

Yoko Kobayashi, Japan, 1967



“What is your view of life?” I was asked. I replied: “I want to go the way of the truth.” That was the conversation I had with a person who witnessed to me December 24, 1966.

I had received an invitation from God through only one question and answer. That was Christmas Eve; I was 19 years old, a college junior. When I look back, I understand that I received a wonderful gift from God. I visited the address by myself that was shown on the invitation card in late January of the next year (1967), which was the beginning of my journey of destiny.

I was so pleased by the Principle of Creation. I felt as if I had seen a ray in a deep fog.

I majored music in my high school and college, and I struggled to search for the truth every day. I spent many days playing piano or singing songs absent-mindedly, fretting over something. I think the life and thought of great composers, poets, and novelists such as Schuman, Schubert and Wolf made an impact on me. Many of them created art on the theme of tragic love, broken hearts, and disappointment, which eventually led to disqualification or destruction as a human being. I was quite influenced by those thoughts, and I believe I almost lost hope in music, too. I think I was confused at that time. That's why I was not good at bright music.

The Principle of Creation gave me hope. Of course, that did not mean I got the answer right away. It took years to get out of the deep fog. I was always bothered and annoyed by the frustration that I could not realize the ideal through my own experience, though I understood by logic.

Even after I received the Blessing, I kept questioning what God's love is, if there is truth in human reality, if there is absolute, eternal and unchanging love. Sometimes, I doubted whether I was having an authentic experience.

I did not have confidence in absoluteness. The reason is that there is a possibility for husband and/or wife to lose faith even after the Blessing. So, I reached a deadlock, and I began to ponder questions again inside. Even after God gave the first child to my own family, and I was working for the way of God's will, I did not get satisfactory answers to those basic questions I kept asking. Unless I had perfect, absolute and eternal life, I could not fulfill the hope that I had in the very beginning when I had received the invitation card from God on December 24, 1966.

But the time finally came when I was released from this longstanding frustration. I believe that was the 1980s; my character changed as if I were a different person. Later, I thought this is the amazing salvation work of God. I questioned deeply and deeply where this salvation came from. The answer came as I developed confidence, truthfulness, and true love toward my husband. The sun began to shine in my mind just like an ice block started to melt. It did not take a long time to gain brightness.

I thanked God and True Parents that I could meet an eternal spouse, and truly I was pleased by the blessing. On the 40-years anniversary of the Blessing, I can say, "It was good to be born," although the way was not smooth.

Let me give you a brief testimony of the way of the Will I walked since I joined the Unification Church. I decided to join the Church after attending the 38th special workshop in March, 1967. I was a junior in my college, at 20 years old. That was the year True Parents came to Japan, and everyone was sent to pioneer for 40 days that summer. I did not understand the meaning, but I also impulsively went

pioneering, being pushed by something inside. I was inexperienced in church life. I know I was ignorant.

I was wearing a white suit and shoes with 5 yen (5 cents) in my wallet; I went all by myself to the assigned city that I had never visited in my life. It was quite wild, when I think about that pioneering. But I would never have met my husband and never have had a happy 40-years anniversary if I had not gone pioneering, because the 40-days pioneering was one of the required conditions to be qualified for the Blessing.

At the time of college graduation in 1968, I had to decide whether I should choose the way of music that I had prepared through college education, or choose the way of religion. That was a hard choice. Ultimately, I decided to go the way of religion, and I was assigned to the Education Department at church headquarters. The leader who took care of me gave me guidance by saying to me: "Be a human being before a musician." My job was to teach holy songs in the Education Department where I had a new challenge to teach God's songs, God's heart and God's love. Those were areas in which I was inexperienced.

I went to Korea in 1970. Since I was named as a candidate for the Blessing, I was matched on the first day. Since the 777 couple Blessing was a conditional blessing for the sake of the beginning of the providence for the world level, I was asked to come to America as one of 50 wives on November 15, 1973.

I was so surprised to attend Sunday church services in America where I heard no holy songs. At that time, in Korea and Japan, everyone sang holy songs over and over to lift the spirit to the level the preacher wanted to have as a foundation for the sermon. I was given an opportunity to translate holy songs into English on the recommendation of Rev. Ken Sudo, who was then the director of the training center at Barrytown, New York. Since my English was inadequate, I worked together with a translator who spoke both English and Japanese and members who were very good at music and poetry.



When I was appointed as IW with wives of 36 blessed families. (East Garden, 1985)

We worked on translation while teaching at 3- to 120-day workshops; it took one year to translate about 40 songs into English.

In the following years, I had many missions, including serving as a staff member for True Family at East Garden. I served as an Itinerant Worker in 1978; 12 sisters who were wives of Japanese 777 couples were selected as Itinerant Workers, and I was one of them. We visited throughout America as representatives of True Parents. I was eight-months pregnant, and left my 10-months-old first daughter at the nursery called Jacob House. I travelled to the assigned area. I returned to the area 40 days after the birth of our second daughter. I also left my 40-days-old second daughter at Jacob House. It was a tough course to visit one center after another with my breasts filled with milk but no baby to feed. I understood that the providence was that serious. On the other hand, I received much blessing.

When True Father was in Danbury Federal Prison, he asked five families from the 777-couples to move to Jacob House. True Parents arranged it so that the Jacob House would be a small Eve Nation, Japan. My family was one of them, and I was appointed to be responsible for Jacob House. I had more opportunities to have direct communication

with True Mother in March of 1993, when Father directly instructed that all Japanese members must gather on Parents' Day.

About 1000 Japanese members gathered in the Grand Ballroom at the Hotel New Yorker. Father gave a speech for five to six hours about creating the Kodan Federation. Father's intention was to have US-Japanese couples start Tribal Messiah activity centered on Japanese wives. Twelve families would gather to make up one Kodan, helping each other; Japanese wives were to sincerely serve their husband's family and tribes. By doing so, they were to make a witnessing foundation that eventually would lead to the restoration of people and an economic foundation. I was appointed President of the Kodan Federation, and I made a nationwide organization. U.S.-Kodan and Korean Kodan federations were made later; I was responsible for the Kodan Federation until December, 1999.

Since the year 2000, I have been working for Tribal Messiah activity.