

***Kristina Morrison Seher,
Boonville, California, 1970***



As a college student at the University of Michigan, I sometimes was awakened at night by ghostly calls from a great mass of spirit people outside my window. I knew they desperately wanted me to do something, but I didn't know what. Later, as a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, I was tortured by the idea that I was supposed to be making the world a better place, but I didn't know how. I had many spiritual experiences. One night and day I read the entire Tolkien trilogy, transfixed by the idea that even if the mission to destroy the ring is hopeless, and the ring bearers will surely die, it is still worth trying to do. I wanted to have a grand quest like that, with ultimate meaning and value. I forfeited my National Science Foundation Fellowship and dropped out of grad school to live in the woods, where I promised the universe that I would spend five years investigating every spiritual master I heard of, searching for a figure like Jesus 2000 years ago. If I couldn't find one, I would kill myself, for I did not want to live a false life. I was spiritually led to Boonville, CA, where I met Yun Soo Lim (better known today as Onni Durst) in 1970. I attended my first Divine Principle workshop there in September. I joined the church on Sept. 5, 1970.

After the conclusion lecture, my shirt was wet with tears. I had a strange feeling in my heart, which I could not identify. I realized it was hope — hope for the world, that we could create a world of peace, and hope for my own future.

In November, 1970 I joined Yun Soo Lim in her tiny apartment in Oakland. I worked as a psychologist to support the center, while she witnessed on the University of California, Berkeley campus. She asked

me to give a lecture for our first evening program (which I had not experienced since I joined in Boonville). We made our goal of bringing seven guests each. We had one program a week. Soon there were six of us crammed into the apartment. Within a year, we had found a much larger house and moved. True Parents visited that center in February, 1972, just after 5 a.m. pledge. We had cleaned the whole house the night before, including inside each cabinet and closet, and True Father holy salted inside each one the next morning and blessed our center. By September we had 44 members! In 1973 we started 7-day workshops in Boonville; and after that, an Actionizer program for 21-day workshop graduates. We expanded into the Hearst Avenue house on the University of California Berkeley campus; in 1975 we moved into the Washington-Street residence in San Francisco; and in 1977 we established the Bush Street Center in San Francisco. We had several church-run businesses, and also a service organization called Project Volunteer.

Mrs. Durst organized us into trinities. Each trinity leader became a staff member. In the early days, she met with the whole family each night to hear reports of our day's activities and to give spiritual advice. Later, when we were scattered over several centers, she conducted whole-family meetings each week, and she spoke every Saturday night at the workshop. She spent every Monday with the staff members, hearing detailed reports about every member and making plans for which team each would be on for the coming week. We had teams for witnessing, fundraising, Project Volunteer, various businesses, and taking care of the properties.

As the first Western member in the Oakland Unification Church, I was the liaison between Dr. and Mrs. Durst and the members, as well as being responsible for my own trinity (which often had 50+ members). I lectured every night at some evening program, and every weekend at the introductory workshop. I was always part of the music team.



Kristina Morrison lecturing in the "Chicken Palace," Boonville, CA.

For nearly 10 years, the Oakland Family did a liquid fast for breakfast. We had 24-hour rotating prayer in our main center, including in one-half hour shifts throughout each night. I did several seven-day fasts and did a three-day liquid fast from Friday-Sunday for three years to set a condition for guests to join.

Alan Seher and I were blessed in 1982. After my first trip to Korea in 1975, where I met an older Korean lady whose mission was to take care of Chung Pa Dong, and who had received permission from True Father to remain a nun all her life, I secretly climbed the mountain in Boonville and made my own vow of lifelong celibacy to Heavenly Father. I realized that as the "older sister" of the Oakland Family, if I were to start daydreaming about being blessed to a certain brother or other, 300 younger brothers and sisters could be open to spiritual attack. I vowed I would never apply for the Blessing unless Heavenly Father gave me some dramatic, unmistakable sign. So, for 12 years I happily worked as our church family grew and prospered.

Then, shortly before midnight on December 31, 1981, I burned my repentance in the fireplace at the Hearst Avenue Center, and I sat

down to write my resolutions for 1982. I was thinking that my first goal was to develop a skin-touch relationship with Heavenly Father. But, in automatic writing, my pen wrote down that my first goal was to be blessed in Holy Marriage by True Parents! I whispered, "Heavenly Father, is this from you?" A *HUGE* voice boomed out "YEEESSSSS!!!" So, when True Father announced in May that he would hold a matching and blessing, I applied and was matched to Alan, the love of my life.