

## Visiting Home after Twenty-One Years -- Sapporo Teine Family Church

Naoki Motooka  
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*Mr. Motooka, his wife Miho and their two daughters*

In the summer of 2015, I visited my family home in Hyogyo Prefecture. A leader in our church had said, "We have the goal of achieving success as heavenly tribal messiahs, so remaining dormant is not good." At first, I kept thinking that I could not do it, but increasingly the thought arose that this may be the "right time," and thus decided to visit my home and my entire family.

My uncle, who had been a communist and strongly opposed our church, had strongly influenced my parents. My uncle even sent me a good-bye letter explaining that my parents had decided to cut our relationship completely. In 1994, I tried to visit the house and tell them

my wife would be going out as a missionary but they kicked us out even before we entered the house. I never visited after that and if I called, they would hang up even before I could finish saying hello.

My mother had been living alone. When my family suddenly visited, my mother was surprised but said, "Since you are here, I have no choice," and let us into the house. The first thing I did was bow at the ancestral shrine and report that I had returned home after twenty-one years. After seeing how old my mother was, I felt regret that I had been unable to be a pious son but I forgot all that had happened until then and just spoke to my mother about the current state of our family. Though it had only been a few hours, it had been a large first step.

Afterward, that same leader said, "The blessing comes next." In my heart, I felt it would still not be possible. I did not even know when I would be able to visit my home again. However, I found out that a training session for a qualification certificate I had finished a few years ago would take place in Osaka in August 2016, so another opportunity came to visit home. Yet, considering past years, I still could not be certain my family would allow me back into the house. Therefore, I decided to set the condition of fulfilling the donation to liberate my ancestors from the first to the seventh generation no matter what.

The day before going to Osaka I received the Cheon Il Guk Holy Wine and then organized my heart and set off. When the training session ended earlier than scheduled, I thought there must be some reason for this and decided to change my schedule and visit home that day instead of waiting for the next day. I arrived a little before 7:00 pm. I rang the doorbell. When my mother saw it was I, she asked why I had come and opened the door to let me in. Not long after, I brought up the blessing and she drank the holy wine even though she had a flustered look on her face. I called District leader Kim Won-bin right away and was able to have him pray over my mother.

Then my mother said, "Originally I would have liked for you to sleep here but your sister is coming tomorrow so it would be best for you to leave. Though my mother had given me a cold response, I learned that she was stuck within the opposition of my sister and other family members -- a difficult position to be in.

Through all of this, I realized I was deciding on my own who was good and who was bad, and reflected on this. I learned all I had to do was unite and believe in God and True Parents and act accordingly.