and other seminarians making nets with Father Moon

Saturday, Father helped again to finish the nets and here I think I was the closest to him I have been in my whole life for a long period of time. For about three hours Father worked with four of us seminarians (I was one of them) to start the first steps in assembling the nets. The only thing which was on Father's mind at this point was finishing the nets. It was a deep experience to work so closely with him.

Sunday, we had Harvey Cox with us in the morning and in the afternoon Father was with us again to lead our actual fishing activities. It would be too much to tell you here in detail what happened. Only one thing I want to tell you: It was very dramatic and earth shaking. I will tell you more when we meet again. I am looking forward to being with you on Sunday and already feel excitement in my heart to see you.

I send you my love,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "I'll walk in the rain by your side"

May 2, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

The gold and red paper is the gift for your mother, and the gold one for your sister. Usually we would send them simply in one big envelope. Mother's Day is May 8<sup>th</sup> in America and in France in June, so I don't know for Austria!

The prayer meeting was very inspiring Sunday with Blessed sisters. Afterwards Lady Doctor Kim spoke and explained some traditions for Blessed couples. She also spoke about Father's early life after the founding of the Unification Church in 1954.

A lot is happening now in Barrytown! With so many visits by Father, and the leaders conference.

After the picnic on Sunday, Sandra drove us back to New York. I was thinking of you all the time this afternoon. In the car we learned a most beautiful song by John Denver: "I'll walk in the rain by your side." It is indeed a very beautiful song which reminded me of you this afternoon of a sunny Sunday.

Dearest Dietrich, may God be with you and guide you each day.

With all my love, In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

#### "Our next step is to be fishers of men"

May 3, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

When I came back Sunday afternoon I found in my mailbox your surprise with the nuts and candies from Father's table. Thank you very much for your thoughtfulness.

Sunday afternoon and yesterday were under the influence of a very special fishing expedition whereby Father himself took the lead. All the state leaders were with us and we all tasted Hudson River water when we laid out the nets. Barrytown looked like a refugee camp with mud and old clothes all over the place.

Yesterday evening was the great moment when we had an extremely low tide after all the nets were secured during a very high tide (due to a constellation close to full moon). About 100 brothers and sisters (state leaders and seminarians) got into the muddy bay and all we had to do was to catch the slow moving fish with our bare hands. It worked perfectly and we filled bag after bag and bucket after bucket with fish. Finally, we counted 156 really big carp and a whole truckload full of small carp and herring. 90% of the fish we brought to the nearby pond and those all stayed alive; the rest went to the kitchen. We were all very excited and till 1 am we discussed our fishing experience with our Father. Father was very happy and we had several cheers of "Mansei" to indicate victory for heaven. I felt a symbolic significance behind our fishing experience, since our next step is to be fishers of men.

Yesterday at 6 pm I phoned home and finally was able to speak to my mother and father in Vienna. I was very hopeful for a positive response since my mother wrote me a nice letter which I translated to you about a month ago. But it was a very disappointing conversation, and I realized again how far away my parents are from objectively understanding our movement and God's plan for our time. Another reason my parents will not come to America is that my father cannot fly longer distances in the plane because of his health.

We had a big argument on the phone and it felt like an eruption of four years of bad media coverage and publicity for our Family in Europe. In the end at least we wished each other well, and I felt how much more patience I need with my parents. The next time we meet I will tell you more. If I think of you I feel strong comfort and encouragement.

With all my love,

ITPN, your Dietrich

### "Love has the greatest power"

May 9, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It was so wonderful to spend this Sunday with you in Barrytown! I hope to develop my love for you deeper and stronger in the future. I will be able to heal your headache right on the spot, because it is said that love has the greatest power!

This one day was like one week as so many emotions happening in our hearts. I really felt at the same time that I was your sister, your mother and your wife. I always like to be with you, and each time I see you I become closer to you and understand you more.

Dear Dietrich, may God be with you and guide you for your important mission. I pray to Him that I can be a good wife to you.

With all my love, in the Name of Our Beloved True Parents, *Elisabeth* 



Elisabeth visiting Dietrich in Barrytown

#### "Last Sunday was a gift from Heaven"

May 11, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letter, which moved me deeply. You are right, last Sunday was a gift from Heaven for both of us. It is not easy for me to put down on paper what goes on in my heart, I only know that I love you more deeply than I ever realized before. I am grateful to our Heavenly Father that He gives us the chance to build one more heavenly family and that we are able to know Him more deeply and feel his love by understanding each other more thoroughly. In some way, it is still like a dream for me to be married to you, and I feel strongly it is our task to make the dream come true. As long as God is not fully happy also our happiness will be limited, so I still try to convert all the love and inspiration I received from Heavenly Father through you into more dedication in my mission and personal growth. In some way, you are also like a mirror to me. I realize my shortcomings more clearly and want to strive harder to be a good husband to you.

God wants so much that all of His creation is filled with His love, even that we are carried away by His love. But now we are still living in a reality which is separated from His ideal, and I see the tremendous task ahead of us to pull the world around us to this new level of His love which we are allowed to experience, even if it is just to a small degree. In spirit I am with you on the streets of New York City and hope that you are able to always feel the inspiration.

Monday, it rained all day here in Barrytown and it turned into a heavy snowfall. Yesterday was stormy weather too, and today we have brilliant sunshine again, like it was on Sunday. Spring is still fighting its way through, and I feel uplifted if sunshine wins.

Most of my time I spend with my Master's paper and enjoy it more and more. I hope it can be useful in the scholarly world and that it contributes to make the Divine Principle more understandable from the perspective of the Reformation period.

Dear Elisabeth, have a happy day. My heart is always close to yours and I keep you in my prayers. May Heavenly Father embrace you with his love.

I am yours, In True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "I will always carry you in my heart"

May 16, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

What shall I say, words are not enough to express how happy I am with you. This past weekend was again a gift from heaven and I am thinking how to utilize all the precious love which Heavenly Father allows us to experience to be more effective in our missions.

I received several compliments about you from some seminarians, and all underline what a nice couple we are. It makes me happy again if others also feel happy about us.

This week we have several new professors with us who are teaching us about their respective fields. Dr. Boslooper organized this conference-type gathering, and we all feel uplifted to have so many renowned scholars among us. Even if I am supposed to study very hard this coming six weeks, I will always carry you in my heart and do even better with you together.

Love is truly the most powerful, like a wild fire, and it is our task to tame it and bring it back to our Heavenly Father. First of all, we fall in love with God and then we fall in love with each other. You are teaching me how I am able to fall in love with God and more deeply understand His heart.

Dear Elisabeth, have a very adventurous week and many new experiences with our Heavenly Father. Wherever you walk He walks with you and I join both of you.

Desiring to be an instrument of His love and to make Him happy by loving you.

I remain,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "We are walking on the sea of hell"

May 18, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It is always with surprise that I discover it is already Thursday! Yesterday I received your letter. It was very sweet!

We went to have some Coke with Mr. Blanchard and he gave us some news from Barrytown and Father's conference with the international leaders. All the IOWC<sup>12</sup> teams arrived now, and yesterday they sold all the newspapers. None were left by 5 pm! Mr. Vincenz will be in the Bronx area and Mr. Pepper in Queens.

Yesterday Col. Pak gave the morning service and spoke about Peter walking on the sea. As long as he was focused on Jesus he could walk, but he became scared and sank. Also for us, he said, as long as we look to True Parents, we can make miracles, but if we start to look aside, we realize that we are walking on the sea of hell and also become scared. Most important is to focus on True Parents.

Spirit world is working very hard in my area. Each day, I spend some time to speak about Father, his life, etc. to several people who became so intrigued about him and the Unification Church. One of my customers is Greek and used to rent a room to Leslie's husband, so he is very positive toward the church.

Reverend Moon's speaking tours across the United States.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> International One World Crusade (IOWC) was formed in 1972 as an evangelical organization. Mobile teams were organized to witness and prepare for

Dearest Dietrich, I wish you very wonderful days in Barrytown. All your knowledge will be so important in the near future because most of the people will accept the teaching of the Unification Church. Also, if the people get the highest education then we may influence them.

God bless you and be always with you.

With all my love, In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

### "Perfect love has the power to unite enemies"

May 22, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

These last two days were like two weeks, as Father spoke Saturday at the New Yorker and Sunday at Belvedere, long talks and very meaningful.

Specially Saturday Father was so serious. All day long then I felt such a heavy burden. He said that God sent us to Reverend Moon and Father's responsibility was to make of us historical persons, and to discipline us. Father wants you to be completely liberated from chains. He wants to discipline you. You must do two missions at the same time. God gave Father direction and Father gives it to you. If you obey and follow 100%, no problem. Father asked you to go to your area to sell newspapers, not in the subway, that is disobedience. Those people do not deserve honor from the church.

Also Father was particularly severe when he spoke about Blessed couples. I could feel very much that in order to save America, and to give absolutely everything to the people, God had to sacrifice the ones He loves the most. Later, the people cannot accuse that Father or Unification Church members did not do enough to save them. He was so severe with us because of His deep love for all mankind. We cannot relax or be happy as long as there are some brothers and sisters suffering. He said also that Blessed couples should not become a burden. If you have a baby, that is not an excuse not to sell the newspaper. Saturday and Sunday should be dedicated for witnessing. Those who do not do that should not stay, you cannot pursue your own goal. Father wants victorious men and women.

After the prayer meeting with Blessed sisters, I met Marie France. Her eyes were all damp with tears. She was worried how to accomplish Father's will. She thought that physically she cannot make it. Then we had a long give and take and she felt better. I think it is really difficult for everybody, but we cannot complain. Instead, if we give support to each other and love, the way is joyful even if difficult. If we are in the time of war, we cannot expect anything to be easy.

Also today Father felt everybody was a little depressed after such a strong talk, so his topic was "Happy Unification Church members." An unhappy person is anyone who can't receive or give love. If a woman (or a man) is unhappy it is because there is noone to have give and take with. If there is no circuit of give and take we cannot enjoy happiness.

Love is the force of unity bringing subject and object into one. Once unity is formed, their value becomes the same. The characteristics of man are shared by woman and vice versa. Through love, value becomes equal. Perfect love has the power even to unite enemies.

The greatest life is the pursuit of love. Why are Unification Church members happy? Because of the possibility to reach God, reach His love and practice love in a circuit with God. God without man is unthinkable. Love needs an object. Father received much persecution but is happy. He feels the love of God in his bones.

Unless Adam becomes first one with God he cannot be in the subject position. Eve also must love God first and be in the object position. Love comes from God.

Man is visible God. In spirit world when you call God, the answer does not come from above but within your mind. Women manifest the feminine side of God. In spirit world love is serving as air. So you must know how to breathe love.

There are two kinds of love: for others and for self. If you want to get married, then do you want to give love or take love? (give) Then when it comes back it comes back with addition (give and take). The person who keeps something for himself, it will come back with minus.

This afternoon I saw Eric and lent him some tapes and then went to my area. I think very much of your ancestors because so many people there are from Hungary, Czechoslovakia, etc.

Tonight I read from the book of Blessing. I think you received one too? The article about change of blood lineage is really deep. We are truly blessed by God. It is such a privilege and honor, and now God's expectation for us is truly great.

Dear Dietrich, may you have a truly very happy week and God be with you all the time. I am with you every day in spirit. I am so happy to be married with you. I feel I receive so much love from you. This morning just before pledge service<sup>13</sup> I dreamed of you, so I felt very close to you. When I first came to the Family I tried to imagine God because I could not understand how can God be invisible, so I was thinking of God as being a tall young blond man, and in my imagination He was even like you, if I remember well.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Pledge service is an early morning prayer meeting at the beginning of which Unification Church members recite a "Pledge," a promise to work to establish God's kingdom.

## "You are the source of my inspiration"

May 24, 1977

Dear Elisabeth.

Today I received your letter and you touched my heart by it. You are right, our mission is serious and our Father has this most difficult job to push us forward, and on the other hand to comfort us with his fatherly love. I too enjoyed very much the booklet about the Blessing.

Father visits us here in Barrytown quite frequently, and we spent several hours to produce more nets. Today I spent the whole day rescuing the fish from our little pond, since the water there drained too quickly. At least 300 fish, mainly carp, had to be transported to our swimming pool. It was a rough job and many times we stood up to our hips in the mud. Finally, we managed to rescue all the fish. Not a single one was left in the pond, although maybe 100 of them did not survive their moving adventure. Father knows how to create situations where we are able to prove the Principle and where we learn to grow closer to each other.

My studies move along well and Dr. Lewis enjoyed the conclusion of my translation. He will take it home and improve it. I am writing a paper on two counseling methods, which I enjoy very much, and also more comments need to be written for the Master's paper. Greek always tests my perseverance and memory, and the comprehensive exam moves closer speedily and the professors involved are now helping us prepare for it adequately.

I just finished a letter to one spiritual child and hope that I am able to introduce you to her one day. I am still struck with surprise and deep joy when I think more deeply about you being my wife. All I know about you up to now is that you have a wonderful heart which loves Heavenly Father and our True Parents deeply. You are the source of my

inspiration to participate in God's love more fully. May God protect you and guide you.

I embrace you with His love,
In Our True Parents Name, *Dietrich* 

# "I always dreamed of a husband exactly like you"

May 29, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Time with you is going so fast, I can't believe that the day is already gone. Thank you so much for this sunny and wonderful day. I feel so much joy being with you. I always dreamed of a husband exactly like you. I am very much touched how much God loves me, because of this blessing, and feel so concerned how to comfort His heart, and bring many children back to him. Also it is such a new experience being with you that I forgot everything else.

I am very grateful to you for your deep heart and love to so many people. May God always guide you and protect you in your way.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "In spirit I am with you"

June 2, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letters and the quick action for my father's birthday. Your letter is fine and I think you can write it as it is in French. I am not sure about the little package but assume that it is for my father. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Have fun with all the photos and our new album. In spirit I am with you and it will be much joy to see all the photos in the album.

We spent two meaningful days together again, and I am over and over grateful to Heavenly Father that He chose you as my wife. All I have to do now to bring Him and you joy is to study hard.

With all my love I am always,

ITPN, your Dietrich

P.S. Please excuse my pioneer style letter.

# "It is very beautiful to be your wife"

June 3, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

The package is for you. It came from my mother and arrived this afternoon.

Yesterday I could have a deep conversation with Eric. We discussed the Divine Principle tape he had listened to. I could feel the work of God in his heart. In teaching someone, we also discover God again and His joy toward new future spiritual children.

After the departure of the guests, we heard a report from the leaders' conference. Father emphasized two points: to get more knowledge of DP, especially state leaders should be able to discuss with professors, theologians etc.; prayer is most essential, we should make a list of all our guests or good contacts and pray at least 120 times for them.

On April  $1^{st}$  Father also spoke about prayer, and yesterday night I read about it. It was so inspiring.

Dear Dietrich, it is very beautiful to be your wife. May God be with you!

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "You are more and more part of me"

June 6, 1977

Dear Elisabeth.

It was beautiful that we could spend some hours of fishing together. It was a very different, more "down to earth" experience and I enjoyed every minute together with you. After we departed from our lunch place I helped to clean up the dishes and carried more things into the kitchen while you and the IOWC listened to Father on Father's Trail.14

Dear Elisabeth, you are more and more part of me and I pray that we together bring Heavenly Father joy and comfort. I will join you at 12 noon for a short prayer this week.

With all my love, I remain,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Father's Trail is a path on the Unification Theological Seminary property

# "Fishing in Barrytown was such a wonderful experience"

June 6, 1977

Dear Dietrich.

Fishing in Barrytown was such a wonderful experience. All the beautiful orange fish felt so happy to be caught by you. I hope to go again and catch some next time!

I thought about Toronto, and I will be very happy to help the church center there. Do you intend to write to Martin Porter after speaking with David Kim? When I studied DP in Milano, I met Martin several times.

My mother called this morning. She was so sad that she decided not to come in July to America for our marriage, but so moved by our happiness, especially by your last letter. But she left open the possibility that she may come another time, at the end of September (even to Canada) or next year. She did not want to come by herself, and to make such travel for a few days. So when she comes she will stay longer, and she will come with Angel. Maybe my cousin Josette will be in New York for July 2<sup>nd</sup>. She is an air hostess with Air France and will do her best to come.

Dietrich, do you have a tape recorder? If so, if you could lend me it for one week or two I would like to listen to the Divine Principle tapes.

Saturday and Sunday Father spoke about "Harmony" and "Our Pride." Since I am in America I receive a brand new education from True Parents. Each speech is so precious in order to give testimony in the future about the messiah.

Dietrich, my heart is with you and full of joy and love since the first time we met. And each time I see you again I feel more love and more joy. May God be with you.

In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

# "God has such hope with you"

June 14, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Sunday afternoon was so short but so precious being with you. Henri was very curious about marriage in our church and our ideal, I think he was very happy about this trip to Barrytown seminary.

The atmosphere was very good in your study room, I wanted to stay more there with you. I am thinking very much about all your studies and pray for your success. I am always seeing in you a very great potential. I am sure you can do wonderful things for God and mankind. And God has such hope with you. God loves you very much. Me too. See you soon again.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "You are my sunshine every day"

June 18, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

When the night comes, the atmosphere of the city becomes more peaceful, and my heart feels closer to your heart. Also, during the day, through the hell of the city and the bitter words I hear, there is always your love. You are my sunshine every day. Each day there are many things I want to discuss with you, but then when I see you, I simply feel wonderful and I don't know any more what I wanted to talk with you about.

When you finish your exams, maybe you should see Dietmar, the Austrian brother. He knows everything about curing people with herbal tea. He studied acupuncture, and I am sure he can advise you on some good herbal tea to drink for your stomach. He is working at the News World and because he is busy you need an appointment to see him.

I am curious to know which kind of books you study, as I do not know anything yet. Dear Dietrich, I wish you good luck for your exams.

May God be always with you. I miss you very much, and send to you all my love.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "What a precious wife Heavenly Father gave me"

June 20, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

In the midst of studying I think of you and I always feel peaceful and happy when your face appears in my mind. Many times I feel that I still do not realize what a precious wife our Heavenly Father gave to me. After thousands of years where we caused grief to His heart and made Him sorrowful, He is answering us today with His blessing and abundant love. May we be able to learn this lesson for our own lives: Whenever we feel not loved or hurt, that we may be able to answer with the heart of a parent like God did throughout the ages.

Dear Elisabeth, the more I love you the more I realize how lonely our Heavenly Father was, and how much joy He could have felt with man. But now we are able to make our hearts a dwelling place for Him by following the example of our True Parents, and engaging every day in a brand new way in the adventure of His love.

May your heart always be filled with His presence and be of good courage. I am looking forward to seeing you again soon.

With all my love,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "I am always thinking of you"

June 24, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letters and the "goodies." I hope that my ring arrives in time. So far, everything went OK with the exams and I have to work hard to get my Master's paper done by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Father spoke to us on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and all seminarians will go fundraising over the summer. We will leave on July 1<sup>st</sup> in the evening, so far as I know. Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of June would be the date for our legal marriage. I will phone you in the showroom to tell you more about transportation and what we are supposed to do. I will phone you Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> at 2 pm.

I am always thinking of you. May you receive God's guidance and deep love wherever you go. My prayers and my love are with you.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

# "My life has no meaning without you"

July 5, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

These few days with you were so wonderful. I think I will remember them all my life!

This summer will pass quickly I am sure, and soon we will see each other again. Please tell me where I can write to you this summer if you know already.

When I am with you, the atmosphere around is higher and brighter, so I want always to feel your presence in spirit. This is quite a new exercise and there are many walls to break through.

I trust you very much. My life has no value without you, and I will prepare my heart to meet you again.

Have a successful summer, make God happy and comforted. I know you can do that so well.

ITN, love Elisabeth

# "I know it will be a challenge"

July 6, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

I hope you had a very good trip and that you are now loving Nebraska and Omaha. It must be very beautiful. Traveling always opens our mind and our heart and we can receive much inspiration.

I am packing too! Tonight I will go to New Jersey. I am happy anyway that something is more clear for me. I

plan to come to New York once or twice a week to follow up my contacts.

I know it will be a challenge. Now I am preparing myself to really love each one of the people there and serve them, as this is the teaching of Our True Parents' heart. I know that this experience will purify my heart, as it is the difficult path!

When I think of you I can do things I thought I would never be able to do. These last weeks I felt closer to you, and more and more I understand you.

Dear Dietrich, I pray that you will bring heaven in Omaha and fight out Satan and all evil things. We have such a responsibility to bring and experience divine and heavenly love. This is a real challenge in this old world, and to feel like a parent towards our young brothers and sisters.

Good luck for your Master's paper and mission of witnessing. Take good care of the state leader. God be always with you and protect you, and give you abundant blessings.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "Doing the dishes ... thinking of you"

July 7, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday night I arrived in New Jersey. The atmosphere here is quite different than the New Yorker Hotel. It will take me a few days to adapt.

I feel curious about Nebraska. How is the state leader there? And how do the people respond?

This morning I typed some invoices and then did the dishes. Doing the dishes, my heart and mind could go close to you, thinking of you, and praying for you.

Dear Dietrich, you are so generous and have such a warm heart. I am so happy to be married with you. I am always with you in spirit, and I am sure you will soon get wonderful spiritual children.

Have a nice day.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "I feel a great responsibility to be your wife"

July 7, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Today I felt to write you at least "3 letters" and share my heart with you.

It is 11 pm and I tried a little while ago to call you. I just needed to speak with you and hear about Omaha. I read again about the meaning of the wine ceremony and reflected upon this:

You are like conductors of electricity. Both positive and negative poles are needed to produce a spark. The source of electricity is God and comes to us through our True Parents. When men and women touch the True Parents they become positive and negative conductors. You couples are like circuits to be joined. Soon the heavenly spark

will occur between you. Once you are joined in this heavenly circuit and such a connection is made between the two of you, this is Heaven.

I feel a great responsibility to be your wife, and I am so grateful to you for the strong foundation you already built in these past long years in the Family. You worked so hard, so many years for God and True Parents and mankind; I am very proud of you and I love you. It is like God would like to tell you these things and made my heart moved to tell them to you.

I hope you are in good health. May God always bless you.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "Limitless love"

July 9, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

It was wonderful to receive your inspiring letter. Now we are both more in a front line situation as compared to the time before July 1<sup>st</sup>. I feel I learn many new things here in Omaha during my fundraising activities. It is life itself which I meet, and I feel more closely connected to Heavenly Father's heart and the people in this city. Financially our center is still very much in need and we hope to clear up this situation within one week's time.

Up to now I had no chance to settle down and write all the letters we discussed to send to our parents and spiritual children. I hope to find some time soon.

Heavenly Father is helping us now more in our effort to understand each other more deeply. I felt touched by your presence on July 6<sup>th</sup> in the midst of all the traveling spirits. I still don't realize fully how much I love you, Elisabeth. I only know that I am really happy around you. It is like a growing plant. Every time we meet I am experiencing a new dimension of your personality and feel how much more God is ready to share with us. This is the first understanding of what limitless love means to me.

Even if we are not able to meet over the summer, I still feel strongly that our relationship is growing under God's guidance. May God's love always abide in your heart and may you have rewarding experiences in your mission.

I send you my love,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

#### "Your heart is like the ocean"

July 12, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday night I came to NYC to welcome Mr. and Mrs. Dubois from France. They were very sad not to see you. I thanked them from you as they brought us a gift for our marriage: a bed spread. Tonight we went to Radio City Music Hall with them. Tomorrow morning, I will go back to the factory and will come back for Sunday to spend the last day of their stay in America with them.

Today I reflected very much concerning the work at the factory, my brothers and sisters, and my attitude toward many things. I feel so limited and the spiritual environment is very narrow. I don't fully understand why. How would you react, Dietrich, in this situation? I feel also tested very much that I should not rebel against it, but keep a positive attitude. Prayerful heart and positive attitude are always so important.

Yesterday night I prayed a long time and also cried a long time. Then I realized that I was crying because I felt I could not express myself there and was feeling so limited. But I should not cry for this purpose. I should cry for how to raise up brothers and sisters.

When I think of you, I think you are broad like the ocean and I feel happy because of that. So at the factory, I always call your spirit to comfort me. It is so wonderful to have you. Also your heart is like the ocean. Oceans always remind me of God. They are limitless.

Dear Dietrich, I am very, very grateful to you. With my love, In the Name of Our Beloved True Parents, Elisabeth

# "May God be always the center of our relationship"

July 12, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Today I received your letter and I feel happy about your encouragement and inspiration. I hope you overcame your difficulties in connection with your new environment and see it already as an exciting challenge. From God's viewpoint every situation we are in bears the potential for further spiritual growth closer to His heart. I find this very much here with my fundraising activity and I think from now on, after having passed the difficulties of making the transition to this lifestyle, I start to like it.

I enclose the four letters to our parents in Europe and hope everything is clear to you with the photos and your additional letters. The letters to your parents, which I wrote identical, need your translation and if possible a picture of our wedding. For my parents in Vienna, add your letter about your parents and a picture about the Blessing, and for my father you mentioned one letter you have already and also a picture. If you mail the letters in the post office you can make sure that we have put enough stamps on them (they might get quite heavy). Thank you for taking care of all this.

