

How I joined the Unification Church in the 1950s - Let Us Comfort God

Tae Wha Chong Kim

1980

Wife of Young Whi Kim

Testimony given in Tokyo, Japan in 1980

Translation from Japanese Blessing Quarterly



Photo date and location unknown

I understand very well how much you must be longing and missing God and True Parents while suffering for the accomplishment of God's Will. Whatever country I go to the first question of our members is: "Did you come from the U.S.? When is Father coming to our country?" There are impossible circumstances even though True Parents want to come to Japan. When I was leaving East Garden Mother gave me a dress which she had been wearing and said: "Put on this dress when you have a chance to talk to the members while visiting Europe and Japan." Therefore I am standing before you with that dress, though it is hot today. Some members tell me that my profile resembles Mother's because they love and miss True Parents so much.

I went to America this year for the first time even though I've been in the family for 25 years. Father told me to come at the time of Washington Monument as a representative of Korean women but I could not go because of difficult legal proceedings. Also when True Parents sometimes came back to Korea they were too busy to go and visit different places. However this time, I had a blessing of living together with True Parents for a month in America, and I felt like I made my first call at my parents' home after my marriage.

Father spoke about "Let us all go back to God's homeland" after the celebration of his 60th birthday; and at East Garden he really loved me not as a person but as a representative of members who are working hard all over the world. Therefore the love True Parents have given us (she visited True Parents together with Mrs. Lee, a wife of a leader of interfaith [Union Church]) is the love for you brothers and sisters.

I traveled with True Parents' family to the south and stayed at a small hotel which had a room and a kitchen. Next morning Mother woke up early and prepared breakfast for us. As soon as I entered the dining room I was ashamed and sorry. I had cooked and served the True Parents before but this time I became like a child and really appreciated the breakfast. It was like a dream. If someone asks me "What was the biggest blessing while you stayed in America for a month?" I would say "I had breakfast which Mother cooked by herself." Of course the True Parents gave me this dress and bought me this watch, but more than anything else I would like to share this story as a best present. This is a same present which the True Parents gave to you too.

Also, if a member visits East Garden, whoever he or she may be, Father always goes outside and sends that member off at the time of leaving, putting his hand in his pocket. It is very touching to see him saying, "I wish you could stay in the East Garden longer, but you have your mission to do. When will I

see you next time? Take care of yourself. When you go back take a good plane which arrives quickly instead of buying a discount ticket which gives you troubles." Therefore, we did not want to make Father's heart sad when we left East Garden.

At the time when we were leaving there were about sixty members invited for breakfast to celebrate Hong Halmoni's (Mother's mother) birthday. We greeted Father, "Father, we are leaving for Boston today, and go to Europe from Boston directly," when Father was talking to the others. Father nodded and saw us off, talking to other people. However, as soon as we arrived in Boston we received a telephone call from Father saying, "Don't leave for Europe from Boston directly. Come back to East Garden and leave." Therefore we went back to East Garden quickly, thinking that Father must have an important message to convey to Korea and to the world. When we arrived Father was in conference with about thirty Japanese members. Father just said, "Oh, you came back," but there was nothing special to say.

He just wanted us to stay even one hour longer with him. That was an example of the parental heart of giving more love at the parents' home since the daughter has a lot of hardships when she is married. I wanted to cry in a loud voice but I shed tears in my heart and deeply vowed, "Father, although my power is small, I will surely love our members for you and Mother as much as possible," and I left dear East Garden. Also Mother gave us advice before we left for Europe since we were just like country girls who came to a big city. She loved and guided us so kindly saying, "Talk this way when you stand before members;" and "Don't eat too much even if the food is so delicious, and eat naturally using your napkin well."

Now I would like to talk about my personal testimony. I was born in Hyang Haido in North Korea. I lived there until I was in the third grade of Junior high school after the three years of Korean liberation of 1945. I have parents and a brother and a sister. I am the eldest daughter. My younger sister was blessed as one of the 1800 couples and my parents are also blessed as a married couple. After the Korean liberation on August 15, 1945, Hyang Haido came under the communist policy of Kim Il Sung. I would like to share some things I saw there because I lived under communism from my freshman to third grade years of junior high school.

The Russian troops came in after the liberation but they were very violent and ignorant. They had never seen watches or things which we could get at the countryside store in North Korea. They could not even distinguish real guns from toy guns; once they came into my house and stole a toy gun. Also they always carry black bread, sleep on it as a pillow and eat it when they get hungry. If they see a watch they just steal it and put on as many as they like.

