

Husband Accepts the Blessing after Three Decades - testimony from Isa, Japan

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Last year, long after she joined the movement, Mrs. Tate convinced her husband to attend the blessing ceremony with her on August 28.

Last August 28, the Mie District Church held a blessing ceremony, which Mrs. Tate (sixty-one), a member for thirty years, attended with her husband. Mrs. Tate first encountered the Divine Principle in 1986. Not long after joining the church, her husband found out and objected to her going to the church. They have been arguing about her attending the church since then. Every time Mrs. Tate saw other church wives receiving the blessing she would think, "I don't think I will be able to receive the blessing but I would like to receive a spiritual blessing [after she and her husband ascend]."

As she was thinking this, last year, Mrs. Tate received the Cheon Il Guk Holy Scripture, *Cham Bumo Gyeong*, from her church leader who encouraged her by saying, "Miracles will happen

soon, smile brightly!" What he had said would not leave Dr. Tate's mind. Six months later, she received advice from her district group leader who told her, "Our happiness is greater if we receive the blessing while we are still on earth because our contributions and actions for the sake of realizing God's wish will be brought to light." The group leader added that a district blessing was coming up. Mrs. Tate remembered what her church leader had said and thought, "Something good may happen. I will definitely attend this blessing ceremony." She felt greater determination than she had ever before.

Mrs. Tate wrote the following in a letter to her husband: "Thank you for living as my husband until now without considering divorce even though I am like this. I am grateful to you for always taking care of the three healthy children we received from God and our healthy grandchild. For thirty years, since I met the Family Federation, I have been listening to God's word. After hearing the word, I realized how insufficient my love is and repented. I want to become even closer as husband and wife than we are now and after we die, I wish for us to remain husband and wife eternally.

I would like to ask a favor of you. I would like it if you would attend the blessing ceremony conducted by the Family Federation for World Peace. This blessing is a sacred wedding ceremony through which a couple forgives each other for past misunderstandings brought on by arguments and once again, through God, connects as husband and wife. It is a blessing ceremony filled with grace, which opens a path for us to live happily as a couple eternally when we go to the spirit world. Please attend this blessing ceremony with me so that we can start this second phase of our life as a couple.

Mrs. Tate said that she gave her husband the letter in a natural and joyful atmosphere but was worried as she waited for her husband to reply. Her husband said, "I was moved by your letter, I will attend with you," and thereby willingly accepted. The actual blessing ceremony stirred Mr. Tate's emotions. On the way home he said, "I was able to make a fresh start thanks to the other church members!" From the photograph we took today, I want to make a key chain, which I will cherish." After Mr. and Mrs. Tate finished their forty-day separation, they learned about the three-day ceremony at their church, received a prayer from their church leader, Rev. Yu Gil-jung, and completed their three-day ceremony.

Through Mrs. Tate's experience, I truly felt that God and True Parents have not forgotten the members who have struggled for a long time and continue to guide them.