

## *Genie Kagawa, Paris, 1969*



When I was studying in Paris in 1969, after 16 years of Catholic, all-girls education up to college level, I wasn't looking for God. I was disillusioned and disappointed and blamed God for all evils in the world. But, one day, I saw a huge red symbol on the street, and my spiritual father, Henri Blanchard, pointed out to me that the big circle was God, with man, woman, child, and all humanity. "Did you say God?" I asked. He then guaranteed me the unfathomable, that if I studied Divine Principles, I would have an experience of God.

After I studied the Fall of Man, and heard that if we give Satan something precious and dear to us, then God will definitely answer, I was stimulated and made a "showdown" with God by fasting for three days. I challenged God by saying: "Make your appearance!" A few days later, when my spiritual father was describing the arrogance and rebellious attitude of the Jewish people towards Jesus, I deeply repented. "Yes, that's me. I'm one of them." The moment I felt this great remorse, miniscule gold sparks filled the tiny room, and there was spiritual fire and heat, as if from a scorching furnace. I felt like a teeny baby embraced in a Father's love. I was sobbing uncontrollably. I had found my God.

I had little expectation when I met True Father for the first time in Germany in 1972, but I was again swept away by an experience that I was unprepared to digest. Father entered the hall of 500 people and turned, opening his arms wide to greet everyone. Radiating from his face and spiraling in all directions was some kind of invisible energy, filling the entire hall. True Father's mind was universal, and he was enormous. I felt so small, like a grain of sand in the ocean.

Being so young spiritually, unfortunately, Satan used this magnificent experience to drag me down into unredeemable unworthiness. My spiritual life was in chaos, and I was wasting away, both physically and spiritually.

Later, I was part of the European team that was called to America in 1973 for the International One World Crusade (IOWC). We had a 10-day workshop at Belvedere, and True Father came to speak every day. One day, he was explosively enraged about Cain and Abel, and dark waves of fear engulfed me, burying me in threatening feelings of self-accusation. I was afraid to look at Father in his eyes. One voice was saying: "He's your Father. You must not be afraid of your Father. You must look at him straight in the eyes." Another voice condemned me: "You are nothing. You are a dot in the vast universe, and very far away." It took all of my strength to raise my head and look at Father right in his eyes. All of a sudden, our eyes met, and a powerful impact hit me, thrusting me forward from my chair. Shocked, with eyes opened wide, I saw Father's warm and serene expression. I was swept up in the resurrecting power of Father's love, and my spirit wanted to fly with wings spread wide. When we are filled with such intoxication of love, there is nothing to envy in this world. That moment, Father liberated me from months of domination by evil power, and I was lifted up into a heavenly realm.

IOWC and Global Team life, a heavenly army life, travelling together with 70 to 260 persons, plunges a person into severe circumstances. The schedule is from 4 a.m. to midnight, spending all day on the streets, with poor food, and little personal attention. We thought we were working hard, and it was easy to feel a lot of deprivation. A turning point for me was in a small town in Boise, Idaho – during the Day-of-Hope speaking tour of True Father, who was being challenged by fundamentalist Christians in every city. They would come to the speeches with their huge Bibles and even shouted during the speech. The Boise program took place during Good Friday and Easter.

Christian groups were doing everything to block the event, and I was getting frustrated.

God heard many of my unfaithful prayers: "Maybe you'd better skip this city; after all, the people don't want to be saved." There was a blizzard, and I felt relieved that True Parents wouldn't need to face this kind of hostility. Suddenly, the clouds opened up, and they miraculously made it to Boise on time. Sitting in front of me during the program were a team of six Christians, with their huge Bibles on their laps, poised to disturb. Father's expose of the Fall was brilliant and powerful, with his occasional, forceful beating on the podium. People were pinned to their seats, and slowly, one by one, the ill-motivated Christian groups walked out.

All of a sudden, True Father began whispering into the microphone about the suffering of Jesus. Women in the audience were weeping, and those remaining were completely riveted. After Boise, there were no longer any Christian picketers outside the speech venues of the tour. During Easter, I felt like the Lord was resurrected and had gained the birthright. I was ashamed at my lack of faith and realized that Father had made all the conditions by himself without our help. I realized our contribution was very small, and never complained again about our difficulties and sacrifices.