As soon as Russian troops came in, Kim Il Sung came into power. All the land was taken away by the land reform. Life was so extremely harsh that all we had to eat was gruel once a day. At school, boys had to join the Communist Youth Group and girls had to join the women's union. Unless we participated in the union it was impossible to live in North Korea. Students went to school early in the morning and had a reading class before the regular class starts, where they read Kim Il Sung's biography or various history books about the Communist Party. There is also an assembly called "Self-Critic" where hateful teachers and hateful students are called to the meeting, accused and expelled from the school.

Another meeting, called "Rising to Action," is where they gather to blame America and others and propagandize only the Communist party. Students don't study so much at school; instead they go to voluntary work at a factory or go to consolation meetings for workers, and only learn that Kim Il Sung is a hero. Besides there are spies in the Communist Youth Group, women's union, class and school, and nobody knows who is a spy. Therefore young people can't chat freely among friends, which make their friendships estranged. Also, people were forced to move from one place to another to live under the slogan of equal property. Because life was so harsh people took refuge in South Korea whenever they found a chance.

After the North Korean invasion on June 25, 1950, my family took refuge in Masan in South Korea. There were many student refugees from famous high schools of Seoul in Masan, but they didn't have a philosophy. Compared to North Korean students who were armed firmly by communist ideology, students in the South were not strong and not working hard for the unity of South and North. There were many communists in my high school, so I was worried that South Korea would be defeated in this situation.

In North Korea, I had gone to Sunday school earnestly. Later, I met a girl who was always smiling, joyful and serving others in a high school in Masan. I started to go to church together with her because I wanted to serve and live for others like her, which was the first church I went to after I came to the South. But, although I went to the church diligently, it seemed there were no changes in my personality or character. Therefore I put my Bible and hymnal in a cloth wrapper, not letting other people know that I was a Christian when I went to church.

The time came for me to go to college. I majored in home economics because I wanted to become a good

wife and good mother rather than pursue some career for my own success. I chose Ehwa Women's University which was a mission school because I wanted to have a life viewpoint based on truth and faith. I was born and raised in a happy and favored family, where I could do whatever I desired. However, when I saw my surroundings I could not find any family who lived happily. I could observe people in the village near the university where I went. I saw many different people and their miserable life; a mother who became sick but could not go to the hospital; a crying baby who could not get milk from the mother; innocent children who were hungry, and a father who did not care for his family and whose property was all taken away by the communists.

I asked myself: How could I survive if I were put in the same situation? Who can give me a guarantee that I would not have such a difficult life or I would not have a worse life? Could I be grateful in that situation and still live happily? I did not have the confidence and started to suffer about the question of life.

My favorite class at the university was "Cultural History of Christianity" given by Dr. Young Oon Kim, whom you know very well. She taught us the Bible very deeply with a soft but clear voice which resounded in our hearts. Therefore her class became a great joy for me to attend.

I was always a very healthy child so I never took medicines. However, I suffered from pleurisy when I was seventeen. Once we have pleurisy the body becomes weaker and weaker. I had a third relapse when I was a senior at the university. I was sent to the best hospital in Seoul, but the doctor could not even tell me the name of the disease. Today cancer is the most terrible disease, but tuberculosis was the most terrible at that time. I wished the doctor could tell me the name of my illness even if it were tuberculosis, so that he could give me the proper medicine.

My parents did everything they could for me; they gave me a herb medicine and sent for acupuncture treatment. But my illness was not cured. I was very serious about the question of my life. I thought about committing suicide but could not do it because of two reasons. One, I thought I would become unfilial if I died before my parents, although I did not have any confidence of becoming filial even if I were cured, as I did not have confidence in having a happy marriage and becoming a good wife and mother. The other reason I didn't commit suicide was a teaching at school which said that if we commit suicide we go to hell.

I wanted to know more about heaven and hell so I read and studied more about the Bible. My physical condition at that time was worsening so I could not sit down because my whole body was swollen and aching. I could not see well and I could not sleep even at night. However, I was determined to study the Bible even if I died. It was hard for me to study by myself. Heavenly Father knew my situation very well and sent three missionaries from Jehovah's Witnesses.

I studied with them for about two months, for I was anxious to know about life after death. They explained things well, using Bible verses, which seemed very good, but all I wanted to know was whether there was life after death or not. They later explained that after the war of Armageddon all the dead bodies will come out of the tombs and live forever with their flesh. When I heard this it seemed so ridiculous that I cut the relationship with them because I thought their idea was wrong.

