

Kazuko Ozawa Walton, Maebashi, Japan, 1966



I was an 18-year-old art student when I encountered a poster in the city of Maebashi, Japan, put up by Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles at the University of Gunma. I was struck by the title: "True Character Is the Light of the World." This was June 6, 1966.

On July 7, 1967 I finished the 42nd "Special 21-day Workshop" in Tokyo, and became a member. I was very moved by Mrs. Kamiyama's talk about the Second Coming based on the book of Revelation.

On January 1, 1968 I attended the celebration of the very first God's Day in Sapporo, Hokaido. Since this was the first God's Day, we did not deeply understand the meaning of it, but we had a special pledge and prayer to unite with True Parents in Korea.

At that time our church in Tokyo had a western-style restaurant with a French name, "Rupon." I began to work there in October 1968. I still remember the theme song of the restaurant, "Love is Blue."

The church in Tokyo decided they wanted to have a Japanese coffee shop in the Ginza district, and in 1969 I was sent to school to get a certificate to open the shop. In 1970 I was very excited to receive the certificate, and I went to Mr. Osami Kuboki, president of the Japanese movement, to show it to him. However, instead of opening the coffee shop, he asked me if I could go fundraising. We never did open the coffee shop.

Originally there were two teams. I was assigned to the "northern team." For two years I did fundraising. One of our main projects was to buy the land at Cheong Pyeong Lake. At that time land was very cheap in Korea. As a special treat for our efforts, True Parents invited the two fundraising teams to come to Cheong Pyeong Lake for a

special 21-day workshop. This ended on July 7, 1970 exactly three years after the 21-day workshop I attended when I joined the church. I remember that True Father came to Cheong Pyeong by boat. I was able to go out in the boat with Rev. Yo Han Lee, and we sang beautiful songs together. At that workshop True Father asked, "Who would like to go to America?" I raised my hand.

On my birthday, January 1, 1973, it was announced that I would be part of the first group of 12 Japanese sisters going to America. Father said those going had to have healthy bodies and a positive spirit. Also we had to fulfill three conditions: We had to have three spiritual children, have brought our parents as at least associate members, and have made a special financial offering. On February 27, 1973 we arrived at Belvedere in New York. This was the same date Noah's ark landed. I still remember seeing snow on the holy rock. We were able to meet Mr. Kamiyama and the 12 Japanese brothers who had arrived before us.

My first mission was to make Japanese rice balls, onigiri. One day True Father came to the Japanese cottage at Belvedere where I was working in the kitchen. He told me that we should eat sandwiches with the western members, and after they left I could give onigiri to the Japanese brothers and sisters.

On Easter Sunday in April 1973, Mr. Kamiyama, Daikon Ohnuki, Mrs. Won Pok Choi and I took a walk with True Parents around Belvedere. When True Parents sat down, True Mother asked me if I could find a four-leaf clover. This is why I have always loved "The Belvedere Song." True Father said at that time that many Americans would come to this place.

That same month the first Belvedere 100-day workshop began. My future husband, Terry Walton, attended that training and then became a Belvedere Divine Principle lecturer. I remember seeing a tall, serious American brother giving lectures, but I was not very interested. Two people really took care of me at that time, Mrs. Shin Wook

("Lady Doctor") Kim and Takeko Hose. We had many opportunities to meet with True Parents out on the back lawn at the holy rock. One time I even got to dance for True Parents.

In 1973 I worked on the Carnegie Hall campaign and also the campaign in Philadelphia. In 1974 I joined a mobile fundraising team. Beginning in 1975 I was an IW under Mr. Kamiyama visiting different teams. In 1974 I was with Reiko Mickler witnessing for the Madison Square Garden Speech, and we stopped at a McDonald's in White Plains, New York, to eat lunch. While we were there, True Mother and Mrs. Choi came in. I remember True Mother buying each of us an apple pie. I asked Mrs. Choi to sign my Divine Principle book. She wrote a beautiful poem: "Knowledge of knowledge is true wisdom. Harmony of beauty is the beauty of art."

In 1976 I worked on both the Yankee Stadium campaign and Washington Monument campaigns. My job at Washington Monument was to help fill 3,000 helium balloons and guard them so they would only be released at the end during the fireworks display when the choir was singing "God Bless America."

This concludes my testimony through 1976. My highlight in all this was to be together with True Parents and my future husband at Belvedere in 1973. My husband and I were matched December 1980 and blessed in the 2075 couples Blessing on July 1, 1982. We now have two children, a boy and a girl, and three years ago our first grandson was born.