

***Keiko Breland,
Fukushima, Japan, 1967***



I attended two weeks of a special Divine Principle workshop that ended on December 28, 1967, and I decided to join our church. I remember attending the first God's Day celebration at the Fukushima church, and there one spiritual lady told us that a big bright light appeared, and beautiful flowers were all around us in the spiritual world. I was told that True Parents had won the victory, and this time the providence would be accomplished — no more failure. I was so happy to hear that.

Growing up I was raised as a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. My great-grandfather joined that church, and he and his friend built a church in Shirakawa City, my hometown, which still stands as one of the city's treasures.

I had very high ideals in my heart, but in my actual life I was so far away from my ideal. From an early age I experienced many internal struggles. I had no confidence in myself and did not talk much; therefore, I was bullied by other children even when I was in kindergarten.

Divine Principle saved my life and gave me everything that I was looking for and much more. I was so surprised to hear this amazing truth and overjoyed by understanding it. I could not sit still in the train coming back from the workshop; I felt I had to tell everyone about this. How could anyone who is living today afford to not know this truth? This feeling is still in my heart today. I am amazed by the power of the Principle to resurrect people from death to life and let them understand the deep heart of God. I am so grateful to True Father, who through years of severe battles with Satan, found this profound truth and is making it so clear to us. He not only found the

Principle but also pioneering the way to actualize the ideal through paying indemnity for the past failures and by establishing the true family, showing the standard and example of what we could be.

In August 1971, I had a chance to visit Korea with other Japanese members for two weeks just to be loved and cared for by True Parents. As a Christian, I felt that I could not die without meeting the Messiah, so I was overjoyed to have this opportunity. I decided to do a second seven-day fast to prepare for it. I had an important personal purpose for meeting Father. I needed to confirm my original mind and my own true standard of right and wrong. I thought I could only confirm this by meeting with the Messiah.

When I met True Father in Korea, I realized that he was more than any ideal father I ever imagined in my heart. He sometimes came to speak to us from early morning because he saw spiritually that we were longing to see him. He took us to the mountain, and we sang and danced together centered on True Father. There was one crippled girl in our group. He always came to her to make sure she was doing fine. I became so brave and even asked him if I could drink from his glass. True Father treated us like his children; he even took us to his house where he lived and showed us all the rooms including the bedroom.

When I was listening to Father intently, I experienced literally waves of love coming to me. My body became warm and even hot while I was listening to him. I later realized it was a spiritual experience called "receiving the fire." I was able to confirm my original mind by being with him, and that has been the standard of my heart ever since.

I felt so sorry for the True Children because they were still very young when I went to Korea and we took their father away from them, and I know that Father spent every day of his life like that. Still for me, those two weeks I spent in Korea with True Parents were so precious that it became the central foundation of my faith. I don't know if I could have kept going with my mission without that experience.



Greg and Keiko Breland at Madison Square Garden in 1982.

This deep heartistic bond with True Father kept coming back whenever I faced a crisis. When I was in the matching convocation in the Grand Ballroom of the New Yorker Hotel, I was overwhelmed by the reality of the situation and worried and frustrated because I did not have the mindset to accept anyone unconditionally. However, when I finally realized that this was such a precious moment that my father, True Father, was paying personal attention to me and would pick my eternal spouse, all my anxiety and frustrations disappeared. I was only focusing on Father's heart, not myself. Then naturally a prayer came to my heart: "Father, please match me with a person with whom I can best carry out your will." Then soon after that Father introduced me to my husband.

It is amazing that even though I have done so many different things in the church, I vividly remember these moments of special experience of heart, and they last eternally.

I came to the United States on June 15, 1973 and worked for the mobilizations for Father's speeches at Carnegie Hall, Madison Square Garden, Yankee Stadium, and Washington Monument.

I was matched with my husband, Gregory Breland, in 1979 and received the Blessing as a 2075 Couple at Madison Square Garden.

I am truly grateful to Heavenly Father and True Parents. I know that God was with me even in my darkest times; at those times I was given new life and raised up through the people whom True Parents had educated. Father hand-picked my precious spouse, and from that blessing four wonderful children were born. Later three of them were matched by True Father directly. Now we are enjoying two grandchildren. I cannot say enough what a great blessing they are. The True Family has endured hardships, sacrifice, and tears to give us this wonderful blessing.

I would like to spread this message to anyone who will listen and guide them to eternal life. I would like to live to testify to Heavenly Father and True Parents for the rest of my life.