

*Momoko Tokito,
Japan, early 1960s*



I was a middle-school student when my mother, Mrs. Haruko Kanari, joined the Unification Church in Japan in the early 1960's. My mother's friend knew that my mother was very religious and was looking for the truth, so she came to my home to meet her. My mother was a person who was always concerned about problems in the world: hunger, poverty, and conflicts among tribes and among enemy nations. She felt so much pain in her heart when she heard tragic news. She was always pondering how mankind could find solutions to those problems. My mother visited the Catholic Church and many other religious institutions but was not satisfied. Later, she joined a Buddhist spiritual group. But, she still didn't find her answers there.

One day, one spiritual lady from that group told her: "Something is coming into your life, so why don't you hang on and wait?" So, she stayed in that religion because she received the message to hold on. It was the same Buddhist community that the late Mr. Osami Kuboki, [an early member of the Japanese church and later a long-time president of the church] had belonged to. Her spiritual mother was the earliest member who joined the Unification Church from that religion. My mother heard lectures every day in her home for one week and discovered that the Messiah had come to the earth. She started to go to our church and found out that the Messiah came from South Korea. She was so excited. The world could be saved through this religion, but it would not be so easy. She decided to work for True Parents and joined the church.

I was a middle-school student when my mother asked me to work for the church, too. I started to do street preaching even before I

learned the Divine Principle. I loved my mother and trusted her 100 percent, and she told me that the truth is in the Divine Principle. At that time, everyone did street preaching, and as a high school student, I also joined that activity in 1964. I was really moved in my heart by the Principle of Creation and believed in the Principle of Restoration. This kept me moving forward in the movement, because I knew that even if I don't have any power, if we fail, the confusing world of Satan would continue. I really wanted to put a stop to this kind of world.

When I was in Japan in the fundraising team for three years, I had the chance to visit Korea. Father would speak a long, long time every day, every day, every day. We stayed for one week to 10 days. We were supposed to hear lectures, but instead, True Father would come and speak. At lunch he would leave, then return in the afternoon, so we could hear more from Father. He spoke about the future. I never thought that we would own a boat, but now we have boats. Every day, we were fundraising with poor food and clothes. We didn't have rich things, but Father spoke about things that we never imagined would happen in the future. Now, it all came true. True Father did all those things.

In 1975, I came to America because of True Father's Day of Hope Tour. I did pioneering and fundraising throughout America and did witnessing with brothers and sisters in the New York Unification Church. I know that I am a very weak person, but when I was in New York, every Sunday, True Father spoke to the Japanese at the Holy Ground after his sermon for many hours. I felt from him so much love and confidence. Father many times told Japanese members that we must repent, because we persecuted the Messiah and the Messiah's country. I felt so much repentance at that time too, and at the same time, so much love.

My mother was serving True Parents at the Hotel New Yorker during the 1970s and early 1980s. I would like to share a story about the time when True Father was in prison. It was my mother's birthday,

and we were waiting for True Mother to drop by the *New Yorker* after speaking at the UN. From prison, True Father called the *New Yorker*, thinking Mother would be there. Mr. Takeru Kamiyama first spoke, but Father grabbed the phone, saying "Is Omma there?" I passed the phone to my mother, and True Father said to her: "We should unite centered on God. If, from the top to the bottom, we unite 100 percent, we can get victory. Nothing is impossible. Everything is possible. Without unity, we cannot do anything." My mother listened and cried and cried. Spirit world knew that my mother would pass away the next year. That was the best birthday gift for my mother – to be able to talk to Father during her birthday.

When my mother discovered that she had cancer, she decided not to inform True Father, as he was crucified on the cross in prison. How could she tell him? She went back to Japan and was met by many elderly Korean women. One elderly lady reported this to True Father anyway. Father told many leaders that it was the right thing to do, not to tell him about her sickness. True Father called her on the phone, saying: "Don't worry about anything. Everything depends on God. Please be confident in the warmth of God's heart. Leave everything up to God, not any human decision." After that, she never worried about her pain, discomfort, or sickness. She was always peaceful and never complained. She couldn't eat, and her body was connected to so many tubes, but she never stopped bowing during Sunday pledge, never stopped witnessing to the nurses, and really tried to do her best because of Father's love.

Heung Jin Nim sacrificed his life, and True Parents installed the Seung Hwa Ceremony. I was so grateful. I felt that it was like a liberation, as I watched my mother every day. My mother became very spiritual towards the end, and more than 40 or 50 times kept repeating "Thank you very much." Then, all of a sudden, she stopped breathing. Her passing was so peaceful. The person who went with happiness was my mother. I couldn't imagine it. I thought that because of True

Parents, and the Seung Hwa Ceremony, she went to the spirit world with a very warm and grateful feeling.

Even though my mother is in the spirit world, I have always felt her support. To see my son receiving the blessing on January 31, 2009 was like a miracle to me. I feel so many miracles have happened in my life. True Parents' love is the real truth, and the best love for each one of us. I know that I am a weak person, without fulfilling my responsibility 100 percent, but still God and the spirit world have guided me until today.