

***Reiner Vincenz, Germany, 1964,  
Barbara Vincenz, San Francisco, 1963***



*Reiner*

Thank you God and True Parents for giving us the strength to follow in our True Parents' footsteps while they are still alive on earth. It is our great honor to live, testify, and serve Heavenly Father and our True Parents of Heaven and earth all the way. When I reflect today about my life, there have been some very special events that were my driving force throughout life and helped me to decide to always follow this course. I would like to share these with you.

My physical birthday was January 9, 1939, in Leipzig, a town in former East Germany, and Barbara's physical birthday was June 12, 1930 in Magdeburg, also in former East Germany. My spiritual birthday was August 22, 1964, and Barbara's was May 1, 1963.

After Barbara joined in San Francisco, California, with Miss Young Oon Kim, she came back to Germany with six other German missionaries. Barbara's brother, Peter Koch, witnessed both to me and to Barbara. On August 22, 1964, my first day of being introduced to the Divine Principle, I came to understand the parallels in human history, and intuitively I knew that HE is here.

I have the honor to have joined as the first member in Europe, and I could be there when True Father came for the very first time to Germany in 1965, the year he blessed holy grounds. I can never forget the look of our True Father, as he stepped off the airplane in Frankfurt, Germany. He could not speak one word in English, but his face showed me that he already knew me for a long time. If I had never had the chance to meet him again, this moment was enough to motivate me to follow him for the rest of my life.



Barbara Vincenz (left), True Parents, and Reiner Vincenz at the 1970 Blessing in Essen, West Germany.



True Parents with Reiner and Barbara Vincenz in Los Angeles.

I was in charge of the traveling arrangements of True Father, whom at the time we called our Leader and Master. One day, I was asked to arrange the visas for True Father and his party. I spent two days in Bonn, the capital of West Germany, at the embassies.

True Father was traveling to Essen, Germany in the north and

wanted to bless our third Holy Ground in the city of Essen. True Father told me that he would wait for me until I came back before he would bless the third Holy Ground, because he wanted me to be a part of the blessing as well. Can you imagine, the Messiah is waiting for me to be involved in this blessing? Unbelievable!

True Father spent several weeks in Europe, and I had many occasions to experience his heart and love, even when he could not speak the language. During one of many meetings, True Father told us that if we really love Germany we have to send out three missionaries to three neighboring countries in Europe right away. This was comparable to Adam and Eve loving the three archangels more than themselves. My ancestors, who were Huguenots, originated from France. So, it came strongly in my prayers that it should be me to bring the greatest message of history from Germany to France. A very strong love for our neighbor country France became the power that propelled me into this mission, even though I was the youngest member of our small family in Germany.

I felt very historical in building an everlasting new foundation in France. As a missionary, I could come very close to God and True Parents. I fasted for France every second day. I worked in a hotel 12 hours a day, and my monthly salary was \$10.00. One day I lost consciousness completely. Somebody brought me to my small room, and two days later I woke up not knowing where I was, or what I was doing there. I could not remember anything, could not speak anything. Finally the words "True Parents" came to mind, and these were the very first words I could speak. Peter Koch, my spiritual father and our national leader in Germany, had informed our True Parents about my situation, and the entire Korean family made strong prayer conditions for me. True Parents at that time really saved my life.

In 1969, during our True Parents' second world tour, they came to Germany to give the Blessing to members outside of our homeland of Korea for the first time. This was the 43-Couple Blessing. This special

moment has been so deeply engraved in my heart and mind that until now I could overcome any challenge and difficulty while following our True Parents for the last 46 years.

One night, True Parents called me into their room and asked me to tell my entire life story to them. This took several hours. Sometimes True Father would stop me and say, "Reiner, has this situation you are describing not been a little different?" True Father could not believe what a pure lifestyle I had led.

Three days later, True Parents decided to hold a Marriage Blessing ceremony. I believe that my wife Barbara and I hold a world record – from the time that we found out there will be a Blessing to the time we were engaged was just 15 minutes! The engagement ceremony took place in True Parents' room one couple at a time. We both had the great honor to be blessed as part of the 43-couple Blessing.

In 1987, we received our child as an adopted daughter from the Nagai family. Our True Father had given her the name of "Leena," and we gave her the second name of "Mirelle," meaning bright star, in remembrance of my French missionary pioneering time.

One may wonder, "Why are we still going on, marching forward like on the first day in our movement? It is because True Parents have become our parents and nothing can change this in our life. I have been active in our movement for 46 years, and Barbara has been on the road for 48 years on the road. This summer, my wife Barbara celebrated her 80th birthday and is still going strong. I am now suffering from the early stages of Parkinson's disease, but my faith remains as strong as ever.

In 2007, in Korea our daughter was blessed by our True Parents with Jario Gavin. Jario had also received his name directly from our True Parents. Leena graduated from college as an elementary-school teacher and will soon be a wonderful educator in the Chicago area. Her husband, Jario, is majoring in pastoral studies and serves as the youth minister of our church here in Chicago.

*Barbara*

It was on my birthday party in San Francisco that I was witnessed to by a young German girl. She talked all evening about a new revelation, and my brother Peter, who was only interested in his studies, was fascinated. Peter asked what I thought about it. I said "It sounds like a nice story." He replied: "If this is true, whether I like it or not, it will change the world." Soon my brother received visions and dreams about the amazing truth and after two weeks, he decided to join the church. I struggled much more with the new revelation; I also wanted to receive dreams and visions, so it took about a half a year of study for me to join. The night before I gave up my apartment to move into the center, I had a vivid dream of my whole house burning to ashes, and all that was left was the Divine Principle book. After this, I felt very confident in my decision, I consider this my Spiritual Birthday!

I will now share one of my favorite memories with True Mother. She has such a beautiful heart. It was in Los Angeles at the Pasadena house where True Father had given a speech, and Mother was sitting by him. After the speech, True Mother went upstairs, and a few minutes later she called me. She had changed out of her blouse and skirt into something else. She reached to me and said "Oh why don't you try this on?" I was deeply moved that True Mother had given me her outfit that she had worn just a few minutes before. It moved me very much, and I often wore this outfit on Sundays.

Lastly, it was 1972 when our True Parents came to England to see the European family. Everybody came to London, and our True Father spoke to us until 4 a.m. The house was packed with members from all over. I felt a very deep love for True Parents. After the speech, members were sleeping everywhere. I was sleeping on the stairway, and I wanted to write a letter to True Parents, but it was dark, so I wrote a letter to True Parents in my prayers.



True Mother with Barbara Vincenz in Germany at the Camberg training center.

Father had just announced that he would go to France in a few days, so I got up at 5 a.m. to go to Paris ahead of True Parents and prepare for their coming. Everybody was asleep, even the kitchen people. When I left the house, the window opened and True Father said “Barbara, where are you going?” I said “Father, I have to prepare Paris because you are coming.” He replied “Oh, that’s fine then, I don’t have to worry.” I was so overwhelmed with love that not only was True Father still awake when everyone else was sleeping, but he knew my name. I was so flustered with emotion that I hit my head on the car door. I was so deeply moved, and I promised God to always be faithful to True Parents.