

Interviews of Korean–Japanese Blessed Families

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1. Mr. Sam Gyu Ahn recognized for his exemplary, unselfish life



Sam Gyu Ahn

Kushiro is a Japanese city on the east coast of Hokkaido, where the average snowfall over the winter piles up to several meters, transforming the land into a white kingdom. Here, too, the red-crowned crane, the Cheon Il Guk national bird, comes in winter to greet spring. A thirty-minute drive from here will take you to a dairy farm.

There we interviewed Mr. Sam Gyu Ahn and his wife Mikie Matsui, whom True Parents blessed among the 30,000-couple blessing group. More than ten years has passed since they settled down in this area. Currently, they are taking care of three hundred cows on this farm, which has been running since Matsui's parents were young. Mr. Ahn has won his in-laws' trust by working two to three times harder than anyone else

does. He has taken over from his father-in-law and is expanding the farm.

Ahn Sam-gyu: Before we received the blessing, my wife told me that she had three sisters, that she came from a family of only daughters and that we would have to live in Japan in order to carry on the family business. At first, I hesitated but after coming here, all I have done is work, aside from sleeping and eating. After spending ten years in this way, my father-in-law handed over everything to my wife and me.

Hiroshi Matsui (Mikie's father): I saw that my son-in-law worked very hard, so I was able to entrust him with the management. I am satisfied with him because he works ten times harder than the young people around him do. I know he had to face some hardships because of the fact that he is Korean but he always was understanding of the people around him and loved them with an altruistic heart. This gradually drew the attention of the people around him.



Sam Kyu Ahn and his son enjoy being together.

Agricultural cooperative staff member: The number of Japanese people in the dairy industry is on the decline. I am impressed that Mr. Ahn came to Japan to get into the dairy business.

Three generations live together in Mr. Ahn's household. He finds inspiration and a glimpse of our Heavenly Parent's heart when looking at his children, born through the blessing.

Sam Gyu Ahn: I am happiest when I am with my family. I think one can find happiness through

forming a blessed family. The last time I went to the Philippines, I saw many people living in poverty. I think it was worse than Korea in the 1950s, yet people are still living under such dire circumstances. I think that as human beings, in the course of our lives, we should help people in need.

His wife expressed her appreciation toward her husband for coming to Japan after receiving the great gift of the blessing and for living for the sake of others.

Mikie Matsui: In the beginning, everybody in our neighborhood and even in my household was fiercely opposed to my marrying a Korean. Yet, after seeing my husband working hard and taking good care of those around him, they all now recognize him as a good husband.

The value of this priceless blessing emanates through the happiness of this family and conveys the beauty of Korea.

2. Hyang Ja Pak, testifying about True Parents and introducing Korea to Japan



Hyang Ja Pak

After a four-hour drive from Kushiro, we find ourselves in a mid-sized city called Asahikawa, a well-known city for its portrayal in the famous Japanese novel Hyoten (Freezing Point). The city has a cultural center honoring Ayako Miura (1922–1999), the author.

We visited Hyang Ja Pak who introduced, in Korean, stories about Asahikawa. She has involved herself in nearly all aspects of this area. She currently translates and produces captions in Korean for all the videos produced in Kushiro and serves as an evangelist for Japanese culture. While doing this, she testifies about True Parents and introduces Japanese people to Korea. She is one of several well-

known Koreans in the region.

A cultural center staff member: She is accurate, quick and perfect in her work. She does not compromise on the quality of her work. She constantly checks and rechecks her translations and interpretation. She has gained a lot of trust because of her diligent work ethic. She also teaches Korean at one of the largest cultural centers in the area.

She has taught more than six hundred students. A staff member told us that Hyang Ja Pak's class is more popular than are others held at the same time. Last year, the Korean National Assembly (parliament) invited her to visit as a member of the Hunminjeongeum Global Society of Japan.



Hyang Ja Pak teaching Korean in Japan

Yoshiko Sato: We provide many lectures at this cultural center. Many people come to learn a foreign language; and her Korean class is quite popular. Many people have signed up for it. Instructor Pak's classes are interesting, and many people take her classes for a long time. I, too, am interested in Korean but unfortunately being an employee of the cultural center I cannot take these classes. Instead, I attend classes at her house.

In her classes, her students learn not only the language but also ways to understand the cultures of both nations. Efforts are underway in learning how to forgive our pasts and unite.

Yuriko Matsuki (student): It was hard taking classes because I am old. It also takes about an hour and a half by car to get here. Yet I want to continue taking this class as long as I can. Students meet at a Korean restaurant after each class, and soon become like one family sharing a meal together.

Hyang Ja Pak: I am married to a Japanese, and I wanted to set a standard where I could say that I love many people though this is limited to my students. I took an interest in each of my students and got to know them. Although they do not know the Divine Principle yet, I want to introduce them to our concept of a peaceful, happy family. For that purpose, I also visited many families at their homes. I share meals with them in that spirit. Here, where they communicate with their hearts rather than through language, their faces blossomed with smiles.

3. Ms. Yoo Seon Lee overcame opposition and persecution through true love



Yoo Seon Lee

In Sapporo, the city of snow, we met another member with an interesting story. We interviewed Yoo Seon Lee, a mother of five children. Her husband is currently a famous cartoonist in Japan. He has quite a few die-hard fans of his comic books, which introduce some aspects of the Principle.

His staff members had been fans of his comic book and now work with him in his office.

Yoo Seon Lee: This is my husband's office. He is a cartoonist. This is his seat. He usually spends more time here than at home. He gets up early in the morning for work and comes back to have breakfast. Then he is off to work again and returns around noon for lunch. He then goes back to work again, returns for

dinner and then goes out again to work.

Every day, her husband is working hard. When we visited his home, he was out on a business trip to Tokyo with his two sons. Late that night, at Yoo Seon's Lee house, we saw a certificate of appreciation on the wall.

Ms. Lee's father-in-law had given it to her. In the beginning, her father-in-law had a hard time dealing with the fact that his only son had joined the Unification Church and taken part in the blessing with a Korean. However, after the blessing, Ms. Lee did everything she could to serve her parents-in-law as if they were True Parents. Her mother-in-law fell ill suddenly. Ms. Lee spent many sleepless nights at the hospital taking care of her. Through this devotion, her mother-in-law recovered.



Yoo Seon Lee's parents in-law and her children

Mother-in-law: The diagnosis was lymphoma. The doctor told me I had only a few months to live. I gave up on everything, but my daughter-in-law and grandchildren took good care of me, and I miraculously got better. I found out later that my daughter-in-law was crying every night while she prayed for me. My husband had bought a particular medicine that was supposed to be effective against cancer. We thought that I had gotten better because of that. Later I heard about how my daughter-in-law had prayed so hard for me.

The pain she endured over being married into a family in which her father-in-law was initially antagonistic was soon healed through the trust, appreciation and love she gained through her devotion.

Children: When I grow up I want to live in a three-generation household as my parents do. I want us to live together so we can help one another during difficult times and have a good relationship with my grandparents.

Although, this family is still working on completely restoring the grandparents, each morning and evening, they all read *Cheon Seong Gyeong* together, including the grandparents.

Ms. Lee overcame opposition and persecution through true love and now has won their recognition and love. The seeds of the blessing that True Parents planted are now blossoming and bearing the fruit of love through such families.