

## My Final Act: The motivation to witness at Cheongryangri Station in Seoul, Korea

Ho-hyeon Nam  
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If I am to talk about the motivation behind witnessing at Cheongryangri Station, I have to start at the beginning. Before obtaining my discharge from the military in the autumn of 1961, I heard a Divine Principle lecture when I was an instructor at the Jinhae Marine Corps Training Group. My spiritual parent, the person who witnessed to me, was Mrs. Mi-shik Shin, the wife of Mr. Bong-chun Choi (known in Japan as Masaru Nishikawa) a missionary who had received an order from True Father to do pioneer witnessing in Japan, which he did. I heard lectures from her. I was continually listening to lectures and after my discharge, I went straight to Busan.

I joined the church in the normal way by handing in an application form, and in November I participated in the ninth forty-day workshop at the headquarters. After finishing the workshop, I went to Hwajeong Village, in a small mountain valley to do pioneer witnessing, but a small baby in the home where I went to stay had caught an infectious disease or had leukemia or something. I don't know what it was, but the baby had just died. Even the family members of the couple were afraid they

would get infected, so nobody came there. It was just the three of us, the baby's parents and I. We embraced the baby together and prayed for the baby to get healthy. I thought I could save the dead baby if I did this. Looking back, it was such a foolish way of thinking.

### An unsettling experience

The following year, in the fall of 1962, President Hyo-won Eu contacted me and told me to come to Seoul. So, I went to Seoul and worked at the Euljiro gun shop. [The church then sold Yewha air shotguns and air rifles for hunting.] Won-pil Kim came to me and said, "Ho-hyeon Nam, you have been assigned as the Gwangju church leader, so tomorrow morning get on the first bus and go to Gwangju."

I thought it would be difficult for a Gyeongsan Province person to go to Jeolla Province [two rival provinces with different political majorities] but because it was God's will, I was determined to go. The next morning, even as I ate breakfast, venerable Won-pil Kim had not shown up. I thought to myself that it was weird. Eventually, later in the morning, Hyun-shil Kang, the missionary, came. After Missionary Kang came and left the gun shop, Mr. Kyeong-li told me, "Missionary Kang's younger brother, Jeong-hee Kang, has already gone to fill the position that you were supposed to fill."

From that point on I went a little crazy. I was a person who had the heart to believe that if I embraced a dead baby and prayed, I could save the baby; however, because something like this happened all of a sudden, I thought, This too, is the wrong place. You have to have "connections" here too. It is completely rotten.

### A period of melancholy listlessness

There was no work for me at the gun shop and nothing else for me to do, so all I did was eat and sleep. I would also needlessly lash out. True Father would eat breakfast and go hunting. Before he went hunting he would always stop by the Euljiro gun shop. He would often be with President Eu's younger brother, Hyo-min Eu. When Father would come, I would purposely make up some work to do. Father would quietly watch me and then would leave me alone. But sometimes when he came, Father would buy us *Jajangmyeon* [noodles in black bean sauce].

The fall of 1962 passed and in the early spring of 1963 Father said to me, "Now that it is spring, the gun shop is not doing well, so go to Busan for now and come back when there is business in the autumn." So, I went to Busan and stayed there. I did not go to Seoul to receive the blessing among the 430 couples. I didn't go for the first round, the second round or even think about going for the third round. However, amidst the third round, I received word that Father would come to Busan on a tour. At that time, I was not

even going to church. However, someone contacted me, and I thought "What if?" and went.

Just as I came through the door, Father looked at me and asked, "Why didn't you come?" I didn't say a word, so Father called District Leader Jeong-yeon Yu (a member of the seventy- two-couple blessing group) and asked why he had not sent me to Seoul. The gathering for True Father ended without even a speech from Father. Father went right back to Seoul. Two days later, Seon-ho Jeong, who was the director of general affairs then, found me and said, "The district leader gave me three air guns [to sell] and said to use it for your bus fare. So you must go; you should go this time." I took the money and went to Seoul.



### **My matching story**

When I had arrived in Seoul and had gone into the old Cheongpa Ward headquarters building, there were blankets on the left side of the chapel. Even though many young men and women were sitting there, I grabbed a blanket and wrapped myself in it to pout. Father came down from the second floor in the morning and nudged my knee and asked if I still hadn't come to my senses. Annoyed, I said, "I don't want to get married. I want to go back to Busan."

Then I pretended to sleep deeply. Father went back to the second floor. The next day he came to me again. This continued for three or four days. Then Father saw my future wife and called her over and asked her to sing a song. She sang the song "Hongdo, Don't Cry."

At that time, she was not young. She was thirty-three years old when she sang "Hongdo, Don't Cry." I thought maybe I'd give marriage with her a try. Nevertheless, I was misbehaving, going around to all the other women, pulling their name tags and asking, "Do you want to get blessed with me?"

