

***Gladys Samuel,  
Washington, D.C., 1967***



I was born in Puerto Rico, but I lived in New York from the time I was 17 years old. I come from a small family of two brothers; I am the youngest and the only girl. When I was 21, I met my husband, and we have been married for 49 years, soon to be 50.



Gladys and Wesley Samuel

In 1966, we met the Unified Family, which is now the Unification Church. At the beginning, since I wasn't a very religious Catholic, it was very hard for me to understand, and I was trying to figure out what kind of people were teaching the Divine Principle and what their purpose was. Little by little, I began to understand. The thing that attracted me the most was seeing people from different nationalities and races caring about each other and loving each other as brothers and sisters, and I wanted to find out what kind of person was bringing all these people together like that.

At that time, the church leaders didn't talk much about True Parents, and when they did, it wasn't much. We received the Blessing in 1969, and it has been an honor and a privilege to know True Parents and to share many times with them and True Children. At the beginning, since the Church was small, we were very fortunate to see True Parents often, and many times we spent time together. I have to say that we are the luckiest people in the world for having the spiritual guidance of True Parents at such difficult times.

My physical father believed in the spirit world very strongly; he was a very spiritual person, and he told us about the spirit world. He had many spiritual experiences and shared some of them with us; these became clearer for me when Father spoke about the spirit world. My mother was just a simple wife but a very good mother.

It is an honor to participate with the 777 Couples in their 40th anniversary along with all those who have followed True Parents for 40 plus years.