

Part 1: Preparation for a Life of Faith

A life of faith is not something that comes without a foundation. For many, there are years of searching and studying different faiths; for others, there may be one moment of sudden realization, perhaps a spiritual experience, which ignites a fire that burns for the rest of their life. In most cases, though, a time of preparation, which may extend beyond the individual's life going back through several generations, can be discerned as the foundation for a long and meaningful life of faith.

In the case of David S.C. Kim, this foundation can be found in his lineage, several generations of ancestors, as well as his family life and his own experiences as a young man.

Ancestors

David S.C. Kim's ancestors are from what is now South Korea. The Kim family genealogy going back twelve generations is detailed in the Kim family tree [see Appendix 1]. His ancestors include an army general who served the Lee dynasty at the provincial level. David S.C. Kim feels that he has inherited this type of spirit, of a general in an army, but in his case he is a general in God's army fighting a spiritual battle.

Because one of my ancestors was a general in the Lee dynasty army, I must have some kind of warrior's spirit, temperament and disposition inherited in my blood. I think that God and True Parents are using my warrior spirit in the battle between good and evil, God and True Parents' war against Satan. I consider myself the "Heavenly General MacArthur" of the Unification movement for the last 43 years.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

The Kim family lineage was quite wealthy, consisting of landlords and government officials. However, there were actually two groups, one wealthier than the other. They lived some distance apart and so had little contact for many years. Sang Chul Kim came into contact with the wealthier group during his college years. Thus, he became familiar with them as well as those in his more direct lineage.

As I understand it, the Kim clan had lived in the past centuries in two localities—one in Changdan village in Kyunggi-do Province, the other in Chulwon city in Kangwon-do Province. Even as recently as the Japanese colonial days, the two localities were a good distance away from each other, so not much contact was made. Each developed in their own way. While the first group engaged mostly in business and farming for many generations, the ancestral group from Chulwon city was very rich, landlords with many properties and farms. In Japanese colonial days, they were called the "Owner of 1000 Suks of Rice Harvest" (Chun Suk Kun), which means quite a lot of wealth and riches. When I was a senior in college, from 1938 to 1939, I tutored one of my Chulwon city relatives, a high school student, in their big mansion. I can still recall what luxury they lived in, with many servants and household helpers at that time.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

Today, although he lives in the United States and has had little opportunity to visit their hometowns, the Kim ancestors are still remembered well by David S.C. Kim.

I have a map of these ancestors' burial grounds located on a hillside on approximately three acres of land. Nine of my ancestors are buried as individuals or as husband and wife together, with beautiful views overlooking the hillside.

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However, the cemetery where many of his direct ancestors were buried is virtually inaccessible. As a result these burial grounds were

neglected and fell into disrepair.

Despite the difficulties in accessing the cemetery, and the fact that he has lived in the United States for half a century, David S.C. Kim is concerned that these burial grounds of his ancestors be well cared for. Fortunately his relatives have been able to gain access, and finally David S.C. Kim's son, Harry Kim, was able to work with these cousins to begin a renovation project.

Because my immediate family holds the birthright of the whole clan, we are responsible for maintaining the ancestral burial sites and lands, which were neglected for so many decades. A few years ago, one of my remote cousins who lives in Seoul, Korea, visited that Kim family cemetery, which is on three or more acres of land, to renovate and repair the burial grounds that were neglected for many decades.

In 1996, my second son, Harry H. Kim, began to restore the tombs and renovate the land.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

For David S.C. Kim, the location of these ancestral burial grounds is of great significance. He notes that it is not by chance that his ancestors are buried on land that lies very close to that which has become the burial ground for Unificationists, including those of Reverend Moon's own family. To take care of these ancestral tombs, then, has even greater significance for David S.C. Kim. He deeply acknowledges the foundation laid by his ancestors in preparing him to meet and attend True Parents.



Entrance sign to cemetery with three generations of Kim ancestors



Harry Kim in front of renovated tombs of Kim ancestors



Harry Kim and his engineer friend who renovated and restored all the tombs



Renovating the tombs



Harry Kim with David S.C. Kim's cousin



Harry Kim with cousins from Seoul, visiting common ancestors

Childhood and Early Life

David S.C. Kim was born in Seoul on November 9, 1915 (lunar calendar), the first and only child of his parents. He was named Sang Chul Kim. The name “David” was given to him later.

