

## My Mission in Palau

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*Three young Palauan men came to know True Parents through Tatsuya Matsuyama's efforts.*

Palau is an island nation that lies close to the equator, so the weather is always stifling. People are relaxed and calm, possibly due to the climate. The island is small as is the population of twenty thousand people. However, if you gaze into the ocean, you will come to think that this place is truly God's artwork.

It could never be expressed with only the word, "blue." The view is as magnificent as if a sapphire gem were embedded in every nook and cranny of the ocean. Based on this view alone, you cannot deny God's love. Although the Pacific Ocean still shows signs of battle, it is well-known that Palau's relationship with Japan is friendly.

### Change in Values and in Perspective

I have been on the path of a missionary in this country for seven months. In my life, it has been an experience as valuable as treasure. When I came here from Japan, the culture, language, habits, climate -- every condition in this lifestyle of a completely different country -- has not been easy.

During this experience, religion left the strongest impression on me. The majority of Palau citizens believe in Christianity. Therefore, though the island is small, church signs are all over the place. Even now, a majority of the people are waiting for the Second Coming of the Messiah.

In Palau, for the first time, I attended the worship service of a Christian church. When I entered the church, I saw a huge stained-glass image of a shining Jesus. For two thousand years, many people have believed in the words, "I will come again!" and waited for a person they had never met. Christianity has been through sacrifice and suffering and occasionally there have been those who have given up their lives to protect the faith. As a missionary, being in that position, I felt self-respect and responsibility, and I had a strong desire to tell those people that the Messiah is here. Knowing the history of the past two thousand years and being able to live in these times, I was completely moved to tears of gratitude and happiness.

At the same time, I realized that my mission was to create heaven on earth in Palau. Therefore, I was strongly determined.

However, witnessing is not easy because the people of Palau have a very solid Christian faith and they do not throw away their old customs and concepts. They consider it natural for everyone to be affiliated with a church, and because the island people have the habit of using the unusual heat as an excuse to regard everything as tiresome, they rarely move their bodies. They are extremely kind and feel like family, but there have been times when they promise things or say things and do not keep their word. Therefore, it is very difficult to arrange meetings and actually meet. From a religious standpoint, I thought it was very strange.

In the beginning, I worried a lot about revealing my being a missionary because I had experienced people suddenly changing their expression and leaving their seats when I brought up the issue of religion or

church in Japan. Thus, I was hesitant because I was concerned people would consider me strange. One day, a possible witnessing candidate and some other people were gathered in some place, however, another missionary's witnessing candidate pointed at me and said, "You're a missionary, right?" I could not lie, so I answered, "Yes!" After that, different people shot many questions at me, "Do you believe in Jesus? What church do you attend?"

From all of the intimidating thoughts inside of me, a liberating confidence arose. I thought, "Yes. I am a missionary. I have to go out confidently."

Determination and confidence soared inside of me. At that time I felt, "Religion is a natural thing. If I don't have that, then what am I going to do?" I realized, "I had thought people are biased against religion, but I was the prejudiced one and had misunderstood religion myself."

This was the moment where I truly experienced that one's values can change just by changing one's perspective.

One day, I met a person from the Marshall Islands in my university dormitory in Palau. I revealed to him that I was a missionary and asked him if he wanted to come to my church. He asked, "Can you explain it to me right now?" So for three hours, I explained a series of lectures through charts. He told me that he enjoyed hearing the lectures and from that day onward I continued to teach him. After that, other people started to develop an interest and listened to my lectures. Four people attended our church service; some continued to come every week. They believe in Protestantism, so they had some foundation of Christianity. However, because the Unification Principle gives explanations that are easy to understand based on the Bible, they could understand.

Whenever I am lecturing, what I make the most effort in is humility. A variety of religions and an overflow of denominations are in the world. In the middle of all this, if every church thinks that it is correct, unity is impossible. Everyone must be humble to embrace the new truth. On hot days, I would buy juice for those I lectured to. Every time I prepared a lecture, I would think, "How can I explain the content of the Principle in a way for them to easily understand?" Like a servant, I invested.

Therefore, little by little, I began giving lectures to my witnessing candidates inside their rooms. They would wait for me to come or they would bring other people. I began to feel a change. In the middle of my lectures, they would agree enthusiastically saying, "Aha...!", and respond,

"This is God's word!" Every time that happened, I could feel the greatness of the Principle that True Father risked his life searching for. We may have different cultures, languages and habits because we are different people, but with each passing day I realized that because everyone possesses an original mind that God created, a truth that anyone can sympathize with is a universal common truth.

### **Birth of My Three Spiritual Children**

The common base of any religion are God and peace. History has continued to exist until now with people from all corners of the world—from Japan, Palau, Africa, America, China -- pursue God and peace. I came to realize through my witnessing recipients that the truth was needed and that the shortest way to attain world peace is by saving each person's life.

A month had passed since I started giving lectures on the Principle. It was time to give the lecture on the Second Coming of Christ. I hesitated to clarify that True Father is the Messiah, as it says in the section of the Second Coming.

If the witnessing recipients, who had a strong faith in Christianity, heard that it isn't Jesus but Rev. Moon who came instead of Jesus as the Lord at his Second Coming, I wondered if they would accept it. I then thought about what to do in case they rejected what I say. In the midst of my prayer, trying to seek an answer, I thought, "What is your reason for not revealing the True Parents of humanity? There is nothing as sad as children not knowing who their parents are. I must reveal it to them as fast as possible." I then decided to tell them that True Father is the Second Coming of the Messiah.

The time for the lecture came and three witnessing recipients came. One person was missing, and the people already there suggested that we start.

However, I said, "No! Today is a very important day." So we waited until everyone had arrived and then started the lecture. I then said "The Messiah at his Second Coming will come from Korea," basing it on the Bible. When I said this, their response was positive to such a surprising degree that I had to confirm it. So, I asked them, "Do you really believe this?" They even understood that the Korean language will bring unification. I questioned whether they would be able to accept the Principle from this point on and although I hesitated for a moment, I remembered my determination, and decided to tell them everything. When I asked, "Does everyone believe in this truth?" and without hesitation they answered, "Yes!"

"If so," I asked, "who revealed the Principle?"

"Rev. Moon."

"That is correct. Reverend Moon is the one. He is the Second Coming of the Messiah!"

When I said that, I wanted to close my eyes out of nervousness. However, to my surprise, their reaction was positive. I could not believe my eyes. I wanted to double check, so I asked several times, "Do you truly believe in this?"

Then like a dream, all three people, without hesitation, answered, "Yes!" It was a moment when I wanted to jump up for joy right then and there. I could also feel that God was happy. That was the moment when my three spiritual children were born. I was full of gratitude and happiness. A few days later, I prepared the membership applications and they formally became my spiritual children. Two months later, we completed True Father's autobiography.

Through this experience, I realized the greatness of the Principle and that God's words have the power to save people. Clearly, I felt that God was working and supporting me. I had thought that it would be impossible to witness to people since I had less knowledge of the Bible than the people I was trying to witness to, but I found out that it wasn't I, but our Heavenly Parent working through me. Through my missionary work in Palau, I came to understand the hardship, happiness and gratitude experienced when loving others. My public period has finished, but my spirit will forever be a missionary in Palau.