Even if I am quite busy here in Nebraska I think of you and love you with all my heart. May God be always the center of our relationship.

ITPN, your Dietrich

# "People will always come where the heart is"

July 13, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It is 8 pm and we just had dinner at the factory. I always like this time best during the day, 7 pm to 9 pm, because the sky is so peaceful and it is a good time for prayer or inspiration.

Today Mr. Vincenz came to New Jersey and I finally had a good breakthrough in speaking with him. First he told me he felt our old good relationship as we had before was not there anymore and spiritually I was far away from him. Also he said as I was his spiritual child it was important that all our life we have to trust each other. But I feel so happy because I could speak with him very sincerely of my discoveries in America about a new dimension of the church, and the different ways of working of Japanese and Americans. Also I told him that these last weeks I felt rebellion in my heart, and this reminded me of my first experiences in the church. And sometimes I was feeling so hurt because of one point of his personality and was not feeling free to express myself. Also I repented to rebel against him because I know that I owe my life to him and will be forever thankful. I think after this talk our relationship grew a lot. He could understand my heart and I promised him to do my best here. Then he said that when some narrow ways are coming I should be broad and people will always come where the heart is, and finally at the end of the discussion he said he was finding me again.

I don't know if you understand what I mean, but do you remember once we spoke to each other about our feelings at the beginning in the church. So tonight was so wonderful because there were things I always wanted to tell Mr. Vincenz and finally we had a good conclusion together. So my heart felt very much released.

It is always so important to speak out when we feel something not right in our heart. There is always danger when we start to rebel, because rebellion caused the fall.

Last Sunday Col. Pak spoke very important things. He said this period when Father is not here in New York is like when Moses went to the mountain to pray, so (people) members should make Father trust us and do the work as if Father were here.

Dear Dietrich, I hope this letter does not give you any headache to understand what I am talking about. But just one thing: it was so nice to talk with Mr. Vincenz to clear up the situation. So please don't worry.

I am missing you and when I think of you I get the courage and strength to do more for God. Please Dietrich take care of yourself, please tell me how is your health. Thank you very much for everything. God bless you. I like you very much.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our Most Beloved True Parents, Elisabeth

## "I am indeed blessed to have you as my wife"

July 14, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your heartfelt letter and the visa forms. Today I felt your spirit with me in a special way while I was fundraising. I had to think that I am indeed blessed to have you as my wife. So much more I want to express how much I love you and I am grateful to our Heavenly Father that He allows me to feel so close to you during my mission here in Nebraska. Many times I am deeply moved about the good heart people have in this town. They give and help even if they are overloaded with their own problems of poverty. Now I understand better why our Father sends us fundraising, and how much more our heart can open up for other people by doing this work.

With this letter I send you one more letter for my sister. If you want, it would be nice if you could add a few lines on the second sheet after my signature. In case you have one more wedding picture, please enclose it with this letter.

God's love be always in your heart and may you find much joy and fulfillment in your summer mission.

With all my heart I send you my love, In Our True Parents Name, *your Dietrich* 

#### "I am the wife of Dietrich"

July 14, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday night New York had a black out. There was no electricity and the whole city was in darkness, physically and spiritually. So many crimes happened. I am sure God wants to show the New Yorkers His providence. I feel before the anniversary of Washington Monument many things will happen! Each day is like a year, sometimes with so many different situations.

It is 8:30 pm and writing to you I am checking my heart. It really takes so much energy and indemnity to become a new person and child of God. During the day I thought: I am the wife of Dietrich, how can I behave this way or that way, I should have a higher standard. It is very difficult to be always an example. If not, we have not so much right to give advice to people.

The sky is really beautiful tonight. When I was in France in Paris HQ nearly every day by 7 pm I was going to the holy ground<sup>15</sup> which was close by the center. This time was my deepest moment with God. God was "speaking" to me through the trees and the sky. He was always so peaceful and giving.

Today I did some accounting and helped Sandy with cooking. My main job is in the office, but I escape many times to the kitchen to help Sandy because the atmosphere is better there.

<sup>15</sup> Reverend Moon established special places known as "Holy Grounds" in each country and state he visited, offering deep prayers for the people of that nation and placing soil from Korea to connect them to his homeland.

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Please give me news from Omaha, where you are going to fundraise, etc. I like so much to hear from you. You are my sunshine. It is nice to have you.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "In the midst of hell we are building heaven"

July 16, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

At the end of this day I feel close to you after having prayed to God. Each night Alice and myself made a small prayer condition as we usually do on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of each month. Her husband is coming from France in August.

Dear Dietrich, as the time is passing I feel more and more linked to you. In the midst of hell we are building heaven. I can go to the kingdom only with you, and I will love you for all eternity because God is eternal, and His essence is love.

Have a happy day.

With all my love,

In Their Name, Elisabeth

## "I see in you the manifestation of God's love"

July 19, 1977

Ma chère Elisabeth,

Just now I received your letter and I am deeply grateful that you revealed so much of your feelings and thinking. I am happy to hear that you could speak openly with Mr. Vincenz and that your stay in New Jersey will be a growing experience for you. Day in and day out I am fundraising and feel happy about it. Only the extreme heat puts some physical limitations on me. Today it was 102° F but I could overcome some kind of dizziness and felt very much Heavenly Father's help.

If I think of you, which happens quite often, I feel very peaceful in my heart and I see in you the manifestation of God's love in my life. I feel like I am participating in a miracle, realizing over and over again that you are my wife. Love is so limitless and, as you said, like an ocean. Real happiness comes if I am able to connect my love for you with God's viewpoint and love His children with a parental heart.

I am always surprised how good hearted the American people are here in Omaha. The last two weeks I worked more closely with Kevin and Alice, and it was a very good experience which connected me right away with my pioneer experience in Salt Lake City two and a half years ago. Kevin is the state leader in Nebraska and a very humorous and optimistic person. Alice is our IW (Itinerary Worker) and if you remember she sat next to you in our Blessing banquet. She is a real crusher, as the Americans say. Today she went to Minneapolis to cheer up the Family there. Kevin and I are at the moment the only permanent center members, but also a brother from Persia will stay some time with us before he continues his mission in Lincoln, where we have

several CARP<sup>16</sup> members on campus and some home members. We hope to have some guests for the weekend when we plan a workshop.

With this short note I send you the letter for Albert. If possible, add your letter for Therese and a picture of us (if there is still one left). I hope you also received the letter for my sister.

Dear Elisabeth, my heart is with you and I pray that God may guide our love and be among us. With gratitude for having such a good-hearted wife.

I remain ITN, your Dietrich

through the Unification worldview.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP) was founded by Reverend Moon in 1955 as a student association working on college campuses to promote intercultural, interracial and international cooperation

# "I am really put into tests every single day"

July 20, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you so much for your letter. I had another picture which I sent to Gisela.

Every day now I feel you are very close to me. I really like your character and personality very much. I think you are a great person, and always I feel God's strong love for you and all the future plans He should already have for you. I am indeed most fortunate to share my life with you.

Here at the factory I am starting to adapt to the conditions of life. I am really put into tests every single day, so now I take it with humor and laugh about it. God certainly wants me to learn something out of it and do something. I am learning to love like True Parents would like us to do, but sometimes God must have been disappointed to see how much struggle it takes to love like parents, unconditionally, whatever challenge comes.

So dear Dietrich, I am really having a good training, and should be very happy ...

Yesterday our rings were finished and I sent yours to you. I hope you will like it. Also I chose some cufflinks for you. The stone is called malachite (green color) and tigers eye. These were made in France some time ago.

Thinking of you always gives me so much inspiration, and I also discover each day how precious you are. I am so grateful to you for everything you are giving to the people of Nebraska and for all your sacrifice in fundraising and witnessing.

Dear Dietrich, I love you with all my heart. I also know that through this period here at the jewelry factory God is preparing me to become a good wife for you. I am really thankful to God for everything.

May God always be with you, and protect you and guide you.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "God is guiding us while we are far apart"

July 20, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Today I feel very grateful and moved because I looked over all your letters again and realized how encouraging and inspiring they are to me. Even through letter writing I feel my love for you is growing.

I picked up your thought about the higher standard we strive for, to live in order to do Heavenly Father's will more effectively and to bring each other more joy. I have to repeat what you said and apply it to myself. If I behave wrongly I think in my mind that I would never act this way if Elisabeth was around. In other words, you are inspiring me to take my relationship with God more seriously and to try harder to live the way God expects from us.

I told you already a bit about our fundraising and that I enjoy it more and more as time goes by. Unfortunately, more bills came up for the center here in Omaha and we need to keep a steady pace with fundraising. Today we had our first witnessing schedule and Kevin and I went only in the evening for three and a half hours fundraising. I met one young man in front of the library and spoke to him for nearly two and a half hours. He was more interested in philosophy and had a difficult time to directly accept God. He took our literature with the comment that he would come to the center within the next two years. So he did not look too promising for the moment, but I felt that he has a good heart and that God will find some foundation to work with him.

Back to our fundraising situation. We are confident to raise enough money for the center by the end of the summer. The brother from Iran normally studies in Lincoln but is now staying with us at the center over the summer. He takes care of contacts.

Yesterday evening I had a heart-warming experience with a German family who invited me into their house when I knocked at their door to sell some peanut brittle. The husband gave me a cigar and said I should use it as a souvenir if I don't smoke and also some European-tasting lemonade was served. Finally, they bought 3 boxes for \$6 and really treated me as their own son. After about 15 minutes of German conversation I had to leave since my appointment with Kevin was due. I felt happy in my heart about so much hospitality.

In my last letter I forgot to mention something about the wool I was supposed to choose. I very much like the blue color on you and I think I like the grey-white color for me. I hope that this is not too confusing for your mother. Write her about our taste and I trust that she will make the right choice. Please express also my gratitude to her that she wants to knit something for us.

Today your card with the beautiful blue flower arrived and I felt so much joy in my heart to read your thoughts. God is guiding us strongly now while we are so far apart physically and we discover how precious His love is which He showers on us. I love you dearly Elisabeth and pray that our lives will bring great joy to God. Much joy and inspiration in your mission.

With our True Parents' love,

I will be always your Dietrich

# "Your heartistic way of speaking"

July 21, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

This afternoon Alice and myself came to New York to attend the prayer meeting with other Blessed sisters. We went out for dinner and had a nice break together. Alice always remembers you when you were speaking to people during the 40-hour condition and she said you could draw people so much because of your heartistic way of speaking.

Dear Dietrich, I am thinking of you always with deep love. Have a good day.

God be with you,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "Our purpose is to live with God's love"

July 24, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Your letters are very life giving to me. Thank you for the last one from July 21<sup>st</sup> with all the beautiful surprises. The picture of your mother is very nice and for Mr. Jacob I added a few lines. Thank you also for the copy of the marriage license from our legal marriage and the parcel with the ring and the cufflinks. That was an exciting moment when I opened the parcel since I had no idea what you could send me. Your taste is excellent and I like the cufflinks very much. The wedding ring fits perfectly and I am getting used to wearing it again. Please say thank you.

I feel with you Elisabeth regarding the tight schedule and strictness of some missions in our Family. I witness here in Omaha the extremely tight schedule of the fundraising team which is staying with Kevin and myself at the center. From an external viewpoint I often thought I would collapse if I had to work every day long hours in the hot sun (many times over 100° F) and to have nearly no time for yourself and very little sleep (4-5 hours). I talked to the two seminarians on the team a bit. They take it as a challenge and are happy that they are able to meet the challenge.

I discover also in my own mission that the more I see hardship from God's viewpoint then I understand it as training, and I actually feel joy in the midst of it. I have to admit there are some transitional, rebellious feelings involved but I feel very happy as soon as I overcome them. Strictness, discipline and hardships even to an unnecessary degree are tools of training in my opinion. I am aware of the situation that sometimes we go overboard, but if we always check the voluntary acceptance of our situation, then God is

able to accept our difficulty as a pure offering and turn it into a joyful experience. I also recall that we are now in a warlike situation where the victory over Satan is at stake and that the conditions in the fundraising teams very much reflect this frontline.

Having been in the seminary, I feel that there we had a taste of the kingdom of heaven, especially in regards to strictness, discipline and hardships. I remember that more than anywhere else in my Family experience I felt the emphasis on the voluntary acceptance of difficult conditions. Therefore, the chance for spiritual growth was huge, but also the temptation not to use the chance lay heavy on us many times.

Today again I felt your presence during my fundraising and much joy was in my heart. I pray that our love for each other may be completely centered on Heavenly Father and may bring Him the greatest joy. In many ways I want to be so much more pure in heart, so that every thought and feeling for you can make you truly happy.

I still have a long way to go, and I see my summer experience most of all as a purifying one. I already feel very close to you and realize more deeply how much our Heavenly Father prepared us and guided us so that we could finally meet through our True Parents. This is so precious and it sounds like a dream, but the Messiah fulfills his mission and makes all dreams come true.

Dear Elisabeth I embrace you with Heavenly Father's love. Go forth with God's strength and courage in your summer mission and always be inspired to know that our purpose is to live with God's love.

With my heart filled with love for you, I remain, In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

# "I could feel so much love from you"

July 24, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Alice just gave me some notes that I copy for you. Today Col. Pak spoke to us at Belvedere about "Motives that Count." The most important in everything we do is our motivation.

Yesterday I received your letter. I almost cried because I could feel so much love from you. Sometimes I even feel that you are here physically nearby, and Omaha is not as far as I thought!

Dear Dietrich, you know here we are taking some salt tablets every day. This is very necessary against the heat because our bodies lose very important elements. You can ask for some in a drugstore. You must be so hot in fundraising!

Tonight while I copied these notes I thought very deeply of you with your happy and enthusiastic character, and your warm heart. God is maybe preparing us to meet again in the near future.

I am very grateful to you Dietrich. May God be with you.

With all my love,

in the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "You are truly my sunshine"

July 27, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for your thoughtful words. My heart always beats faster when I receive mail from you and it brightens my day considerably. Last night I saw you in my dream and you were very beautiful. I just saw your face for a short time but it was very clear and you were smiling at me.

I am still fundraising most of the time and it will continue this way for the larger part of August until we are thoroughly able to pay all the bills. I find my mission easier to endure now since my body responds better to heat and external stress.

Yesterday Dr. Richardson phoned and he told me that he already arranged a room for me about 15 minutes walking distance from St. Michael's College in Toronto. It is a house where four students will live together each having a separate room and sharing the kitchen and living room. I am grateful for Dr. Richardson's care and hope that I am able to work with him on a deeper level during my studies.

Just now your letter arrived with the notes from Mr. Oyamada's talk. Words are not enough to describe my gratitude for your heartfelt care for my spiritual wellbeing. Writing this talk must have cost you half a night's rest or more. I hope I do not have to worry that you get enough sleep. I very much enjoyed reading these notes and see now more clearly what our Father had to go through to set up all the conditions for the Blessing. Often I feel ashamed when I read about Father's life and how much he did for us. When I reflect on my life I see how much I fall short of giving myself fully into Heavenly Father's hands.

Today Kevin left with the van for the conference with Father in New York and took seven more brothers with him. For the following five days I will be on my own in the center and continue fundraising. Maria, who is a home member, decided to be more closely connected with the center, and she will come over for morning service, and also after her work she intend to help in the center with laundry and cooking. The home definitely needs some care since we also have a fundraising team at the center.

I enclose two pictures which remind me of my closest relationship so far with our Father during a net making afternoon in Barrytown. Could you please put those photos in our album? Thank you.

Another joyful moment occurred when I received a letter from my spiritual child after a break of half a year. She is alive and well and I will write her now more frequently to keep her more in touch with our Family and our True Parents.

Dear Elisabeth, you are truly my sunshine. I send you my love and may Heavenly Father protect and guide you always.

In Our True Parent's Name, your Dietrich

# "The best thing I can give to God is my youth"

July 27, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Tonight I just got your letter and am happy that you like the cufflinks and the ring.

When I think of brothers and sisters working so hard all over the country I think "I have to do more of what I am doing now." Reading your letter makes me realize one thing more, that when we have an individual mission we can quickly take it the "more easy way." When working at the showroom I could organize the way I felt to do it, and even in my missions before in France, working with the parents or as secretary, I used to organize myself as I felt the best way was! Also, with an independent mission we forget more easily about the front line and war time, as you said we are living in. Also being by ourselves is more difficult to be disciplined and on a tight schedule. It is like God wants to show us something with our summer missions in order to go through with success your four years of studying.

Speaking with Bertie on the phone recently, she said that the team at  $43^{\rm rd}$  Street comes back home after midnight. Everyone is so tired but it is like a big campaign. They give everything and then their heart will be released and also the heart of True Parents.

You know, when I joined the Family, I thought, I am 25, this is the best years of my life. I feel so well, and happy, loving life itself, but I felt a little bit the heart of God and that was so moving an experience. He was suffering but also I could feel His hope for ideal love, so I felt the best thing I can give to God is my youth, the best

years of my life. God never deceives His children. Through you now, there is a possibility of ideal love, and when we receive love or can give love, we can do so many things and much better.

I feel very much love for your parents and I am sure they will soon become closer to us. Through your letters I get so much spiritual food. I feel so happy reading them and thinking about what you said.

As I told you, every night Alice and I pray together a short special condition. I try my best to help her, as her husband is coming soon to America. I know him very well and he is a good and heartistic brother. I feel with prayer that we can solve many problems. Every time I receive your letter I feel so happy. Then I think of other sisters who never receive any letters, and my heart is so sad and I cry to God that He can do something.

Dear Dietrich, have a nice new day and good luck in fundraising. Please all of you be careful driving, especially at night when you are exhausted. Dear Dietrich, thank you so much, I feel so grateful to you.

May God always be with you, protect you and give you abundant blessings. With all my love, In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

### "You are in my heart every day"

August 2, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

I just received your letter. I felt the arrangement of Dr. Richardson is very good! Thank you for the colorful pictures in Barrytown too.

Yesterday we had a prayer meeting with Lady Dr. Kim and it was so inspiring. I will write later about it. And Sunday we all went to Great Adventure. It was a really wonderful day of joy.

We received some white robes for Blessed couples from Korea. Please tell me as soon as possible if you already got one. If not, I will pick up one for you too. This is a white robe we need for ceremonies.

I send all my love to you. God bless you forever. You are in my heart every day.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

## "Always crickets remind me of God"

August 5, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Almost I was forgetting to write you as we became more and more busy!

When we go back home at night the nature around is very beautiful. There are plenty of trees around the house. And we can hear the sound of the crickets. Always crickets remind me of God. They have a lot of sentiment when they sing. This is such a peaceful time.

Alice and I always have good give and take. She is nine years in the church and has many experiences and things to tell. I learn much about America through brothers and sisters.

Dear Dietrich, how are you? You don't know how much I miss you, but I do really miss you. There is so much sentiment in your eyes. Some days I count all day with a calculator; it doesn't have such sentiments. I happen to think of you and feel so happy, and the machine reminds me to concentrate because I made mistakes in my addition!

Do you have crickets in Omaha? Yesterday night Alice and James and myself went for a walk around the factory after dinner. The sky was all red and blue and white. I thought of you very much. Always when I see beautiful things I think of you.

Dear Dietrich, I am very grateful to you. I love you. In the Name of Our True Parents, *Elisabeth* 

#### "Eternal lovers and friends"

August 6, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for the picture postcard with the giraffes and the advertisement about religious freedom. I already have a robe for ceremonies, and I am grateful that you thought of me. I feel so well encouraged and inspired by you, and every one of your letters truly brightens my days.

Today I felt something special about you. It is difficult to say it with words, but I realized in more depth that our way back to our Heavenly Father is only possible together with our spouse. In a way, Adam and Eve became enemies after the Fall and today the restoration focuses exactly on the correction of the relationship between man and woman. Because of our True Parents we are able to become eternal lovers and friends, and God is able to touch our hearts like He never could before. I feel so grateful that we are able to walk together hand in hand on the road of restoration.

Elisabeth, I send you all my love and also wishes for strength and endurance centered on God's guidance for your work in the factory. Greet your co-workers from me. May God bless all of them.

ITN, I am always your Dietrich

## "A good chance for service"

August 8, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday night we had a meeting for Blessed couples with Mr. Sudo. He spoke mainly about Jesus' mission, and the importance of Joseph and Mary. He said it is good to understand the mission of Joseph. They should never have married. For this reason, Satan could invade Mary and she could not help Jesus, but blocked his way and was not able to find a bride for him.

Saturday we had a general meeting with brothers and sisters. Alan decided a small condition for this week in order to have more give and take and feel joy. Each person will have a partner and must do everything to let this person feel the Kingdom of Heaven! This is a good chance for service. I am with a French sister. I am becoming more aware of her needs and personality and what she likes, and what I can do that she will feel joy.

Dietrich, each day I feel more and more grateful to you. Each moment in the future that I will be with you will be so precious, even if short. I can love you because God is proud of you, and I realize I will deserve your love only if I meet a heavenly standard and public mind.

With all my love,

## "Only you can be the one"

August 10, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

How are you? I am missing your letters. I also am happy to have all eternity to be always with you!

Today I wish I could take care of you. I feel so happy because you are my ideal mate. There is no other, only you can be the one.

Yesterday I read a lot in the "Blessing Quarterly." This is so much life giving and inspiring. Today is about 40 days before our seven months' separation are over. Before the Blessing I never thought so much about children. We can give birth to children who will be a bridge between enemy nations. This touched my heart very deeply. Also that man can experience as God in creating children. There is still so much mystery and beauty.

I am writing to you from my room. It will soon be midnight and I can hear the songs of the crickets.

Dear Dieter, I will write again soon to you. When I think of you I feel full of gratitude. Your heart is so deep and warm; I never want to hurt your heart.

May God be with you every day and take good care of you.

With all my love,

#### "Yes, we do have crickets in Omaha!"

August 11, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for your heartwarming letter. Yes, we do have crickets here in Omaha and I feel the same way you do about the beauty and purity of God's creation. During my fundraising many times I look up to the blue sky and feel so much purity from the white clouds driven by the wind. I think in the Heavenly Kingdom people will be very artistic and poetic. I found your last letter very poetic.

I think of you many times and feel a deep longing to be close to you. In some way I understand God's heart more deeply in this situation. Our Heavenly Father was longing for His children so much, and He desired with all His heart that they may partake in His pure love, but in all the centuries past God was lonely. Before our Blessing I felt lonely once in a while and tried to comfort Heavenly Father because of His loneliness. Now I don't feel so much lonely, but a deep longing grows in my heart to actually fulfill God's ideal and to be able to return His pure love to Him. I know we will be able to make God happier.

We still go fundraising every day and also plan to send a few contacts to a regional workshop on the coming weekend. So far I have only one contact who is still very good.

Dear Elisabeth, I hope everything goes well in the factory and that you are able to feel close to God's heart all the time. I send you all my love.

In our True Parents Name,
I will be always your Dietrich

## "No letter, so no sunshine!"

August 12, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

This morning I came to New York to spend the day in the city with Jean and Alice. We saw a film at the Manhattan Center about Michelangelo.

Yesterday and today I felt sadness in my heart. I know that I should not be over sensitive but I did not get any letter from you for ten days, so no sunshine!

Also I know that you may be working very hard in order to pay all the bills at the center. So when it rains outside I think of you walking by the roads and giving life, and saving the people.

Dear Dieter, I think of you with all my love. I wish you a very good day. May God be with you.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "This is nice to have you"

August 14, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

This morning at Belvedere Anne Marie gave me your letter written on August 6<sup>th</sup>, so it took a long way and certainly did not arrive by plane. I was so happy to hear from you.

After Mr. Sudo's speech I visited Jacob House to say hello to Cathy. I feel she is in a time when she needs support. Mr. Sudo talked about "Gradual Conversion." He said in order to become "Sunnies" instead of "Moonies" we must give heat and light to other people. Before, we received heat and light from Father and reflected this light, like the moon reflects the light of the sun, but now we must produce light and heat. In order for God to speak through us we must take out all impurities. If we are impure God cannot use us. Prayer and repentance to become a pure channel of God are necessary. It was truly a good talk.

Please tell me how you are doing in fundraising. You must be sometimes exhausted when coming back home. I hope Maria can cook for both of you! No letter came from your parents. I hope they are all right.

Dieter this is nice to have you! God bless you. I am always with you in spirit.

With all my love,

### "Ready to make more sacrifices"

August 14, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Your last letter moved me very deeply and I felt gratitude in my heart for all your love and kindness. Now it is Sunday evening and I just came back from fundraising and feel happy to sit down and write to you.

During the afternoon I had to think very much about our future and came to the conclusion that we have to be ready to make more sacrifices. And pay more indemnity than the couples who come after us, like the early members and Blessed couples paved the way for us by going through a more difficult course. I realize now more clearly that every hardship I go through makes my love for you grow stronger, and I feel God closer.

So far, I plan to leave Omaha on the 28<sup>th</sup> to go to Barrytown for a few days because of a few medical exams for my student visa. September 6<sup>th</sup> is the latest date for my departure for Toronto, since on the 8<sup>th</sup> the academic year starts. All these plans are not final until I receive mail to tell me how much time the medical exams will take.

