

Tomiko Nojima, Tokyo, 1964



I joined the Unification Church in Tokyo in January 1964, just before graduation from the university. (In Japan an academic year ends in March.) Two of my best friends from high school introduced me to Divine Principle when they came back to our hometown, Kochi. They are Mrs. Noriko Oyamada and Mrs. Ikue Ohta. After the workshop, I abandoned my college education and left my hometown to become a full-time devotee.

The three of us formed a strong Victory over Communism League Public Relations team and vigorously worked for eight years witnessing to top leaders in the political and academic fields in Japan. I am so happy to know that True Father still remembers us as the best PR team trinity who brought outstanding achievements in Japan.

Although I do not cry easily, because of my strong and independent personality, there were special times in which I cried so much it was as if my whole body became tears.

In 1964, I was fortunate to meet True Father when he visited Japan for the first time. I cried from the bottom of my heart, moved by True Father's sermon. During relaxation, True Father suddenly said to me, "Non-chan (my nickname), you look like my sister." At that time I was too young to understand what his words meant.

In 1965, I cried more intensely at the Hiroshima Railroad Station where Hiroshima church members were sending off True Father to Fukuoka, the next stop on his itinerary in Japan. I could not understand why I cried so much. I became painfully aware that I finally found my personal God in True Father. I recognized that I was reborn by True Father.

In the summer of 1967, the Korean Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles invited seven Japanese student leaders to hold Korean/Japanese student Victory over Communism conferences in major cities. I was one of them. When we arrived in Seoul, we were welcomed by True Father himself. Right after we bowed to him, he said to me with a smile, "You are the person who cried so much at the Hiroshima Station. You know, I remember such a person like you forever. You are my sister." Tears gushed out of my eyes. In tears I came to know that I would live in a special place in Father's heart forever. In fact, like a chained slave, I was unable to leave the Unification Church. Whenever I desperately wanted to leave, I could not do so, because I cannot leave True Father.

In December of 1974 I was blessed in Tokyo. My Blessing was unusual in many ways. True Parents held only one Blessing at the Tokyo Headquarters and kept it secret due to my Blessing partner's political situation. I was introduced to him at noon and our Blessing was held in the evening. At the time, I did not even know his name. However, I anticipated that True Father trusted my faith and chose me to play an important role for his providence in Korea. I was only allowed to communicate with a few church members about it. In 1980, my Blessing partner left the Unification Church, tossed by the political turmoil following the assassination of President Chung Hee Park by the Director of the Korean Central Intelligence Agency.

After these events, I chose America to raise my two sons and to resume my college education. After living as a single mother for ten years, I asked True Father if he could give me a second blessing. True Father did not say "yes." He just smiled at me mysteriously. Rather, he urged me to pursue a doctoral degree. Unfortunately, I could not complete my doctoral study because of my illness. I deeply regret that I have been unable to fulfill True Father's wish for me.