As I was doing this, Father saw me and told me to come to him. He said, "She's the right person for you; no one else will do. You have to get blessed with her." In other words, he was demanding that I must. So I retorted, "Why would I want to get married to such an old woman? No one else wants her, so you're trying to push her off on me." [Through a follow up question, it emerged that he is the same age as she.]

Father told me to go in and sit down but I came back out. Father said once again, "You have to get blessed with her. Get blessed with that person." I replied, "If you say I must, Father, I will." Father replied, "Why are you doing it because I said so? You must do it because you want to." Then he called the two of us over and right there he engaged us. After I said I would do it, Father engaged a string of around thirty couples all at once.

At the Blessing Ceremony, as Father blessed us, he said, "Father's is a 'heaven family' from heaven and your families are 'land families' from the land. The two of you are complete opposites but when you unite and go forward, the realization of what God wills will come quickly. However, you have to go through six thousand years' worth of indemnity or four thousand three years' worth of indemnity, and even if your family collapses, you must make effort to fulfill the will. Praying with your face down is not the only a type of prayer; your thoughts themselves are also prayers." Then Father looked at my wife and said, "Make him into a person and set up a church right away." She told me she received that request from Father.

### **Remaining connected**

After being "fired" by Hyun-shil Kang, I said I would not become a pastor or do any public work. Before I got married, if I said I would not go to church I would feel sick, so I would go to the doctor to get medicine, but then I would feel even worse.

However, when I made up my mind to attend church, I felt better. Father would even appear in my dreams and yell at me, so even though I tried to leave many times, I would always come back.

So obviously even after receiving the blessing, many difficulties arose. Many times I would be stubborn and say I would not go to church, so we experienced many difficulties. Nevertheless, Father would not let go of me. When I was going through a grim time and we were living in a rented one-room place, I got into a fight with a rich man from Jungrang Borough [in eastern Seoul]. It felt to me like a reflection in my family of what was happening in Father's family, only on a larger and smaller scale, because at that time Father was fighting with US Congressman Donald Fraser, which ended in a victory.

## **Church leader days**

One day, Father ordered all the families of 430-couple group and higher to return to their hometowns. No matter how much I wished not to be a church leader, Father gave an order, so I had no choice and became the church leader of the Jegi Ward in Seoul's Dongdaemun Borough. He sent two members of the six-thousand- couple blessing group to me and over a three-year course, I was the church leader. Including the time I was the church leader in my home, it lasted four to five years, and then I handed in my resignation.

During the term of South Korean President Moo-hyun Roh [2003–2008], I had already quit as a church leader and was attending the church in Dongdaemun. President Roh used the computer well and became the president by utilizing the internet. I attended a forty-day workshop in Yeosu, and as I went out to feel the night breeze, [then FFWPU Korea] President Sun-jo Hwang, a cameraman, and Ki Seong Lee, now FFWPU-Korea president had all also gone out to enjoy the breeze. I thought, "Great!" I went to President Hwang and said, "Please teach the church leaders how to use the internet. Regular members all use the internet and hear and know a lot of information, but the church leaders don't know how to use the internet." [President Hwang did rebuffed him angrily.] However, after that, the president gave a laptop to each of the church leaders for free. But without training, still some people in the 430-couple group are holding on to their laptops but haven't learned how to use the internet.

## **The betrayal**

At the beginning of 2018, one day, I heard that Missionary Hyun-shil Kang had gone to America and claimed True Mother's position. When I heard that I thought, "She won't throw away her spite until the day she dies." Because of her, her younger brother had taken my spot. Sadly, less than a year later he died. Hyun-shil Kang has no blood relatives. She only had that one sibling. Whenever I had seen her in Seoul, I would ask her why she still wasn't married. I was deliberately sarcastic to her because I felt she had taken my place [and given it to her brother]. She tended to avoid meeting me. When she went to America and claimed Mother's position, I told President Lee, "Even though she's old enough to die of old age, Hyun-shil Kang still hasn't corrected her conduct." President Lee asked what I meant, so I told him about the things that had I experienced with her.

## **Street preaching, witnessing**

From 1961, for seven years, Hyun-shil Kang had street preached in Pagoda Park. So, [apparently, with the mindset to atone for Ms. Kang's betrayal] I determined that for my final act, I would go out to street witness. After Sunday service on March 4, 2018, I asked Pastor Bae-gwan Moon to give me a kick-off benediction. After I received the benediction, I first went out to the Jegi Ward Subway Station and went into the history hall to preach. Because I was shouting, I was kicked out right away. I then moved to Cheongryangri Station. There, People from the railway office would come to stop me. People from the department store would come out to stop me. I would put up a picture of True Parents in sight of perhaps two security cameras, so as soon as they saw me with the picture, the office would know right away. They would chase me out, so I could not do it. It became so difficult that I thought I could not continue doing it.