Of particular importance in Sang Chul Kim’s early life was his grandmother. A devout Buddhist, she was a very spiritual person. David S.C. Kim notes that her birthday is the same as that of our True Parents, a fact that he considers highly significant.

As far as my immediate ancestors are concerned, my grandmother, widowed when my father was three years of age, had a great impact on my whole family. She was a spiritually gifted lady, a devout Buddhist, always offering special prayers to Buddha for her grandson’s future.

I would like to mention my family’s dispensational numerology. My grandmother’s birthday is January 6 (lunar), the same as our True Parent’s birthday.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

Sang Chul Kim’s family was actually quite an interfaith community in and of itself! With Christian, Buddhist, and Confucian backgrounds, and the connections his grandmother had with the spiritual community, Sang Chul Kim was exposed to people of all faiths from a very early age.

I was born in 1915, as the only child to a father of Christian background and a mother of combined Buddhist and Confucian background. My grandmother was a devout Buddhist follower and was spiritually open; she was associated with many religious groups in Korea. Many astrologers, Buddhist priests with psychic powers and other interfaith spiritual groups and people came to our home continuously.

My grandmother influenced me very much from nine years of age to understand psychic phenomena.

Excerpted from *My Early Days in the Unification Church during the 1950s* Speech given by David S.C. Kim, Manhattan Center, New York, May 1st, 1984, the 30th Anniversary of the Unification Church.

The way that all these people from all these religions seemed to be able to find common ground, each sharing the truth from their own faith, was deeply inspiring and well prepared Sang Chul Kim to join the Unification Movement.

This interfaith-oriented background in my family helped me to research higher truth not only from Christian churches but also from religions such as Buddhism, Confucianism, Shamanism, and other small groups with Messianic expectations in the various mountainous regions in Korea. I know now that God prepared me to help God’s dispensation.

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His father was not simply a man of faith, a strong Christian, he was also a well educated and well regarded member of the local community. His father's belief in education as essential to society influenced his son to value academic study as well as spiritual pursuits.

My father was a son of filial piety to his mother. He was scholarly and well respected as a leader among the whole Kim clan. He was well informed, reliable and respected regarding Christian issues and he supported the Christian church and the local educational system.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

David S.C. Kim credits his whole family with preparing him for his life of faith. As well as his father and grandmother, his mother also played an important role in raising him to become a "Heavenly General."

My mother was an ordinary woman from Seoul, keeping the home well managed, organizationally and financially. She took excellent care of me, especially during my college days in Seoul, Korea. I owe my mother so much for helping me become a heavenly pioneer missionary. I have no way to repay her.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

In addition to the important roles all his family members played in his early life, the structure of the Kim family was also significant. His father was an only son, and Sang Chul Kim was his only son. This had both positive and negative impacts on his childhood. The combination of these impacts, though, provided the foundation for the next stage in his preparation for his life of faith.

I am the only son of my father, who was also an only son. Thus, my grandmother, father, and mother were especially protective during my early childhood, molding me into an independent, egocentric, and strong character. I became the sole object of all the attention in my family. If I wanted something, I always got it. This over-protective environment made it very difficult for me to adjust to life in high school, college, and the outside world. On the positive side, it helped me keep my purity and innocence, encouraged me to think naturally and simply, made me take individual responsibility, gave me a keen sense of good and evil, right and wrong, and enhanced my love for nature from the early days of my life.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

Childhood and Early Life



Top left: Sang Chul Kim on his grandmother's lap.
His father is sitting on the right with the Bible open in
his hands, and also in the inset top left.

Top right: David S.C. Kim's father (right) with the
school principal

Middle: Sang Chul Kim's father (insert), chairman of
the board of education

Bottom: High school days

College and Young Adult Life

The young Sang Chul Kim studied at the prestigious Chosen Christian College (C.C.C.), now Yonsei University. This was a great source of pride to his family, giving them great hope that the Kim family lineage would continue to prosper. Thus, when visiting his relatives he was well received.

