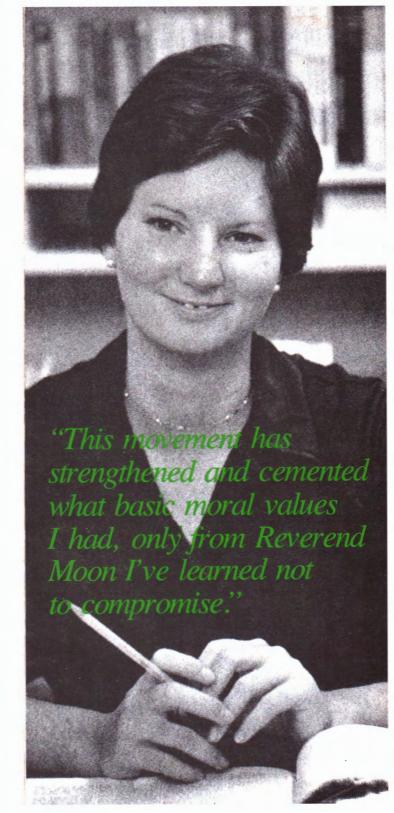


Unification Church
Only if you discover things for yourself.



I'm deeply grateful to participate in this movement.

I was born in Long Beach, New York, the second of five children. I attended Long Beach Catholic School for 8 years, went to Mass regularly, was a good student and have only good memories attached to my childhood years.

When I was 15, our family bought a new home further out on Long Island in East Setauket. I attended a public high school and had no trouble making friends and adjusting in the new neighborhood. I did begin to realize, however, that it was becoming increasingly difficult to avoid situations where drinking, smoking, and sex weren't the main activity or topic of discussion.

Later on, drugs came into the picture and it seemed as though the ideals of faith, hope, love, and strength were disappearing from the hearts of a good part of my generation. My trust in God remained, though I couldn't find the answers to many of my questions in the church, in the Bible, or reflected anywhere in the world around me. Still, I knew that the words of Jesus were true and absolute whether or not society in general or I individually chose to maintain the standard he taught and lived by.

I decided to investigate what different groups and organizations were studying and doing toward improving the present situation of the world and of themselves. I, along with my mother, became part of a Catholic Charismatic group where we could feel a new awakening of spirit for the first time. It emphasized the guidance and healing that could come from total reliance on the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It was through this experience that my heart and mind were open at the time I met the Unification Church.

Though I had many physical blessings, the moment of truth came when I realized that it was up to me to decide just how much I was willing to sacrifice to follow what I believed to be true. Frankly, I never expected that someday I might be called to devote my life to serve God His way, and not mine. This was the real awakening.

I'm deeply grateful that I am able to participate in this movement right now, which has strengthened and cemented what basic moral values I had, only from Reverend Moon I've learned not to compromise. I deeply respect and admire him for his humility before God and the love he has for mankind. Example, once again, is the best teacher.

I also want to mention that my mother and two of my sisters are also active members of the Unification Church as well. Truth knows no age. Since they joined, our love has grown deeper and broader in knowing that only through our unity can God's will on earth be understood and accomplished.

Acresa a. Brush