

How Unificationists built a new church built in Khabarovsk, Russia

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Regional President Jin Hwa Chong and Mrs. Dok Rae Kang (a successful Korean tribal messiah) cut the ribbon on the new church

Oleg Kuzmin, current Moscow Vice-Regional Leader



From 2008 to 2011, I was the Russian Far East District leader, based in Khabarovsk. I strongly wanted to develop God's providence in my region. I started to visit blessed families. At first, I was just visiting and listening to the stories of these families and the story of God's providence in the Russian Far East; then, gradually I began to develop a vision of how to help these families.

Unfortunately, most families lived on their own and did not communicate with each other often. Some families had deep resentment because of past leadership. I faced great distrust and tried to gain the families' confidence by investing in the mission, regardless of the circumstances.

Gradually, members began to open their hearts and we became friends. Eventually, almost all families were coming to Sunday services and tithing.

Nevertheless, we lacked one idea that could unify the whole Russian Far East. I was thinking a lot about that. Gradually, I came to the realization that the construction of a church, as our temple for God and True Parents, could serve that purpose. However, because the construction of a church requires a lot of money (and where this money would come from was unclear) most of the families were skeptical about the idea. Yet, I believed that with God all things are possible.

I decided to stop receiving family support from church funds. I started a small business -- making jewelry for sale in stores. This business brought enough money for me to live on. I started to save all the tithing from families for the construction of a church. Any results from product sales, I invested for this goal too. I had absolute confidence that the construction of a church was possible. I prayed about it, and inspiration was coming to me constantly. I continued to invest in the families, invest in witnessing and invest in the search for construction funds. Gradually, families began to unite with this idea and to share my confidence.

Once this has happened, a former student of one of our elder sisters approached her and said, "I want to do good things. I know that you are a good person. I am going to pass you money every month, and you can use it as you wish. You do not need to report to me how you spend the money, but my name must remain a secret." I think God just decided to work through this elder sister, because she did not hesitate and immediately brought the money to the church and donated it.

Thus, every month this former student, a businessman, donated to our church in sizable amounts, through the mediation of our sister. We did not actually invest the entire amount in the construction of the church in Far East Russia. We decided that it would be correct to donate half of the money for the construction of

Cheon Bok Gung. As a result, we were able to fulfill our district goal to fund Cheon Bok Gung's construction, bought land to build God's temple on and saved the required amount for the construction.

Mrs. Lyudmila Leonidovna Zorina



The story began in 2009, when Oleg Kuzmin was district leader. At that time, the idea of building our own center arose. Before, we had never talked or dreamed about building anything. We used to rely on missionaries, on their plans, and we had been using rented places. At that time, Oleg came back from a leader's meeting with Dr. Otsuka in Moscow and told us that under a new paradigm we could have our own buildings. He prayed deeply and then announced that we need to build a center. The idea was unbelievable because actually building something requires a lot of money, but we all were just surviving.

Soon after this, a man called me; a long time ago, he studied in the school where I was working. I was not even his direct teacher. He said, "I have to talk to you. Can I come over?"

I always had a good relationship with him. He said he wanted to meet me in his car, not in my home. I was surprised when I saw him, because he is always joking, but at that time, he was very serious. I asked what had happened to him. Sometimes, my former pupils solve some of my problems, but none had ever asked me to help them solve theirs. He said, "I have decided to take care of my soul."

He did not even believe in God and never talked about such things, so that was surprising. He said, "I am already over forty. Years are passing."



The newly built church in Khabarovsk, Russia

I was amazed to hear this from him, since he is not a believer and he could not even tolerate somebody talking about God. He asked, "Can I donate money through you?" I knew him and was aware of how he had become a successful businessman from zero and that achieving this had required a lot of effort from him.

I knew he sponsors many charity events and orphanages, so I asked, "Why do you want to donate here, when you are already doing so much?" Several years ago, when we tried to hold a Mister and Miss University Contest, I called him and asked if he could donate for that project.

He replied that he would give money if I personally needed it, but he did not want to donate to an organization. He even added that we had to earn money by ourselves, not beg for donations from others. I was sure after that that he would not give money to any organization, especially a religious organization. Yet, in two years, he had changed. I asked him about this, and he told that now he had changed his mind.

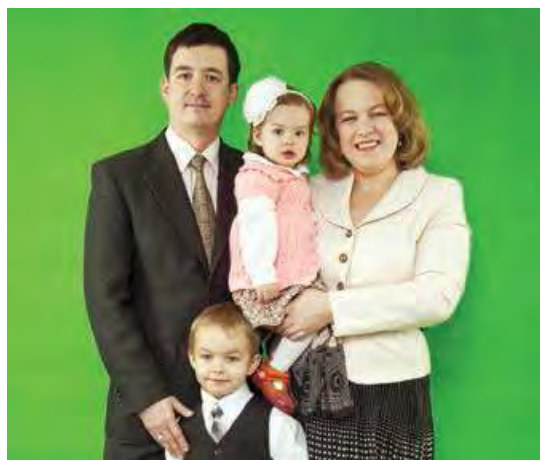
He proposed giving a monthly donation, personally. I told him I would give him a detailed report about this money but he rejected the idea. He did not want to know where the money went. "Moreover," he said, "nobody should know who I am, I don't want to be connected with this." From then on, money started to come, though not every month. He told me not to have any expectations. "If I want to donate," he said, "I

will do it; if not, I won't." He said that he might stop donating at any time and couldn't be responsible for any consequences of his stopping. He warned me that people might begin expecting money through me and asked if I could endure if the money suddenly stopped coming.

When it began, he sometimes gave every month, sometimes not. Sometimes, for half a year, he did not donate. I felt bad at that time, as if I were required to give money but could not. I talked to God and realized I was not the cause; I was just a mediator.

After Oleg Kuzmin left to a new mission in Moscow, donations stopped. Then, on the Day of All True Things, a phone call came from this man. He brought a large amount of money. Afterward, donations became rarer but the amounts increased. In December, he donated one million rubles [US\$24,300] and the next day, he donated the same amount again.

Ivan Marychev, Leader Far East District since 2011



Everybody understands that these big donations were very spiritual. When I came to the Russian Far East, it was difficult to achieve unity in the beginning with some key members in Khabarovsk because we have a different approach toward many things. In any case, we continuously held prayer meetings in order to create a foundation for building the church center. While meeting each other, we finally made some degree of unity. I think this was the reason that God could continue to inspire donations. They came much less frequently but increased in amount. No donation has come since December 2012. I still feel that I cannot establish proper unity with some members, and we have different ideas about how to use this money. The man who made the donations had plans to leave Russia for a substantial period; this also could be the reason donations have not come.