

Witnessing to the world, my husband and my family

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Mr. and Mrs. Ooya with Church in Shimonoseki

My husband and I received the blessing for married couples in 2012. However, my husband had not studied the Divine Principle before joining, so after we were blessed he did not attend church services.

Since last year, many programs and activities began centered on family gatherings. I had passed out True Father's autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, to people in homes in our neighborhood, so I thought to visit those who had accepted the autobiography and invite them to our home. At the same time, I hoped my husband would recognize the work I was doing, so I invited the neighbors at a time when my husband would be at home.

However, in direct opposition to what I had imagined it would be like, the experience made my neighbors uncomfortable. I had succeeded in bringing my daughter into the church earlier than I had my husband. One day, as I was doing laundry with her, she asked, "Why doesn't Father go to church?"

With that, we began to talk about my husband. My daughter said, "I know! Mother, see how you do Father's laundry? He must attend church because you take care of him so half-heartily." From what she'd said, I realized I had not been considerate enough to my husband.

Sometime later, the church organized a fishing tournament for older members. I suggested that my husband go. He said, "If they are going fishing, I'll go." As he was fishing, District Leader Tsubokura began talking to my husband in an easygoing way. I felt that my husband's heart was opening a little. I sensed this had been a good opportunity and wished to bring my husband to church before much time had passed.

At the Shimonoseki Family Church, we hold a Cheon Il Guk Welcoming Service twice a month for new members. I strongly wanted my husband to come to the service with me. I gathered my courage to speak to him and just as I was about to bring it up my conscience said, "It is time to convey your feelings." I felt Heaven was cheering me on and the rest was my responsibility. I told my husband honestly, I wish for to go to the service together with me. I felt that I had barely been able to speak my mind.

In response, my husband said, "To be honest, I have wanted to pamper you, just as I had hoped to pamper my mother." He began to pour his heart out to me all at once. I was caught off-balance by the unexpected situation, but he began to speak of his lonely memories as a child and the things he was unable to do with his mother. I felt God's heart and desire to save my husband through me at that moment. From that day on, my husband and I have become even closer in heart. My husband told me, "I do not want to be hated by our daughter," and so began to attend the new members' services, Divine Principle revival meetings and Sunday services together -- all three of us.

Currently, my husband is actively attending a Divine Principle seminar twice a month and is studying the Divine Principle in depth. On January 27, our family made a fresh start after the headquarters of our sector officially recognized our home as a family church. We will work hard to resemble Heavenly Parent and True Parents and go forward to become an ideal family that can be a good influence to those surrounding us.