It would be beautiful if you could come right away with me to Toronto on the 6<sup>th</sup> of September to join the Canadian Family, but we should not be disappointed if you follow a few weeks later.

I find it difficult to put into words how much I love you and I ask our Heavenly Father to tell it to you. He alone is the giver of pure love and we long with our whole being to take part in it by putting our hearts in His hands. My longing is to find you through Him.

With all my love, I remain, In our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

## "My heart is with you in Omaha"

August 16, 1977

Dear Dieter,

Yesterday I received a letter from Therese and pictures of Albert and her at the Blessing. She likes Albert very much and is happy to be in Austria. Albert is writing a book right now about DP, first chapter, and travels a lot all throughout Austria. She felt how sometimes True Mother sacrifices, that Father can always be with us and has even no time to stay with Mother.

Tonight I cooked dinner as Sandy was busy shopping. It is surprising in America how everything is already prepared in a package, ready to bake, even cakes!

Americans like comfort and quick happening things.

Here you know, not so much happens. Every day looks like the day before. We can spend a good time in prayer while making jewelry, or typing, or cooking. The last week I thought very much about all our spiritual children. I felt this is a special period where I have time to pray for them. I wrote a short note to Joy just to say hello and hoping that we could see her in New York some time.

Mrs. Vincenz suggested some brothers and sisters here should visit Peggy, who is studying homeopathic medicine and works with a doctor in New York. This is a very natural way and very principled to cure people and give good health. I hope you can visit her when you come back to New York. The medicines are very good and natural and I am sure this will be good for you. I hope you did not suffer too much from headaches while

fundraising. I would like very much to take care of you. You must be so busy! Soon also you will have to study so much and you will maybe not have so much exercise as you have now in fundraising!

Dear Dietrich, my heart is with you in Omaha. I do not know if I can make you feel it but I like this city very much. (I would like a postcard of this city. I never saw it!)

Dear Dietrich, I love you with all my heart. May you every day receive abundant blessings of Heavenly Father.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "I feel so blessed to be chosen by God for you"

August 18, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday I got your letter from August 11<sup>th</sup>, and it was so beautiful to read it. I could feel very much your presence and your heart through the lines.

Tonight Jean taught Divine Principle for 45 minutes to the French members. It was good to hear something spiritual. He spoke about the significance of numbers and the three objects purpose<sup>17</sup> in detail.

I received a letter from my mother and she thanks you for your letter which I translated. She wrote to both of us starting "My dear children." She said she liked the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> The "three objects purpose" refers to the achievement of harmonious relationships among four entities, such as God, husband and wife, and child, whereby each of the four may act as the subject partner and engage the other three as object partners. See "Chapter 1: The Principle of Creation" in *Exposition of the Divine Principle* (HSA Publications, 1996) for further explanation.

pictures of the marriage (with the white robe!). She said she feels she has known you for a long time and that she will feel very at ease with you and comfortable. She said she would like to write something to your parents, but is a little worried about the way she should write. Also, concerning the sweater, she would like to know your measurements (if possible in European measurements) in order to knit the right size.

Dearest Dieter I am sorry to bother you with all these details. I will write back to my mother as soon as I hear from you.

I was so happy to hear about the crickets in Omaha. Certain things always remind me of God. Especially the ocean, and how beautiful is the sky God created for us.

I am thinking how I can understand you more, what you like, and what you don't, in order to make you happy.

May God always be at your back, giving to you His love and support. May He give you each day abundant blessings, and a lot of joy and fulfillment in your mission. Dear Dietrich, this is very nice that God sent you to me. I feel so blessed to be chosen by God for you.

With all my love,

#### "Pioneer the Heavenly Kingdom together"

August 18, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for your letters and the beautiful photos. Thinking of you always brightens my day and I feel more determined to "go over."

Now we are in the midst of preparations for a parents' workshop and for the coming of President Salonen. Alice is staying with us till the weekend and she is a great help and inspiration. She is the one who organizes and prepares meetings with the local media and with President Salonen, so there is much excitement around.

I have good and not so good days with my fundraising but I always find it spiritually rewarding and I feel close to Heavenly Father if I was able to go over during the day and fall into a "happy tiredness" in the evening. Now I understand my brothers and sisters on MFT<sup>18</sup> more deeply and know how much Heavenly Father loves them. Depending on Kevin's plans for the day we fundraise between 6 and 9 hours. Just a few days ago I reached a goal which I put before me to be more determined; the goal was "111" and I actually could make "113." I hope that this can be a foundation for new spiritual children in Nebraska.

For my entry into Canada I need several medical checkups and I was told it is fairly easy and we could do it together. My departure from Omaha on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August is therefore confirmed and I plan the doctors' appointments for

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Mobile Fundraising Teams (MFT) were established to raise funds for church projects. Members traveled by van to different cities where they visited businesses and homes, often giving candy or flowers in exchange for donations.

the 30<sup>th</sup>, and it would be good if you could join me there in Barrytown.

Elisabeth, I think of you very much and this makes me happy. It is so wonderful to pioneer the Heavenly Kingdom together.

With deep love I remain,

ITN your Dietrich

P.S. I hope you enjoy the fishing photos. Please add them to our album.

### "We will be the light and heat of mankind"

August 21, 1977

Dear Dieter,

Thank you for your beautiful letter of August 14<sup>th</sup> with your future plans. I like the way you think about how we must be ready to make more sacrifices.

In our prayer meeting tonight, Mrs. Vincenz told us that European leaders are spending one week at sea with Father. Father said before taking care of the Blessed families, first we must make the temple for God (world HQ will be built in Korea) and build a university. As the Pilgrims came to America and first built churches, then schools, then their own homes.

This morning Col. Pak talked about the spiritual power of the marble vase. "Marble Vase" was the title of his message. He concluded by saying how much more power we can have if our heart is connected with God, and spiritually people will be drawn to us, we will be the light and heat of mankind.

I understand that you are so busy and have no time for letters too much, and I always feel grateful how much you give for your mission. I hope to always help you with details and small things that take much time.

Maybe the best will be that I go to Canada exactly when the seven-month period is over (I think this will be the date of your spiritual birthday). I have different things to clear up first in New York. But anything Heavenly Father decides will be great.

Dear Dieter, please tell me when you will arrive in New York. Maybe I can see you at the World Mission Center before you go to Barrytown. Everything you decide is fine anyway.

I am surprised that August is soon over. Dear Dieter, I feel so happy to see you again soon. May God be with you.

With all my love,

In Their Name, Elisabeth

#### "Renewal of my heart when I hear from you"

August 23, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

You brought me again much joy with your letter and I feel something like a renewal of my heart when I hear from you. It seems to me that you now feel much better in the jewelry factory and that God's spirit is more present.

We had an exciting weekend here in Omaha with 12 parents and guests coming to the parents' conference. We saw the video tape about Father and the Washington Monument rally and it was well received by the parents. Yesterday, President Salonen came to Omaha for a press conference and we had fair and even positive coverage on it in the local evening TV news. We had two newspapers, one TV and one radio station in the center and the atmosphere was very good during the interviews.

The next state leader conference will be on September 1<sup>st</sup> which means that we leave Omaha on the 30<sup>th</sup> of August, not on the 28<sup>th</sup> as originally planned. I already wrote to postpone my medical checkup examinations to the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. If it is possible for you to be free on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September we could finish these checkups together in Barrytown.

I love you dearly Elisabeth and I am looking forward to seeing you.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

### "It is like your love is cleaning my heart"

September 2, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

I am now writing to you from the bus going back to New Jersey. I will never forget this September 1<sup>st</sup>. Being with you was so wonderful – each time I see you I feel new, and reborn. It is like your love is cleaning my heart.

Yesterday and today I realized many new things about our future. At the beginning when I discover something I find conflict in my heart, and I respect you so much because you are God and mission centered. First I felt so bitter because I won't be right away with you in Canada, but at the same time I knew your decision was God's one and the right one, and for you to have a degree is most important and number one, and you must give everything for this.

This morning I love you more deeply because of that, and I regret having had this attitude of too much possession. Please forgive me. Especially the first quarter will be so important that the professors and students will have good opinions of you. First impression is always most important.

Dear Dietrich, I want to assure you of all my support and prayers for your new beginning and new mission in Canada.

With all my love,

In Their Name, Elisabeth

## "Love can purify"

September 4, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

By intuition I knew already a little bit of the answer of David Kim. I think that he really loves you very much to push you hard into your mission. I agree with him. It is really better that you get used to this new country and your studies, and everything else will come when Heavenly Father decides.

I was truly so moved to hear your concern for me; I feel very close to you tonight and I know that Heavenly Father will take good care of you in Toronto. Since my heart felt a little bit squeezed not knowing when I will see you again but together there is such a deep and profound feeling because even if it is hard for both of us we will be together in spirit. And to have this spiritual unity gives me so much joy and comfort.

Dear Dietrich, I pray that you will be happy with this new start in Canada. First impression toward professors and students is very important. And your first quarter will be so meaningful.

Please don't worry about me. I feel so blessed by Heavenly Father to be married with you. The day of your birthday was also for me the happiest birthday in my life. When I came back to New Jersey I felt your love has cleansed my heart. Love can purify. I did not know that!

God bless you Dieter, and be with you every day.

### "Lay a strong foundation in my mission"

September 8, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thinking of you makes me so happy and newly determined to accept the challenges of my new mission.

We arrived after a beautiful ride to Toronto at 9:30 pm on Tuesday evening, and right away met with Mr. Porter. Three brothers helped me to unload the van and piled everything neatly in my room. It is a simple but neat house and I already feel quite comfortable in my new dwelling. Martin and Marion and the Canadian Family are very helpful, and Heavenly Father gives me so much love through them.

Today (September 7) I stayed nearly the whole day at St. Michael's College and met new students and professors. Dr. Richardson spoke to me more in depth and gave me good advice for my first year of study. I have to study with fullest strength to be able to represent our True Parents to all these scholars. If I am really determined and give my very best I could finish the MA in two years and the Ph.D. in two more years.

Everybody is very nice here and I will see how the professors turn out in the classes. My "house mates" are nice too and quite different characters. I see it as another challenge to bring a heavenly standard to my new dwelling. I am determined to lay a strong foundation in my mission before we meet again.

You are such a wonderful wife and I love you dearly. May Heavenly Father guide and protect you.

ITN, your Dietrich

### "So proud to have such a good husband"

September 9, 1977

Dearest Dietrich,



How were your first days in Canada? It must be so much change for you, with a completely new environment and different kind of students. I hope they welcome you; they must be all very intrigued to know you, because you represent all the Moonies for them. How is your room? Here in New York we feel very much excitement as Father is

coming back and will speak this Sunday. Mr. Vincenz gave us news from the leaders' conference, Father expects a lot of new members this month.

Passing by the HQ at 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street I went to see Sarah. I feel wherever I go if people know you they always welcome me warmly because they like you so much. She told me many people had so much respect for you, you were such a steady person. So I felt so proud to have such a good husband! I also discover you, Dietrich, through other people.

Still I am in the jewelry factory, but spiritually I already feel that a change will come. So for now I am most of all praying to God that He may guide our future and give us the guidance to prepare ourselves for a new beginning.

Dietrich, even if we cannot be together in Toronto and I will visit you only sometimes right now, I feel a new beginning is coming. And even if my mission will be different from the environment you are in, I feel also one of my responsibilities is to support you, because it is you who will be the central figure for God and True Parents and I feel very much interest in all the things you do. Often I remember the beautiful dream I had about Dr. Richardson and all the students. They were so positive and I felt so much love for them. We will really be their parents and give them the truth and love of God.

Only God is preparing our future and will know the best thing to do. Also around the couples many things are happening, each one has a different idea. I force myself to stay very quiet and calm and pray to God and True Parents.

Dear Dietrich, I hope it is OK for you now to be studying again. I pray each day for you. I miss you but I feel so much happiness to share your life.

With all my love,

## "A new type of scholar"

September 10, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

What a joyful surprise to receive my first letter from you in my new home in Toronto. Thank you for your loving encouragement for my new mission.

In the meantime, we had several meetings between the students, and yesterday evening there was one more extensive encounter between faculty and students. To some extent I already have some feeling about the people I will be working with and I have to say they all seem to be very nice. On the other hand, I realize as well that there is little common direction and heavenly standard, or at least a striving for it, as I am used to from our Family members. Now I understand more what Father meant when he told us that we have to become a new type of scholar, not just intellect but most of all to be able to realize God's ideal.

So far I got to know seven professors from the faculty and their opinion about our Family is divided nearly exactly 50/50. Here is the first step of my mission: to make good friends with all of them and to inspire them as much as I can with good academic work. We have already some reading assignments and this morning I had my first more intensive study session. I already feel that it will be a good challenge, especially this first term, and I need to grow into a much deeper relationship with Heavenly Father and our True Parents.

Now I will tell you more about my new study home. We are four tenants in this house: three brothers and one sister. Martin studied computer programming but now works as a cab driver since he wants to get away from the establishment pressure for a while. Many times he works night shifts and comes home in the early morning or the

middle of the night. Dave I only met shortly. He is an organist and has a studio where he instructs students. He also plays with a small ensemble. Merry goes to a watchmaking school and is a more artistic type of person. She is very helpful around the house and already cooked a few meals. Most of the day the four of us don't see each other; only in the later evening we share some fellowship.

Thursday evening I was invited to the Porters' home and we shared dinner together. This was a very energizing visit for me. Martin has two lovely children who already go to school. Martin told me about his plans for the future and the new center which will be ready to move into on September 15<sup>th</sup>. It is less than 10 minutes' walk from the university and I will stop by there more frequently once they are settled in.

Dear Elisabeth, language is still such a barrier to express how deeply I feel for you. I pray that I may love you not just with words and affection but with my whole being. I desire so much to conquer a purer heart to offer to Heavenly Father and to you. I know together we will be able to overcome all impurities and fallen nature which separate us from God's love. I discover that thinking of you is another way, and a most meaningful way, of thinking of God. Divine Principle offers so many more treasures and I feel eternally grateful to our True Parents that they opened the way for us to build God's kingdom.

In Our True Parents' Name,
I send you all my love, always *your Dietrich* 

## "God is depending on you"

September 11, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Here are a few notes from Father's speech this morning. After the talk he had a beautiful surprise, bringing 50 members to a picnic. They were chosen by hand picking a number written on a piece of paper. Also the ones who had the best records in fundraising or subscriptions. Everyone was so excited to see Father and Mother again. Saturday, Father was in Barrytown and chose the new students.

Dietrich, thank you so much for your beautiful letter. I was so happy to hear that you already met Martin and his wife and the wonderful Canadian Family. Also that you like the new house. I hope you will not feel lonely at St. Michael's College, as there are no brothers and sisters there. But you are the only one who truly understands God, and God can help. But especially you for your studies He will help you the most, because He is depending on you.

Dear Dietrich, I am thinking of you every day, and have an intuition that we will meet again soon. We are completely depending upon God and True Parents. I wrote a letter to your mother and said we spent a beautiful day September 1<sup>st</sup> and asked her about the story of "Dietrich and Gisela" – it was just a short letter. Dieter tell me if the ring fits you. If not please send it back. It is very easy and quick to adjust.

God be with you every day and inspire you in your new mission. I am always close to you.

## "When I think of your eyes I remember God"

September 13, 1977

Dear Dieter,

Today was a beautiful day. I went to New York and had a final checkup on my arm.

Even if I do not move to Canada maybe I will go to see you soon! In my heart I hope so very much to go there a few days for your spiritual birthday. But I don't know how you will feel about it, or how things will get organized. I am learning patience and pray that you have a good beginning with your studies because Father will be so concerned about it.

Then I met Traudl, the wife of Shawn. We had a big cheesecake and coffee together at the place where we went once and we reminisced about the Blessing. She said she will never forget all those beautiful experiences.

When I think of your eyes I remember God and the ocean. I can read and feel so many things in your eyes.

Please Dieter, have a beautiful day and God bless you.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "Just hello tonight"

September 14, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Just hello and thank you so much for your long letter of September 10<sup>th</sup>. I feel so close to you by knowing all the details about Martin, Dave and Merry. Do they know

about the Unification Church? They must be very intrigued!

This was just hello tonight.

With all my love,

#### "You can do it, have confidence"

September 14, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Now the second day of classes is already behind me and I want to tell you briefly what happened during the past days. Sunday was beautiful and spiritually uplifting since I spent most of the day with our Family. All the brothers and sisters here are really wonderful people and I feel like I have known every one of them for a long time already. We had pledge service together and at 11 am we celebrated morning service with Martin who gave the sermon. He spoke about our connection with God and how much we must strive to be doers of the word. If word and deed are one, God will find a dwelling place in our hearts. To live with God is always life risking in the sense that we are continually challenged to give up our old lives.

I felt inspired and the feeling of a new start for my study mission was enforced, especially regarding my personal relationship with our Heavenly Father. Only with His guidance will I be able to fulfill His and our True Parents' expectations.

In the afternoon we all went out and had a picnic on a nearby island which we reached by boat. This was refreshing and beautiful. We played ball and Frisbee, talked a lot and enjoyed God's creation deeply. In the evening I got more settled in my room and received two bookshelves and a typewriter for my use from our Family. So I was all ready to go for the first day of classes.

Monday went fine and we heard something about source criticism of the Bible and got a larger reading assignment which I am still working on. Over lunch I got to know my colleagues better and they are all nice people and helpful. Tuesday was a similar day only a different class,

which is called Foundations in Theology, and it was given by a younger woman who was quite energetic and organized in her presentation. I felt that the momentum in my studies is building up and there is something like a continuous excitement in my heart.

Today, Wednesday, I received your letter. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding. Your strong support gives me every day a new deep desire to do my best in this new mission. If our only desire is to make God happy and to ease His burden, then we don't have to worry about our future. Every time when I feel something is accomplished in my studies I have such a clear and genuine feeling towards you, something like a finer spiritual attunement.



Dietrich and Elisabeth at their Blessing Ceremony

This one most beautiful photo of you is on my desk and you are smiling at me without interruption and in your smile there is constant encouragement; something like, "you can do it, have confidence." You are very much present in my little study room, but most of all in my heart.

Today I met Dr. Richardson again in the cafeteria and he came to my table and asked me how I was doing in my work. He is very supportive and helpful and I thought he and I are the only ones in this huge university who know God's dispensation for our time; what a great responsibility to open a road for all these people to understand the Divine Principle. I also feel much support spiritually and in some way the understanding about my own mission is growing.

Dear Elisabeth, may you always feel God's love in your daily life, and may you give joy and happiness to all brothers and sisters around you as you are doing for me. I love you deeply.

In Our True Parents Name, always your Dietrich

### "Patience to go through this transition period"

September 17, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

It is so refreshing to receive so many letters from you. Thank you for the ring, which fits well, and your most recent letter with Father's words on the heart of reunion, and the letter from my sister. It is already after midnight and I finished studying for today, thinking of you, our mission and the future.

After this first week of classes I can picture what kind of study load is rolling towards me and I have to admit that it will be a good challenge. Today we had our first tutorial in

Biblical Studies and the professor asked some detailed questions where you could only know the answer if you did all of the readings. This is mainly what I did this first week and it took most of my time, so I have to speed up to be ready for three tutorials on different subjects.

Somehow after this week I feel something about the difficulties in today's scholarship. There is so much detailed research and specialization that there is so little room for God to inspire these scholars and warm their hearts. In our tutorial today I felt kind of a competitive atmosphere since it was equivalent to a small exam and everybody was eager to show what he learned, including myself. But I felt very awkward in this position, and I see now the difference from Barrytown where all students know about their common purpose and therefore God could be more present even in an intellectual academic setting. Outside the classroom there was a more loving atmosphere and we discussed how to be better prepared for our next tutorial and to help each other, even if it is at this point only in a small way.

Now it is already Saturday evening and today I felt somewhat desperate because of the many books I should read. I have to get tuned in more deeply into my studies to be more efficient and to be able to be on top of my workload. This coming week will be a challenge in this direction since every day I will experience classes and assignments.

This morning I spoke to Dave, one of the four tenants living in this house and who is an organ player and pianist. He showed interest in the Unification Church and our teaching so I explained for more than one hour some main points in Divine Principle to him. It was a very uplifting experience and I understand from all these experiences how important the study of Christianity is.

Thank you so much for your phone call. I was just reading intensively a book about the New Testament and probably I sounded on the phone like I was coming from another world. Everything you told me on the phone moved me deeply and I realized again that we both need much patience to go successfully through this transition period of laying a strong foundation in our new missions and also in building our own family. After all our longing to be together, we meet another testing ground in helping each other to fulfill our missions first. In one or two weeks I hope to evaluate more clearly my responsibilities towards my studies, and then I can see our future more clearly.

I send you all my love and pray that His love will guide us both.

In Our True Parents Name, always your Dietrich

#### "Warmest wishes"

September 19, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Warmest wishes for your 9<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Family! I am the most grateful that God could guide you Dietrich during all these years to grow toward Him in participating in the construction of the Kingdom on earth. May this new beginning with the 10<sup>th</sup> year bring more joy and comfort to our Heavenly Father and True Parents and may we bring them wonderful results in our mission.

Thank you for being such a good husband to me. For this special day I send you all my love and assure you of all my efforts to be a good wife to you. May God be in your heart for this beautiful birthday.

# "To open your letters is the highlight of the day"

September 19, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

When I came home today from St. Michael's College and opened the door to my study room what did I see – two letters from you which arrived at the same time. Thank you so very much for your loving words. You always bring sunshine into my life and to open your letters is the highlight of the day.

Yesterday I went to the new center and we celebrated morning service with Martin and the Canadian Family. Most of them gathered here in Toronto to help with the renovation of the new center and there are only a few brothers and sisters left in other parts of Canada. Right after the morning service everybody went back to work to clean, repair and paint the house. I felt very much torn inside, since on one side I wanted to help right away, but on the other side I had my assignments waiting for this coming week. So I spoke with Martin and he understood my situation fully. I plan to help at least one day near the end of the week in the evening hours. There is very much to do and the goal is to accomplish the renovation within 12 days.

Saturday afternoon I was in the library when the most exciting event for all of Canada happened. Our True Parents came for a surprise visit. I heard about it at midnight, maybe two hours after our phone call. Father and Mother were at the CN tower when the message came to the center to prepare for their coming. Martin tried to reach me at home but as I said I was on campus at that time, so with a regretful but still excited heart I listened to the reports of Martin, Marion and my brothers and sisters.

Father made a remark that he would come back maybe in two weeks to see the renovated new center. You can imagine that this is quite an incentive to work at full steam. Father spoke mainly in an encouraging way to the Family and stressed the harmony between Canada and USA, which needs to be maintained and deepened. In a few days I will be able to send you more detailed notes from Father's talk.

Today was another busy study day but you were so many times in my mind. I feel now more clearly how much studying is a new challenge and I will try my hardest to lay a good foundation for Heavenly Father in the academic world. Especially now I will give every ounce of my energy to fulfill our work load, and it is only with God's help that I am able to do it.

I pray with all my heart that you can understand my situation and that you don't feel sad in your heart if we wait a little while more before we meet again. I yearn very much to be with you and I understand your feelings that you also want to be with me as soon as possible. Only with your consent, I would like to offer the first 21 days of our time after our separation period to Heavenly Father to lay a final foundation for our new missions and to always be strong enough to always give God priority in our marriage. In this time, I could lay the proper conditions in my studies to be even ahead of schedule and to show Heavenly Father that I am serious to fulfill His expectations. Please tell me in your next letter how you think about it, and try to share all your feelings with me on this point.

Be well and full of hope for a wonderful future where our Heavenly Father can feel comfort and joy. I embrace you with all His love.

In Our True Parents Name, always your Dietrich

# "I know how careful you are not to hurt me"

September 20, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Thanks for telling things in such a nice way on the phone! I know how careful you are not to hurt me.

Mrs. Salonen was such a wonderful lady, very understanding and sensitive. After speaking with her I realized more deeply our responsibility as a Blessed couple in front of our True Parents.

September 21, 1977

Today is a very special day. I thought of you particularly all day. Tonight we had a prayer meeting at the New Yorker. Then I went to Marie France's room as they just moved. Marie France was very happy and the atmosphere was so warm and heavenly. Then Irene invited us for a cup of tea in her room. I really get much inspiration seeing Blessed brothers and sisters. There was such a heavenly atmosphere like God was really living there.

I spoke a little bit with Alice. She will stay a few days in New York then go together with her husband to visit their parents.

God be with you Dietrich.

September 22, 1977

Dearest Dieter,

Thank you so very much for your so uplifting letters. I received two together. What a surprise to hear about the visit of True Parents!

I agree completely with what you said in your letters and feel very happy that you invest all your energy for a good beginning in your study.

Also thank you so very much for the wonderful colorful card. I felt so much love from your letters.

I'll write to you longer soon. I love you very much.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "You became so precious to me"

September 21, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

It is already after midnight and I would like to share my feelings with you on this memorable day. In these last seven months I understood one thing more clearly: that my way to feel God's heart more deeply is through you. You became so precious to me and I learned to love you with all my heart. Today we both make a new start in our relationship to each other and in our relationship to our Heavenly Father. I pray that we may be always open in our hearts for His guidance and seek to console His heart.