I went to Chosen Christian College from 1935 to 1939. It was established by missionaries of the Presbyterian Church of America. On my summer vacations, I regularly visited Changdan village, in Kyunggi-do Province, where I received lots of love and attention from my relatives. I was the source of pride and envy of my grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins because I was the sole heir of the entire Kim clan birthright and I was studying at an American missionary college.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

As described in the following excerpt, Sang Chul Kim experienced much love and care when visiting his relatives during his college years. Just as his grandmother's spirituality and his immediate family's interfaith perspective laid a foundation for Sang Chul Kim's own spiritual life, so did these times with his relatives instill in him the value of family that prepared him for his educational mission in the area of marriage and family studies.

I greatly enjoyed those summer vacations, where I received such overwhelming hospitality from my Kim family relatives. One of many fond memories concerns the specialty dish called "king-sized mandoo-kuk" (dumplings in soup), which you can find in Korean restaurants everywhere. Aunts and cousins made such delicious dishes that I broke the record of eating 25 king-sized mandoons in one meal (twice as much as in Korean restaurants). The more I enjoyed it, the more these relatives gave me and the more I ate, until I achieved the top record of eating 25 mandoons at that time. This was just one of the ways I experienced the power of love, togetherness and cohesiveness of the family unit. It exemplifies the respect of elders and the solidarity and unity of the extended family structure. Of course, they also expected that I would become a successful representative of the whole Kim clan and give our ancestors glory, honor, respect and worship.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

Sang Chul Kim graduated from college in 1939. He then served as deacon and choir director of the Presbyterian Church in Kunsan City, Chullnabuk-do Province, in the southwestern region of the Korean peninsula. It was there that he met and married Eui Hong Kang.

College and Young Adult Life



Graduation on March 13, 1939.



Sang Chul Kim and other Presbyterian Church deacons and elders in 1940

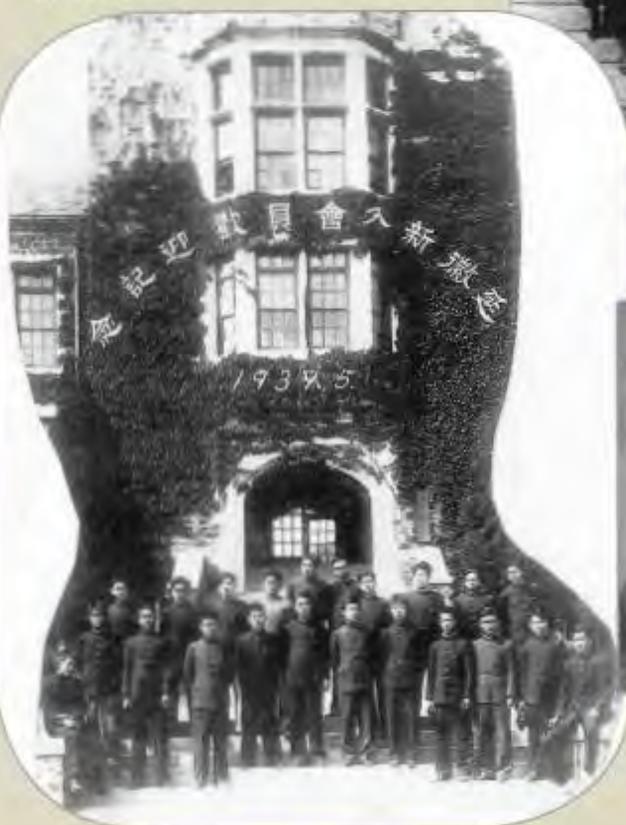
College and Young Adult Life



With his professor of Biblical Studies, Dr. Cable, September 17, 1937.



Joint Bible class with Ewha Women's College in 1936, including Mrs. Won Bok Choi



With classmates at C.C.C. in 1937

Marriage

Sang Chul Kim was married on January 6, 1942 to Eui Hong Kang. Again that date, January 6!

I and my wife were married on January 6, 1942 (solar) in Kimchun city, Kyungsangbuk-do Province. What an amazing part January 6 (solar and lunar) has had in my life! Based on these events in the life of the Kim clan, January 6 may mean something more than simple Biblical numerology. As a renowned television evangelist said recently, "You go nowhere by accident. God is there with you."

