

Tomiko (Kanamori) Duggan, Toyama, Japan, 1964



I joined the church on July 23, 1964 in Toyama Prefecture, Japan. This was the summer in which the Japanese Unification Church conducted the first 40-day summer pioneering condition. My spiritual mother is Mrs. Eriko (Atsumi) Kajikuri, one of the first 12 couples in Japan, and her husband is currently the president of HSA-UWC-Japan.



About six months before I met Mrs. Kajikuri; I started dreaming. I was a devoted Catholic. I especially remembered clearly one of the dreams I dreamed every night for three nights. Jesus appeared with angels, and one angel guided me to an oriental man who was praying with a shining laser beam coming down over him. I saw many Christians around me who were just praying in the dark and no one noticed the descending Jesus above them.

In the late evening of July 23, 1964, Mrs. Eriko Kajikuri was preaching in front of Toyama Station where I took a train to go to school every day. When I saw her preaching, her loud voice struck me like an arrow penetrating into my bosom. I approached her wanting to

know what she really tried to say to the public. She invited me to come to her church the next day to hear her lecture, which I did. That very night I heard the Divine Principle lecture, and the same man whom the angel guided me to meet appeared in my dream and told me to stay in the Unification Church. I became the first member in Toyama prefecture.

I met True Father for the first time in 1965 when he came to Japan en route to the first worldwide tour. I was still a high-school student. I was so curious and apprehensive to meet True Father, the Second Advent, for whom all Christians truly waited. Does he really go to the toilet or behave like a human being, what will he love to eat, what will he say, etc.? He was the one whom I had longed to meet, yet it was only one day True Parents stayed with us. It was the dream of dreams that I could meet him in my lifetime.

After True Parents left our church, I really wanted to see their room. How did True Father and True Mother use their room? I dashed to the second floor and I saw a trash basket in the room with tissue paper in it that he might have used to blow his nose on. I smiled at myself; he was really a human being! (My husband later told me that his first encounter with True Father was as a security guard when Father went to the bathroom, another normal activity for a human messiah!)

In the last summer of my high-school time, when I was praying through the night with others, fire as a tongue appeared and surrounded me. I was scared yet opened my eyes, and I did not see any more fire. I started praying again and fire appeared again and surrounded me. This time, I was not afraid and continued to pray. And then, all the fire started coming into my arms and legs and exploded into my body as if a volcano had erupted inside of me. The explosion continued for a while and eventually disappeared from my body as if by an ebb tide. Then I had an unforgettable experience in which I communicated with God. I was lifted into a very calm meadow and heard a voice telling me "Do you really dedicate yourself?" I said to

Heavenly Father “Yes, Father.” He asked me again and again, three times. I promised to Father “Yes, I will” three times.

In the early days we members collected used newspapers and magazines with a trolley, visiting house to house to make money for rent and missionary activities. We were always hungry. My first assigned church was Hakodate church in Hokkaido in the summer of 1966, a northern island. Hakodate is a lonely harbor and the port of entry to Hokkaido Island when people come by ship (at that time and now through a tunnel) from Honshu, the main island. We were able to eat only five pieces of bread (only the edge of a loaf of bread) a day with hot water. Hakodate was cold, so we needed to drink hot water; there was no coffee, no tea, and no hot miso soup. In Hakodate, it was so cold that we even needed a stove at night in the summer.

We ate two pieces of bread for breakfast, two pieces for lunch and one piece of bread at night. Our life continued like this for a while. My facial skin started breaking up from a lack of oil and malnutrition. I was so skinny. I longed to eat a bowl of hot white rice and miso soup. This reminded me of the Israelites who complained and longed to have cucumbers in the wilderness. Eventually, my spirit went down, and I could no longer go out to collect used newspapers and magazines. In those days, we never thought that we would ever go to a restaurant to have a meal.

I decided to go to the holy ground in Hakodate. The holy ground was on the hill where you can see the entire city under you. At night, the city was illuminated in the shape of a letter “H.” I cried at the holy ground. I told God “I am not forgetting about you or losing faith in you; but, let me go home for a while to have white rice and nice hot miso soup, then I will be back.” It was so quiet I heard only the gentle wind blowing and the felt the sun warm on my back. I heard God’s voice speaking to me, “I am in you, I am in you.” I was surrounded and embraced by God’s heart and felt sadness in God’s voice.

From this moment on, I understood what total dedication meant

to me. I looked down on the city of Hakodate. After my prayer, the city looked different from before I prayed. God was with me all the time whenever I was persecuted and mocked by people. I felt that there was no one in this city except me who understood God's heart, and I was with God.

The first opportunity to visit North Korea was in 1991 after True Father's visit to North Korea. The second trip was August 31 – September 5, 1992, with the representatives from the 30,000 international couples who were blessed in Korea. True Parents gave them a special blessing for their honeymoon to visit Father's hometown, Cheon Ju, North Korea. A few church members who had gone to North Korea before were invited to take care of the newly blessed couples.

The charter jet left from Nagoya to North Korea. A historical journey began. We landed in Pyongyang, the capital of North Korea. We stayed in the International Hotel. We were divided into two groups to visit Father's home. Because the group had to break into two groups, I was able to visit Father's house twice.



True Father's elder sister and Tomiko Duggan in North Korea in 1992. In the background is Mount Myodo, where True Father received the revelation from Jesus.

It took a few hours to get there. The guide taught us "Dear leader," Kim Jong-il's favorite song, and we had to keep singing until we memorized it. Finally, we were near Father's hometown. The rivers, rice fields, and pine trees that True Father told us about were in front of us. We could see his home where True Parents visited several months before

us. Mr. Hideo Oyamada prepared the photo albums for Father's elder sister, who welcomed us on our visit to see her nephews and nieces. I remember that Mr. Oyamada showed the photos and explained to her one by one who they were. When she saw the photos of the eldest son, Hyo Jin Nim, she could not stop embracing the album to her chest for a while. I wished so badly that the members of the True Family were there instead. We left with hearts wishing that the True Family members could visit soon. We prayed for her well-being and health until she could meet her relatives.