

Ian Mark Alexander, London, 1968



I was 20 yrs old, when on the last Saturday of January 1968 I was witnessed to in London by Bob Duffy, who was Canadian. I was English, born and raised in Southwest England. That same evening, I went to the first Unification Church Center in England, located near Earls Court, in West London. The Center was rented. Back then, we called ourselves the Unified Family.

I heard the first chapter of the Divine Principle in a lecture taken from sheets of note paper. At the time, the Divine Principle book did not exist as we know it now. I heard the twelve lectures and joined on April 4, 1968.

At that time I was enlisted in the British Army. I had the opportunity to attend the Eight-Couples Blessing [the second stage of the 43-Couples Blessing] in Essen, Germany in March 1969. True Parents and Mrs. Won Pok Choi were there to conduct the Blessing.

I first met True Parents in 1969. I remember greeting True Parents along with a handful of members at Heathrow Airport. I remember Bo Hi Pak and the Little Angels. I was very excited to meet True Parents for the first time. At the time, we had a center at a place called Streatham Common in South London.

The Unified Family also rented a farmhouse called Rowlane, located near the village of Redding. I ran the two-day workshop at Rowlane Farmhouse as well as the print shop we started there. From that time on I had various missions — fundraising, home church and running the Blessed Children's boarding school in Southwest England.

I remember Mrs. Doris Orme coming from Holland to London, sent by True Father and how she ignited us with the heart of True Parents. Dennis Orme came from Scotland in the summer of 1968, and at that time Mr. Orme took over the leadership of running the

Unified Family in England. The spirit of True Parents was working so powerfully at that time, and many, many people came to lectures and workshops.

I personally had many spiritual experiences that testified to the fact of True Parents being the Messiah. And you really felt the Spirit of God and Christianity working through the people who were led to hear the Divine Principle. These were the roots of the foundation of our “Family” in England, Wales and Scotland and later Ireland.

In 1983, True Father asked that 300 British members come to America, of which I was one. True Father had mobilized all blessed couples in which one spouse was an American citizen. My wife, Helen, is an American-born Chinese. She departed alone first, arriving in New York on July 4, 1983. At the time, my son was two years old and my daughter was 11 months old. I waited until October to come together with my two children.

My wife was assigned a mission to Jacob House, which was especially set up for 24-hour care and education of young blessed children whose parents were part of the 1983 mobilization for missionary work throughout America.

After one year, True Mother requested that my family join the East Garden staff, where I have been for 27 years. I am now 63.

Our four children grew up in the area of Tarrytown, New York, and it's truly been a blessing to attend True Parents and the True Family. I can really testify that True Parents are the True Parents of Heaven and Earth and Humankind.