

3 generation family: Testimony from Sakai Family Church in Japan

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2016 New Year's Day family photo: (Front row, from right), Ms. Yamada, Igawa Hisako and Igawa Masami with their two sons, their daughter and their grandchildren

I have three children and they have all received the blessing and have children of their own. Thanks to my children, I now have ten second-generation grandchildren. My wife witnessed to our family, so I had not done anything. During the first Foundation Day, in 2013, when I drank the holy wine I strongly felt, "If I do not take action in front of Heavenly Parent and True Parents I will feel very sorry." As the church strongly emphasized victory as heavenly tribal messiahs, I decided for the first time to witness.

First, my wife and I began by passing out *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* to acquaintances, friends and neighbors whom we trusted. As we began witnessing in this way, we met twenty-eight-year-old Ms. Yamada. For a long time, in front of our house, I have been doing morning radio exercises, in which people in communities gather to exercise in time with an exercise program broadcast over the radio. Ms. Yamada has been riding through the area on her bike to her job for the past few years.

She would always greet us with a bright smile as she rode past. I felt that I would like to witness to her, so my wife and I began speaking to her and gave her a present of a new bike. One evening, as I was going on a walk, I ran into Ms. Yamada by chance on her way back from work. For the first time, I invited her into our home for tea, and she gladly accepted. As Ms. Yamada drank tea with my wife and I, my son's and daughter's families dropped by to visit with a cake. I had not realized until then that it was my birthday.

Our grandchildren, who have become used to sibling-like relationships from their church activities, called Dr. Yamada "sister," and they became close instantly. As I saw this, I felt that God had called my family over so that not only this old couple, but all three generations of our family, could witness to Ms. Yamada.

Later, Ms. Yamada reciprocated, inviting my wife and I to her house, and as the three of us ate dinner we talked about many things. She even opened her heart and talked about some difficulties she had at work with her colleagues. On that basis, we made up our minds to invite her to a Divine Principle lecture. She was very happy that we asked and accepted. We reported these developments to our church leader and then held a two-day workshop in our house at which the witnessing education director lectured. After the seminar, Ms. Yamada began to stop by our house after work and talk about her future dreams as we ate dinner together.

Our grandchildren would also come to play and to eat at our house when Ms. Yamada was there. Dr. Yamada became like a member of our family. After a year passed like this, the company Ms. Yamada works for moved to a location closer to the church, and she began to go to the Education Center and learn more of the Divine Principle. She is now actively working with the Youth Department and is preparing for the blessing. We hope to work hard so the three generations of our family will continue to unite and be victorious as heavenly tribal messiahs.