Five-Day and 21-Day DP Workshop Guests Share Their Experiences

Neil Salonen April 1976

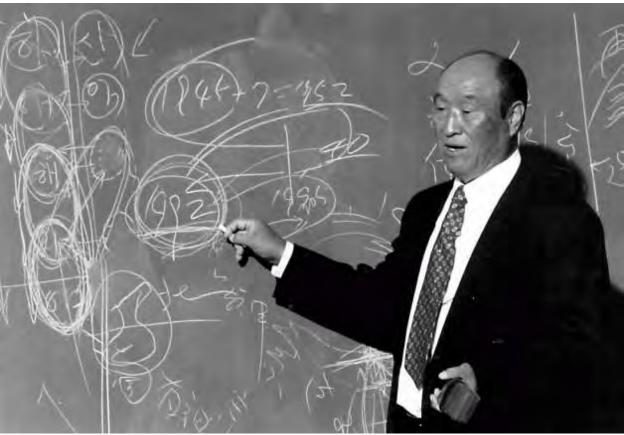


Photo date and location unknown

I met Marc Lee downtown one day. I had been going from church to church trying to find the truth. I'd been a Baptist and a Pentecostalist, but I couldn't find that certain something. It just wasn't right. So I kept asking God: "Please show me the truth. I want to hear it from you. I don't want Satan to have victory in my life." At times I thought God had turned His back on me.

And then I met Marc. I usually just turn away from people, but I couldn't resist him. He only said a few words but I felt I had to check it out.

What impressed me at the center were the people and how they operate. They're so beautiful. I've never been around such people where you can just blend in and feel comfortable. I have been turned inward all my life, but now I feel that a whole lifetime of anxiety has been released.

I'm really excited. I've never experienced such happiness before in my life. I've always been religious and really love Jesus, but I never closed my mind to any man's beliefs. I always dug for deeper truth. Now I've got so much to be grateful to God for because if He hadn't led me here, I'd still be out there. So I want to do all I can to serve God. He is just waiting to teach me the right way to do things. All I can say is: I love you God.

All my life I had been looking for some kind of a leader who could alleviate the problems of mankind. Not just something from out of the sky, but something practical that people could relate to.

After James Fischer told me about Rev. Moon, I hardly heard the lectures because I was so concerned about the man. I wanted to know everything about him. James showed me a picture, and that night I put it under my pillow and had a dream about him.

I've always wanted to influence my mother religiously but have never been able to do it. I have also always had back problems. So in my dream I told my mother about Rev. Moon and she didn't believe me. I asked her if she would believe me if he cured my back, and she said that then she would believe. That was my dream. The next morning when I woke up, I had no more back problems.

* * * *

I have seen people change from Cain to Abel at these meetings. They come discouraged and disappointed from false ideas and false hopes. But then they find here something they can relate to reality, and the change is amazing. I can see that for myself, and I can see it in myself.

* * * *

I was looking for a job and hitchhiking around one day with my dog. I was feeling kind of low standing on the roadside. Then David Fleming came along and picked me up. He kind of looked over at me with a big smile, big eyes and said: "You're seeking." I said I was looking for a job, but he said: "I mean you're seeking for something out of life." He had this big smile and I got the feeling he was a religious person. He said that maybe he could get me a job if I went back to the center with him, so I went.

He asked me what I was seeking and I said: "God." He said he had something I would be very interested in. When I heard Divine Principle, it really hit me. It's simple and yet it's what everybody should know. But I'm an easy-going person and easily swayed, so I said I had to go home and get some clothes and would be back later that night. But I didn't go back. I needed more time to think. The next day I called and they were so concerned about me. It was so touching that they called so much and they didn't even know who I was.

This is so wonderful. People just come together with an unquenchable yearning for something they feel is right and good. It's really reaching out.

* * * *

I don't know why Betty Ann Sunshine kept chasing after me, but for some reason, she decided I was worth it. She kept calling me and coming to see me. So I finally went to a workshop.

It's hard to recall the exact sensation. It was joy shock, rushes of joy and happiness. I was so glad to find out my mission because I always wanted to do something for my fellow man.

On the third night of the workshop I had a dream that involved some of my old fallen habits -- but they no longer had any power over me. I wanted something much greater, much finer. I wanted to have heavenly joy, heavenly freedom. And I know the only way I can do that is to serve God with my life.