

Start Somewhere, Says Connecticut Couple Who Reached HTM 430 Couple Goal

Greg and Keiko Breland
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Greg and Keiko Breland of Bridgeport, Connecticut, completed their goal of giving the Marriage Blessing to 430 couples on November 11, 2018, the day before the Peace Starts with Me rally at the Nassau Coliseum.

They started their journey in early 2018 on the street and going door to door, visiting friends and acquaintances, but they moved on to approaching people in store parking lots to quickly reach more people. "It was hard work, but I felt like God wanted us to finish 430 to inspire others," Keiko said.

They felt called to build their tribe on the grassroots level to support True Mother, who is working from the top down. "True Mother is taking such a heavy responsibility and is determined to accomplish what Father wanted to accomplish. Therefore we should all do our best to fulfill our responsibility of Tribal Messiahship," Keiko said.

"Start somewhere -- whether it be giving the Blessing once a week or visiting a church -- wherever you can," Keiko said. She also emphasized being consistent so that spirit world can trust you and work with you.

Greg added, "It was helpful to hear stories of how people who have already been doing it have accomplished their goal."

When approaching couples, the Brelands carried a binder labeled "Blessing One Million Americans in Marriage" with forms in English and Spanish. They introduced themselves by explaining that they are a part of a movement that is saving America through faith and family. When a couple had signed the form, Greg and Keiko gave them two sealed cups with holy juice, which they offered as a toast for their marriage. After the couple drank the holy juice, the Brelands closed the ceremony with a prayer.

Keiko recalls that her husband's support was essential. "I could not have done it without him. When we went out together, it was much easier and happier. Even when he was not with me, his prayer and support kept me going." Keiko says she appreciates her husband and family more after reaching the Tribal Messiah goal.

However, their efforts were not without struggle. Going door to door was time-consuming when people were not home. In parking lots it was hard to find people who trusted drinking something from a stranger. Old age also revealed its set of difficulties. However, uniting with God and keeping faith strengthened their resolve to keep going until they had reached their goal.

"I often thought about what Father went through before he established the Unification movement in Korea, and how many disappointing experiences he had," Keiko said. "I am really grateful for the foundation we have now. It is wonderful that we have brothers and sisters all over the world to work with."

The Brelands are focused on continuing to teach Divine Principle to their guests and to second-generation Unificationists. Many years ago they established a Friday night Divine Principle study, which all are welcome to attend.

"Tribal Messiahship means we have to show True Parents' love to all the people of the world and our daily life must be devoted to inherit that love," Keiko said.