## **Relying on others' experience**

In our church, Elder Sang-bo Lee is famous for holding demonstrations, protests. That elder protested when the Seoul to Chuncheon Highway was going to cross right in front of Cheon Jeong Gung. He is the person who got them to carve a tunnel through a mountain and have the Highway go behind Cheon Jeong Gung. I called Elder Lee and told him what was happening and asked for his help to get a permit. I didn't know what papers to file, so I asked him to fill out the papers for me. He came right away and brought a huge bundle of files. I asked him why he brought so many, and he said that you have to report and register the files every month.

I prepared the files and went to the police. The police officer in charge saw me and said, "If you want to do it, just do it; it is even more difficult if you get a permit. If you get a permit there are various permit levels and it is all so difficult, so don't get a permit. Just do as you wish."

However, since people kept chasing me out, I asked him what to do. I asked him to give me something I could show people. He gave me his business card with his phone number on it. I thought this would do and went back to Cheongryangri Station.

## **Tribulations and trials**

When I come out into the subway station, I would show officials the police officer's card with the police logo and tell them I had permission. A few times this did not work. I would then call that police officer, but he backed out of supporting me. He said to read the atmosphere and discuss it with whomever was

trying to push me out; he didn't wish to be involved. But is this something that can be discussed? It is not. So I forcefully continued to witness. Police officers still sometimes came. People continued to report me to 112 [the non-emergency police number]. Sometimes a flock of police officers came. I continued to have run-ins with them.

In June 2019, a Christian church minister tried to trap me; it became a criminal case [for defamation and interrupting Christian services (by Christian street preachers)] but I eventually got him. What I had done was in self-defense, so the case didn't go as the minister had hoped. At the first trial, I was to be fined ₩500,000. At the second trial it came to ₩300,000 though the actual bill was for ₩200,000. It went all the way to a third trial, where the high court rejected it immediately. After all that trouble I received a not-guilty verdict.

### **Unbridled access**

Since I would not back down, now even the railway office and the department store officials have given up. Three or four Christian ministers would go around together and preach out loud with a microphone. All of them have had a disagreement with me and we've fought it out. We argued, and when that didn't work, the police would come. That happened dozens of times. Now the Christian ministers don't come at all.

Near the entrance, every Tuesday, the Cheongju New Day Church would come with a van full of seven or eight people. They would set up a speaker and sing Christian hymns. Then each of them would give a sermon. This went on from 12:00 to 2:30. However, those people don't pay any attention to me. They are at the plaza entrance (near the main road). They don't come out into the plaza. I also don't pay attention to them. I only witness in the center of the plaza, so as long as they don't come near me, it is fine with me.

I have a camera set up near the main road. [For videos he continually uploads to the KakaoTalk message app.] They don't want to show up on the video, so they don't come over near me. It's as if now no one can come into the plaza without my permission. They don't think of coming now and if they do come, when I show up, they leave quickly. When they are passing out tracts, once they see me, they rush out of there. They used to come from all over the place. Cheongryangri Station must be famous because people nearby don't come but many people come from distant places.

### **Sincere consistent effort**

Recently, now that I am older and don't have the same strength, I have to encourage my body. It is difficult for me to go out but when I go out, I feel good. When I am leaving my house I truly don't want to go, but I encourage myself and set off. I began on March 4, 2018, on a Sunday. I have rarely missed a day. Earlier this year, many young men and women came from sixty-four nations to participate in the many events taking place in Korea, but I did not go to even one of them. Rather than go to events, I witnessed at Cheongryangri Station.

However, in late November 2019, there was an inaugural event of the Korean Clergy Leadership Conference at the Lotte Jamsil Hotel. I had introduced the event to two pastors and said I would register them. However, all of a sudden, our church pastor contacted me and said that since I am not a pastor, I could not go. If I didn't go, how was I to send two Christian pastors from the Chungcheong Province countryside? I had already made plans to go. I called Pres. Gi-seong Lee and asked, "Can't I go to the event, even though I'm not a pastor?" I sent him information introducing the pastors. He told me not to worry about it and that he would contact my pastor. Other than that time, I did not participate in any of the events. After joining the church, I always attended events; this is the first period when I do not.

You must prepare a foundation on earth for the providence to move in the spirit world, so no matter what anyone else says, an individual needs to establish a foundation. The Bible says, "Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." Also, Father told us not to think about our individual harvest but to work hard and offer our sincerity and that will produce results somewhere else. That is what he said and other pastors have also said this. I am doing this to establish a foundation. I am not doing this without reason. This is not just simply difficult.

This message that I am giving daily in the plaza [is so blunt and confrontational] that no one else could give it. If they did, Christians would beat them up. It is true. If I could not protect myself, they would have gotten me. They tried to get me, but I got them first, so they gave up. One pastor began to pray after I had defeated him. He said he prayed and heard that I used to be a marine. So, he said, "I will buy you something delicious. Let's go mountain hiking and become friends." There was a pastor like that, but if he is so great at praying, why doesn't he know True Parents? In any event, to this day, I am protecting Cheongryangri Plaza.