

**Gary Fleischer,
Los Angeles, California, 1967**



The first time I met Father was in Los Angeles in 1969. I was introduced by Ms. Young Oon Kim to Father as being Jewish. As far as I know that was the only time Father ever heard that I was Jewish.

At the 1800 couples blessing in 1975 American members were asked to volunteer to pioneer new countries. I volunteered to go to Egypt, Syria, or Iraq but was chosen to be the American messenger to Somalia. I began learning to speak Somali and studied the history and the customs of Somalia.



Gary Fleischer with True Father in the early 1970s.

Because I was the IOWC Commander of Alabama, I attended leaders meetings with Father. At a leaders meeting in the Belvedere main house USA Church President Neil Salonen asked Father if some of the American leaders who had been appointed to work overseas could stay and continue to work in the USA. He asked Father if I could continue working in the USA.

Father asked me if I wanted to stay. I quickly stood up and said, “No, Father. I want to go to Somalia!”

Father looked at me and said, “You are Jewish; aren’t you?”

“Yes, Father.”

Father instructed, “You go to Israel.”

I went to Israel. (Mark Paine was sent to Somalia, and had amazing adventures of faith. Israel was not included on the original list to receive members because Bert Boland and Michael Gepkes from Holland had pioneered Israel in the early 1970s; members who joined under Bert and Michael were working in Israel.)

With all the things going on in our Church and in Father’s life between 1969 and 1975, how could he remember that I was Jewish? I am amazed at Father’s fantastic memory.

