

*Tsukasa and Yasuko Yoshida,
Japan, mid-60s*



My husband and I feel so honored that we have been able to live in the United States with our family for 34 years almost under the direct guidance, teaching, and love of True Parents. When we look back on these years, we recollect many historical events with True Parents. It all seems like a dream. And we have lived here so many more years than we lived in Japan.

We were born during the Second World War, but we did not witness as children in Japan any of the conflict between Japan and America. In fact, one day we started to notice America's influence in our daily lives; there were many American toys and chocolates, candies and cookies distributed to small children in Sunday school at church. I was one of the children who received those goodies at church. For me, America was a country of hopes and dreams. But I never imagined that I would live in America in the future. Sometimes I think that God chose me to be in the Unification Church and brought me to this country to work for God's providence with True Parents because I had really liked America since my childhood. I believe that God knows everything about me and has guided me, giving me many trials and blessings in my life.

Heavenly Father gave me a nice and hard-working husband and we have four wonderful children here in the United States. At the last Blessing on October 10, 2010, our oldest son, Danichi, was blessed with an American sister, Claire Munsell, whose ancestors helped to build this great nation. We are very happy that our family now has a connection to the root of America. It is so historical for us, and we feel so grateful. Claire's grandfather participated in World War II

and fought in Southeast Asia, and her grandmother in the beginning didn't have so many positive feelings about Japan. However, Danichi invested a lot into building a good relationship with his grandma and completely won her over. When we met her, she told us that Danichi reminds her of her husband. Danichi's blessing with Claire has been a wonderful reconciliation for our families and feels like a big reward or gift from God and True Parents after living in the United States for 34 years and right before the 40-years' anniversary celebration.

I remember when I went to Boston to see the Mayflower, and as I went inside the boat, I started to shed tears and could not stop crying. The Pilgrim Fathers came here by such a small boat under so much hardship and sacrificed so many things to build this country. I really felt the original faith and spirit of America. I am sure we need to inherit this strong spirit with our Completed Testament-age faith in order to help this country continue to prosper.