

Byung Ill Min, Korea, 1970



During the Sunday service announcements, members who had been in the Church for more than 40 years were asked to submit their names. At that moment, I counted on my fingers how many years I had been in the Church and came up with a total of 40 years and two months. When I think of the time that has passed, I could resonate with the saying that time is like flowing water (a Korean saying meaning that time flies). When I look back at the 40 years I have been following the Way of God's Will, I first of all feel truly sorry and ashamed.

I was born at 440 Songlimri, Ganammyeon, Yeojugun, Gyeong-gido on December 14, 1950. I was the eldest son of the four children of my father, Dong Shik Min, and my mother, Yang Geun Lee. I joined the church largely because I was born into the Min family, the root of the Unification Church in Yeosu, Gyeong-gido. I joined on July 20, 1970 naturally, with the heart of obeying my parents.

Our family is an unusual case of a family in that all of the relatives have been restored. There were four brothers and sisters in my father's family, of whom my second aunt, Deaconess Gyeongshik Min, joined the church in the early days and converted both of her younger brothers.

In middle school and high school, I attended regional workshops and National Seonghwa Student Assemblies every summer and winter vacation as a Seonghwa student. The first time I saw Father's face was in July 1970, when I attended that year's National Seonghwa Student Assembly. While in the army, I did not want to lose my faith, so I attended Christian church services and cultivated my faith there. I was discharged in December 1980 and attended a 21-day national

workshop in Sutaekri in January 1981. I attended the matching workshop on May 9, 1981 where I was matched, then participated in the 6000 Couple Joint Marriage Ceremony on October 14, 1982. Based on the grand mobilization order given to 6000 Couples in December 1981, I quit my job and started a mission life for three years.

My motive for doing three years of mission work was the once-in-a-lifetime experience of having a conversation with True Father during the matching-ceremony gathering. The matching gathering took place for three days from May 7 to 9, 1981. Watching True Father match for three days in one location made me feel many things. When I saw True Father's legs swollen from matching for three days, my throat went dry. I was able to experience True Parents' love there, and I met my match on the third day, the 9th, at 6 p.m. True Father asked me to stand up and said that all Unification Church members must go through a three-year course. Then he asked me a question.

"Do you want to get a good woman?" "Yes, please give me a good woman." He said, "You must have been a ruffian," then turned his eyes toward the women, asked them to show their foreheads and ears, then examined them. He said, "You," then asked my wife to come forward and told us to stand together. He said, "Looks OK." He asked us our ages and our zodiac signs, and then said the match was good.

What True Father said to me during the matching workshop when he asked me to stand up was engraved in my mind, so when he gave the three-year mobilization order after the Blessing, I did not hesitate, even though people around me attempted to dissuade me. I turned my resignation in at work, and I was immediately mobilized.

I lived a public lifestyle for three years. Though there were many difficulties in the process, I was able to complete the three-year course given by True Father.

After finishing my three-year mission, I joined the Ilshin Stone Company, where I worked for 10 years before resigning. I was thinking of starting up a business when I attended the July 1998 New

York Blessing representing members of the Dongjak Parish. After the Blessing, I travelled across the American Continent together with the family of Rev. Hae Cheol Jung, who was a minister in Dallas, Texas. In December of the same year, I moved to Tacoma, Washington.

My children have come of age. My eldest child, Jeongseon, is attending the graduate school of the University of Pennsylvania; my second child, Seonghwan, is preparing to get a job after graduating from college, and my youngest, Seonghyun, is planning to go to college this year.

All of this is the grace of God and True Parents. I continue to look after the Tacoma altar and am quietly continuing my life as an immigrant in America.