However God sent me my old friend from whom I separated in Masan five years before. I did not know her address and she did not know my address, but she found me. She spoke about the Principle of Creation and the meaning of the second advent of the Messiah all day long without saying that she joined the Unification Church. The content of her story seemed very good, so I said to her, "You told me a good thing. I would like to go to your church when I am recovered. What is the name of your church?" She answered it is Seoul Church, but did not say Unification Church. I promised her that I would definitely go to her church when my physical condition became better and asked her to visit me again. After that, I could not forget what she told me, and I was filled with the thought that I wanted to go to Seoul Church when I felt better. However, she did not come back to visit me for three months, even after the new year came. Then finally on the day of February the first, around six o'clock in the evening she visited me. She came to me slowly, without knowing how much I was waiting. But she was waiting for the chance and thinking what to do if I didn't accept the Principle.

She had been praying that I would recover from the illness if I heard the Principle. She said to me, "There is a great teacher in the back of the Seoul ground. Let's go and listen to him." We arrived at a small Japanese style house. When we opened the door, I suddenly thought Jesus must have lived and taught in such a place with his twelve disciples. I entered the room where Mr. Hyo Won Eu (a former president of the church) was lecturing Divine Principle. I stayed there for three days and listened to the lectures. When I heard the lectures my body could tell that this was the truth before my intellect could tell. I could sit down normally and did not feel any pain, which I could never do before without using a cushion. I did not feel any pain in my hip, too. It was like a miracle that all the pain was gone. While I was listening to the lectures of Divine Principle I was cured from my sickness, and I believe I suffered from sickness in order to meet God and the Messiah. My parents were very happy to see me becoming healthy again because they knew how badly I was suffering, and they went to greet Father together with my brother and sister,

saying, "Thank you for making our daughter healthy." I felt deeply that I should not die but live for the mountains, trees, grass, flowers and everything because they rejoiced in my recovery.

I hated Jesus' disciples, Mary and other women who followed Jesus, because they put Jesus, whom they loved as a Messiah, on the cross. Why could they not follow Jesus totally and die for him? I had confidence that if I lived in that age I would have died on the cross instead of Jesus and my relationship with God became very close so that God is my God and I am God's daughter.

Father watched Mr. Eu giving the Principle lecture beside him quietly. There were about twenty members living together with Father and I could tell how he cared for these members as his own brothers and sisters. I had a dream one night. I was crying on my father's lap repenting and confessing everything I did when I was a child. I cried so hard and as I wiped my tears away and raised my face up I found my father had turned into Father. It was a strange dream but I thought Heavenly Father taught me something.

I could now believe strongly that there is a world after death, and there is heaven and hell. I could understand the meaning of the physical condition of goodness before heaven just to guide me in front of Father and let me work for him. I convinced myself that I had to go ahead no matter how difficult the way may be for my ancestors because I am their fruit and I am not standing as myself but as their representative. Also I thought that I have to go this way for my descendants, too.

The joy of meeting with God and having a clear viewpoint of the spiritual world was the best experience in all my 25 years of faith. That joy was greater than the joy when I was blessed with President Young Whi Kim who is good-looking and distinguished or the joy when my first child was born on the same day as Father's first son Hyo-Jin after three years of my marriage. Therefore I always remember that feeling of joy and gratitude when Satan tries to tempt me.

The atmosphere of the church at that time was like spring and filled with love. The room was filled with members centered on Father. And Father guided each of us so well that we felt like telling everything about our past so naturally. One lady was absorbed in telling her story as Father was so interested in listening. She repeated the same story day after day, but Father listened eagerly until she became tired of continuing her story.

Also Father asked us to sing songs. Therefore even old men and women who never sang before prepared at least one song written on a piece of paper when they came to see Father. Father let them sing and studied good points, shortcomings, and the character of members. Also Father could tell and remember well each member's good points, history or ability through their testimony. And later he admired the member's good point which even the member himself did not notice. There is no one who gets angry when he is admired. Father admired the good points of those members whom we thought full of shortcomings; therefore members came to have confidence. Father always taught and guided members like this so everyone could have confidence.

He also suggested: "That color does not suit you because you are fat." "This color will be very good for you since you are slim." "Too long skirt (chogore -- Korean dress) will make you look short, so wear a little shorter length one." or "You look very beautiful if you make your hair style this way because you have a round face." Therefore, people who did not have confidence in themselves before could naturally come to get confidence. Even a woman who did not want to look at the mirror because she thought herself so ugly started to try to make herself look better. Who can be against Father, who always guides us like this? Children, adults, elderly people, everybody loves Father so naturally.

