



## Passing of our Beloved Sister, Maria Perez Durkee

Ki Hoon Kim and Michael Balcomb  
June 4, 2015

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our beloved sister, Maria Durkee, of Jacksonville FL, passed into the spirit world on Monday, June 1. Maria is known for her kindness and service for others around her, bringing people closer to the love of God and True Parents. She is survived by her husband Brian, her children Jessie, Justin, Stephanie, and Alexander, and her grandson Brandon.

Let us support Maria's family during this important time and pray for her victorious transition to a glorious new life in the spiritual world.

Following please find a brief biography for Maria Durkee.

Sincerely,

Dr. Ki Hoon Kim  
Continental Director

Dr. Michael Balcomb  
President



### **The Victorious Life of Maria Perez Durkee** **October 5, 1954 - June 1, 2015**

Our beloved sister, Maria Perez Durkee, has passed into the spiritual world June 1, 2015. She was born on October 5, 1954 in Beeville, TX to Juan and Matilda Casa Perez. Maria met our True Parents and joined our Unification Church in November of 1979. She was blessed as a previously married couple in the 30,000 Couples Blessing in August of 1992 to Brian Durkee. She is survived by her husband Brian, and their children Jessie Perez, Justin Durkee, Stephanie Liganad, and Alexander Durkee, and her grandson Brandon.

The family had previously lived in Islesboro, Maine, in Bayou la Batre, Alabama, and in Jacksonville, Florida where Maria resided until she passed away early this week.

Maria worked for a while in New York City, participated in witnessing activities, supporting ACLC, and was involved in various youth projects to help others feel the love of our Heavenly Parent and True Parents. She helped many ministers and churches to receive the Blessing. In 1994, her family was living in a house that was previously a church center. When a traveling fundraising team came, assuming it was still a church center; she welcomed them and invited them to stay with her family.

In March of 2008, Maria developed a mysterious illness that was finally identified as a rare virus. After over 20 surgeries, doctors finally had to amputate her left leg. However, even this did not stop Maria from continuing to encourage others. She was constantly telling the ICU staff that they were working too hard and she would repay their kindness to her by doing their laundry when she got better.

In 2009, she entered San Jose Health and Rehabilitation nursing home, where she continued in her pattern of serving others.

### **Seonghwa Ceremony**

The Seonghwa ceremony will take place in Jacksonville, FL on Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 11 a.m.

### **Donations in Loving Memory of Maria Durkee**

To support the family and contribute towards the funeral expenses, donations are welcome through the following:

<http://www.youcaring.com/maria-perez-durkee-362931#.VW1FVKe3-sE.facebook> on Facebook  
or <http://www.youcaring.com/maria-perez-durkee-362931#.VW4nTyM6z-w.mailto>