During the 1970s, Father guided leaders' meetings at the Hotel New Yorker, and sometimes spoke for 10 to 17 hours straight. There are no words to describe the atmosphere that emanates from his body when he stands in close proximity. I perceived the same burning fire that I felt when I had my first encounter with God when I was spiritually reborn. Father shared about True Parents' agonies, as Jesus felt when crushed by evil sovereignty and the impending doom if we cannot rid the world of the evils of Communism.

Father told us that if Communism would take over the world, human beings would become like horrendous beasts, inflicting the worst of tortures on humankind. We were always on the edge of our

seats and feeling tense. We were witnessing with a sense of desperation, even teaching Divine Principle all through the night, and many people joined in the 1970s. Imagine our surprise when Father met Mikhail Gorbachev and announced that conditions had been set for the downfall of the Soviet Union. Later on, he visited North Korea's Kim Il Sung. Some day, history will know that True Father was instrumental for the world to know peace.



In 1979, I joined my husband as a missionary in Malaysia, and in 1980, when True Parents celebrated their birthday, I had a dream. The scene was the crowning of True Parents, and crowds were waiting outside of the grand palace, with streamers, banners, balloons. There was electric excitement in the air, as trumpet blowers were announcing their magnificent entrance. Instead of True Parents' arrival, huge oil trucks appeared, and men in black took huge hoses, and poured black oil all over the screaming crowds. It was a horrifying scene. What a sad reality! True Parents were to be glorified at that important time in the providence, but evil power still overpowered us. The 1980s was a suffering period for our entire movement, as True Parents had to carry

the cross by offering their son and Father spent time in prison, due to evil sovereignty.

As missionaries, God allowed our couple to experience this crushing agony due to sovereignty tribulations. Like lightning rods of True Parents, I felt that our main mission was to pay the indemnity to liberate the people. Sometimes, it was impossible to move forward, but based on our forgiveness and unconditional giving, God had a chance to work. While True Father was in prison and attacked by the U.S. government, we were underground in Malaysia, pursued by police. When Father got out of prison, we were out of the spiritual jail, and eventually we met a wonderful Sikh leader who had met Father in 1959 during the early days in Seoul. He lifted us out of our trials through interfaith work.

A few months later, the Asian Continental Director reassigned our couple to Thailand in 1990. During that time eight of our Thai leaders were put into prison, charged with treason against the monarchy, and were facing a possible penalty of execution or life imprisonment. How to explain the fear, the helplessness, and desperation of seeing your eight fellow brothers and a sister in prison! The Thai jails were like medieval prisons – dirty, dark, overcrowded and scary. The police confiscated items from our centers and made a special exhibition floor on the “Moonies.” Newspapers reported that we had “white powder” (heroin) in our prayer rooms to drug innocent youth. For three months, the police raided and raided every center nationwide looking for evidence against us. The movement had been thriving, with almost 300,000 students visiting our video centers during a three-year period. But officials felt threatened by our church’s rapid growth. It was our Ambassadors for Peace who received the persecution, hardships, and humiliation, and courageously stood up to bail our members out of prison two years and eight months later. Even though our members got out of prison, the case still goes on today.

Our couple was again reassigned, this time to the Philippines to

work for the VIP providence. True Parents expanded their tremendous salvation providence through globalization of the Blessing during those years. In particular, there were international blessing between Korean men and Filipino women. Christian groups influenced the government, which filed a case against our movement for mail-order-bride violations. The penalty was life imprisonment. The Presidential Palace, cabinet, nine government agencies, nine Committees of the Congress, and Senate all united to close down our Church. The media accused us of prostitution and trafficking of women. Eight of our Philippine leaders almost were jailed but were rescued at the last minute by one righteous Senator. Once again, Ambassadors for Peace stood up to clarify the situation with each department one by one, including the media. Many of them studied our teaching and received the Blessing. The case was dropped by the government two years later. Through the efforts of Ambassadors for Peace, evil power was dissipated.

I am now assigned to work with the Universal Peace Federation Headquarters in New York and have focused on work at the UN. Compared to those years, it is a miraculous time that we are living in. It is truly a time of harvesting, a time of restoring heaven's sovereignty. There are heads of state, government officials, and entire groups ready to support our True Parents. Based on the spiritual foundation that True Parents have laid through all these suffering circumstances, we need to be ready to cast the large net very wide and high. Yet, paradoxically, the gate leading to the core of God has always been extremely narrow. Thus, to really save people, we have to become to them more than any parent or intimate friend, but be as Father was to us...a Living God.