

Testimony of Debra Gohr

July 27, 2012

Debra Gohr, a retired elementary-school teacher from College Park, Maryland joined the Unification Church in 2011. She has three daughters: Ashley 28, Amanda, 25, and Samantha, 20, and currently lives in MD.



*Debra Gohr, holding *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*, and Jim Boothby chat during the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival in August 31, 2011.*

Before meeting the Unification Church, I was depressed, and I hadn't been going to church for a while. I was an elementary-school teacher for 25 years, but I stopped teaching a few years ago, because I have back problems and Hepatitis C. I was in a really bad place after I quit my job. I became dependent on pain medication for my back. On top of that, my first marriage ended, and I met somebody and got engaged, but that didn't work out either. As a result of all these things, I sank into depression and was struggling to recover emotionally.

Then I met Unificationists Douglas Burton and his wife, Keiko, at the 2010 Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. The Unification Church had a booth there and Doug was handing out flyers. I was looking for a church to attend that was close by, and I really liked talking to Doug, because he seemed so inviting. Doug and his wife were nice enough to take me out to lunch soon after. They gave me *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*, and after that, they took me to church with them.

The people at church were so friendly, giving and loving, and I started going to Lovin' Life Ministries Sunday Service regularly. In September 2010, I began studying the Divine Principle, and became a member of Lovin' Life Ministries in March of 2011.

The thing that made me join was the people; they were so loving and caring. Anytime I would be depressed and crying over something, Doug and Keiko would come and take me out to eat and comfort me. They would talk with me or pray with me on the phone. They've even taken me to the hospital when I was sick. They have been there for me in all kinds of situations. They brought me out of my depression. Once I met the Lovin' Life community, I felt that they were a big group of people who gave me love when I didn't love myself. They helped me start to respect myself again. I go to a lot of different Lovin' Life small-group meetings, such as Bible studies and Divine Principle sessions, as well as learn about what it means to be a member through the educational curriculum *Starting Point*, which I studied with young Unificationist Milhan Stephens.

I always love the services. I think Rev. In Jin Moon is so positive but that she really tackles life issues and discusses how we can put our faith into good practice in our life. I always get something good out of the sermons. I enjoy participating in discussion circles after the sermon in order to understand her words more deeply.

My three daughters have been really happy about my joining the Unification Church because they saw a really big change in me. I've made so many good friends, I'm happy and I don't take drugs anymore. In fact, my daughters have come to church a few times. One of my daughters, Ashley, especially enjoys coming.