

The Fire

East Garden needed improvement and remodeling. Some people came to take part in the remodeling, and were working on the garage. The garage was a three-story building, and the people who were working on it were removing the old paint and preparing it for repainting. One Japanese brother caught Father's attention because he worked really hard. When Father came to check on the progress, he noticed how hard this one person always worked. Even during Father's speeches, he mentioned this one person who was working so hard. To remove the old paint, they held a flame to it and scraped it off as the paint melted. However, after several days, the flame penetrated the wood and burned through to the other side. Since the workers were outside and nobody was inside, the flames weren't noticed. The fire eventually reached flammable material and set the entire inside of the garage on fire. The fire department was called, but since the fire was only noticed after the entire inside was in flames even they could not save the garage. All they could do was make sure the fire didn't spread to other buildings.

The police chief came while the whole garage was in flames. Some explosions were heard. Daikan had kept a rifle and some ammunition in the garage, and it all blew up. The police chief looked at Mike and said, "Mike, you had a lot of ammunition here." Mike looked down to the ground and walked away.

All of the people, including me, who lived on the upper levels of the garage lost everything. So many nice clothes and keepsakes burned. Everything was gone. That day True Parents had gone to New York City, and I was escorting them. As we were getting close to East Garden, we called in on the walkie talkie alerting them that we would arrive soon, East Garden security responded by saying, "The garage is on fire. The fire department is here. It's best not to come here." So Father decided that we would go to Belvedere, where we stayed until everything calmed down. The fire department, the police chief, and

others who were there because of the fire all left, and eventually we went back to East Garden. After we arrived Father went straight to the garage. He only said one sentence, "God only can work after man has given his five percent completely, meaning after man has invested himself one hundred percent."

Later Father talked about the lack of unity that permitted Satan to attack. One of the East Garden sisters had a vision of Satan laughing in the fire. It was a depressing event, but out of the ruins of the garage the new East Garden house was built years later; True Parents lived there and so many guests came to visit. The former Main House then became the Old House.

Decades later, when I went to visit the Old House, the place knew as True Parents' house, it was almost completely empty. Out of the ruins of the garage, an incredible conference center and home for True Parents was built. I had been in that house when it was only half-finished, and I know which rooms were for True Parents. They were so big that one could get lost in them. So even though the garage burnt down and we mourned the loss, eventually God turned the situation around and it became a very nice home for True Parents. The security staff lost their living place, and we moved into the cottage house, which was a big improvement for us.