

## *Sumie Shimmyo, Japan, 1966*



I am such a small person, but God prepared me in a big way to join the Unification Church in Japan in 1966. I was born and raised in a village surrounded by beautiful nature, and I always believed in an invisible God. My family was a morally good family, and when I was a child, my grandmother used to teach me that it is wrong to lie, and that lying will result in misfortune in the other world. When I was around 11 years of age, I already started to wonder where we would go after physical death. I was very much loved not only by my family but also by my school teachers. I also had many good friends, and I thought that even the friendship between a boy and a girl could be a pure one.

But, I think God started to guide me more directly when I entered college. Four things happened. First, I was admitted to Chuo University in Tokyo and made friends with a fellow student who later became my spiritual mother. (She is Mrs. Yasue Erikawa.) She disappeared for a couple of weeks, during which time she joined the Unification Church. Soon after she came back, she started to witness to me on January 17, 1966.

Second, at college I joined the German-Speaking Club because I majored in German. The club chief was a male student, and I developed a friendship of trust and respect for him. A little later, however, he took advantage of my pure heart and attempted to make a sort of sexual advance towards me. I was extremely disappointed and hurt. So, I started to realize that human beings were very ugly. I started to wonder about the nature of the man-woman relationship and the purpose of

life. This prepared me to accept the Divine Principle teachings on the human fall and God's original purpose of creation later.

Third, my experience led me to go to Christian churches more often than when I was a high-school student. I became a church-goer to search for the truth that could answer my questions. So, when my spiritual mother invited me to come to a Unification-Church Sunday service, I had no problem at all. In my first Unification-Church service, I was moved with spiritual power far more powerful than in Christian churches.

Fourth, I was exposed to Korean culture through a wonderful Korean lady who came to Japan to marry a Japanese man. I came to know her, because I had a part-time job in his management-consulting office. I eventually moved in to their house and spent much time with her personally. I was amazed and deeply impressed with the Korean culture of *jeong seong* (sincerity) explained by her. Because of this, later I easily accepted my spiritual mother's statement that the Messiah came from Korea, and he was now here on earth.

I went to a three-day workshop in January, a seven-day workshop in February, and a 16-day special workshop in March 1966. On the final day of the 16-day workshop, as a 19-year-old girl I pledged to devote myself entirely to God, True Parents, and the Unification Church. Immediately after that, I was assigned to a city far away from Tokyo to do pioneer witnessing in order to help stabilize the Church center there.

A couple of years after joining the Church, at one point I became very serious about the salvation of Japan and the world, and I started a prayer condition at a holy ground. Then, I found myself able to spiritually communicate with True Parents. They spiritually appeared to me as if they were physically present, smiling at me, hugging me, and giving me consolation and encouragement.

I worked in Japan for 10 years, and I came over to the United States in 1976. But, from the very beginning until today, I have never wavered in my life of faith as a heavenly soldier.