

Hisao, Yokoi,
Nagoya, Japan, 1970



My spiritual mother approached me at the Nagoya train station in March of 1970. She told me that if I joined the church, I would have a hard time. It was difficult to understand what she was talking about in a spiritual sense. However, after attending workshops, I felt that I should join the movement in order to save Japan and to save my family. Although my family could not understand why I joined, they supported me. While I was in Japan, I did mostly fundraising.

In 1974, my leader asked for volunteers to go to America. It had always been my dream to leave Japan, and it was a great adventure to go to America. I can never forget flying into New York City. I had no idea what to expect, but it was exciting. I did fundraising with flowers and candy from the "White House" at Belvedere. One project that I enjoyed was working on the restoration of the New Yorker Hotel and 4 West 43rd Street. One of my treasured photos is of a group of Japanese and Americans working together on that project. Later, I worked with the New York Fish House and at Akaihana Restaurant near Carnegie Hall.

Father called for members to come together in 1979 for a matching, and I was matched to Rosemary Byrne. When we were matched we agreed to solve our problems centered on the Divine Principle. We love each other and are happy together. Being in America I learned how to say things like "I love you" and to not be too shy to kiss my wife in public. I continued to work with the fish business and then the restaurants in New York, Maine (Shiki), and New Hampshire (Sakura). Maine is where our son, Komyung Nicholas, was born in 1987.

When Father asked members to go back to their hometown, we

moved to Minnesota, which is near my wife's hometown in Iowa. I have worked in local restaurants, and there is a vibrant and loving church community here. Minnesota has been a good place to live and work.

I probably never would have married without True Parents, and now through them I have a wonderful blessed family that now includes our precious daughter-in-law, Tayo Johnson Yokoi. Thank you to God and True Parents for giving me opportunities beyond my wildest dreams.