A new semester had started for me at university. I had been absent from school because of my sickness. After I went back to school I started to witness to everyone, my friends and professors, as I myself was a witness that I was recovered completely from the sickness after I heard the truth of the Divine Principle. I jumped to witness everywhere that I did not even realize when my shoes were broken. I was so happy and joyful that I could not stop witnessing.

However; the persecution was severe at that time. The university was against us, saying that the Unification Church is heresy, and oppressed us by demanding that we either leave school or the university. I became absentminded because I could not understand why the school was like that.

There were many students from Ehwa University in the Unification Church at that time, but some of them thought that they could go back to the church after they graduated because of the persecution of the school and opposition of their parents. But none of them who thought that way could come back to the church again. There is a time always in heavenly dispensation when God tests whether we can stand strongly as his child.

I could have thought and acted the same way like some of my friends did, but I thought that I would become a witness of the heresy of the Unification Church if I remained in school, which I could never do. I heard the Divine Principle, I went to Unification Church for some months, and yet I did not find any evil

thing there. Getting the degree from the university was not my deepest desire. It was this Unification Church that gave me new life, rebirth to my spirit and body and made me completely a new person. I made up my mind and left the university like I threw away my old shoes.

There was no written script like you have today as "Divine Principle" in the 1950s. President Eu had an original copy of the Principle which Father wrote, and he gave us a lecture putting it in order. Nobody thought about the Blessing because Father was not married at that time. The Principle talks about the Blessing but it was very vague for us. In the far future after I fulfilled my responsibility, if God gave me a blessing I would receive it, but it was not important for me. Therefore my major of Home Economics lost its purpose. But on the other hand I thought there must be some meaning that I majored in home economics. Then I thought I studied it in order to serve and attend Father.

As soon as I realized that, Father said that he had to go to America. Father said it to a few members in a small room. We were very happy with Father and we wanted to stay with Father always, even though he mentioned going to America. It was just like when Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Transfiguration 2,000 years ago and they told Jesus that they would make three booths and not leave the mountain because they were so comfortable being with Jesus. However; Father said that he had to go to America someday, ignoring our hearts. I thought Father's words would come true even though it was beyond our imagination to think about America or the world mission because of the persecution in Korea in those days was tremendous.

I asked Father to put me in the position of the kitchen so that I could use something of what I learned at school before Father went to America. Father was very happy to hear that and allowed me to work in the kitchen. Then Father told me, "As you are going to work in the kitchen, which is the most inconspicuous place, you should not wear colorful chima-chogori (Korean dress)." He wanted to teach me to be humble always since it is easy to become arrogant when working and attending Father directly. Thus I began to work in the kitchen, and I heard later from the elderly women who were working before me that they had been praying for three months that young people who graduated from the university might work in the kitchen and serve Father since the time had come for the younger generation.

It was twenty-five years ago when Father had very simple and poor food. Father told me that I should not prepare more than three dishes. There was a time when we did not have any rice and Father had only brown barley. Father always cared about members who were on pioneer missions. Everyone fasted on his birthday for the first three years at that time. Father fasted on his birthday too. Even though we asked him, "Master, we will fast for you, so please do not fast yourself." Father always fasted on his birthday.

Members who were out for pioneer witnessing had to fast naturally because they had nothing to eat. Father therefore comforted me, "You may think that there is no progress in the kitchen intellectually and emotionally (heartistically). But think about the brothers and sisters who went out for pioneer witnessing. At least as you are in this kitchen you don't need to suffer from hunger, while they are working hard without eating."

There were not enough fruits or drinks to give Father's children in those days. I had to say to them, "That drink is for Father," when they became thirsty and opened the refrigerator. Even now my heart is painful for the fact that I could not give them even one bottle of cider or coke. I used the fat part of one carrot for Father's dish and the rest for food for Ye-Jin. Even now, I'm sorry for her and my heart aches when I remember these things.

I would like to share my heart that I felt while attending True Parents as one of the first three blessed couples. There is a saying "If you do your best and give the best of your sincerity, Heaven will be moved by that." Father does not eat unless we put our heart and prayer from the shopping no matter how expensive and nutritious the food may be. Members sometimes bring food or clothes for Father. One time Father did not even touch the food. I wondered and asked the member who brought the food. She was crying and said that she haggled over the price. Father knows all these things very well. If we purely think about Father and buy things without hesitating, Father will appreciate and eat even if it is just a baked sweet potato.

