

A sister from Lebanon (17)

Marie Bond
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When I came to the United States in 1997, my eldest child was five. My husband's income wasn't enough so I needed to work beside raising up five children. My first job was taking care of an elderly man during the weekends while my husband takes care of the children.

Then I worked at Michael's Art and Craft store in the evenings and weekends. After that I worked at a Dollar store. I babysit children in my neighborhood as well I took care of children after school. And for the last 12 years I worked as a preschool teacher for the city of Sunnyvale. I served my family and I served my community with all my heart.

I stood up in an international platform and reach out to all kind of people and related to them as members of my family. And while I am serving, I was learning and I was growing. My mind and my spirit became larger and my heart and my love went deeper. I connected to people from India and China as well people from Japan and Mexico.

The reason I survived the moment and overcame the difficulties is because I reached out to my neighbors. I invited them to my house and celebrated with them my children's birthdays, our anniversaries and all the holidays throughout the year. As Jesus asked us to love God with all our heart and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves, that what truly saved me from exhaustion and loneliness. I stood up on the formation stage as I served my family and on the growth stage as I served my neighbors and community. Both of them prepared me to stand up on the world stage or perfection stage not as a perfect person but as my heart can resemble the unconditional love of our True Parents by loving not only the family and the community but the whole world.

I am eternally thankful to True Father who left his home and his country to reach out to me. He sent a missionary to Germany who sent a missionary to France. And from there a missionary came to Lebanon and found people who worked hard and found me. This is the history of Heaven. This is our history that we should never forget. True Father's tears and prayers will be always engraved in our hearts and in our souls and we will always represent the True Parents who gave us birth and gave us life so we may live free from the bondage of sin and evil.

Dear brothers and sisters, with this I conclude my testimony and from the bottom of my heart I thank each one of you for your encouragement and support to write my testimony. I promise you if I ever publish a book, I will send each one of you a free copy.

Love to all of you.

Sincerely,

Marie Bond