As I indicated before I am somewhat torn in my heart. Day after day I realize the increasing amount of work which jumps like a big wave towards me, and on the other hand I know that burying myself in my studies is no solution either. Never before in my life I pursued such a heavy study schedule, except maybe in Barrytown during finals week. I am confident that this tidal wave will subside and most of all that I soon will be able to study with more efficiency and not to always feel so much pressure, which sometimes even blocks my thinking. In all of this I think very much of you and feel your love and encouragement all around me. I hope you will be able to understand this situation with my initial study period.

These last two days were really busy and I continue this letter on Saturday around 1:30 am in the morning (or rather in the middle of the night). Yesterday evening I went over to the new center of the Canadian Family which is about seven blocks away from the university. There is a lot of restoration work to do in the house and I enjoyed helping for a few hours. It was a wonderful feeling to be among brothers and sisters who worked on so many different jobs to get the

house in shape again. Around midnight we had a prayer meeting and I felt Heavenly Father's joy about this new start in Toronto. Probably Sunday afternoon I will find some time again to jump into my working outfit and to help for a few more hours.

Today Friday (rather Saturday 1:30 am) I received your two letters. Thank you very much for your loving words for my spiritual birthday and the nice card. Thanks also for the "New Hope News." I can hardly believe it that I am now moving into my tenth year in the Family. It feels like I joined only a few months ago, so new and full of life do I perceive God's word and the reality of our True Parents. It is my deep desire to make you happy and to lead you to a common experience of God's love. This coming year will be a growing together closer to God's heart and a new life lies ahead of us. I am very happy that you are my wife and I am deeply grateful for this Blessing.

I embrace you with God's love.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

# "I react too quickly but you make wise decisions"

September 24, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It is Saturday night and we are preparing physically and spiritually for tomorrow's morning service at Belvedere.

I just read again your two wonderful letters from September 17 and September 19. They really touched my heart the most. I could understand your feelings very much, and your desire to serve God first, and always Him at the first place in our marriage life and missions. I feel sometimes I react too quickly, but you make wise decisions. There is in front of me the beautiful card you sent me for September 21. I like the picture and the sentence very much. After our phone call, you know, all night I felt God was comforting me and understanding me. Also you were very close with such a loving heart. You have such a big part in my life.

I hope you will find a good way to study efficiently. I am sure God will give you inspirations (or ideas through other people) how to manage it and advance quickly. How do the other students do? Do they have a special method?

Right now we are also preparing for a Divine Principle test on October 1<sup>st</sup>. Each member of the Family will have to take it. From now on this will be one of the conditions for the Blessing. I feel much desire to know the DP very well, and since you are studying I feel also much attraction toward books, and interest to know more about your university and the students. I always have in my heart the beautiful dream that students and professors

will become positive towards Father and the Unification Church.

Mrs. Salonen also remembered that the mission of Blessed families will be mainly witnessing. There will also be many businesses in order for these families to support themselves.

Dear Dietrich have a good day or a good night. God be with you always.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "I think I love you very much"

September 25, 1977

Dear Dieter,

It was so nice to hear you on the phone. I think I love you very much.

Right now I am learning a lot with Sandy how to cook well and I hope I can do it for you sometimes, or many times.

We heard True Parents visited many centers in Montana, Colorado, etc. The next leaders' conference will be in Los Angeles.

Dear Dietrich, please be well. God is with you the most because other students do not know about True Parents, so God loves you the most and takes care of you.

Have a nice week. I think of you and pray for you every day. God bless you.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "I will always be your grateful wife"

September 26, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It is like every day is your birthday! Again, happy  $9^{\rm th}$  year in the Family and I wish you a very good start into your  $10^{\rm th}$  year.

It is 11 pm and we will leave the factory soon. As every night my heart feels so close to you. In the quietness of the night I can think of you and thank God for all the blessings He is giving us. We know our True Parents and we could receive their Blessing. I am the most grateful wife. When I think of you it is like every day is my birthday too.

I will always be your grateful wife.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

# "The unchanging nature of love"

September 26, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Your phone call brought so much new life to me that I am still overjoyed about so much love coming from you. I will always be grateful to Heavenly Father that He gave me such a wonderful wife.

I just came home from today's classes and some library study and I felt such a strong desire to communicate with you that I sat down right away to write you a few lines. The day started with rain which I perceived as a "wake up shower," while riding my bike to class, but soon it brightened up and is now beautiful sunshine outside, which reflects exactly how I feel inside. You are so much in my thoughts that I have to watch out not to space out over my books. On the other side, I understand now more deeply how much God is longing for His children and how deep and compassionate His love is for us. I remember when our True Father spoke about the unchanging nature of love and that people 1,000 years ago were carried away by it in the same way that we are today.

Today we studied Mark's Gospel and I realized how deeply the people of Jesus' time expected the Kingdom of Heaven, and how many acrobatic acts had to be done on the side of the Gospel writers in order to maintain the faith and hope of the early Christians since in their perception Jesus' return was so much delayed. I am always newly surprised and inspired about the preciousness of the Divine Principle.

Now it is already Tuesday evening and I finished my studies for today. We had only one hour of classes in the morning and the subject was "Revelation, as perceived by Karl Rahner," which was rather theoretical but with some

good points. I spent nearly the whole afternoon in preparation for tomorrow's tutorial, which will be on the same subject.

When I am digging through my reading assignments I find myself screening the texts if there are some clues which point towards Divine Principle and in case I find some I feel like a little boy who went out to look for some strawberries and who suddenly finds a patch full of them. I am also quite busy with our Latin class and since I am a rather slow learner it takes a lot of time to fulfill all the assignments, but I hope to speed up soon. It will be of great help for my study of French, which will be next year, and you can look forward to have at least some simple conversation in your mother tongue with me.

I could meet briefly with Dr. Richardson today and he invited me for a dinner on October 6<sup>th</sup> when doctoral and MA students are invited who work in one way or another with him. He is really busy and does a lot of good work. I will see how much I am able to help despite my heavy work schedule.

I feel you are very near in all that I am doing and long to see you very much. Let us pray for God's guidance in our marriage that we may always be able to comfort Heavenly Father's heart by building His kingdom.

I send you all my love.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

# "Heavenly Father loves you so much"

September 29, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Yesterday I received your letter from September 21, and from the next days. I am always so happy to read your words and thoughts. I understand how much studies you have. I believe to prepare a Ph.D. is not an easy or light job. And sometimes the pressure we feel from it also takes so much energy!

This end of the month was also very busy here at the factory because the last days we try to ship all the orders, and at night if I feel mostly tired it is in great part because of the pressure. But if I can have unity and good give and take with one person then the pressure does not appear so strong. Everyone tries to learn how to work efficiently and feel at the same time joy, even if we have so much to do.

Tonight was one brother's birthday and Sandra made a huge good cake. There was a lot of laughing. As I type invoices all day and every day I like to join Sandra in the kitchen and do something different for a while. The kitchen has always been a place where I like to meditate and pray in preparing meals and doing dishes.

Dear Dieter, I hope you have a good week. Every day you are in my thoughts, and in my heart I always feel so much tenderness and love for you. May our Heavenly Father guide you each minute in your studies. He understands us more than anybody else. Heavenly Father loves you so much.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "It is very exciting to be married to you"

September 29, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for so much mail. Your three letters, the "New Hope News," and the magazine from Austria arrived safely here in Toronto. It is very exciting to be married to you, there is always something happening, and I always have something to look forward to. I feel you very much present spiritually in all my work, and I can imagine if I am fully in tune with you all this studying will go on much more quickly. Thank you for your article about speed reading. I sure have to work on my reading speed but I am confident that I will improve soon and this may be more efficient in fulfilling all these assignments.

Yesterday I wrote a longer letter to my mother and I hope she will receive it with the right heart. She is so much stuck in her negative feelings towards our church that it is very difficult to loosen her up and take one step further to make God's point of view more understandable to her. I also wrote about my studies in Toronto but only very briefly, and gave her my new address. I did not mention whether you are with me or not but left it open for her. To my sister I wrote a shorter letter and spoke a lot more about my studies and that it will be more convenient for you to be here in Toronto since you are able to use your knowledge of French more here than in the US. This is all my sister knows about our present situation and in any case she is very understanding towards my lifestyle and I feel very close to her.

Your parents and your brother seem to have at least a very tolerating attitude towards the Unification Church. This is what I read between the lines of the recent two beautiful letters from your parents. Your father even spoke in his

postscript about meeting you in spirit world and hoping that it will be a better world than the one we have here on our hands right now.

My studies are going along steadily. Recently I got two more assignments which require some extra work, so I am excited to do a lot more than usual and to expand my working capacity.

Let us prepare our hearts to be able to receive from our Heavenly Father any kind of mission and most of all to grow in the understanding of His will, that we are able to feel His heart more deeply and to comfort Him.

In spirit I am always with you, Elisabeth, and I embrace you with His love.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

# "It was so refreshing to receive mail from you"

September 30 / October 1, 1977

Dear Elisabeth.

Your beautiful parcel and your loving words moved me deeply. I came home around 11:30 pm on Friday evening after a week of much homework and it was so refreshing to receive mail from you.

There is not so much news right now, besides our little party we had with students and a few professors. Somehow I wonder about the regular "sherry" and beer consumed in the theological world in Toronto. I dropped a remark and it was explained to me that this is Canadian custom. Nevertheless, I stuck with some coke and potato chips and did not at all feel old-fashioned for keeping away from alcohol. We had a good talk with our philosophy professor and pursued finally the question of how to explain morality in

philosophical terms. There was no real result but we felt that at least to some degree we exhausted our brains.

Now is already October 1<sup>st</sup> and I feel very happy about this new start. I organized this day more tightly with regards to my reading assignments and I am still hopeful that I develop a higher speed, otherwise all of my time will always be occupied with studying, which does not appear to be healthy.

These last few days I was really busy so now (October 4th) I take some time to continue this letter. Most of Sunday I was in the center and nearly all of the Canadian Family was present there and helped together to put the final touches on the new house. It looks beautiful and Mr. Porter does his best to inspire all brothers and sisters in this hard renovation work. I helped with some cleaning and felt happy to be among brothers and sisters and to have a break from my study seclusion. I told Martin that you will come to Toronto on the 12th of October and he was joyful and is looking forward to seeing you (so am I). Also yesterday more Family members from all over Canada came and there is a spirit of joy and reunion. Once the house is cleaned up (maybe in two or three days) then there will be a DP workshop about ten days in length and on this foundation the witnessing work will begin.

Every day I feel so close to you and can hardly wait to see you again. I also realize that these last days are a final purification period and I pray that we are always able to bring joy and happiness to Heavenly Father through our love for each other.

With all my love I remain,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

#### "What remains forever is love"

October 2, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

This morning Mr. Sudo spoke at Belvedere, a very moving and heartistic talk about "What Remains Forever."

He said that campaigns come and go, but what remains forever is love. Visible things will go but only invisible values will remain. In our life of faith, we experience so many things, but what remains forever is love. Also, position will go some day. Responsibilities also do not stay forever. When we meet again, no-one remembers what position we had, but rather the love we experienced and tears we shed together. Position seems to be good but cannot be subject. Value is subject, and position is object.

If there is no love our heart does not feel warmth, you cannot experience joy. It is good to make much money, but if the offering itself is just external, God and Father cannot feel joy; Father's heart will be empty.

Make deep relationships with your brothers or sisters; whatever you do, don't hurt your brother or sister. For how many people can you cry? If you can find three people you are great. If you can find someone for whom you can do anything, for whom you can even give your life, you are the one who knows how to love. If you have three brothers or sisters like this, it is a very strong foundation and you can go through any difficulties.

I was really inspired by his talk and feel that each day we must remember the value in our life of faith.

Dieter, Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup> we had a national test on Divine Principle. Everyone from New York and the New York area gathered at the New Yorker. There was a very good atmosphere and as a tradition Mr. Kwak asked us to always start our test by singing. After a few holy songs we had the questions and three and a half hours to answer. These are the questions:

- Explain the meaning of the "four position foundation" and its relationship to God's ideal of creation
- 2. Answer the following questions with regard to the "human portion of responsibility"
  - a. Why did God give us our portion of responsibility?
  - b. What effects did it have on the providence of restoration?
  - c. Give four biblical examples depicting human portion of responsibility
- 3. Please write on the significance and meaning of God's providence centering on the tabernacle.

It was a very good experience, and each one of us could check how much we know about DP.

We miss True Parents very much and hope they will come back to New York for October 4<sup>th</sup>. Dietrich, I hope you had a good week and wish you a very successful new one. For pledge service on October 1<sup>st</sup> I felt very close to you, as we were praying together at the same time.

Tonight I felt a kind of great seriousness in my heart concerning the future and how to accomplish God's will. I pray that God will guide us each day, and soon True Parents will be welcomed by everybody. Dear Dietrich, thank you very much for being such a warm hearted husband. God bless you forever. May you give Him all your love and warm heart that He can pursue His providence.

With all my love,

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

#### "You are my second messiah"

October 4, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

This morning Alan read to us some high points of Father's speech last year on October 4<sup>th</sup>. Father's message was so deep and bright concerning the future. He said even if the government rejected us, we have now the foundation that if the satanic world rejects us the blessing will come back to us. This is truly a different level.

A few days ago Alan also gave morning service about "The Emotions of our Heavenly Father" and at the end I was surprised that he got inspired by your writing and he even read something out of it from the "News World." I felt very happy to hear your words directly. You are my second messiah and still I always feel overwhelmed by this thought.

I realized that even after the Blessing we still have so much to restore. Everything has to be returned to the heavenly way. And how important it is to make the right conditions. Adam was so pure but innocent and sometimes could not see the danger.

Mrs. Vincenz was saying yesterday that God had forgiven us from all faults of the past but from the Blessing on we are responsible for what we do. More and more I feel a great responsibility toward building an ideal family and how much patience, love and seriousness this implies. This will demand constant efforts every day to accomplish our mission and build an eternal relationship, and raise our children with the greatest faith in God and unchangeable love toward Him and True Parents. Everything we do is truly for our descendants and ancestors – we are historical people!

Dear Dietrich, I am longing to see you, and share with you your heart and my heart. May we together love God so much and all His lost children that He will find happiness being always with us. We will be His temple and home, and may He always feel so good and joyful and comforted with us.

Dietrich, can you write your father (Mr. Seidel) and ask for a picture of him. I even do not know what your father looks like! I will be so happy to see him and will feel closer to your ancestors and pray more actively for them.

Autumn today is really beautiful, very "doux" (means nice and sweet) weather and the atmosphere is peaceful, with tenderness in the trees. I love nature in this season.

I'll see you soon. I send you my deepest love and affection.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

### "Your life-giving letters"

October 7, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

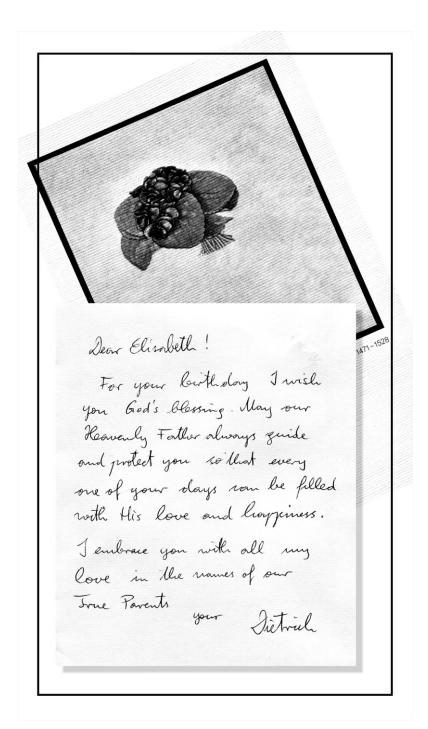
Thank you so much for your life-giving letters. All together I received four letters and I am overwhelmed in front of such a mountain of mail. Many things are going through my head and I have to sort out what is most important to write to you.

The first thought I had when I read through your letter (from October 4<sup>th</sup>) was a reminder on Mr. Sudo's testimony before the 1800 couple Blessing candidates in Barrytown in January 1975. He told us so frankly about his ups and downs so it made a deep impression on me. First he said he did not like his wife at all, and he said in his prayer, "Heavenly Father why her, anybody else would be fine but please not her" (I am not quoting exactly but this is the essence of what he felt). But then he said to himself: I trust in Heavenly Father, I trust in True Parents somehow it will work out. So he agreed with our Father's match and pictured himself going through a very difficult course in his marriage. Mr. Sudo told us further he tried very hard to learn how to love his wife but many times he thought it was impossible. If I remember rightly he mentioned that it took him two years to finally make a breakthrough and to discover the deep love his wife had for God and True Parents. On the basis of this new awareness of her love for God, his love for her could develop and now he is very grateful to be married to his wife.

Mr. Sudo mentioned further that the difficulties with Blessed couples, especially in the beginning of their marriage, are mainly connected to our self-centered attitude towards love and that this is the first step of growth, to leave these fallen remnants behind and to learn how to love in a fully God-centered way. I can imagine that this means a daily decision and redetermination in order to conquer a God-centered relationship between husband and wife. Let us always keep those couples in our prayers who find it more difficult than others.

Elisabeth, I know I repeat myself but I say it again. I love you dearly. You are so much on my mind in these days and my heart is filled with expectations to see you soon. Let us renew our trust in God and in the loving care of our True Parents and we will be able to build the ideal family we all desire.

I send you my love and prayers,
In Our True Parents' Name, *Dietrich* 



# "Still thinking of this dream which was reality"

October 22, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Just arrived in Montreal. Today all the members are fundraising and will come back around 9:30. In a while I will cook for them. People in the train were so friendly that I have a wonderful opinion about Canadians.

Now I understand more clearly the pioneering situation here. They are looking for a new center as soon as possible because the atmosphere where we are now is so difficult because of the mistakes of the past. So maybe we will have to buy a new house soon (40 days fundraising will surely be ahead of us) and from now on I am thinking about how to become a good fundraiser!

On Wednesday night will be open house, and already some people called. Witnessing seems really very good. David said when he was at the office in Toronto some professors and about five students called from St. Michael's College and wanted some literature. Also here in Montreal he said some professors are really on our side. He also told me something very important about Father's expectations for Canada (I will tell you when we meet again).

All this beautiful week with you, I am still thinking of this dream which was reality! I feel now much closer to you and a real new beginning.

Dear Dietrich, take care, and do well in your studies. I am looking forward to meeting you again.

Love, In Their Name, Elisabeth

# "The world of scholars is waiting for God's truth"

October 24, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

You are constantly on my mind and there are not two minutes that I do not think of you. Thank you for calling me from Montreal and sharing your heart with me.

If we feel lonely then we can understand God's heart more deeply. For such a long time He waited for us that we may come back to Him. I find if we offer our deep longing for each other to Heavenly Father and comfort Him we will be able to relieve His heart. We shall pray like our True Father and say to God; "Don't worry about me. I want to do everything to bring Your Kingdom to this earth. My only goal is to make you happy. Please guide us that we first of all may bring Your love to Your children, who are suffering under Satan's sovereignty."

As I told you on the phone our week which we spent together was so full of meaningful events that I still feel like digesting it. One thing I understand now more clearly: that you are my second Messiah. Only through you am I able to experience substantially what restored love means and to have God's point of view also in the realm of sexuality and to rediscover the original beauty and purpose in everything God created.

This is now our challenge, to offer all the blessings God gives us back to Him that He may use us more effectively in the restoration process.

I feel new determination in my studies and no headache will stand in my way. The world of scholars is waiting for God's truth.

Please take care of God's children, our brothers and sisters, and also of yourself. Let us pray that we may be able to shed God's tears in our missions. God loves you very much Elisabeth and so do I. May you always live in His embrace. I send you all my love and many kisses.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

### "Always remember that you are not alone"

October 27, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letters. I think so often of you that I feel sometimes that all the books I am supposed to read are just passing by without penetrating my mind. It is like a new kind of test to remain strongly concentrated on my studies, and to allow on the other hand that you can be in my mind and heart.

I hope everything goes fine in Montreal. Whatever you do in spirit I am with you, and even if it is sometimes tough always remember that you are not alone. When I was fundraising in Omaha I felt your spirit very much around me and it was often like we both were knocking on the doors. I hope I can give you similar support now like you did in the summer.

There is no more news at this time concerning the conference in Ottawa. Dr. Richardson said on Monday or Tuesday he will tell me more.

Having a wife who loves Heavenly Father so much is truly a blessing. I think often how we can be able to transform the love we feel for each other to be able to love God's children more. This road of restoration is not easy but together we will be able to walk it.

Elisabeth, I embrace you with all my heart and may you rest in Heavenly Father's arms and always receive His inspiration.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

### "We are not alone anymore"

October 29, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

It is 8 pm now and I feel so much to communicate with you. I feel the same as my first day in Toronto. This means up and down. I am so happy to think of you and have you, and to love you with all my heart.

Suddenly I was feeling so lonely so I train my mind to think of God, and think of you, that even if physically we are separated by distance, we are not alone any more.

Each new beginning in a different mission always seems a big mountain the first days, but thinking of you will give me so much support.

I feel so happy to share with you everything of my heart.

God bless you, Dietrich.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

## "You can also be my best friend"

October 31 - November 11/12, 1977

Dearest Dietrich,

We are in the bus waiting to go fundraising. The day is all sunny today. It was nice as always to hear you on the phone yesterday. I love you very much, so I always feel I want to be near you.

Happy Children's Day, dear Dietrich.

We just finished a 40 hours fast. We do this condition every week for spiritual children. Tonight four very good people came to the center and tomorrow we are expecting three we hope for the whole day or weekend.

I just spoke to you on the phone and it was truly very nice. I think I love you really very much. Have a good night and God bless you.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

Dear Dietrich.

Tonight I have the feeling that you can also be my best friend. It is great to have a husband like you. I want very much to share many things with you.

Inge called me for Children's Day and reported that Father said that we must love God above all, above everything else. Also he emphasized the search for spiritual children.

Dear Dietrich, keep well and study well for our Heavenly Father. God bless you and keep you in His protection and love.

In the Name of Our True Parents, your grateful wife, *Elisabeth* 

### "I wish you God's blessing and protection"

November 7, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

For Children's Day 1977 I wish you God's blessing and protection. May you always feel His love in your heart and experience deep joy by bringing His children back to Him.

I am so grateful to our Heavenly Father that we are able to walk together on the road of restoration. With all my love I am always,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

### "My thoughts are always with you"

November 21, 1977

Dear Elisabeth.

My thoughts are always with you and I am very happy that you are my wife.

May you always feel Heavenly Father's love and may you walk in His embrace. With all my love,

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

### "You are more than ever in my thoughts"

November 24, 1977

Dear Elisabeth,

I send you this small letter just to tell you that I am well. You are more that even before in my thoughts and I feel much support from you in my studies. Today was quite busy and I felt very joyful among professors, colleagues and books. Within the next week I am supposed to finish a major paper in theology and I am all excited about it. I will write about the different views on the Holy Spirit in Catholic and Protestant theology and then describe his influence on tradition. In all this work I repeatedly discover how precious Divine Principle is and several times I saw how close some theologians' thinking came to God's final truth.

Dear Elisabeth, I embrace you with all my love and pray for much success in your work for Heavenly Father in Montreal. Let us grow in our ability to shed His tears.

In Our True Parents Name, always your Dietrich

# "Quebec is such a beautiful city"

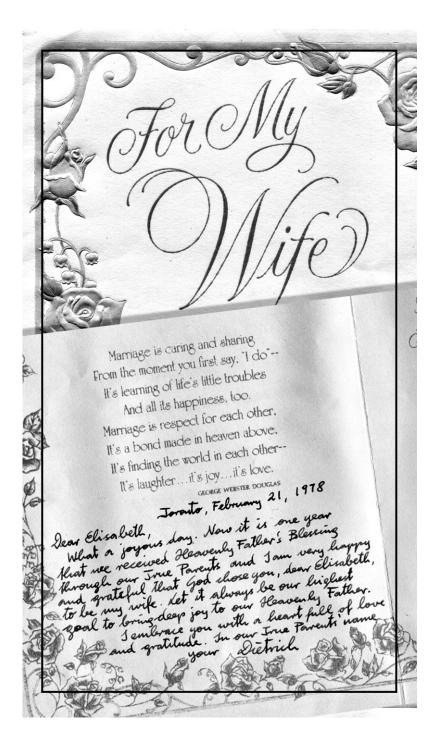
November 26, 1977

Dear Dietrich,

Quebec is such a beautiful city. It is like a "station de sport d'hiver" and looks like my province in France. I would like you to be here, you would love it.

Today is a snow storm and looks very exciting. We have two guests for the weekend. See you soon. Take care.

With all my love, ITN, Elisabeth



# Dietrich Working on his Dissertation in Austria

Dietrich and Elisabeth began their family life when Elisabeth arrived in Canada, visiting Dietrich in Toronto. She had planned to stay in the church center in Montreal for outreach purposes. However, she became pregnant immediately and returned to Toronto where she and Dietrich lived in student housing for several years. Their two children were born in Toronto, and Elisabeth witnessed on campus while Dietrich studied. It was hard for Dietrich to study and take care of his family, especially when Elisabeth developed serious health issues.

