

David Hose, San Francisco, 1967; Takeko Hose, Japan, 1966.



Takeko and I both joined the Church in the mid-60s: She, in Japan, as a very serious college student desperately seeking the reason for her life; and I, in San Francisco, as a 22-year old living in Haight Ashbury, no longer convinced that “pot” could lead me to God...Different cultures and paths, but a common desire to find something of genuine substance.

We met in the San Francisco Church Center in September of 1967. Takeko had been sent from Japan, in 1966, to the San Francisco Bay area as a missionary, to help with the work of spreading the Principle in America. I'd decided, after hearing the lectures, to move into the center with its curious mix of mostly Asians and Americans.

Takeko was like a big sister to me in matters of faith and tradition; I respected her work ethic, seriousness, and sincerity. How interesting then, when a letter, in the early summer of 1970, came from Korea announcing a planned marriage Blessing in October of that year. At that time, the letter asked for any possible Blessing candidates to be interviewed by the senior missionaries (in our case, Sang Ik and Mee Shik Choi.) There was also a directive for couple possibilities to be suggested. Takeko was called in to the main center and asked to think about someone she might wish to be blessed with. In short, she came back to our center, and told me what had happened – that night we decided to apply together to be blessed. After serious, and sometimes nervous, one-on-one interviews with Father – we got his blessing, and were publicly blessed with 790 (officially 777) other couples on October 21, 1970.

These 40 years have gone by like a fast-moving wind. Now, in our

60s, we look back with so many memories – but a few that are in very bold type: First, the GRATITUDE we both feel for the love and the blessing of God and True Parents. From the Divine heart, there was a “seed-love” that was deeply rooted in history long before we were ourselves reborn and wed in love; long before the birth of our five wonderful children; long before we took our sometimes stumbling steps in learning the meaning of loving.

I guess that the second thing is also gratitude – gratitude for being able to work for nearly all of our time in the Church, with education and personal work with members from all over the world; I, as a lecturer and counselor with the World Missions Department, and Takeko, as a counselor and leader in both the World Missions, and the Blessed Family Departments. It was in this work that we both came to discover the many tremendous individuals that God had guided to our Church. I learned, as well, that to speak the Word is one thing, but to live it daily – is everything. I had to encounter in my own life painful shortcomings in my character and faith that were far from how I may have appeared to others on a lecture podium.

Tacco and I both think back on that decade as a bittersweet time of serious challenges in our lives as members, parents, and partners. At the same time, we were given so much in the way of trust by God and the True Parents. I can never forget sitting alone with Father telling him all about the members in Africa, after giving my first workshop in Zaire (now Congo). He listened so deeply, yet, I think he knew everything without needing one word from me.

In 1991, our family was to have a severe change of course. While waiting to move back to my hometown of Seattle (to pioneer), my dear wife was accidentally shot by our son while she pruned an apple tree one night after dark. Fighting back from nearly dying, Takeko came home from rehab after three-and-a-half months. We began to pray. Even in all of our years in the Church we had never prayed that desperately – Takeko was in horrible pain, weakened, and unable to

walk. For perhaps the first time in our lives, we came to feel the love and intimacy of a God that Father had so often spoken about. We brought these experiences back to Seattle with us.

Over the past 18 years, that relationship with God has been a vital guiding light for us. I know, in fact, that some members may have felt that we left True Parents and the Church. We even heard that we had started our own “cult!” It is true that we had to work very hard to support our sizeable family when we returned to the Seattle area, and couldn’t really take much of a role in the local Church. Particularly during the past 15 years, we have not continued regular attendance at the Church in Seattle but have taken a somewhat different path in faith. However, our relationships with so many Unification Church members, east and west, remain strong and alive.

Through everything – up, down, good, bad, ecstatic, painful – God has become more and more real. There is an Unconditional Love that waits very patiently for the moment of a person’s opening, whether by an uncommon insight, a sudden inspiration, or even a gunshot (and it definitely doesn’t have to be a gunshot). We just thank Father and Mother for being sent by that same God, to remind us that we’re One Family.

The kids are all moved out now, and Takeko and I are empty nesters here in Monroe, Washington – about 35 miles northeast of Seattle, where I work as a muralist. We find ourselves surrounded by so many sons and daughters of God! Some are happy, some are not – but all are God’s Family. We just want to serve God and them as long as we are able.