

Choong Keun Chang, Korea, 1956



My name is Choong Keun Chang. I was born November 15, 1941, in Pyeong Yang. I am the second son of a second son. I have three brothers and three sisters. My family attended a Presbyterian Church. We fled to South Korea on June 25, 1950 at the onset of the civil war. My father, Song-Do Chang, joined the Unification Church in 1955, and I followed in 1956. I was 14 years old.

When I finished high school, I decided to work as a pioneer out in the countryside. I joined the army in 1962 out of national duty and was honorably discharged in 1964. My hope was to pioneer overseas. I believed that the divine truth belonged not only in Korea, but should be given to the whole world. I began to learn skills that would help me financially in that mission; for example: I learned how to fix radios and TVs, how to cut men's hair, and how to build industrial boilers.

In 1970, I participated in the 777 Couples' Matching and Blessing. I was 30 years old and had been in the church for 16 years by this time. I was unable to attend past marriage Blessings due to my mother's illness for many years. When I arrived at Chongpadong Church for the matching, my sister told me she had already chosen three ladies for me: the third girl was a designer named Wonkil Son, whom my sister had a good feeling about. I trusted my sister's judgment and went and had a talk with Wonkil.

We were asked to get ready for the matching process. I sat down in the first row at the far corner of the room. When it was my turn to introduce myself, Father suddenly stormed out of the room behind the stage and stalked right up to me and said, "Who told you to come here today? Why did you come now?" I was still kneeling on the floor and

I calmly said, "I came of my own volition." At this comment, Father whacked me across the head and I went toppling down. "I'm very upset with your parents," Father said, and I assumed he meant that they didn't send me to the Blessing sooner. I don't know, to this day, why Father was upset that I had not gone earlier to the Blessing, but I was matched with Wonkil that day, and we both feel this Blessing was auspicious.

After our three-year witnessing course my wife and I moved to Toronto, Canada. We found the Unification Church in Toronto and worked at a grocery store. When we got our own place, we began our family life. I learned English and continued to get certifications in various skills. I eventually found myself at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS). My wife and I were asked to attend the first 40-day workshop at Cheong Pyeong dedicated to those who would receive a mission to be a national messiah, so I was unable to finish my degree at UTS. I received a mission to serve as National Leader of the Democratic Republic of Congo, and my wife and I served that country as national messiah for five straight years, until Father called us back to Korea to work on the unification of North and South Korea. In 2002, I had the chance to attend Sun Moon University, so I took it, while also working in a mission dedicated to establishing an Abel United Nations. I completed my Master's in Religious Education at Sun Moon University. In February of 2005, Father directed me to get my doctorate. Fortunately, UTS had just commenced a new doctorate program and I completed my required courses by 2008.

Our son, William Chang, is blessed to Unity Hendricks. They have two boys and are expecting a girl. Our eldest daughter, Lina, is blessed to Une Herzer. They live in England with their children, Matthias and Mackenzie-Rose. Our second eldest, Hwajung, lives in Korea with her husband, Dongjin Na, and their daughter Wonjoo. Our third eldest, Shinyoung, lives in New York with her husband, Stephen Simonds. Our fourth daughter, Esther, lives in Vancouver, and our youngest, Hwayun lives in Korea.