They left Canada for Europe when Dietrich's course work was complete but his dissertation still in progress. This was a difficult time period in many ways. The financial support from the Unification Theological Seminary had stopped. Neither Dietrich nor Elisabeth had a job. In order to survive, they stayed first with Elisabeth's family in France and then in Austria with Dietrich's parents while Dietrich worked on completing his doctoral dissertation.

Their parents were reluctant to support them in this way, and in fact were not supportive of the marriage. The negativity surrounding the Unification Church at that time influenced their attitude towards Dietrich and Elisabeth.

Dietrich's progress was slow, and in the fall of 1986 he spent several months alone in Austria, living with his parents, to focus on his dissertation. During this time Elisabeth and the children went back to France, staying with her mother. Combined with the fact that Austria/Germany and France were enemy nations during the relatively recent World War II, and Elisabeth went to France in September, the month during which the French in her hometown celebrated the departure of the last German and Austrian soldiers at the end of the war, Dietrich and Elisabeth experienced tremendous friction in their relationship.

These letters show how they struggled, feeling worlds apart in different countries as Dietrich tried to have a single-minded focus on completing his doctorate, while Elisabeth had to take care of the children without his support. More importantly, though, faith in God and commitment to their marriage and family are revealed as the foundation on which they drew strength when their relationship was most strongly tested.

Elisabeth's reflection on this struggle is also included. Part 1 introduces the "war" between their nations and families, and precedes their letters from this time. Part 2 of this reflection, included later in this volume, describes the years after this tumultuous period, a time when they continued to visit their families and worked to bring reconciliation between their nations.

# Reconciliation and Mending of Relationships: Part 1

Testimony by Elisabeth Seidel

The French suffered greatly from the Germans and Austrians throughout the Second World War. Considering such past injuries, would they be able to accept a marriage between a French person and one of Austrian-German nationality? The answer in my case was negative; this was not a step that could be taken easily.

Let me describe briefly my in-laws' position, which I discovered when we traveled to Europe after my children were born and Dietrich was completing the last leg toward his Ph.D. degree.

Soon after the euphoria of our wedding, I realized that my husband's family was not really thrilled about having a Moonie and foreigner as a daughter-in-law. Dietrich's mom first married during World War II. Her husband, Friedmar Seidel, was an officer quite close to Hitler. I saw a picture of him driving Hitler. He could have been his body-guard. His life during the war was mostly kept a secret, although a few facts remained, such as the following details: Margaretha gave birth to her two children, Gisela and Dietrich, in a special home for mothers destined to start a new race. In fact, the selection had started at her marriage, since her particular features were required (blue eyes, plus a certain height and weight) in order to marry a service man. She did not know the whereabouts of her husband, only that he was undergoing tough training, so harsh and inhuman in fact that it drove several of his comrades to suicide. After the war, Friedmar and Margaretha

divorced. Later she remarried, to Dr. Cyril Vesely, who became Dietrich's step-father.

A few years after my children were born, we visited my parents and my large tribe of over 400 family members in France. I was truly excited to introduce them to my new Austrian relatives through their pictures. However, when my mother saw Friedmar in full uniform that included the Nazi insignia, she fell into a panic, exclaiming, "Please hide this picture and never, ever show it to anyone around here!" Indeed, my family and tribe suffered a lot from the war, and notably a cousin had lost her speech as a child through trauma, to recover it only later. My cousin wanted to show Dietrich around her town, where Germans and Austrians had committed crimes. One household had a mother and her child killed, another a young soldier killed in combat, and some so traumatized that they did not even want to hear the sound of the German language. All the while, my young kids were running around the table shouting, "My dad is a Nazi baby!"

At that point, it became abundantly clear that our marriage (with the matching and Blessing initiated by Reverend Father Sun Myung Moon of Korea) had a specific purpose – to mend the relationships between two countries and two families.

Our parents fought wars with physical weapons. We were meant to fight a spiritual battle and bring a victorious reconciliation through love. Although we were settled in North America, we had endeavored to visit Europe (Austria and France) every two to three years. At the beginning, we had family reunions with my many relatives in France. We would conduct Holy Wine

Ceremonies<sup>19</sup> while talking up the ideals of peace and the value of these special gatherings. My mother wondered about my zeal and frenzy over my unusual involvement with my family and tribe. She would advise me not to pray before the public meals, although in private she had become accustomed to her theologian son-in-law, who would often recite some prayers in French.

When Dietrich was in the later stages of his Ph.D. thesis, we decided to spend a few months in Europe, as he did not need to be in residence at his university in Canada. Money was tight, and we thought that it would be economical to live with our respective families, since they had welcomed us before. Then we began to experience great "waves" of spiritual reaction to our sojourn there. Restoration, or the need for it, was felt at its peak, and drama became our way of life. In Austria, I felt rejected by my in-laws, due to my beliefs, my Moonie status and my foreign status. As an additional hindrance, Dietrich's thesis was overdue, progress at every level was slow, and we ran out of funds. We were beginning to depend on Dietrich's family, and they in turn wanted to control our lives.

Suddenly, I was put on a train to France along with our two children, a symbolic re-enactment of World War II in my own family. I had the distinct feeling that my inlaws were trying to separate us and perhaps find a better match for my husband – a person from their own country, naturally!

Our difficulties to communicate around that time seemed to prove this. When I was trying to reach my

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Ceremonies in which couples rededicate their marriage by drinking holy wine and pledge to create a strong marriage as the foundation for world peace.

husband in Austria from my hometown in St. Jean, I was not able to do so on most days. I was told that he was not there or busy studying. Our letters reflected all the tensions we were experiencing. Would my husband's faith survive this ordeal? Would he stand for God and finish his thesis, resisting his relatives' influence and control? How could our marriage and family survive these challenges?

# "A new beginning for all of us"

September 1, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

Today seems to be a new beginning for all of us. I felt much encouragement from our Heavenly Father at pledge service this morning and there is a new confidence in my heart to make this new month of September a successful one for all of us.

I hope you had a good stay in Innsbruck with Bernadette and Kurt. Your spirit was beautiful and loving when I phoned you on Saturday morning. In the meantime, I also hope that your trip to France was alright. I am sure there was some challenge spiritually and physically with three trains and our two little ones.

How are Christopher and Diesa doing? Can Christopher take Daddy's place in the household and be of some help to his mummy? And our little princess, does she allow mummy to choose her clothes in the morning and does she smile when mummy tells her to dress up warmly, especially now when fall is knocking at the door? I think of you all very much and pray deeply that we find the presence of our Heavenly Father in our family by helping Him and helping each other.

For now, I say goodbye and wish all of you God's blessing and encouragement. Please greet also your relatives and friends from me. Many kisses and one big hug for my three brave ones.

In Our True Parents' Name, your Dietrich

## "Thank you for still loving me"

September 3, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

How was your trip to La Chambre? I thought of you and the children very much and hope that everything goes fine with the three of you.

I feel close to you in my prayers, especially during the *II Jeung* prayer<sup>20</sup> which was a deep experience this time with not so many struggles like other times. I read Father's speech about the Day of Victory of Love and realized that our whole lives are a continuous training and schooling to discover and practice the right kind of love. What always seems to be the painful part of this growing is the founding of our love in the will of God, that is always the higher purpose of our lives. So easily we do not feel loved if we focus on particular situations and experiences that seem to be opposite to our immediate longing or desire.

You may think that I am now philosophizing because of all my thesis writing, but in fact I do think how our love for each other can grow more deep and stable before our Heavenly Father. We both know that we need deep unity centering on God's will and that from there we will not only discover a much deeper love for each other but we will also radiate the healing power of love for everyone around us.

Beyond all our past struggles I know that you are Heavenly Father's special gift and that through your heart I

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> The Korean term "*Il Jeung*" means "one heart." Reverend Moon proclaimed the "Day of the Love of God" on May 16, 1984, celebrating the sovereignty of God's true love in the world. He asked members to join in overnight "*Il Jeung*" prayer vigils to inherit the benefit of this day.

will be able to restore my heart. Thank you for still loving me.

Please send my best wishes to Christopher and Diesa, for their school life and also for their playtime.

I embrace you and the children deeply and send you my kisses.

In the Name of our True Parents, *Daddy* 

## "Deep, deep in my heart I always love you"

September 7, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

After our last few telephone calls I have to take one step at a time to tell you how I feel about our present situation. This will be one of several letters I intend to write to you before bed time over the following few days.

Even if my heart is still turned around from our talks on the phone I am trying to see the whole picture of our relationship and our family life. Above all, we have to ask how our Heavenly Father sees our situation. Through His guidance we were Blessed in marriage by our True Parents. That means also we were asked to work this blessing out in our everyday life. We already know how much this means to confront our fallen nature and to help each other to overcome our weak points.

I assure you that I love and respect you as my eternal wife, and that only through you will I get to know God's heart. Even if at times our relationship is severely strained, I will always keep in mind that this is our restoration course where our love for each other has to be formed and purified with God's love every day. Thus, if there are difficulties and tensions we have to be humble and prayerful and ask God

to guide us, so that we do not settle for some half-solutions but really try to understand God's point of view.

I know it is easy to write this down but difficult to realize it in daily life. However, every day we want to be more ready to master difficulties and to strengthen our spirit through them. Tomorrow I shall write more about practical issues and I will close here for now.

Deep, deep in my heart I always love you. If I am telling you clearly how I feel about our present situation and how much I need our cooperation, that does not diminish my love. I feel it makes it more genuine.

I embrace and kiss you with all my heart.

In the Names of Our True Parents, your Dietrich

## "My heart is still very heavy"

September 8, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

My heart is still very heavy about our last telephone call, but I am hopeful that our love and our common concern for our future will be stronger than all present difficulties.

As I wrote to you in my last letter I want to speak today about practical issues. In effect, what I want you to realize is that in three weeks' time the first draft of the thesis will be finished, which will be the foundation for our new start in Canada and the U.S. For that time, I need your full cooperation. As you know, all Blessed sisters in America were asked to serve as missionaries for three years, separated from their husbands and children to work full time for God's providence. I am asking you now to give three weeks of uninterrupted time to Heavenly Father with the

mission to look after your two beautiful children so that your husband can write this crucial thesis.

That I finish this thesis is not my personal hobby, but the most essential foundation for our common future as a family. Now is the time to tell yourself that we sit in the same boat and, for the sake of the children, our marriage, and our whole mission and family life, to direct your strong will towards this task to take responsibility for Christopher and Diesa.

Since you left Austria I can indeed work efficiently. How much I wish to have your full support so that I can progress even more strongly in writing the thesis. I get up between 4 and 5 in the morning and work between 12 and 14 hours every day and have minimum give and take with my parents. As you can imagine I would be more efficient if we do this mission together, each one doing their responsibility.

As I told you before, now is a most crucial time in our lives. The question is whether we advance or do we retreat. I am determined to advance and to finally finish this work, for which our True Parents have been waiting for about three years now, that I should have finished already. You also know that my prolonged studies have very practical consequences. Our family allowance was completely cut from Barrytown on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 1986. Ever since then we have lived in a most unstable financial situation. With Heavenly Father's help we made it so far, but we also get the clear message that if we do not develop a deep seriousness about fulfilling our mission, the good will of our relatives and other helpers is coming to an end.

Who is the one who will be responsible for the survival of our family – it is your husband. Therefore, I have to make decisions to find some foundation for our future to provide for that survival. And I am asking you to make an extra effort to help for the coming three weeks. I am convinced that

through this condition you will be stronger, you will have a much deeper sense of self-worth, since you actively helped to fulfill our common mission.

For now, I will close here and write tomorrow about the steps to take to actually do our work well. I am counting on your understanding and above all your faith in God and our True Parents.

In deep hope and trust that we both do God's will, I embrace and kiss you as my wife.

In the Names of Our True Parents, *your Dietrich* PS. Give one big kiss to Christopher and Diesa.

## "My heart was so very painful"

September 8, 1986

Dear Dietrich,

My heart was so very painful the whole day and I know your heart was too. One thing for sure is that our ancestors have to unite together too, and this is a very difficult process. The fights are not only between both of us but between different nations.

After I talked to you on the phone I felt so helpless and empty. It seems that every day I have to make sure that you love me. You said I am like a child. This is true. Something in me never grew. I am asking for the love I never received in my childhood, and obviously this is going over the border. You do not feel you want to take on this task. So I feel very much hurt; then I want to hurt you very much too. Then I feel miserable. Then I feel if you would really love me you would not ask me things I cannot do. But if I do not have your love I have nothing left and the whole world has no value. I know I still have to learn to love you and support you and this is what you reproach me with, besides the fact that I am a terrible housewife. I need to repent and make repenting conditions for our ancestors.

Somehow the whole life of my father seems to concentrate on me now, and I pass it on to you because I do not know how to solve it and I get so affected by it.

Before I sleep tonight I want to ask you to forgive me and forgive my ancestors, and with your help I want to start anew tomorrow and learn to love you more deeply in difficult situations. Please love me!

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

PS. Tonight I read in "Today's World" testimonies of missionaries about unity. I think they went through so much, it gave me new courage to gain victory for unity between husband and wife:

Love is purified through suffering, leaving only that which is honest and genuine, and eliminating all that which is not true. Suffering frees love from the falsifying mask of selfishness. When the flood of suffering has passed over a person, then only that which is of genuine value remains.

PPS. I am starting a condition to pray every hour for 12 hours a day – I will pray a few minutes and if in public say a few phrases mentally.

#### "We have to make a new start"

September 9, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you for your phone call and for the new start you offered to me. I still have to sort out my thoughts and feelings to be able to understand you more and to offer more help for improving our relationship, and most of all to make it more stable. I have to think about these issues more and also pray about them. As soon as I have more insights I will write about them.

Three things come to my mind. First, you have to build more self-confidence that you can handle normal motherly tasks well. Also, that has to be built patiently by starting with good planning for the daily tasks. Second, do not have any self-pity for difficult situations in your life. That always invites selfish spirits who allow you to see only your own situation and nothing else. Third, feed your spirit with joy by actively serving others. Serving the children brings joy. Serving your friends and relatives even in a small way will bring so many more smiles in our daily lives.

As you mentioned on the phone, prayer is the key for a stable and life-giving atmosphere. It may be good to pray a few minutes every hour, or sometimes it is good to cry out our heart for one hour to our Heavenly Father. I feel that our prayers are more genuine when they are directed towards the fulfilment of our mission and that we invite first the help of our Heavenly Father and True Parents for that. On this foundation to have more spiritual strength and determination to actually do God's will in our lives, we will also find God's assistance for solving our personal problems.

I have to admit, I am still in a state of shock and confusion about the enormous pressure of the last few days. I am very grateful to you that you realized we have to make

a new start and that you have to gain more control over the spiritual atmosphere around you. I assure you that I have so much more joy and inspiration in my thesis writing if I have your support. To write the thesis with the previous spiritual pressure was simply hell.

Our task is now to patiently build a new relationship, where we do not measure our love for each other by the amount of personal service we give each other, but on the intensity of helping each other to do God's will. In these coming three weeks let us be prayerful and vigilant that we do not fall back into past tensions, but that we persistently invite God and our True Parents to share our lives, and that we increasingly learn to see each other from God's point of view.

I embrace you as my dear wife.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

#### "The true Elisabeth"

September 10, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

Today I was quite busy and I made some good steps forward with the thesis. I can see now the power of a single-minded effort. One major help was some more peace when I thought of you. Still that peace has to be deepened and strengthened, and above all it has to be renewed with our daily determination to take our lives in our hands and to form them in the service of God and our True Parents.

How do I feel when I think of you? If I am honest and listen more deeply into my heart I feel that I meet two persons. On the one hand, there is my wife Elisabeth who is kind and loving, who has a tender heart and who loves our

children with deep motherly concern. This Elisabeth is the true woman and wife our Heavenly Father gave to me, and she loves me as a child of God, trying to help advance the providence with courage and determination. This Elisabeth is also able to overcome physical weakness or discomfort through spiritual inspiration and joy that emerges once we start doing the will of God. I know this Elisabeth is extremely strong willed, but in the right direction, by inviting, serving, talking, and teaching people to understand more the heart of God.

This Elisabeth is not perfect; she has her weaknesses, but they fit within a spirit of tolerance and understanding and she knows that with daily efforts these personal weaknesses can be overcome. In short, this Elisabeth uses all her gifts and talents for the higher purpose in our lives, and she also understands that this higher purpose is connected with the fulfilment of our mission as a family.

I love this Elisabeth with all my heart, not as a projection of some distant ideal but as a real person that I have experienced in many situations of our married life. I do not have to hide anything from this Elisabeth, because I would be sure of her reaction; she has the courage to understand even if it means to face difficulties. I feel deeply in my heart that this real Elisabeth would do anything possible so that we all as a family succeed in fulfilling God's will.

I also know that this Elisabeth does not want to be any other Elisabeth, and if she is, not only she is disturbed but everyone around her as well. We desperately have to find the true Elisabeth in you with patience and daily efforts and prayers. The real Elisabeth is the key for our common life even for our survival.

We both know that there is also the other Elisabeth who also needs some serious reflection in order to sort out the reality of tensions and confusions in our daily life. I hope I

can help the other Elisabeth to become the real one. The task is great and we both have to tackle it.

At this point I will close here and write more tomorrow. I hope you will be able to read between the lines. This was simply a reflection from my heart in an attempt to sort out my own feelings.

I embrace and kiss you as my dear wife.

In the Names of Our True Parents, your Dietrich

PS. Please give one extra kiss from me to the children. Say also hello from me to your relatives and friends in La Chambre.

## "Great goals can be achieved by small steps"

September 11, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

I think of you and the children so often and I hope you all are doing fine. The future is very much on my mind. How can there be a common break-through as a family that we all fulfill our mission and find each other? I realize all great goals can be achieved by small steps. We always have to start right where we are.

Today I had a very intensive day and finished the last chapter on Christian charity. Another 30 pages are ready to go to Professor Richardson. You are already helping very much that this work can progress quickly. The more I focus on writing this thesis, the more I realize the power of that single-minded effort, and inspiration and insight are coming more like a stream rather than rain drops or puddles as in the past. Still inspiration does not come easily. I always have to keep at it and be ready to put in my full effort.

You probably wonder what I will write next after the letter of yesterday. I know it is also necessary to reflect on our weak points, not to be depressed afterwards, but to see ourselves more clearly like in a mirror and find better ways to change. Yesterday, I wrote about you as your real, deeper self, your original nature. As I tell you, the goodness in your heart is not an illusion, it is very real, as is the pain once we realize that our original heart is covered and overcome by other influences.

Why are there tensions and misunderstandings between us? I will give you my answer and hope that you will write yours soon too. Our tensions increase because we are in the process of breaking a pattern of living of the past. What was this past? It became an established fact that you needed help and that I was the one to give it, without too much thought of how to continue in the future. Now external circumstances are pressing us, and it is no longer you as an individual who needs help but the family as a whole needs help, and that can be only done if I whole-heartedly do my mission and finish the Ph.D. program in the shortest possible time. I seem to be much more pressed on this point since I realize that in the end I will be held responsible that we survive as a family and do our mission.

I will write to you again tomorrow. I just got your letter and thank you for it with all my heart.

I embrace you and send my love to you.

I.T.N., Dietrich

P.S. Please kiss the children from me.

## "I hope brighter days will be ahead"

September 13, 1986

My dear husband,

Thank you for all your letters. The children were very delighted too, especially the last one with the chewing gum – Christopher wants to read his letter all by himself.

I agree with all the things you said. But in practice I am struggling mainly to control my strength, then my emotions take over and these last days I have been crying days and nights. The three of us are sick with colds and coughs, especially Christopher. The children can hardly sleep at night because of their stuffy noses and I am always worrying. I wish I would not worry. If I feel strong and healthy then I can better control the situation. It feels like thousands of mountains to overcome. You said this is THE TEST! I wish I could sleep!

When one looks at the world problems, there is not just one. I wish my heart would be always peaceful, and I could be subject over all situations. I still have to work on it very much.

Continued on September 15, 1986

Dear Dietrich,

I will write to you a longer letter when I feel more rested. For now, I am still recovering. Today the children are still home and I hope they can go to school tomorrow. Christopher has a lot of homework. I have to spend about one hour with him every night to translate his work. Probably my mother will come back from the sea tomorrow. Last night the children slept a little better and I could sleep better too. I took a lot of vitamins. The

children are taking cough syrup and as they were home again today Diesa did the dishes and Christopher swept the floor. Also I bought ready-made meals so I could rest instead of cooking. I had to catch up with pledge and prayer conditions.

When I cry, Christopher comes to me and gives me a big hug. This comforts my heart. At this point you are the one who is making strong conditions to save our family. Thank you – through your hard work I hope brighter days will be ahead.

I will write again when my cold is over and the children back to school.

In Their Names, Elisabeth

#### "Bad spirits cannot stand a happy person"

September 14, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

How are you doing? I do feel more peaceful thinking about you and the children after I received your letter. I never before thought about you and our family so deeply in my life. Now, I can do so, especially later in the evening, as a balance to all the studies.

Yesterday and the day before were busy with correcting and rewriting the chapter on "Domestic Servants" that I did already in Toronto, but it really needed that "face lift." So I am finally at the point where all five chapters are finished in their first draft. The goal is to complete the introduction and the conclusion by the end of the month. That needs 12-hour or more study days and especially unity of heart and spirit with you.

Today was a beautiful day of sharing with brothers and sisters in Seebenstein. Greetings from Johannes and Mary, and your sister Bernadette (and your brother Kurt too). Rudolf Dangl and Peter Haider picked me up at the Buchtelbar and we arrived at 9 a.m. in Seebenstein where about 80 brothers and sisters waited. I shared with them for about one and a half hours, and I think it went well, giving them some more inspiration by talking about our work in North America. Johannes gave the concluding talk, summing up the workshop in preparation for the work with Catholic priests. In the next 40 days, 1,600 priests will be visited after they receive a letter from Heinz (the ex-priest from the Seckau monastery). The goal is to reach at least 70 positive priests who would like to work with us on a regular basis. I was deeply touched to meet some "old timers," who I saw last time 13 years ago. Everyone was in good spirits and ready to go into the next 40 days.

I would like to share with you more about your letter. It is true that as the living generation we now represent our ancestors here on earth. We are the present fruit of our lineage and it is up to us to advance the providence of restoration by undoing the mistakes of the past and indemnify not only our own wrongdoings but also those of our ancestors.

However, we should always realize that we as the physically living human beings are determining the course of restoration, and that we should never be thrown around by our ancestors through their spiritual influence. Of course, there were many wrongdoings and crazy things in the past in both of our ancestral lineages. Being aware of that, we can ward off bad ancestral influence and stimulate the good one through deep prayer, but also by showing a certain persistence in our daily work. If we focus our energies on doing God's will the crazy spirits will leave us because they cannot stand to be close to a principled life.

That needs spiritual discipline on our part, and we should see every day as a new chance to advance our path of spiritual discipline. That means to fulfill good conditions; to purpose something that is beneficial for fulfilling God's will, and to do it with a single-minded heart. I see the fulfilling of such conditions not as something exhausting and sad, but, on the contrary, as something that fills our hearts with deepest joy and the sense that we actually contributed something to the happiness of God. Bad spirits cannot stand a happy person who is motivated by God. Someone who can sing in his heart and comfort God, someone who is in good humor and cheers up others; such a person is simply avoided by bad ancestral spirits.

If I think about my own likes and dislikes, if I do not fight to solve difficult situations, I surely attract weak and selfish spirits who do not care, and who drive me even deeper into an atmosphere of despair. But the give and take with the spiritual world can be used for our benefit by taking the viewpoint of True Parents and allowing their spirit to guide us. Probably you remember Reverend Kwak's words in the July issue of *Today's World*. He says:

Father asked us to follow his own way of responding to difficulties. Under any circumstances, no matter how difficult, Father never asked, "What shall I do?" Instead he asked, "What would God do? What would Jesus do? What is their attitude and desire?" At minimum then, I want to urge brothers and sisters to adopt this aspect of Father's lifestyle. When you are faced with serious difficulties or an uncomfortable environment, don't ask, "Oh, what shall I do?" Instead, ask what True Father or True Mother would do. Try to assess what their determination and their direction would be.

That has to be learned through daily spiritual discipline. First, smaller conditions, then greater ones building up strength and the right desire. Concretely, I want to say that even your relationship with your father (and to a certain degree also with your mother) is now in the stage of being dealt with constructively and not avoided. This is a time of learning and improving. Again, it starts in your own heart. To clear it of past resentments towards your relatives and even towards me. We have to be the ones who repent first. Repentance means to turn around, to break the past pattern, and to allow God to guide us. I do not tell you to right away have more give and take with your father (or mother); that would just exhaust you with no results. But I do ask you to clean your heart. We have to first find peace within ourselves and then we can assist the restoration of our relatives and ancestors.

