

Hyojeong Family Award Recipients Michael and Marianne Irwin's Testimonies

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Hyojeong Family Award recipients with Ki Hoon Kim

One morning we were attending a meeting after True Mother's speech on a speaking tour. She seemed very serious before the meeting started. Soon someone came out and gave her a message. Immediately, her expression changed so much and she began sharing with us the content of the message: True Father had been in for a surgery and had come out of it well. She shared deeply with us after our local children's choir sang. It was really a family meeting. She felt the love expressed by the children's songs and shared deeply about True Parent's need to establish God's sovereignty. Again and again, every time that we have had the opportunity to be in a more personal setting like this with True Mother, she has shown us how deeply True Parents were united with one goal and one heart.

In 2012, a short while after the time of True Father's ascension [to the spirit world] and once we began to settle down from our distraught state, several members asked our opinion about who would be leading our movement from now on. For both Marianne and I there was no need to discuss this point with each other. It was very clear that our True Mother would decide how things moved forward as she, by herself, represented the eternal True Parents. When we heard that we would be receiving an award we were taken aback. There was no real reason that we should receive this award, as so many others have more exemplary families. Our results have been so small for True Parents through the years. We felt more like survivors than flourishers.

Upon arriving in Korea [to receive the reward] and talking with the other recipients, we saw that the feelings were mutual. One sister shared her feeling that True Mother was looking for some couples to represent those couples who were following True Mother with the same heart that we had for True Father. So we felt that we could accept the award with a grateful heart, representing all those who had maintained their faith.

At the same time though, we felt that True Mother was encouraging us to reach for a higher standard and to re-energize our families to actually become a family of Hyo Jeong, a family with a filial heart to heaven. Many times in the past, True Father made proclamations which were so hard to understand at the time. He declared victories where we couldn't see substantial results. But it was up to us and the next generations to realize the substance of these proclamations.

Wasn't it in 1989 that True Father proclaimed to our worldwide community the era of Tribal Messiahship? We have been so busy in our lives and in providential work that we had seen this as just something else in the providential spectrum of things to be fulfilled. In reflection, we have fallen so short of True Parents' hope for us in this area. True Parents need the substantial realization of Tribal Messiahship!

True Mother has gently been reminding us, as only a heavenly mother can, of how important this condition is both for the providence and for our own families. Our couple feels stimulated to redouble our heartfelt efforts in this area and to strive to someday be worthy of receiving this great honor that has been bestowed upon us.