

## How I met God and True Parents 40 years ago through a young missionary

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*William Balboa Enriquez and his wife*

My dear family in faith. Recently the world celebrated the International Day of Family, and I was thinking of sharing this short testimony of how I met God and True Parents 40 years ago in my life, through a young missionary. However, I was looking for a picture to match this testimony, until I found one today.

It's nice to go back to the early days in our movement once in a while... as some of us are aging now 😊 A time when we feel so much love from God and True Parents and felt safe and spiritually secured being with our elders in our growing family. I gave a title of this short testimony...

### **Where Two or More Are Gathered**

It was an early dawn and I was sitting by the bench in a park. It was quiet... and the street lights were still on. Only a few cabs and jeepneys can be seen passing by, and there were few people walking by the sidewalk. In my mind were varied thoughts of my life. There were the good side, the not so good side and the bad side.



For several moments I kept on asking myself, which side of my life will I follow? And after some time of pondering, there was a tiny voice that seemed whispering to me. It was unclear... maybe it's because of some troubled thoughts I have that still needed to be re-arranged. My mind was exhausted with the mixture of thoughts, good and bad, happy and sad, and the passing time was leaving me helpless with no one... no one beside me, no one to talk to about what's going on in my mind and heart.

I remained seated for a few more time. Looking at the distance, I was internally struggling and almost wanted to give up! I then slowly bowed down and closed my eyes. In my heart, I felt like I wanted to cry out to God for help! But, I didn't... I was a stupid guy I know, and God wouldn't just listen to me. And so, it was those foolish things I did that

kept haunting me and making me captive, until I decided I have to leave the place.

I opened my eyes and slowly raised up my head. And all of the sudden, I saw from a distance three young

ladies walking towards the place where I am. My whole attention was shifted to them. One of them graciously offered a smile to me. It was uplifting and I smiled back! And it was then followed by a good morning greetings that created a warm feeling in the coolness of the early morning dawn.

They continued walking towards the big tall tree nearby. And then they stopped... and while standing in front of the big tree they sang a beautiful melody. As I listened to them, they sounded like angels singing the hymn from heaven. The distance was not so far, and I can clearly hear them from where I sat. I was curious and I want to know why?



And so I walked slowly but surely towards them. One of them had noticed me and suddenly approached me with her beautiful bright smile! She introduced herself and her friends to me. And when she told me her name I was surprised! It seemed that we've known each other before. She was just so kind and friendly. Then she told me that they were missionaries and they came to have their early Sunday Morning Prayer at the park. In my mind I was asking to myself... "why here in the park... in front of this big tree?"

Anyway, it didn't bother me much. After a short conversation, she invited me to join with them in prayer. I felt I was just like a child who obediently followed her motherly heart as she guided me in prayer. I was not as holy as these missionaries I thought. But, I joined them anyway and tried my best to feel God's presence.

It felt strange, because it was just a while ago when I was alone that I wanted to call God for help but I couldn't. Now, here I am given by God a second chance... this time together with these missionaries. We held hands as we prayed in unison. I tried my best, and while I was praying I felt the presence of God. Yes, God was there and He wanted to listen to me. I wanted to cry... but how can I in front of these beautiful ladies.

After we prayed together, it seems like all the worries and problems I have were gone. And I've experienced a very peaceful feeling inside my heart. And such a feeling of having God and talking to Him in my prayers brought so much joy. Yes, it was a joy too high that lifted my heart to the heights of heaven! And in silence I concluded that "God listens... and He is everywhere!"

Yes, God is just a word away... and in times we needed Him, we can talk to Him and He will surely listen to us! However, there are times in our life of faith that we find it difficult to reach God. It is then time to think that we needed somebody whom we can pray together with.

The Good Book said... "Where two or more are gathered in My name, I'm in the midst of them." Let us give thanks to God and True Parents!

Have a blessed journey towards the Victory of Vision 2027