Now I want to share something with you that takes some patience to explain. You wrote in your letter you want to make sure that I love you, and you want to have the certainty of my love on a daily basis. You also feel that you missed love in your childhood and that you are now asking for this love back from me. I think you hit the core of the problem in our relationship and in our understanding of what it really means to love each other.

In our past married life, I was driven by the concern for your health and I made help in the household and childcare the criterion for that concern. Instinctively, I knew that my jumping up and down for the mere survival of our family at the expense of my mission work could never be a proof of my love for you, but only a work of necessity. However, as your health got more stable, I should have more strongly insisted on the fulfillment of your share within our marriage and family life, and not allowed you to see my external help in family affairs as proof of my love for you, or as proof of that extra love that you missed in your childhood. In other words, my weakness in not telling you clearly your share as a housewife and mother got both of us into the habit of accepting the wrong kind of criterion as the proof of love between us.

To say it bluntly without wanting to hurt you, I offered you an irresponsible love by not guiding you to your true position within our family, and thus bringing all of us into the present predicament that presses our family survival. You on your part were eager to grab my love, or any proof of love you could find, to compensate for the lack of love in your life as a child or even later. However, the love I offered you never healed you; quite the contrary, it made you want more, it simply made you selfish. In Canada, I simply had not the distance from all our problems to sort them out, and when I do it now it is not to make you feel bad, but to start a genuine healing process.

You are right, I do not want to take on this task to fill the need for love in you that has its origin in your childhood experiences. I do not want you to remain a child in that

respect. To offer you a child's love would just spoil you more, it would make you more selfish, like children are. To run after you and humbly take orders and to feel guilty for not fulfilling your likes or dislikes does in no way generate genuine love between us, it throws us back to an immature relationship that cannot solve the problems that life offers. You feel hurt when I do not respond to your demand for that extra love, that I should prove it by showing extra care, keeping you away from the difficulties of life, and from genuine responsibilities as a mother and housewife.

I feel that you want to hurt me too, because your true self tells you that something is unhealthy in my conduct. Your desire to hurt me is your desire for genuine love that is rooted in the heart of God, that springs forth from being responsible, from conquering new territory in your heart for God to dwell there. If I remain your old husband who compromises with an immature love that brings all of us into jeopardy, you will always miss that genuine love that is rooted in God. Once I take my stand and fulfill my share, as I am asking you to fulfill yours, we start a process of real cleansing that may hurt too, but that brings the desired healing. You will realize that you always wanted me to offer you genuine love, and that your need for more love, to compensate for the lack of love from your childhood, is actually supremely fulfilled by that mature love between husband and wife that rests on the fulfillment of our responsibilities as father and mother. Only then our children will be happy, and we as a family will be happy.

Now you understand that the first step to take in that cleansing process, which is a cleansing for both of us, is precisely to ask of each other "the thing we cannot do." I ask you to take responsibility as a mother, and you ask me to take responsibility as a father. You thought it is impossible to fully take care of the children and home, and I thought it is impossible to be fully responsible for the family and to fulfill

my mission, thus creating a stable foundation. Only by assuming whole-heartedly our responsibilities now will we be able to generate love between us that has value. You will find me as your new husband, and you will be to me like a new wife. The whole world around us will have value only if we can meet on that cleansed foundation where we offer each other genuine respect and love. Please learn to love me and support me with that cleansed heavenly love in mind. Then our marriage will be a true school of love and we shall accomplish the task of restoration.

I deeply hope you read these thoughts and feelings from me with a prayerful heart and probe its content deeply. Your letter inspired me to think about the real meaning of a new start. Let us go forward with unity of heart that is rooted in God's love.

I love you dearly with all my heart.

In Our True Parents' Names, your Dietrich

PS. Please greet and hug Christopher and Diesa from me.

# "Work with all my heart on one thing"

September 16, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

How are you doing? I hope everything goes fine with you, the children, and your family. If you are too busy, please write just a short note or a postcard. I know you like phone calls better, but I prefer letters. Often we can say much more in a letter, because we can think twice before we write it down.

What shall I share with you this evening? One thing is very much on my mind, and that is our relationship in the future. In my last letter I wrote extensively how I think about

your role in our relationship. Today I would like to reflect about myself. I know that this is not easy since we always need someone else to act as a mirror to find out who we are. So I try to allow you to be my mirror through which I can understand myself better.

One thing I know, I can do well if I work with all my heart on one thing. That goes together with the fact that I am easily distracted. And often I think I am needed here and there, and so I feel that I do many things but that I do not advance where I should. That is not only with reference to my studies, but with other things too. First, I need to find a single-minded disposition, then I can advance.

Moreover, I feel I have to find out more deeply what my life of faith means in our daily lives. When True Father says we should always take the position of a servant and try to win people's hearts, then this is a great task that needs special efforts, not just externally by offering service, but internally too, to know if our service will bring the desired result and lead us closer to God. To be more sure in our life of faith will give us more willpower in the right direction. I need you to tell me how to apply a single minded effort in my life of faith, and I need you to correct my service.

We both know we will find ourselves closer to each other if we both serve the higher purpose, thinking continuously how our True Parents would act in the different situations of life. Often we make life difficult because we ask for too much personal service and are removed from any higher viewpoint. But as you know, correction and energy for change comes only from a higher viewpoint, it comes from the conviction that we actually serve the higher purpose and advance God's providence. So we have to tell each other how Heavenly Father would see our situation, how He would solve this or that difficult situation, how our True Parents would act if we feel resentful, angry, or exhausted.

I feel that our True Parents know about our weaknesses, and they want to train us to apply our life of faith to overcome them. Our True Parents do not want that we accuse ourselves for failing here or there, but that we gather the pieces and start again. Thus we will develop the perseverance of our True Father and be victorious in most adverse circumstances.

I kiss and hug you with all my heart. Give my love to the little ones.

Many greetings to your mother and Angel.

ITN, Dietrich

# "The true you not the angry you"

September 18, 1986

Dear Dietrich,

Thank you for all your letters. You really put a lot of thinking into it! Reading some letters, I can really connect with you and receive the guidance and love of God through them. Some others I have to read a few times to find the essence of you, I mean The True You not the angry you. Especially the last four-page letter from September 14, I felt like someone on a dissection table where every part is pulled apart and studied, analyzed, and criticized, in a great deal of intellectualism. Still I am accepting it, because I know I have to repent for so many things.

When I was in Innsbruck I observed how Kurt was dealing with Bernadette, his wife. It was very interesting because I could see myself through her. Suddenly she became very upset about every little thing at the center, criticizing brothers and sisters and feeling so tired because her health is not good. One evening we talked a long time together and Kurt was explaining how he helps Bernadette to break through with her health. Of course to have faith but also to do things she could not do. For example, she could never do any fundraising, and the idea of witnessing paralyzed her. So they made a condition together in London to fundraise (at her pace) for a certain amount of money. They were very happy because they accomplished it.

So I asked him: "What was the purpose of it? That she will be able to go on a fundraising team?" So he explained that he because of the condition of her health she will never be able to go on a fundraising team. But she has to do things symbolically. She did the fundraising and now she has no more fear of it. She feels free. Also witnessing with the center, she is doing mainly symbolic witnessing at this point. In a sense, I also admired the way he was always so positive around her (she was always affected by all the ups and downs of the center). I am a person who needs witnessing as my daily bread and I know these are conditions to heal one's difficulties, because it brings God's heart and God's love right there.

I am now recovering from my cold and the children too. Granny and Angel came back and today they brought me to Chambery to see the homeopathic doctor. I feel confident with him and he gave me a new treatment, also something for the children to make their lungs strong. The children are making some breakthroughs also. They are learning how to do dishes and sweep the floor. Of course they still need some time to learn and grow into it; like I need some time to take more responsibility physically and spiritually for the children. I cannot do it all at once.

I had very difficult encounters with my father again; I know it has to be dealt with. I will explain to you when I see you.

By the way, I did not mean I need your love, which means your love equals physical help around the house. This is not what I meant at all, and on the contrary I never saw your external help as a proof of love that I missed in my childhood, but only as bare necessity.

Good night for now.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

#### "Tears of despair are tears of defeat"

September 18, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

Thank you very much for your letter and the children's letters. It really moved my heart to hear from all three of you. I feel many things through your letter. Actually there are two letters from you just next to each other.

In your first letter I feel an atmosphere of struggle. You feel exhausted, all of you have a cold, you cannot sleep well, and there are many mountains to overcome. The question remains how to control the situation even if we do not feel strong and healthy. I know it is one thing to do something difficult yourself and it is another thing to give someone else advice on how to be victorious and to persevere. Nevertheless, I will tell you my thoughts and feelings.

Try with all your heart to feel grateful in every situation. Give your utmost best to have a living prayer connection with our Heavenly Father. And from your personal relationship with our True Parents learn to discipline yourself. All three - gratitude, prayer, and self-discipline will build you up, they will heal you, and make you fulfil your goal from where you will feel deep joy and happiness. I feel that gratitude is the starting point in situations where we feel like crying. To be grateful for the gifts we continuously receive, and for our very situation. Gratitude should be the natural disposition in our hearts. Only from there, with such a grateful heart, do we open ourselves to the inner peace of God. And that peace means not to allow ourselves to be affected in an uncontrolled or desperate manner by the very situation we are in. Gratitude is our distance from despair. It means to have internal dominion already over the situation,

and to gather the tools in our hearts to make the external dominion and actual solution visible.

If I feel grateful, I feel also an urge to pray, to share deeply with God all the things that move me, to enter into a lively conversation. Prayer breaks the pattern of feeling alone and helpless. We suddenly realize we are never alone, we only have to allow our Heavenly Father to speak to us and to be close to us. God wants so much to be our partner, to share with us every little thing in our daily lives. Let God be on your team. God and you, there are two of you, and that is the strongest team we can imagine. Once we feel God in our heart, and our spirit is strengthened through deep and cleansing prayer, then when we connect with the world we simply transfer the internal victory to the external world.

And the first step to that external victory in the physical world is the connection of our spirit with our immediate situation, and that is the exercise of self-discipline. We are disciplining our spirit to cope with the immediate world around us and we receive strength to do so because we know our True Parents did it already, they won the battle of self-discipline to bring the spirit into complete harmony with the physical self, and that in turn is able to act harmoniously in the actual world, solving the present problem or fulfilling the present task. But then to bring that harmony between the internal desire of our spirit and the external fulfillment of our task in the physical order, all that opens in us a deep sense of joy and true happiness. It is the feeling of a victory that counts because it is the victory of restoration itself.

If we see our lives continuously as a never-ending chain of chances to be victorious in self-discipline based on prayer and gratitude, then God's joy will nourish our spirit every day and we can turn the daily victories of restoration into one providential victory for God. Tears of despair are tears of defeat, but we are called to learn to cry Heavenly Father's

tears. If we cry with a pure heart, tears will cleanse us and heal us; only if there is self-pity in our tears then they will work against us. To cry Heavenly Father's tears is only possible if we are ready to share His suffering heart and are willing to carry His burden. Elisabeth, the day when we both are able to cry God's tears, then our love for each other will be perfect. The path is right before us; we have to walk it patiently.

When I read your second letter (September 15) I feel an atmosphere of hope and some internal victory. Sickness and weakness are behind you and new strength and a sense of accomplishment are with you. Maybe intuitively you followed the path of gratitude, prayer, and self-discipline, but obviously there are more paths to overcome a difficult situation. I am happy to hear that Christopher is supporting you and even comforting you at times, and that also Diesa is offering her help. The more you are united in heart and spirit, you and the children, the more I feel united too and feel joy to do well in my task. Indeed, I want with all my heart to save our family but for that to happen we need to make unity of heart. You should reach the point of feeling the deepest joy for fulfilling this task to care for the children so that I can finish the thesis and open up a new future for all of us.

Indeed, the future is very much on my mind. Especially the immediate future from October till Christmas when I should completely finish the thesis so that it can be handed over to the doctoral committee.

More about that next time. Maybe you can think about this point too. Let us patiently weigh our possibilities and seek Heavenly Father's guidance.

Plan a good schedule every day!

Learn to be a good steward and spend money wisely.

Be a peace-maker even if your heart is on fire. Nothing is too difficult that has not been already pioneered by our True Parents.

I love you deeply and embrace you with all my heart as my dear wife.

In Their Holy Names, Dietrich

PS. Please greet Granny and Angel from me.

# "Thank you for working hard on your thesis"

September 19, 1986

Dear Dietrich,

Happy spiritual birthday for the  $21^{\rm st}$  of September. I hope we will celebrate later.



Elisabeth with Chris and Diesa in France

We all slept well last night and with the help of my mother around I am feeling better and see some light again. Also I am confident that the children will take care of themselves more and more and be little helpers to clean up their mess.

After a difficult encounter with my father I spoke strongly to him about where he will go after he dies and the existence of spirit world. He said he needs guidance from his children and we are the only people from whom he will accept some advice. At the end he said, if I have a Bible he will try to read it. Of course I have to work at it a lot and it demands so much energy.

Thank you for working hard on your thesis. I know it was the best way for you. I wish I could do it gradually and it was unfortunate that we were sick.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

## "I want to go where I belong"

September 21, 1986

Dear Dietrich,

After your phone call I thought about our conversation and I felt so sad I could not find you. You seem so distant and probably overworked, that may be the reason. Or maybe your father pounded at you again just before. Of course he cannot understand the insecure life of a Moonie. You are not alone in that situation; many members have the same problem.

And if you can still listen to me or hear what I have to say, I think you should not ask your father for money again. If he wants to do it this is fine. If not, God will show us a way; even if this is hard we can make it. I think I can try to sell flowers sitting at a table for two or three days a week since the children will be at school. And maybe you can make a loan for three months and reimburse them.

Please do not ask me again to stay in La Chambre. This is more than enough. I want to be close to a church center and brothers and sisters. Since my mother already asked me not to come for the month of September how can I even think to stay until Christmas? I still have some dignity and I do not want to be in the situation where I have to beg her for help. I want to go where I belong – in the Unification Church, and feel part of it.

This is probably the last letter I am sending you since I guess you will pack soon. I will probably arrive in Lausanne on Thursday the  $2^{nd}$  of October or Friday the  $3^{rd}$ . I am going to try to sleep now. May God be with you these remaining days and may we be able to love each other and unite as we did not do yet.

In the Name of Our True Parents, Elisabeth

## "I need unity of heart with you"

September 23, 1986 (9 am)

Dear Dietrich.

After your phone call on Sunday night, I called Canada but I could not reach Paul because he was traveling. But I talked to Maureen and she said that in Toronto it will be very difficult for me because everybody is fundraising now and they are not contacting ministers at this point. So Paul said the best solution has to be

worked out between you and me. And Maureen was saying that since we do not have to pay the rent in Lewiston this sounds like a good solution, as you wrote to Paul before.

For me to stay in a church center in Paris is out of the question (all Blessed families are living separately and the husbands are working for a salary). Also, I feel after your study is finished your mission will be in North America, because as you said the Ph.D. for Europe is so different. So our lives in the future are 95% sure to be in North America.

So now I have to tell you what I committed myself to do in Lewiston, for you to have peace of heart and reassure you that you will be able to work 100%.

- I think that the children and myself made a breakthrough here in France that we can take care of ourselves and you will not have to do any work at home as you used to do. This is mainly because my health has greatly improved.
- 2. I am thinking to do some babysitting for two or three hours after the children come back from school. This way our children can have friends to play with and we can have extra money. Or I can do some telephone work or something for extra money, or sell flowers as I told you in my last letter.
- 3. I want to connect with other Blessed families in America, other 74 Couples. I need some give and take and support from them, because I have to prepare myself for the future as you will have to go many times to conferences and other events.

Please phone after you receive this letter. I need unity of heart with you. If not, my life is like hell. I still have to learn many things. I kiss you as my husband.

In Their Name, Elisabeth

# "I want to kiss and hug you too"

September 23, 1986 (11am)

Dear Dietrich,

I just received two letters this morning from September 17 and September 19. I feel very happy from your love I felt through the letters. This will brighten my day. You try so hard to comfort me and help me and I am very grateful. Thank you for kissing me and loving me as your wife. I want to kiss you and hug you too. I know these last weeks was the rain before the sunshine. Thank you for teaching me how to gain internal victory. I know you think very much about the future. Please have faith too. Things will work out.

When you phoned on Sunday night we had been the whole day at the chalet high in the mountains with my brother and the children and had just come back. Instead of being upset on the phone I know you needed to be reassured. Please do not ask me everything at the same time. It was such a shock for me, my heart was in pain the whole day. Give me time to fulfill my responsibility.

I want to go back to North America and I promise to work on my weak points better than in the past. Please phone quickly to confirm.

I love you and I need you. I pray for deep, deep unity. In Their Name, *Elisabeth* 

#### "See first our common mission"

September 24, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

As I told you in my last letter I am thinking more and more about our immediate future. This is really the time when we have to bring everything together: our life of faith, our mission, our marriage, our family, and the earthly dimension of our lives that is finances and a place to stay. This does not only sound a lot in one sentence, but it is also a formidable task. In other words, we are going to enter a final phase of accomplishing our mission and finding a deeper relationship with our Heavenly Father and with each other. Only in being strongly united with God and realizing in our ultimate sense that our lives belong to our True Parents we shall together fulfill all the tasks that lie ahead of us.

Here is the situation as I see it: Presently, I am working hard on the conclusion chapter and hope to have it done in about three more days. To write a good introduction would mean about two more weeks so I will have it done about half way through by the beginning of October. All together the thesis in its first draft is 300 pages, plus 70 pages' introduction to the translation which has about 200 pages. So I am looking at about 570 pages to rewrite, correct, and edit; but the main work concerns the 300 pages of actual thesis chapters. The reason I write to you all this information is that I am confident to finally finish the whole thing if I work as single-mindedly on it as I did during the last three weeks. With about 12 hours of daily work and full concentration I should be able to finish everything in two and a half or three months. That estimate would bring us right up to Christmas.

As I told you on the phone you should seriously consider to stay longer in France, not because it is easier for me and hard on you, but because we all are surrounded by

existential needs that cannot be discussed away by personal preferences. Here are the reasons for my suggestion to you to prolong your stay in France.

For me to finish the thesis I need to be connected with it as I am now. The 12-hour daily schedule worked well. The last three weeks I wrote about 70 pages. It took me nearly three months to write that amount in France. As I said before, I am confident that with such intensity of work I will be finished with the whole thesis by Christmas.

You know that we have a financial vacuum before us. To return to Canada would put me on a strict fundraising schedule to meet our survival needs. Moreover, there is no stable set-up with reference to living quarters. I spoke briefly with Paul on the phone and he recommended strongly, if by any possible means that you could stay in France till the thesis is done. He did not offer me the apartment, and a prolonged stay at the center is also not manageable. He realized that you need spiritual support and hoped that this could be done through prayer and close contact by mail. Paul understood well that at this stage close contact with Professor Richardson is indispensable. So, to advance the thesis with the necessary time pressure I should stay in Lewiston. For all of us to go to Lewiston does not work out simply because there is no money to do that.

The situation is serious, but I think it is manageable. What I am asking you, above all, is not your literal stay in France, even if that is the recommended solution, but your serious reflection about our situation as a family. How we find a stable set-up for our children without interrupting the flow of work that ensures the fulfillment of our common mission. Even if you had your struggles, you did very well during September in providing stability and education for Christopher and Diesa. I am asking you for a spiritual renewal, a new direction of our hearts, to see first our

common mission that also includes the stability of our family for the future.

The past experience of our family life was that we focused first on family and personal wellbeing at the expense of our mission. We simply did not manage to find a balance, and we rushed from one argument and crisis situation to the next, not only to the detriment of our marriage but also to the dismay of our children. I am asking you that you decide in the depth of your heart to take full responsibility for the children till Christmas. I know you will only be able to do that if you understand our whole situation and if you do not value my request as a personal desire of mine, but as an essential condition for advancing the work of God, our family life, and your personal strength and life of faith.

If it turns out that it is absolutely impossible for you to stay in France, we will find another solution, but only with your utmost cooperation and dedication. Pray deeply about this letter and reflect in your heart about a new beginning for our marriage and family that is rooted in actually doing God's will for us.

If you think it is necessary, phone Paul (person to person) and share with him briefly. You are my eternal wife and Heavenly Father knows that together we can fulfil our mission and advance not just the restoration of the world but also our own.

On the  $30^{\text{th}}$  of September we go back to Vienna. I will probably phone you from there.

Deep in my heart I always love you. I pray for you and the children. I embrace you and kiss you.

In the Names of Our True Parents, Dietrich

# Dietrich Working on his Dissertation in the United States

During the months spent in Austria, Dietrich was able to make significant progress on his dissertation. With the first draft almost complete, he arranged to return to North America to stay with his advisor, Professor Herbert Richardson.

Dr. Richardson lived in the small town of Lewiston in upstate New York, close to Niagara Falls and not far from Toronto, Canada. He had founded Edwin Mellen Press in Toronto, and an American office was soon established in Lewiston, near his house. Dr. Richardson offered Dietrich a room in his home while he completed his dissertation.

Since it was impossible for Elisabeth and the children to stay in France or to stay in Dr. Richardson's home, they returned to Toronto, connecting to the Unification Church members there. This period was also very difficult for Elisabeth as she had no clear purpose for being in Canada other than to wait for Dietrich to complete his dissertation.

#### "I am with you in spirit"

October 16, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

Happy birthday to you. May our Heavenly Father guide and protect you always and may the new year of your life bring all those breakthroughs we have been struggling for in the past. I am with you in spirit and hope that you have a joyful day.

Here in Lewiston everything seems to work out well. Professor Richardson offered me a nice little guest room and some office space for studying. I am now finishing the introduction and in two or three days I will start rewriting the whole thing.

Yesterday, Richardson invited the whole staff of the Edwin Mellen Press to an office lunch where he introduced me to all the employees (eight of them). He offered grace at the table and wished me well with the thesis and asked for God's guidance so that he can do God's will with all the projects of the Edwin Mellen Press. All in all, there was lively sharing for one and a half hours over lunch in the office building. There seems to be a good spirit among the employees and a certain internal commitment to get all these scholarly books to the American public and in this way contribute to raising the spirit of the country. There are books on Religion, Philosophy, Business, Ethics, History, and Music, and probably a number of other main subjects, and it appears that within all these topics a certain preparation of the American people through the scholarly world takes place. This is just my feeling, but there seems to be some truth to the matter.

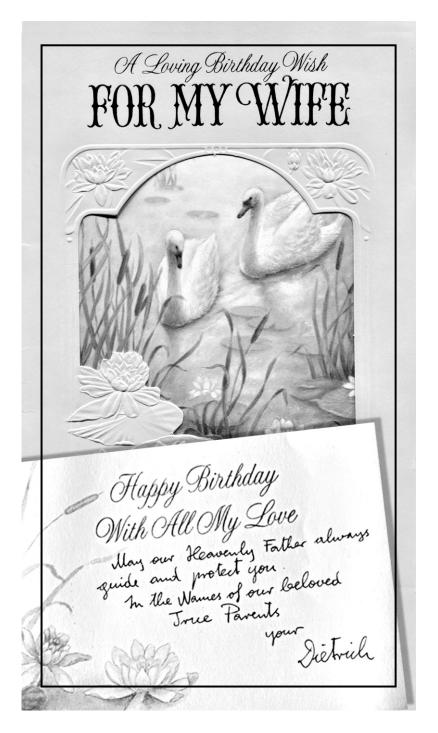
In the afternoon, Herb took some time to help set up the guest room by moving some furniture with me. Afterwards

we cleaned out his car that had turned into a moving library and newspaper deposit. He was very encouraging with the thesis and said that in about three months' time I should be able to make it. All I have to do is to provide a single-minded effort and not to tolerate any interruptions. So what it comes down to is a continuous exercise in self-discipline and to allow our Heavenly Father to actively take part in our lives. We have to always be convinced that God is the first one who wants us to succeed, and He is waiting only for the right conditions on our part so that His spirit can move us in the right direction.

I am praying for you every day that you may have the strength and stability in spirit and body to care for Christopher and Diesa and to allow His joy and life to be in your heart. May we truly together accomplish this mission, and perceive everything that comes our way as steps on our path of restoration. You have wonderful qualities deep down in your heart. Trust them and act upon them; then all external hindrances will dissipate and turn into opportunities to allow your real original self, that I love with my innermost heart, to be always present.

I embrace and kiss you as my eternal wife.

In the Names of Our True Parents, *Dietrich* 



#### "Let us heal our past"

October 20, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

It was nice to talk with you on the phone and I hope you had a beautiful birthday. I think often of you and of Christopher and Diesa, and pray with all my heart that you can manage everything well.

As I told you on the phone, these first days of returning to a full study schedule were rather difficult but I feel now I am getting back into it. Also, as I told you in previous letters, I feel so much more strength and joy in this study mission if you stand fully behind me and even tell me to push ahead more quickly. Obviously this is not an easy time for all of us. You feel that I should be home more and fulfill my share as husband and father, and I am struggling with full concentration for the studies and the pressure to get everything done quickly. Both of us will suffer more and make things more difficult if we maintain that horizontal perspective on our situation.