We did not have a car at that time, so we had to carry all the groceries in the bus or train. When we put those groceries down on the floor because they were heavy, father did not eat. Father ate everything when we prepared with the heart of giving and thinking to serve the best regardless of any external conditions. It was such a joy and happy feeling which took all the tiredness away (Gust like when I recovered from the sickness) when Father ate everything we prepared with sincerity. When we prepared breakfast we always prepared one extra and put it aside until lunch time, prepared one extra dish at lunch time and put it aside until dinner, and one extra at dinner time until next morning, so that we could serve food at any time Father came. However, when I thought by my own judgment that Father would not come back so early and gave the reserved dish to a hungry member,

Father always came back early and asked me, "I'm very busy so give me some food quickly." I was

embarrassed many times in that situation. He is really spiritual. Also when I wanted to give a rice cake to Father but I did not have time for shopping or making it, wonderfully someone always brought rice cakes. It was not just one person but sometimes three or seven members brought the same rice cake which I wanted to give to Father. It was amazing. There was a time when Mother worked in the kitchen for three days after the holy matrimony of True Parents.

There was no gas oven, hot water or refrigerator in the kitchen of the Korean church twenty years ago. We cooked on briquette in the cold kitchen. Mother came in such a situation and cooked for three days. I was very surprised to see Mother cooking so skillfully and promptly in the unfamiliar kitchen. And I was deeply moved by her that she was the right person to be Father's wife. As Mother prepared dishes with confidence and served Father, he really enjoyed the meal. It was truly delicious. Since then many different kinds of vegetables appeared on Father's table. Father ate only white fish and did not like the fishy smelling red fish. However, after the three days of Mother's work in the kitchen he changed to eat any kind of vegetable, fish, or Western food cooked in butter and milk. Also, before then he only wore a long sleeved shirt even in the hot summer, but after the holy matrimony he began to wear short sleeved shirts. These all owed to Mother's effort.

This year (1980) is really a significant year. We celebrated Father's 60th birthday and this is the final year of Father's 21 year course. I guided the Korean members for the preparation of this significant 60th birthday as the best fruit of his final year of the 21 year course. I guided them to put all their hearts that they could never give in their whole life when they plowed the land, planted the seed, cooked food, and made dresses. Unfortunately I had to ask outside professional people for the preparation of the dresses because of the complicated work of embroidery. It was difficult to choose someone from outside who had a good skill, good ancestral merits and a possibility of becoming a family member in the future. However, as I was really serious and sincere, spirit world helped me. Spirit world taught me who was the right person through spiritualists. Also spirit world taught me a color which the True Parents might be pleased with.

I also knew through my experience that we should not quarrel with each other while baking cookies. Therefore I prayed that these outside tailors would not chat or quarrel when they made the dresses. Sometimes I brought a gift for them, comforted, encouraged, and asked them to work with a sincere heart. Later they told me that they had never worked smoothly like that time in their countless items of work. I was really happy to hear that and I understood that the spiritual world was helping and working together with us because Father's 60th birthday was so meaningful. It was hard work to have prepared things for Father, and it was also hard to send them safely to America. However, we could send everything we prepared for the True Parents.

I was very happy after I had finished all these things and I was sitting alone after the celebration and prayer of Father's 60th birthday in Korea. I was thinking of the True Parents and that it was lonely not having this celebration with them in Korea but it could not be helped. Then one elder sister came to me, who had been attending Father since he was in North Korea. She took my hands and said to me, "Thank you very much, Mrs. Kim. I am really grateful for your having prepared all of these things for Father's 60th birthday. You are a glorious person. Not everyone can do such work. Because of you, this big task was done. Thank you very much. Truly you are a glorious person."

When I heard such words I felt something in my heart and I could not help tears. I felt in my heart that we had to comfort Heavenly Father like this, who had been searching for us in tears for 6,000 years, given us new life and brought us up as His children. I also asked myself if I had ever comforted True Parents like this. And I thought this was a very important thing. I deeply understood that we have to have many reports which can comfort Father's heart. I understood this neither in my mind nor in my heart, but I understood in my bones. It was really a grateful thing. That sister comforted my effort, but I was grateful for Heavenly Father for letting me understand this important thing.

Neither man alone nor woman alone can make a happy family. Happy families can only be made by loving each other. Then all children can become happy. Therefore let us truly unite with one another and work hard for the progress of God's will.