

I Realized How Important It Is to Move God's Heart through Repentance

Olga Bolocan
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Some of Olga's spiritual children at the eight-day ceremony of one her children

I joined the Unification Church in 1994 at the age of seventeen as a student of Tallinn [Estonia] Technical University. God gave me the mission to witness many times, so I luckily had many chances to discover the influence of indemnity conditions on people's lives.

Sometimes I met very good people on the street that promised to come and who seemed prepared to hear Divine Principle and change their lives. Most of the time, these people did not come. I repented with tears for not having made enough indemnity conditions and then made some extra conditions for such people -- cold showers, skipping dinner or anything else that required physical self-denial.

Once, my central figure sent me to visit one of our guests that had broken a leg and had stayed at home for a few weeks. On the way there, a sister approached me and asked me whether I am from CARP or not. She said that I had invited her a long time ago and that now she finally had time to come. She took our address and phone number and came the next day. About a month later, she joined. She always has been consistent and devoted in her life of faith. After such experiences, I realized that I do not choose the people who join. God uses our sincere efforts to save somebody's spiritual life.

I also discovered that one always is asked to choose between an easier and a harder way in everyday life. Every one of my decisions made a direct impression on people to whom I witnessed. If I was sick and chose to relax and asked somebody else to take care of my guest, my guest would call me and refuse to come to the lecture, giving some excuse, of course. If I chose the harder, more sacrificial way, I saw that based on that, God was giving my guests strength and courage to make the right decisions in their spiritual lives.

I also realized how important it is to move God's heart by changing myself through repentance. Once I witnessed for a few months and nobody joined. I had a stable schedule and witnessed from morning until

night, usually alone, day after day. Our national leader, Mr. [Johann] Hinterleitner gave internal guidance once a week. In one lecture, he said that True Father seldom praises people because from God's point of view no one among fallen people is worthy of praise; no one has done enough. Those words cut me like a knife. I realized that during the previous months I was content with myself and believed that I was doing more than enough. I realized how arrogant and improper my attitude was; tears flowed. I went to the holy ground for a long time to pray and cry. I felt ashamed in front of God and I was willing to do anything to correct the improper attitude I had had during the past few months. With such a heart, I went to witness and the second person I approached was an Estonian brother. He said that he did not know much about God, but he was looking for people who could help him to discover God. This brother joined after a few weeks and moved into the center.



In front of the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral while witnessing in the Old Town Tallinn

Sometimes, I would not meet a prepared person for a long time, but I repeatedly read Father's speeches; from these I learned that if we did not restore people, it is not their fault, nor is it our city's fault. The root of the problem lies within us, within our limitations to love. After reading this, there was no way I could make excuses for myself if none of my guests was joining. What True Father had said helped me to take responsibility for guests and for those people who promised on the street that they would come to the center. In such a frame of mind, I witnessed to eight people who remain in the church and have maintained their spiritual lives to this day. I often feel sorry for not being serious enough, because if I had been more serious, more people could have remained in the church. I have always felt that witnessing is a great support for my own personal life. However difficult were the situations that I faced, I feel that each of my steps influenced somebody's spiritual life and this thought gave me the strength to go on and not to give up.

I have not yet found a way to witness after having children. To witness to relatives or acquaintances seems as difficult to me as climbing Mt. Everest. But I do like to help take care of those in our second generation as much as I can; I feel it is also a means of witnessing, even though it takes years to see the fruits of these efforts. Blessed children are our church's future, which is why I find it very important to invest in them. This is what inspires me most nowadays.