

Galen Brooks, Seattle, 1962



I was born February 1, 1944 and joined our movement in Seattle in 1962. The first couple to join our movement in Oregon was Galen and Patty Pumphrey; their first son, born before they joined, was named Lloyd. Somehow I always felt that this was not a coincidence. There is something in a name!

My parents were not church-goers, though they were religious. When I was 11, a friend of mine invited me to his church. After I had attended the youth program with that church for seven years, my Sunday-School teacher invited me to a Bible study at her home. The study content turned out to be the Divine Principle. Her name was Myra Christine Hilts. Together with her teenage son, Glenn, her middle-school twin daughters, Sandra and Karlene, my girlfriend, Susanne Pitts, and her twin sister, Diane, we formed a study group. We studied, witnessed, and strived to grow and prepare for the Blessing. There were no Principle publications, only notes taken when David S.C. Kim spoke in Oregon. We even didn't know Father's name for many years. In those days our holy salt (received from Korea) was very powerful because we believed it was claiming things back to God's side for the first time. We felt we were wrestling this world from Satan to make a foundation for God by the conditions we made.

In the early days there were three missionary groups in America. Mr. David Kim was the leader in the Northwest. Miss Young Oon Kim had moved to California after her initial work in Oregon, and Colonel Bo Hi Pak was stationed in Washington, D.C. Later, Colonel Pak was called back to Korea (he was a military attaché in the Korean embassy at the time). Young Oon Kim moved to Washington, D.C.

while keeping her base in California. Father sent Sang Ik Choi to America. (Formerly he had been known as Mr. Nishikawa, the first missionary to Japan.) He settled in the San Francisco area.

In 1965, True Father came to bless holy grounds in every state. I was present at two of the ceremonies; in Seattle and in Portland, Oregon. My spiritual mother was not able to see True Father, because she was taken to the hospital with a serious illness the day before he came. Father couldn't go to the hospital but he sent David Kim to see her and take to her his personal handkerchief, which we were instructed that she be buried with a few days later. Mr. Kim called it her "passport to heaven." I always felt she gave her life for her spiritual children.



Galen and Christen Brooks

To become a member, we had to pass a Divine Principle test from notes compiled into a manuscript and later published into a book titled *The Divine Principle: An Individual Preparation for His Coming Kingdom*. As a condition to take the test we had to read the Principle eight times from start to finish, recording when we started and when we stopped. The test was in three parts. Part one was essay questions and took six hours. Part two was also essay questions and took six

hours. Part three was research questions to be answered about the early days of the movement.

In 1966, I was drafted into the army for the Vietnam War. My girlfriend and fiancée of five years, Susanne, went to Alaska to be a missionary there. David Kim had the fewest members but took responsibility for a number of states which we had to visit and make a foundation in. While I was away, Susanne had a relationship with another man. I had dreams warning me of the possibility of Satan tempting her, which I shared with her. When she fell, even though I was 3000 miles away I knew the exact hour and day, I felt it. When I told her, she was in shock but continued with the other man. When I returned from the army, I was surprised to discover there were very few members left in the region. Satan had taken his swipe at the American movement. Of the six of us who studied together for six years, I was the only one who made it to the Blessing.

In 1969, True Parents held the first American Blessing in Washington, D.C. The 13 couples receiving his Blessing that year were part of the 43-couple Blessing worldwide, which was related to the 430 couple Blessing In Korea. I was interviewed by True Father twice, but my bride-to-be had fallen the year before, and I had not emotionally recovered. So the Blessing for me was almost seven years later. Almost my entire life can be broken down into seven-year periods.

In 1975, I was blessed to Carol Ann Dubrotka but that Blessing was never consummated. Then, seven years later, when I was almost 40 years old and 21 years in the church, I was re-matched by Father.

What I am most grateful for in my life is True Parents' matching me with Christen Reb of France. She is everything that I am not, and our four children - Daniel, Sarah, David, Miriam - inherited from her the things I did not have in me to give them. Feeling my children grow and mature with the elements of both of our characters, personalities, and natures has completely solidified my eternal love for my wife and True Parents.