

***Kevin Brennan,  
Washington, D.C., 1969***



In 1959 at age 14, I became a Catholic, strict to myself but merciful to others, in hopes that God and Christ would be merciful to me. In a dream, I sang hymns with Jesus' disciples. I felt that Catholicism, if correctly practiced, was good enough for salvation, even Catholics might fail. In connection with my faith, I thought that if I grew up in a God-centered way, I could get into any decent career and, if and after I would have a wife, I could earn enough to decently support a family. However, by 1965 I was disappointed to realize that even college graduates who enter professional careers, get married, and have children, can sometimes be laid off, resulting in hardship for their families. This and certain other realizations undermined my hopes about a mathematics career, so I considered economics, a supposedly good field, which I also hoped could help reduce starvation and poverty in this world.

But I also worried that there was so much divorce, even among Catholics, in Orange County, California, where my parents and I lived at that time. Was Catholicism unable to do anything about these two anti-family threats? Then in 1966 my father divorced my mother and married another woman. That did it; I felt that if I ever got married, it had better not be in Orange County, or else divorce might later come to me also!

This intense double concern about careers and divorce led me to flee over 400 miles from Orange County to San Francisco State University; but otherwise, I would never have met my future spiritual mother. By 1967, I developed a very close friendship with Karen Kardel (Karen Rozier after her Blessing in 1982), a pure-hearted and

conscientious student who attended no church at that time. In late 1967, after Daikon Ohnuki witnessed to Karen about the Re-education Center, she invited me to join her at one of its meetings on campus. Sang Ik Choi (a 36-blessed couple) discussed Principles of Education. He described an Originator, and some Oriental ideas such as Buddhism, Confucianism, I Ching, etc., but almost nothing biblical. To me, at first this seemed like a philosophy club.

Later, on a long trip, I visited the church center in Washington, D.C. There, I heard Divine Principle lectures, from creation through 6,000 years of history including information that Master Moon saw Jesus and was the Lord of the Second Advent. (1974 was the first year I heard him called “Father,” instead of “Master.”) The Re-education Center’s weekend workshops, which I attended later, actually taught most of the same contents up through history but without mentioning Master Moon right away. But I already knew who Master was supposed to be, and I also believed the Catholic idea of the Second Coming on the clouds of heaven. So I feared hellfire if I accepted this idea of the Second Coming on Earth. Karen said that the Lord of the Second Coming must suffer on earth, but I said that unless you show this to me, I will not believe it is in the Bible. Eventually, she found for me Luke 17:25: “But first he must suffer many things and be rejected by this generation.” That convinced me that the Second Coming may be on earth after all. With further careful study, I eventually joined in November 1969.

I also had dreams of very high mountains. In another dream, behind a curtain there was a night sky full of stars brighter than Venus (saints), and then a very bright white-caped figure (Christ) appeared among them. So, I came to accept Rev. Moon as the Lord of the Second Advent even though others might not. However, my concern about how I could decently support a family (after eventually receiving the Blessing) was never resolved due to my lack of resourcefulness.

In 1979, I was matched to Karin, 22 years old (I was 34 then),

an exemplary, mission-oriented sister for years afterwards. From 1982-1990 I was in a series of bookkeeping missions while Karin was elsewhere in her missions. I also gathered much printed information from both the church and various articles relating to Father's Danbury course. By 1989 Karin joined me at my Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) bookkeeping mission. She did outreach near UTS. Our son Gabriel was born in 1990.

To support my family, in 1990 I started paid employment for the first time in 16 years but suffered unemployment too. I found that my lack of certain kinds of resourcefulness meant I could not protect myself from unemployment for the rest of my life. Karin grieved me by filing for divorce, finalized in 1998, after which I could see Gabriel sometimes.

Next came the Blessing by photo in 1999 to Teresa Uy of the Philippines, who joined in 1985. Teresa has at least three Filipino spiritual children in three nations with their respective Blessing partners. She also has fulfilled tribal messiahship within her own family. I have much less witnessing accomplishment than Teresa. But at least I have tried to be kind to others, whether or not they are kind to me, and I try to help Teresa concerning tribal messiahship. Teresa tries to be kind to others also. Whatever happens, whether before or after 2013, at least if I and Teresa accomplish strong unity, and despite some failures, we hope that God and True Parents may be kind to us as a couple whenever we go to the spirit world.