We have to learn to value our separation as a final condition for the fulfillment of our common study mission. It seems that we can do more for our Heavenly Father and True Parents once the thesis is done and we assume some clear responsibility in a new mission. Thus, the transition to that new stage requires a special effort. I feel quite clearly as my writing of the thesis increasingly enters its final stages I need to put forth extra effort and full dedication to make things work out. Victories for our Heavenly Father always seem to be very dramatic. Of course, Satan is not sleeping but pulls constantly on our weak points to postpone and procrastinate the final result.

Why do I write all this? I want both of us to have more oneness of heart and oneness of spiritual direction and

purpose. Only in this way can we create harmony between us that goes beyond everything that we experienced so far in our marriage and family life. You will feel the effects of a deeper unity between us, that is rooted in the fulfillment of God's will, in the behavior of our children. The vision for their lives will expand and they will receive strength and encouragement from God, once they sense the power of deep spiritual unity between their Mummy and Daddy and between all of us as a family and our Heavenly Father.

I realize such a spiritual unity that will bridge any physical distance does not come easily, but praying for it and exchanging our thoughts about it seems to be a good start. If Christopher and Diesa feel deep internal unity between their parents then they will feel stable and assured, and they will be encouraged to take responsibility to make things work out well around the house.

I feel that our situation is already more stable than it was in Europe, and I sense more understanding towards our whole situation on your part than in the past. Let us continue to build stronger foundations for our common spiritual life so that we never fall back into merely horizontal arguments. Let us heal our past by being more serious to help our True Parents. I will always love you as my dear eternal wife. I embrace you with all my heart.

In the Names of Our True Parents, Dietrich

## "Unite our family, our ancestors and our countries"

November 14, 1986

Dear Elisabeth,

This is just a short note to thank you for your love and kindness that you gave me on my one-day home coming.

So much I wish we could always be deeply united with the love of our Heavenly Father. We have to determine every day to walk the path of restoration together and this way unite our family, our ancestors, and our countries.

May we learn increasingly to see our lives with the eyes of our True Parents, so that we can purify every thought and feeling and finally completely harmonize all our responsibilities. I will be with you in your prayers. I embrace you with all my heart.

In Our True Parents Name, your Dietrich

#### "Three wishes"

November 14, 1986

Dear Diesa,

Your Daddy thinks of you very much. When you come into my mind I see your smiling face and my heart is joyful. I know that it is sometimes difficult to be loving and kind, but we have to try even if our feelings say no.

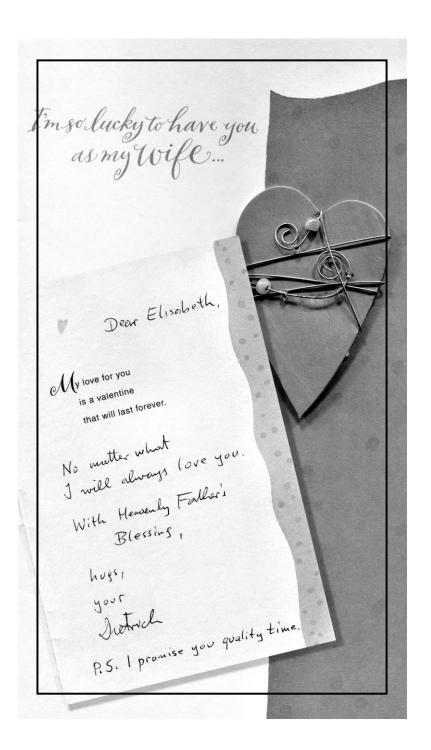
I write down three wishes, which I ask from you with all my heart:

- 1. Be kind to your Mummy and listen to her.
- 2. Be friendly to your brother and share with him.
- Be a happy maker for God's beautiful creation, and be yourself because your real self is very kind and loving.

Try to do numbers 1 and 2 three times a day, and the sun will shine always in our home.

I greet you with all my love. In our True Parent's Name, your Daddy

PS. Please kiss Mummy from me.



## Dietrich Teaching at Sun Moon University

Dietrich completed his doctorate, and in the summer of 1987 the family moved to the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in Barrytown, NY, from where Dietrich had graduated as part of the first class in 1977. At first the family lived on campus and Elisabeth was active in the UTS community. Also, they held workshops on marriage and family enrichment as well as offering marriage counseling.

In the fall of 1995 Dietrich went to Sun Moon University (SMU) in Korea as a visiting professor. He was the first professor from UTS to participate in this exchange between the two institutions.

During this time Elisabeth stayed at their home in Red Hook, NY, close to UTS, with Christopher and Diesa. They had purchased this house after Dietrich was established as a full-time professor at UTS. The children attended high school in Red Hook, and there was a substantial community of families associated with the seminary, also members of the Unification Church, whom Dietrich hoped would provide support to Elisabeth and the children during his absence of several months.

Unfortunately, Dietrich's visa was delayed and he spent several weeks in Japan while the issue was resolved, a situation that was challenging to say the least. This naturally aggravated Elisabeth's feelings of abandonment during the time that her husband was away, since he was not able to accomplish the purpose of his travels for several weeks. These communications from Dietrich, many of which were done by fax, reveal the challenges they faced and the ways in which their love comforted and

supported them both during this period. Many of these letters are addressed to all three – Elisabeth, Chris, and Diesa – with appropriate guidance to each of the children.

#### "Please enjoy this cake"

August 25, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,

We had a very moving Blessing ceremony in the Olympic stadium today. The whole week we had torrential rains and also this morning it rained a lot. However, when the Blessing ceremony started and True Parents came to the stage the rain stopped completely for 80 minutes, just enough time to finish the ceremony with three cheers of "Mansei."

In my heart I felt it was Heavenly Father's intervention. The ICUS<sup>21</sup> guests were deeply moved and a good number (actually 120 together with the PWPA<sup>22</sup> participants) went to the Blessing themselves as previously married couples.

I hope you all are doing fine and feel Heavenly Father among you in your daily life. Dr. Shimmyo was so kind to bring one piece of wedding cake to New York with him. This cake was handed to all the ICUS participants to connect us all substantially with this historical Blessing. Please enjoy this cake.

Many hugs and kisses to all three of you. ITN, Dad

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> The International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) is an interdisciplinary academic forum dedicated to examining from a scientific and scholarly perspective the important issues confronting our contemporary world. Founded by Reverend Moon in 1972, this organization holds international conferences, including the one referred to in this letter that was held in Seoul in August, 1995.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> The Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA) is an educational organization founded to support the academic community's role in the pursuit of world peace. It was founded by Reverend Moon in 1973 and has held hundreds of national and international conferences, including the conference held in Seoul in August, 1995.

#### "Let us communicate more via fax"

August 26-29, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,

How are you doing? I hope everything goes well with all of you. I wanted to phone you but I just heard the answering machine. Hopefully I can reach you tomorrow.

I am now at the Asan campus to work out my visa situation and to prepare for my classes.

We had all the scholars and guests for lunch with us at Sun Moon University. This was a wonderful gathering and people from different conferences had the opportunity to meet one another. I met Maja from Austria and she says hallo to you all.

It is really late and I have to go to bed now.

Today is Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of August and I am starting to settle here at Sun Moon University.

I was lucky to meet you, Elisabeth and Chris, on the phone. Unfortunately, Diesa was not at home so I send her my greetings and hugs through this fax message.

At 10:30 a.m. we had morning service at the Chonan campus, about a 30-minute drive from the new Asan campus. Everything was in Korean and I realize how important it is to learn the Korean language.

Finally, after about nine days of constant rain and a very stormy night that marked the presence of a nearby typhoon, we now have beautiful sunny skies. Since it was mainly cloudy, dark, and often gloomy, I could not really see the landscape surrounding the Asan campus. But now everything is cleared up and I am moved by the beauty of mother nature that unfolds around the campus.

I just heard from the dean of the science department, Dr. Kim, that our Father called a leader's meeting for tomorrow Monday, August 28. This means that Dr. Masuda will attend this meeting and no classes will be held. This gives me one more day to prepare my classes. Therefore, I will stop writing this letter for now and do some work.

Today is the 28<sup>th</sup> of August and I hope to make some progress with my visa. I just returned from breakfast which was thoroughly of the Korean kind: rice, kimchi, seaweed soup, and tofu. My neighbor is very kind. He invited me for breakfast and gave me a big slice of watermelon. Soon he will go to teach his classes and I will try to find the academic dean. As soon as I have more news I will continue this letter.

Today is Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of August, indeed a very special day. Our True Parents visited the Asan campus this morning and performed a dedication ceremony for two brand new buildings. Words can never describe it when you have the chance to be very close to our True Parents. Before the ribbon cutting ceremony our Father prayed with all his heart for the wellbeing of the university. There was also a ground breaking ceremony for a new building and Father and Mother threw a few shovels of earth into the air. It all shows me how quickly this university is expanding and how much our True Parents are investing into the future.

I think it is time to send this letter to all of you before it is outdated. Of course there is always more to talk about but for now I will close here.

I embrace you all and send you many kisses.

Love, ITN, Dad

PS. Let us communicate more via fax so we can still feel close to each other without too much expense.

#### "I feel sometimes like a gypsy"

September 5-8, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,

As you can imagine I feel sometimes like a gypsy because I am not yet fully settled. However, my hopes for receiving the needed visa are increasing steadily. Today is the 5<sup>th</sup> of September and I went to the Korean embassy here in Tokyo accompanied by Mr. Park and Mr. Omada, who were very helpful in getting the application finished. We all hope that by the end of two weeks I will have received the visa. In the meantime, I am preparing my classes since I will have to teach them in a concentrated format to make up for the lost time.

Life in Tokyo is bustling like in New York City, but here everything feels more clean and civilized. Besides some obvious differences to Western culture, like driving on the left side and reading books from the last page forward, I noticed a remarkable attention paid to detail. There is also a unique cohesiveness that seems to permeate the Japanese air. People work well in teams and they take their time to speak things over before rushing into action. Altogether, there seems to be less individualism than in the States but also less spontaneity since a composed, reflective attitude seems to be the rule of the day.

At this time, I would like to talk to you one at a time. First, I turn my heart to my beloved wife. Elisabeth, I hope you can manage everything all right. As my days go by in this new cultural surrounding I often think of you and how we can both build a deeper relationship with each other despite

our physical separation. One step in that direction is to allow each other to participate in our daily activities, thoughts, and feelings. It is like feeling your presence in whatever I am experiencing. You are not only right here with me but I can also ask you in my heart for your advice. If we pray sincerely for each other such a oneness of heart becomes increasingly real. On an external level, many times I encounter situations that simply need to be pioneered in terms of cultural habits, food, and language. Next year in the fall we will be better prepared to accomplish our mission together at Sun Moon University. There are still a number of things to be worked out, may it be a place to stay or simply getting around with some basic knowledge of Korean. Whatever we may encounter on this new path of offering our service and commitment to our spiritual homeland, let us be reminded that there will be always a good solution if, above all, we practice patience. Thank you, Elisabeth, for caring for Chris and Diesa and keeping our home running.

How are you doing Chris? Here in Japan it is already the 6<sup>th</sup> of September and to my knowledge this marks the beginning of the new school year. I hope you are in good spirits and that you look forward to a successful last year in high school. How is everything going around the house and with all the new responsibilities that come to you because of my absence? In some way I feel this is a great opportunity for you to learn a lot how to deal with life in a hands on manner. Probably the best way to proceed will be to show an active interest in things to be done and to do them one at a time on your own initiative. More than that you will find great joy and satisfaction if you develop the habit of good planning and time management, which again will allow you to do things well in advance, thus avoiding any last minute hassle. In other words, your Dad wants you to be better than him, by learning from past difficulties and always trying to be on top of things. Have regular meetings with Mom and Diesa and work out a good schedule where assigned responsibilities are made crystal clear so there will never be any situation characterized by the feeling of someone "breathing down your neck."

Here are some practical concerns that may already be clear to you or that can serve as a useful reminder. Keep the garage tidy at all times so you are able to protect the cars in bad weather. Buy two bags of salt for the water softener and check at least once a month if salt needs to be refilled in the plastic container with the lid. When emptying garbage and recycling material always be on the lookout for what else we should get rid of. Only with such a mindset will we be able to avoid any accumulation of unwanted things. I do not want to make this list too long so I mention only one more thing. When changing light bulbs make sure the light is turned off. You will find the bulbs in the brown cardboard chest of drawers that sits on top of a white shelf that leans against the wall that connects the garage with the house.

Now it is high time that I turn to my dear daughter. How are you doing Diesa? I felt really happy hearing your voice on the phone the other morning. You must be excited about your cross country sport for this fall season. Just build it up slowly and be reasonable with your demands on your body. I used to do cross country skiing in the Austrian Alps when I was about your age. It was one of the most beautiful experiences in my life. Of course skiing is different from running but I remember at times it was quite intensive and I had to pace myself to reach my goal, which may have been a mountaintop or a distant hut.

I just received a very uplifting phone call from all of you which means it is already the 8<sup>th</sup> of September. Even if I could hear some sadness in your voice, Diesa, when you told me about your first experiences in the new school year, I still feel that the joys of life that are running to you every day easily make up for the challenges of daily school life.

The best way of coping with these occasional feelings of uneasiness will be to lift your spirit to a higher level, telling yourself that above all you are God's precious daughter. Once you really feel God's love in your heart you will be able to feel joy in the midst of adverse conditions. How could our True Father go through so many unspeakable hardships and still maintain a forgiving, loving heart, always being concerned to help and encourage the members? The secret seems to be to develop an inner disposition of always wanting to help those around you by taking their feelings more seriously than your own. Just imagine your best friend feels discouraged and depressed about some difficulty she may have encountered in her life. Would you not want to leave behind your own hardships and make room in your heart to comfort and encourage her? In this sense our difficulties and sufferings can turn into our allies because they help us to go beyond our own experiences and urge us to extend our heart to others. I miss our little chats before you fall asleep. So I will talk to you in my dreams.

For this time, I will stop writing this letter here. I always feel close to you all in my heart and wish you well in all that you do. I hug every one of you with all my heart and send you many kisses.

Love.

ITN, Dad

### "I feel so lonely without you"

September 10, 1995

Dear Dietrich,

Hi! It's me, your wife! I am writing to you in the dark in the car waiting for Chris to come out of the movie. It is Sunday night and they just came back from their first Sunday school at Belvedere and talked me into letting him go to the movies.

It was nice to hear you on the phone. I feel so lonely without you. I did not even like to sleep in our bed by myself – too lonely bed. Until school started I slept with Diesa upstairs and looked at the stars till I finally sleep. But she said the mattress took up too much space and she needs room to do her homework and get ready in the morning. So I went back to our room and slept on the mattress on the floor.

I have to try very hard to keep a high spirit and look out for more sister friends. Sometimes it is draining to hear many problems and try to solve them without you. I am thinking to have once a month a prayer breakfast or prayer meeting for guests.

I am looking forward to pick you up at the airport (or you pick me up at the airport in Korea) next month. I love you always and need you.

ITN, your eternal wife, Elisabeth

#### "I have to persevere"

September 18, 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

How are you doing? I hope things are improving and you feel more joy in your heart. My thoughts and feelings are always with you. Thank you for your recent phone calls and for persevering in a challenging situation.

Last Saturday two computer experts helped to get the fax processing going and I hope that one message is already at the UTS office. Even if this last fax message is somewhat outdated, I still thought that you and the children would enjoy it. To update my situation, I quickly write you this letter.

This morning (September 18th) we phoned around like a wildfire to find out how the visa is coming along. To make a long story short the embassy promised that within one more week the visa will arrive. One explanation that was given to account for the delay referred to a number of holidays which were recently celebrated in both countries, Korea and Japan. This is thanksgiving season in the Orient and people meet for family reunions. In doing so they simply close down their offices. Japan had a Shinto festival last week and people streamed by the thousands through the streets. I do not know how all this affected my visa application but the bottom line is that I have to persevere and do the best I can with the remaining time.

Yesterday I was invited to speak to members of the Korean Japanese association right after the morning service. A seminary graduate translated for me, and I reflected on my experience with our True Parents when I met them at East Garden, at the seminary, and in Korea. I spoke for about one hour and I felt much gratitude from our members.

Last week our True Mother spoke at the Tokyo Dome with about 50,000 people in attendance. As you may know, former US President Bush was there together with his wife Barbara and both gave very supportive speeches before our True Mother spoke. The whole event lasted for about three and one half hours and it was in every way impressive and uplifting. I heard that about one third of the audience were guests, which means that there were close to 35,000 members in the Tokyo Dome. There is still a lot to do to reach that level in the US.

I pray for you every day that everything will work out well at home. Please take some extra time to share your concerns and feelings with Chris and Diesa. Their sometimes extreme schedules and the resulting unintended insensitivity to your situation has in my opinion nothing to do with ill will, but it seems to me they simply want to invest all their teenage energies to do the most with their talents and ambitions. It will take a fair amount of love and patience to teach them that it is a good thing to cut some of their activities for the sake of lending you support and increasing harmony in the home. However, Chris and Diesa may soon discover on their own that it is for their own good to make the needed adjustments and to take an active role in supporting their mom wholeheartedly.

I send you my love and prayers. Please hug the children for me. ITN, *Dietrich* 

#### "More about my life in the Orient"

September 25, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,

Now it is time to tell you more about my life in the Orient. Japan is presently caught up in sumo wrestling

championships. This goes on for about two weeks and each wrestler has to go through 15 fights. Chris and Diesa would certainly enjoy watching these bouts. The grand champion indeed won all 15 matches and the audience was off their seats with excitement. Those wrestlers are really heavy with lots of fat under their muscles and big bellies. Some of them have more than 200 kg (400 lbs) weight and the heaviest one carries the respectable weight of 248 kg all the time with him. He seems to be soaked in sweat even before he starts wrestling just from moving his own weight.

I just phoned the Korean embassy and urged the visa officer to contact the Korean authorities to speed up the visa process. However, it seems we need to exercise additional patience since any direct contact from the Japanese embassy to the Korean authorities is simply not done. So I phoned Korea again and spoke to the academic dean of Sun Moon University who promised to phone back tomorrow (September 26). Personally I feel that these difficulties and the extra necessary patience are a condition to open up more exchange between Sun Moon University and UTS.

Let me tell you something about my life here in Tokyo. After prayer and breakfast, I usually go to the UTI<sup>23</sup> office where I join Mr. Otani and Mr. Owada who work at several projects related to Unification Thought. Usually, first I study some Korean, mainly repeating the lessons I learned at UTS. It really takes me a lot of effort to remember even a few simple things. But my philosophy is "steter Tropfen hoehlt den Stein" which roughly translated means: as long as the drops of water fall continuously on the rock there will eventually be a hole. Then comes the class on eschatology for which so far I did all the readings of the main text. Since

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Unification Thought Institute (UTI) was established in 1972 to develop the philosophical system called "Unification Thought," based on Reverend Moon's teachings.

this will be a seminar style class I do not have to prepare any exams. Some basic lecture material for each class as a starter for a hopefully vivid discussion will suffice. The next thing I do is the preparation of the Christian denominations class. This will be an undergraduate class and I have to adjust the requirements to some extent. One way to do it is a change in the required exams. So far I designed three tests with multiple choice questions to eliminate any difficulties with regard to English composition. To round out my office session I do some reading about Christianity in Korea, a topic which I find helpful for the denominations class. This assignment is rather enjoyable because it provides a good understanding of present day Korea. I hope you still enjoy my small talk about my daily schedule.

When I was with you, Elisabeth, at the Korean Consulate in New York, I borrowed two books from that special adjoining library and then I copied that article which I find now very useful for the denominations course. In order to always connect my classes with the Divine Principle, I read every day a few pages from the Unification Theology book by Dr. Young Oon Kim. In between all these readings there are phone calls, news on television (with English translation), letter writing, and meals. This is it. Now you know everything about my days at the office.

Being away from you all physically makes me realize how important it is to maintain a strong spiritual connection with you. Of course the best way of doing that is constantly to deepen our relationship with our Heavenly Father. If we always have a strong awareness that we are fulfilling our mission together, then our physical separation can be more easily shouldered. Whatever sadness or loneliness we may feel, we will be able to offer these feelings to our Heavenly Father once our common consciousness for our mission is strongly developed. We should also be on the lookout for how we can improve our life of faith on a daily basis. I just

heard about the midnight prayer condition and I will do my best to follow through with it. I already started reading Divine Principle when I arrived here in Tokyo, following Christopher's example in the past. Three or more pages every day provide a good foundation for good spirit world to be present.

I just finished another round of phone calls, with the result that we have definite news of the visa being approved by the Korean immigration office. It is being sent via express mail to the embassy in Tokyo. The crucial date is September 28th. In the meantime, I made my flight reservation for Seoul for Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> hoping that everything will work out.

This is it for now. Let us keep our feet on the ground, our heads on our shoulders, and our heart with our True Parents. I hope everything is well at home.

God bless you all.

I embrace all of you with many kisses.

ITN, Dad

#### "Today I had my first Eschatology class"

October 2, 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

It was good to hear your voice again when I phoned after our pledge service yesterday. It gives me also new inspiration to hear Christopher's and Diesa's voices, thus realizing that after all we are not so far from one another.

Today I had my first Eschatology class with ten students. Three of them are leaders in our church: Two were the chaplains on the Asan campus and one is professor of Old and New Testament. When I first entered the

classroom, I was for a moment surprised and slightly anxious to meet such a dignified audience. It was a three-hour class and everything seemed to go well with good responses on the part of the students. We took some time to introduce ourselves and the dignified spiritual atmosphere was further explained through the presence of four Blessed children<sup>24</sup> who are now Blessed themselves and have leadership positions in our movement. They all know English fairly well and are eager to learn a lot.

We organized the makeup classes for the month of September and it was agreed to meet every Tuesday afternoon for one hour so we will be able to cover the 14-week course in 9 weeks. Two of the students volunteered for class presentations in about two weeks from now and I hope they will break the ice for all the others, since everyone is supposed to give two presentations and write two shorter papers. Tomorrow is a church holiday and also a Korean holiday so everything will be closed. My next class on Contemporary Christian Denominations will be on Thursday.

Dr. Jin Choon Kim (our theologian physicist) is helping me whenever the need arises. He not only picked me up from the airport (with his whole family) but he also arranged for me to open a bank account so that by Wednesday I should be able to make further steps to send you some money. Elisabeth, I hope before the end of this week you should receive it in our savings account. Please endure this tight situation for a few more days.

Today is already Wednesday and after a night with a bad headache I am OK again. It was a healing experience for me to speak to you, Elisabeth, because after our phone call I took a walk for half an hour and slept again at 2 p.m.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Second generation Unificationists whose parents received the Holy Marriage Blessing

and finally woke up with no headache. Today at 11 a.m. we had a one-hour worship service with all the students and a beautifully singing choir. Friday we will have a three-hour prayer service on the top of a nearby mountain from 9 p.m. until midnight. Koreans seem more committed to prayer and worship than we Westerners. I wish I could understand the sermons and the songs, so the pressure is mounting up to study Korean.

I am still waiting for the announced mail, hoping that you sent it to the right address. As you know there is also the Asan campus and addresses often get mixed up.

It does not look too good for me to occupy a separate room, since the decision was made to keep some language teachers at the Chonan campus. One Chinese professor who was supposed to move will now stay at her place and what remains for me is to share Dr. Masuda's room for the rest of my stay. The room is rather large and we can manage well together. For now, I still feel I am in an adjusting phase especially with food and language. Because of Dr. Masuda and Dr. Kim, however, I feel looked after and keep a positive perspective on whatever challenge may come. Let us do our best together in this situation. I close this letter with three precious words: I love you.

Hugs and kisses

ITN, Dietrich

#### "Let us write more regularly to each other"

October 9-10, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Chris, and Diesa,

Today is Monday October 9<sup>th</sup> and I just finished another three-hour class on Eschatology. Seven students and one

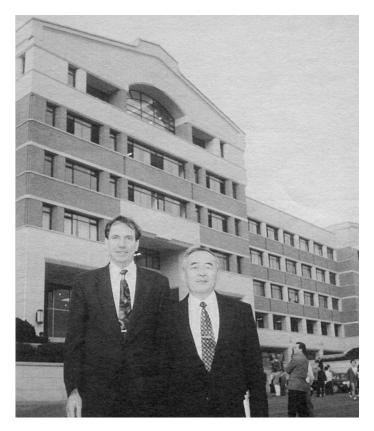
professor are attending and all of them make good efforts to contribute to the discussion. My endeavors to study Korean are still on the preformation level and I realize how difficult it must be for the Korean students to study in English.

Last Saturday, Dr. Masuda showed me downtown Chonan and we accomplished several errands. It will take me a while to know my way around, mainly because communication is so difficult. When I wanted to buy a few picture postcards of this city, I found out that there are none available. Chonan is not a tourist town so there is no demand for postcards. However, I will not give up and maybe one day you will find one of those not yet existing cards in your mailbox. Masuda-san is doing quite well with speaking Korean and he can pretty much speak about anything. I really appreciate his patience and help.

