

## *Kayo Inoue Alexander, Tokyo, Japan, 1969*



I joined the Unification Church in 1969, when I was a freshman at college. My spiritual mother is Mrs. Yasue Erikawa, who was giving lectures about Victory Over Communism in front of the North-Korean University in Tokyo, which was very close to where I was studying at the time.

In the previous year I had been an American Foreign Study exchange student in the United States, which meant that I had been given a rare opportunity to study for one year while living with a wonderful family in La Jolla, California. I had always believed in God, but during this year, because I was very alone initially, being away from my family and country and not being able to communicate well in English, I had a very special relationship with God.

One day in my prayer, God talked to me and told me that He was my eternal father, and He would look after me always. When my year in America was coming to a close, I was at the beach looking at the beautiful sunset; God told me that when I went back to Japan, I would have to sacrifice for God.

True to this revelation, I met missionaries from the Unification Church when I entered my college in Tokyo. After hearing Divine Principle, I had to make a big decision, whether to follow this way or not. The media had started persecuting the Unification Church the year before, calling our group, “the Movement which makes parents cry.” Fortunately, I was in America, so I did not know anything about the negativity in the media surrounding our church.

Almost immediately, my parents tried to get me out of the movement. I was opposed by my former teachers and friends, whose

opinions meant a lot to me. They came to see me and begged me to leave the movement. These were difficult tests for me, but thanks to the older brothers and sisters in the church who were more stubborn (because of their love and passion for God) than Satan, I am still here.

The opportunity to meet True Parents came fairly soon. I fasted for three days before I met them in our old Tokyo headquarters, because I wanted to go before the True Parents with my spirit as clean and pure as possible. The True Parents were visiting Japan on their way home from their third world tour. I was chosen to accompany them on the Tokyo city tour. After eating lunch at Shinjuku-gyoen, the group decided to go to the top of Tokyo Tower, and we were standing in a line to get in an elevator. I don't know how I ended up being in the same elevator with True Parents. While going up to the top, I was so nervous, not knowing where to look or how to act. True Father, who was standing next to me (it was a small space!), put his elbow on my shoulder. I thought his eyes were smiling. That was my very first encounter with True Father. True Mother was very young. She was like my elder sister age-wise.

Just before I graduated from college, where I worked as a member of the Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles (CARP), I was called to the headquarters to be interviewed. The Church was looking for candidates to be missionaries to the United States. I was very excited to go back to America. After fundraising for 40 days to raise funds to go to America, I came to New York as one of the third wave of Japanese missionaries. It was on June 1st, the Day of All Things. I attended the holiday service in Tokyo in the morning, got on the plane, arrived at JFK Airport, and was taken to Belvedere, where members were celebrating the Day of All Things with True Father. All of this happened in one day, because of the time difference. Later on that day, Mr. Takeru Kamiyama took me and two brothers who came from Japan together to greet True Father. At that time, True Father

was here without True Mother and True Children. He looked a little lonely then.

I did a lot of witnessing in New York under the direction of the late Joe Tully. Then I worked for CARP at Columbia University. I remember planning a sukiyaki party on the campus to bring students to hear Divine Principle. Being one of the two CARP members, I did everything from shopping to cooking sukiyaki. When True Father spoke at Carnegie Hall, we all sold tickets on the streets of New York. On the first day of selling, very few members came back with any degree of success. Anyone who had sold more than one ticket on that day was promoted to become a public relations team member. Toward the end of the day, I met a young boy who was walking with his grandfather. He stopped and listened to my speech while his grandfather looked on. At the end of my sales pitch, he asked his grandfather if he could buy him the ticket, and to my great relief, the grandfather kindly and lovingly complied. Then the Little Angels came to perform at the United Nations. I visited offices of many Japanese corporations with other Japanese PR sisters to sell the tickets. I particularly remember meeting the president of Kikkoman (the soy-sauce maker), who was very kind and bought a lot of tickets.

When the Capitol Hill PR team was created, I was chosen to be a member. I moved to Washington, D.C., for my new assignment. It was a very challenging mission trying to witness to the members of Congress. I remember praying a lot and really feeling Jesus' suffering heart. I spoke English, but sometimes I felt my limitations. One night I had a dream in which I was talking to a congressman. In my dream I was talking so convincingly with words just flowing out of my mouth. I felt very comforted and encouraged.

There was an occasion in which True Father met with us and asked us how the members of Congress were feeling about Father's coming there to speak. I said, "Father, some senators and congressmen are negative and not so welcoming, but many are interested in meeting

you. I think it would be a great opportunity for them to meet with you.” I am even today very happy that I was like those two good spies who reported positively. The highest point of my mission came when True Father decided to come and speak to the members of Congress. I felt that Jesus’ historical resentment would be finally resolved by True Father getting an audience on Capitol Hill. We ran around the halls of Congress and gathered 12 members of Congress who were willing to form an ad-hoc committee to invite True Father to speak to them. We called them the 12 disciples on the Hill.

I was matched to Mark Alexander in 1979, and we got blessed at Madison Square Garden in 1982 with 2074 other couples. We were in a rehearsal on the day before; imagine, so many brothers and sisters, arm-in-arm as couples, trying to march with unity and harmony! I remember poor Col. Bo Hi Pak, yelling, “Brothers and Sisters, it is not a picnic in the park, be serious!” The Blessing Ceremony was so special and beautiful! I clearly remember how my whole spirit body felt deeply cleansed when a drop of the holy water that was cast by True Parents hit the back of my head. True Mother had just given birth, but she stood during the whole ceremony. She was the most thoughtful person, a real True Mother to us, for she had asked to cut the carpets, one red and one white, that were used to cover the floor of the Madison Square Garden that day, into 2075 pieces, so that each blessed family could keep one as a special souvenir.

Now I am a mother of four wonderful children living with my wonderful husband. I owe True Parents all my happiness. Every day I give special thanks and prayer to True Parents and my good ancestors who guided me to meet the Unification Church and True Parents.