Now it is already Tuesday and a very special day for Sun Moon University. Our True Mother spoke today at the Asan campus to about 500 students. The whole event was organized by CARP and everything went quite well. We saw two videos about the recent activities of our movement (especially CARP) and about our True Parents' life. True Mother admonished the students to live a pure life and to center their lives on God. Since everything was in Korean, I could only understand what Masuda-san conveyed to me. However, I could pick up the good spiritual atmosphere and Mother's relaxed and joyful spirit.

We, that is the theology faculty of the Chonan campus, stayed after Mother's talk sharing dinner together since Mother had dinner in True Parents' apartment. Then we all gathered just in time to give a good send off to our Mother. This was quite a historical event for the Asan campus because most of the students are not members, and for many of them it may have been the first time to meet our True Mother. In fact, there are about 3,000 students at SMU

with about 400 members, so our CARP members are busy to draw the students closer to our movement.



Dietrich at the Asan campus with Dr. Masuda

Today the theology faculty had a council meeting with Dean Lee and I was invited to attend. As can be expected, I did not understand what was going on, but towards the end I was asked to say something in English. I expressed my willingness to do my best for the theology department, especially for the students who know enough English to follow my lectures. Towards the end of the meeting every professor was asked to contribute an article to our theology journal at SMU. It is OK to write in English, so I will write

something about Unification Eschatology, which will help me also for my course and for a possible publication at UTS.

I feel all the SMU professors are looking at me with some measure of expectation to bring fresh air into the existing teaching apparatus. Of course they are all interested in improving their English, so with most of them I have regular conversations over meals. I was also invited to give a public lecture about the major content of my courses so that all students, also those with less English, have an opportunity to improve their English comprehension of theology. This will take place the first week of November. As you can see my involvement with the theology department is increasing, and on account of that I feel more of a sense of purpose and acceptance after a time of waiting, preparing, and enduring.

I really enjoyed your letter, Elisabeth. It is great to simply share our hearts on a piece of paper. Even the most humble looking paper becomes a precious gift because your thoughts and feelings are present through it. I am confident that with an increasing sense of purpose and a life filled with helping and serving others all the spirits of loneliness will be dispelled and we will feel close to one another in our common effort to attend our True Parents. Let us write more regularly to each other. I feel the written word often conveys more depth about our situation, since we take more time to express our feelings and in this way we also make it more clear to ourselves what is going on in our hearts.

Chris and Diesa, how are you doing? I am sorry for the interruption of our phone conversation the other day. I remember Diesa wanted Fudgie to say a few meows on the phone. I hope you feed our cat well these days, Diesa. I wish you luck in all your sports adventures. Please give mom a foot massage from me and take her once in a while for a walk. She really would appreciate this, I am sure.

You, Chris, wanted to send the financial aid forms for the universities of your choice. In doing so please look over these forms and find the needed information in the top left file drawers of our big desk in Dad's office. There is a tax return folder where you find the latest tax return from 1994 where most of the needed information should be contained. There is also information concerning our house, how much tax we paid, etc. Just look up the relevant folders and send it all in one big envelope, but be selective with the documents and records you will be sending.

In a few minutes we will have a worship service with all the students and faculty from the theology department. For this time, I will close here and hope to hear from all of you soon.

I embrace every one of you with all my love. ITN, Dad

### "Let us find new unity of heart"

October 16, 1995

Dear Elisabeth.

Thank you for your phone call. Right now, probably the most important thing is to let our emotions calm down and to look at our situation with a desire to find a workable solution. Please do not forget that ultimately we are in this situation because we want to do our Heavenly Father's will. If our human shortcomings get in the way, let us not lose sight of our whole purpose. We do not want to make the mistake of relying just on our personal feelings in our decision making; but if we cry out to God to guide us we will arrive at the best possible solutions. May we confide again in the power of prayer.

First, I want to assure you that it was not my intention to cause any suffering to you or to hurt your feelings, and I regret that you feel upset with me. Please accept my

apology for not consulting with you in a timely fashion and my lack of sensitivity to your situation. Here are a few things I want to share with you for the sake of better mutual understanding.

As I told you on the phone it is not easy to change around the class schedule this late into the semester. Any arrangement to compress the classes into a shorter period of time has to be worked out as part of my contract ahead of time when the schedule for the whole school is finalized. When talking with Dr. Masuda, I found out that schedule arrangements like Dr. Horton's class at UTS are not done at Sun Moon University (SMU). Somehow we did not communicate clearly enough at home when you came up with the idea to compress the classes and for me to be back by the middle of November. It sounded like a good idea and I could accept it as your wish or possible strategy to shorten my stay in Korea. However, the situation here is different from what we expected. To make a long story short, I simply cannot dictate the class schedule of the students at this late time.

At his recent visit to our Chonan campus, President Yoon expressed his regret and apology for the visa delay and assured me to do everything in his power to allow my stay at SMU to be successful. He said I am the first exchange professor from UTS and I should start a good tradition for other Western professors who will follow in the future. Father's vision for our University is to have visiting professors come on a regular basis and teach classes in English. Eventually half of the classes will be taught in English and half of the student body will be non-Korean. In short, I really want to do my best right now and finish my present classes in a successful manner.

It would already make me happy if you could understand the overall situation involved in my stay here at SMU. Of course, this does not answer the question of how

you should cope with an extra month of my absence from home. I realize I should have been more sensitive to your situation and come up with an alternative plan for you after it became clear that I should stay at SMU till the end of the term. In fact, I repeatedly turned around the idea of you visiting me for one month at SMU, but the obstacles or inconveniences appeared to be unmanageable. I thought it would be less strenuous for you to stay in our home and to mobilize more support for you, with regular help for the work around the house, and financially to send you an additional amount every month.

You decide what is best for you. In my heart I welcome you if you decide to visit me at SMU. Still, I want to inform you about some of the obstacles or difficulties as I see them.

Be realistic about the 13-hour flight and the jet lag. It took me more than a week to fully adjust.

At this point there is no free guest room and I share one room with Dr. Masuda. However, in two or three weeks one professor is moving out and one room would be available. I will keep you informed about this point.

Guest rooms are on the 6<sup>th</sup> floor and the quickest way to get to your room is to climb up the stairs.

There is a major highway passing in front of the campus so the noise level is considerable, especially at night time.

The food is very traditionally Korean. The three daily meals are basically the same but I got used to it by now. Here is the menu: white rice, kimchi, soup, and two side dishes. The cook likes it hot and the guests are supposed to adjust their taste buds, which I did by now.

If you want to cook you need to go to another building. Shopping for groceries and doing errands is quite limited since there is no car at our disposal. Without a translator nearby it is nearly impossible to get around. So far Dr.

Masuda and I did a downtown trip once a week. The rest of the week we stay at the campus.

Not knowing Korean constantly presents challenges. Of course the positive side of this is to feel more urgency to study Korean.

To sum it all up, it is rather a pioneer style situation with a monastic lifestyle. In the long run I got adjusted to all of the above. However, it will take some effort on your part and a humble and grateful inner disposition to get used to the new surroundings. As I said before, you are welcome to visit me here at SMU. The best time would be the middle of November and we could fly home together. Let your loving side win over all disappointment, and then we will find the inner peace which we all so desperately desire.

I hope you received something in the mail. Happy Birthday! Let us find new unity of heart on this special day of yours. I will always love you. I embrace you with new hope for a loving and peaceful future.

ITN, Dietrich

#### "Your eternal husband"

October 18, 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

Happy 50th Birthday!

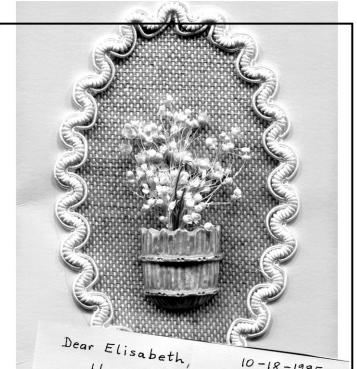
For this very precious day in your life I wish you with all my heart God's blessings of true love, health, and contentment.

Through the grace of our Heavenly Father we are now both entering our second youth with renewed trust and confidence in His guidance. May our friendship and affection for each other become increasingly the ideal of true love, thus bringing joy and comfort to our Heavenly Father.

I hug you with all my love and give you many kisses.

ITN, Your eternal husband, Dietrich

PS. Please hug and kiss our precious children for me.



Happy & Alth Birthday!

For this very precious day in your life
J wish you with all my heart God's blessings
Through the grace of our Heavenly Father
we are now both entering our second youth
His guidance. May our friendship and
the ideal of true love, thus bringing joy
I hug you with all my love and give

S. Please hug and I.

P.S. Please hug and kiss our precious children for me

Your eternal husband Dretrick

# "I found some postcards"

October 23, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,



Postcard from Korea

Finally, I found some postcards and this one I found quite beautiful. There are a number of shrines and houses like this in the countryside but mainly as a reminder of the past. City life is more like Red Hook or Kingston where SMU is located.

I am keeping busy with classes and Korean study. I hope you are all doing well and find a spirit of mutual support. Please get the rain gutters fixed. It is important to get the water away from the house. Even if it costs \$100 it is needed. Every day I think of you especially when evening comes and the bustle of the day is over. Also your Dad feels lonely without all of you.

God bless you all. Love, ITN, Dad

#### "Seeking to embrace you with heavenly love"

November 4, 1995

Dear Elisabeth,

It was good to hear you on the phone again and even if we spoke mainly about external things to keep our lives running, I still feel closer to you now.

Every day I pray for you and our children, hoping to work out the emotional turmoil which presently determines our relationship. Of course, I am asking myself what is the root cause of all the hurt and grief both of us have experienced in the last two weeks. As I see it, there are two reasons which lead us periodically to such a stress in our relationship.

First, on a more external side, there arises the difficulty of clear communication. We both interpret our common situation differently, even if we talk things over repeatedly. You have certain needs, health wise and emotionally, which

you feel are neglected if I run after "my mission." So we need to work out patiently what are these needs, and what is a reasonable meeting ground where we are able to turn our lives around and live out "our mission." If I would have shared with you early enough my contract with Sun Moon University and made it clear what was expected from me, things would have worked out differently and we could have united around a concrete situation. I repent for that lack of clarity in our communication, and hope we can work things out ahead of time so we can avoid unexpected surprises.

The other point that determines our relationship belongs to the internal or spiritual side of our lives. Again, we see each other from our subjective viewpoints, thinking that there exists some kind of bad motivation or intention which leads us to an emotional state of overreaction, once we feel disappointed about events in our lives that according to our expectation should have turned out in a different way. Here arises the serious struggle to see things from a higher, less subjective perspective, ideally to find God's viewpoint about our situation and feelings.

I hope these reflections mean something to you, at least they sort out my feelings and they allow me to love and embrace you as my wife and as Heavenly Father's precious daughter. Praying and reflecting about our relationship indeed opens new doors where we find a deeper meaning of our mutual love, maybe a love that has been purified from selfishness and fallen nature by going through the fire of disappointment and hurt feelings. My heart reaches out for you, Elisabeth, seeking forgiveness, unity, and friendship, and seeking to embrace you with heavenly love that our original mind so desperately desires.

Please give my love also to Christopher and Diesa. I will be always yours. ITN, *Dietrich* 

#### "One more week and I am home with you"

December 2, 1995

Dear Elisabeth, Christopher, and Diesa,

Greetings from Korea. One more week and I am home with you. I hope you are all doing well and feel new joy and inspiration in your life daily with our Heavenly Father. As you can imagine there are always more things coming up (at the last minute as can be expected) which need to be taken care of. This coming week will be quite busy with two review classes and two final exams. Tomorrow, Sunday, I am invited to speak at a Seoul church with mainly Western members.

My flight is on Saturday and I estimate to arrive around 2 p.m. at the Poughkeepsie train station, but I will call you of course from the airport. Chris and Diesa, have your homework with all the unanswered questions ready at my arrival. I am just kidding. I am really looking forward to seeing all of you again soon. Many hugs and kisses.

Love,

ITN. Dad



Dear Dietrich

Full of sweetness and joy and peace,
marriage is a gift from above.

While the years seem to fly
-none can denythat time only strengthens true love.

Happy Good's Day 1995

Love
ITN

Riesaleta

## **Epilogue**

The love story of Dietrich and Elisabeth has no ending; their relationship is eternal. Their letters testify to that love, a flame ignited when they were first introduced to each other, growing and deepening without limit as the years passed. He became his wife's most beloved, and she became his. In Dietrich's final words to Elisabeth before making the transition to the next world, they will be "forever together."

In 2003, Dietrich and Elisabeth spent several months each year in Europe where Dietrich taught classes at the Vienna International University and Webster University. He loved his students, reconciling their different beliefs through dialogue and his example of showing love and respect to all faiths.

In 2009 he suffered a stroke and his health began deteriorating; later he was diagnosed with leukemia. Included here is a journal entry in the form of a letter where Dietrich wrote about his appreciation and feelings for Elisabeth, as well as the postcard he sent her from the rehabilitation center where he spent several weeks recovering from his stroke.

On Elisabeth's side, Part 2 of her reflection on the struggles they faced in bringing about reconciliation between their families and nations describes how they were able to achieve victory through love and forgiveness. The final entry is a letter she wrote for Dietrich in 2017, four months after his passing.



Dear Elisabeth,

Jou keep me smiling, keep me going,

keep me dreaming.

I know I don't tell you often enough,

but especially today,

I want to say that I love you...

You're so beautiful to me.

On our Blessing Anniversary, I wish you with all my heart God's abundant blessing. May He guide us both to discover the mysteries of His love. I love you. With hugs and kisses, Dietrich

PS: This card is also a bonus for one beautiful dinner together.

### "I Want to Share my Heart with You"

Journal entry, June 19, 2000

Dear Elisabeth, in this book I want to share my heart with you on a regular basis in the hope that our love for each other can grow stronger every day. Let me then start to convey to you what I appreciate about you and how I feel telling you this in this letter.



Dietrich and Elisabeth, eternal love

Above all, I appreciate your good motherly heart. You are a caring person who makes sure help is provided when needed. In particular, you care for your family, for the emotional and physical wellbeing of each family member. I feel a deep sense of joy and security when I recall your caring heart and reflect about it. I know that at the ground of your being there beats a loving and caring heart that desires all people whom you encounter to be happy or at least to receive the necessary attention for their wellbeing.

Connected with your caring character is a strong sense of justice. In your view, there has to be a just order in this world. If someone is mistreated, amends need to be done. I feel a strong sense of stability when I recall your concern for justice, because it shows me that virtues and absolute moral values are deeply rooted in your being. You have a deeply rooted sense about what needs to be done in this world of ours and you have courage to chart new territory.

You know that the highest ideals need to be grounded in daily living and that the first thing about improving life is to improve communication, which again means to bring people together. I value your sense of taking initiative for the sake of providing opportunities for people of all walks of life to understand each other better. Your untiring efforts to initiate and organize meetings, conferences, seminars, workshops, prayer breakfasts and more reflect in a substantial way this precious quality of your personality. I feel a sense of wholeness being around you because together we can accomplish a lot of good work.

What I deeply appreciate in your personality is your dedication to serve God and to attend our True Parents and their family. In fact, as I see it, all the previously mentioned qualities in your character received their life giving quality because you invest them for the sake of your conviction to do God's will. Here lies the internal grounding of your being and through that quality of yours I receive a steady stream

of hope and inspiration to love you more based on our common love for God.



Dietrich and Elisabeth, loving couple

I also appreciate your investment for fulfilling our third blessing. You have a well-developed sense of cleanliness, order and hygiene and you regularly put effort into accomplishing that aspect of our daily life. More than that, you are a good caretaker of your physical body, continuously exploring more avenues to improve and stabilize your health. You also have a strong sense of exercising stewardship over creation by exploring on an ongoing basis how our financial situation can be worked out. It may not be the external results that warrant my appreciation, but I sincerely value your pure motivation and internal resolve to accomplish that heavenly standard in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> This refers to the third of the "Three Great Blessings" God gave to Adam and Eve (Genesis 1:28): "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth." The third blessing is understood in Divine Principle as dominion over all of creation.

fulfilling the third blessing. I feel a renewed sense of hope when I reflect on this quality of yours because you provide for both of us daily inspiration and initiative to actually fulfill that long sought after standard of order, neatness and efficient organization that will allow us to fulfill our common mission.

Our common path of restoration will then be the discovery of our original nature and how we can apply these God-given qualities in every life situation. May our common goal to grow as a loving couple before God and humankind always be our guide. It is here where God's blessing for our marriage will bring the richest fruit.

I love you, ITN, Dietrich



### "I love you dearly"

October 2, 2012

Dear Elisabeth,

This photo shows where I was the last 6 weeks.

I love you dearly. There must be one more day where we celebrate original love as God intended it.

I love you with all my heart, Dietrich



Postcard Dietrich sent Elisabeth from the rehabilitation center

# Reconciliation and Mending of Relationships: Part 2

Testimony by Elisabeth Seidel

While we were separated and struggling in Europe in 1986, I begged God to let us return quickly to the USA – land of the brave, land of the free! Curiously, the minute we set foot in America, miraculously every conflict or spiritual war seemed to vanish into thin air. We breathed freely, indeed. As I never forgot that our marriage was made for the sake of our nations, I could hang on.

We continued to visit our families every two to three years since that tumultuous time. We organized family reunions, even extending them to the level of Ambassadors for Peace.<sup>26</sup>

One year, arriving in France across the English Channel, we landed in Brittany and rented a car to reach our hometown in the Alps. We got lost while driving, and ended up at Omaha Beach; and this happened not just once, but again and again! We kept going around in circles, always arriving back on Omaha Beach. We realized that it was a sign that we ought to stop and pray there, especially at the cemetery where so many American soldiers were buried. The spirit to pray for reconciliation pushed us on to visit many other war memorials in the surrounding regions of my hometown. We made a condition for the first three days to call each soldier by his name, and we also invited friends and contacts to participate with us in the reconciliation

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Ambassadors for Peace, founded by Reverend Moon, is a global network of leaders from diverse races, religions, nationalities and cultures who are dedicated to building peace in the world by "living for the sake of others."

events. I also asked my great uncle Maxime to work with me and be in charge of such programs, albeit "on the other side."

With the beginning of the Hometown Providence,<sup>27</sup> in 2003 we decided that we ought to remain in Europe for longer periods of time. Dietrich could teach courses at Webster University and at the International University of Vienna.

We picked a local restaurant to hold our monthly meetings, as the owner was a long time student of my husband's courses and had treated us with a dinner on many occasions. The scope of the dinners expanded as we included professors, students and others we had met. We honored several professors with an Ambassador for Peace award. One university president and his wife became very close to us. Once, they spent a whole day with us, eating, walking, sharing, and watching videos that included Father Moon as the founder of the Family Federation for World Peace. Then, we would attend their Jewish community service along with them. A large interfaith forum was set up at the International University on the basis of Dietrich's class on World Religions.

During the summer, we would go to my hometown in the French Alps and hold reconciliation events there every September 2<sup>nd</sup>, as it was the anniversary of the liberation of St. Jean de Maurienne, commemorating the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Reverend Moon suggested that Blessed couples return to their hometowns (either the husband's or the wife's) and spend time serving their relatives, neighbors, and community leaders. They were also to initiate and support efforts to establish a world of peace, including giving Ambassador for Peace awards to worthy recipients in their community.

date when the last German-Austrian soldier left the area. On that date, the city hosts a huge pageant with music and pomp, and deploys a delegation of veterans to speak at the war memorial. Once, as we greeted the mayor there, he pointed out that the worst crimes were committed by Austrians. Dietrich felt that it was appropriate to compose a letter to be read at our event – a letter in which he would repent for the heinous crimes that had taken place in his wife's hometown and ask for forgiveness. This letter was later sent to many officials in the town.



Elisabeth and Dietrich in the French Alps

During the first such event, we gave 12 Ambassadors for Peace awards. Among the recipients was one 90-year-old lady, who received it because of her relatives' courage in hiding a Jewish family in their own home. One professor of German language acknowledged that she had been waiting for such an event for a long time. Her grandfather had been saved because a German soldier

gave him his uniform to allow him to escape. He had asked his granddaughter to promise him to work for the reconciliation of the two nations – France and Germany. Other beautiful stories of human heroism came out: One man testified that, as a child, he had befriended the dog of a German officer; and during a bomb raid, that officer covered him with his own body to protect him from harm.



Reconciliation event at the war memorial

Through sharing these stories, people became close in heart and everyone felt that they belonged to a great family, desiring to make a new and better human world. In the following years, we had a delegation of Austrians who performed songs and musical pieces. We held one event in a restaurant and another in the Catholic Church in La Chambre, which is my original hometown.



Reconciliation event in the Catholic Church

After asking permission from the priest there, he told us later that he could not sleep over this decision. He admitted that it had been a real challenge to support our project; some people on the Veterans Association Board did not want to grant us permission. I wrote a letter to the mayor of the town, mentioning to him that my greatuncle died for his country, that my grandfather had served this community as the assistant mayor and that we wished to recognize them as well. So finally permission was granted; and two years in a row, we prayed and offered flowers at the War Memorial with a French-German delegation, totaling 70 guests for both events.

After all the pain we went through I no longer feel any more hindrances in my heart towards my beloved Austrian family. Now, Dietrich's mom is like my own mom, and his sister my true sister. I love everyone in his family with deep love, including his extended family and even his ancestors. I also feel love towards those on the German side from Dietrich's father, Friedmar. I am now very fond of all the German Austrian people, and

especially this man of mine who knew how to love his beloved French wife!

True love is achieved with great suffering, repentance, prayers, tears, and perseverance and forgiveness. I am most liberated to feel this way now and most grateful to God. When there was only one set of footprints in the sand, I was wondering where is God? Of course, He was carrying me on His shoulders.

As for Dietrich, he has always been the most beloved son-in-law of my parents. My mother often reminded me that Dietrich is a saint, and I need to improve myself to be worthy as his wife. Dietrich was one of very few people my dad could get along with. Dietrich was instrumental in healing his deep wounds.

The French suffered greatly during the war, but welcomed such reconciliation events between the victims and their victimizers. We considered it a great victory to have survived what felt like "World War III" between our families and to have kept our faith in Reverend and Mrs. Moon's vision of a world of peace and unity under one loving God. It was on this foundation that we felt we could bring victory in the reconciliation events between our nations.

#### "Thank you for the hug"

April 13, 2017

Dearest Dietrich,

Most beloved, I love you! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the 40 years we spent together here on earth. It was most amazing. Happy times like Heaven on earth; difficult times like the pit of hell; amazing times like the world is mine; tearful times till there were no more tears. In health and sickness, I always loved you. I know you did too.

I have to say, we were always connected by a most special energy, like a rubber band. If we went too far apart this rubber band would not stretch more but made us return to the starting point. You could swallow my sharp edges, and I made your sweetness more salty. We had some good fights; you always forgave me. It took me more time to digest the difficult memories, but ultimately I did too.

So what is left is the true love we feel for each other, because we did always include our Heavenly Father in whatever we did. I think this is the conclusion of our beautiful life together on earth with our God whom we both love. Without this ideal our life has truly no meaning. I am so grateful that your last words to me on earth were: "I will be always with you, forever together." This sentence gives me strength and new life as we are now in two different worlds, apart but together.



Dietrich and Elisabeth, forever together

So, every morning when I get up after reading some spiritual texts, I pick up my phone and go outside in the beautiful creation as we did all our life. I say:

Hi, this is Elisabeth, your beloved wife. I love you so very much. I hope you are well. I am calling from the earth all the way to the spirit world where you now live.

I hope you are happy! I miss you, I am sure you miss me too.

I do not hear you back, because the connection is not so clear yet, but one day I will. But I know you are there and we are praying together.

Thank you Dietrich for your love. Truly, true love will prevail.

By the way, thank you for the hug I got yesterday in my dream. It was truly from you. I did not want to let go

of that hug, but then I woke up and said to you, "Thank you for the hug."

God bless you, Elisabeth

Dietrich Seidel was born in Austria and his wife Elisabeth was born in the French Alps. After obtaining his doctorate in Theology from St. Michael's College in Toronto, Canada, Dietrich taught at Unification Theological Seminary in Barrytown, New York for many years. Together they offered seminars on marriage and family enrichment in the United States and in Europe.

This volume, edited by their colleague Dr. Jennifer P. Tanabe, contains letters Dietrich and Elisabeth wrote to each other during their four decades of married life. Some of these are pure love letters, while others include practical matters of concern. The final entry is a letter written by Elisabeth to her beloved Dietrich after he transitioned into the next world.

All love stories are unique, and Dietrich and Elisabeth's is no exception. They were introduced to each other by Reverend Sun Myung Moon, whose matchmaking ministry often brought together representatives of former enemy nations, such as Austria and France, suggesting that they marry and create a family that would help heal the wounds of the past. Dietrich and Elisabeth's first meeting ignited a spark of love that grew and deepened over the years, allowing them to overcome the challenges of separation from each other on several occasions due to Dietrich's studies, as well as historical resentments on the part of their families and communities.

Their love story took them through a wide spectrum of emotions, emotions that are powerfully conveyed in their letters. The reader is invited into this very personal space to experience their hopes and dreams, frustrations and victories, expressed in the unique voices of Dietrich and Elisabeth, beloveds who are forever together in heart.



Visit their website at www.dietrichfseidel.com