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

God must have prepared Eui Hong Kang well for her marriage to Sang Chul Kim. She is well educated and strong minded. No doubt she inherited her strength of character from her ancestors who came from the Northern part of Korea. Her father was active in the Independence Movement, causing the family to move South for safety after the rebellion failed.

During the 1920s Independence Movement from Japan, the whole Kang family migrated from North to South to avoid destruction of the Kang family, due to my father-in-law's involvement in the Movement. He was later honored by the Korean government as a "Patriot of the Korean Independence Movement." Under the constant surveillance of Japanese police and detectives at that time, they settled in Kimchun city, Kyungsangbuk-do Province, in southeastern Korea.

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Eui Hong Kang's family was also deeply religious, and she inherited this strong foundation of faith. They were also conservative and traditional in their outlook, however, which led to disagreement over her future.

The whole Kang family were deeply dedicated, conservative Christians. Her father was successful in the wholesale business of marine products in South Korea. He passed away in 1955 while I was doing pioneer missionary work in England.

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Eui Hong Kang was determined to live her own life and not simply follow her parents' expectations, especially regarding marriage. She met Sang Chul Kim at the Presbyterian Church where he was deacon and choir director; she played the piano. Their love blossomed and soon they married.

My wife, who came to Kunsan city to look for a job after graduating from Seoul Teacher's College in 1940, was a teacher at the Presbyterian Church school. We met at that same Presbyterian Church and married on January 6, 1942. Another reason she came to that city to interview for a job was to avoid her parents' demand that she marry based on her parents' recommendations. So she ended up marrying me.

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The young Kim couple, soon to become a family, lived well, even during the Japanese domination of Korea since Sang Chul Kim worked at a government controlled business. After the liberation of Korea in 1945, he served for many years in various departments of the Korean national government.

Even in Japanese colonial days, I and my wife lived well, since I was an employee of a government-controlled industrial organization. I held a good position and received good compensation until the end of World War II in 1945, when Korea was liberated from Japanese domination.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

Their family soon increased with the birth of five children. However, their comfortable lifestyle did not continue for long as Sang Chul Kim was soon called by God to a very different path.

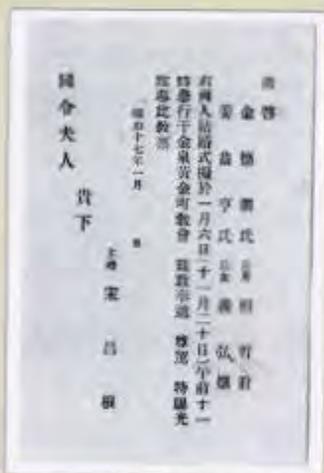
My wife gave birth to five children—one daughter and four sons. Our children are now grown up, but they were brought up by my wife in the Unification Church traditions and practices during the early days of suffering and indemnity, while I was serving as a missionary in England and the United States. We now have ten grandsons and granddaughters—one of them in graduate school and four of them in college. My wife's Kang family made a great contribution to the Kim lineage.

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Marriage



Eui Hong Kang with colleague Mrs Lee in 1940



Kim and Kang family wedding announcement



Marriage celebration of Sang Chul Kim and Eui Hong Kang



Sang Chul Kim and his bride, Eui Hong Kang, January 6, 1942.



Eui Hong Kang with Sang Chul Kim's grandmother



David S.C. Kim's father-in-law



Funeral Ceremony of David S.C.
Kim's father-in-law



Sang Chul Kim and his wife
in 1942



David S.C. Kim and his wife and first child,
with the Kang family in 1943



David S.C. Kim's father with
two grandchildren



The Kims' five children (from left) Sook Hee, Sung Soo
(Mike), Hyun Soo (Harry),
Yong Soo, Joon Soo (James)

Spiritual Preparation

Sang Chul Kim's life was not to be that of a normal family man, or even government official. His destiny was far different. Although his marriage and family were under God's protection and guidance, God continued Sang Chul Kim's spiritual preparation for a great turning point in his life.

In 1950, during the Korean War, I experienced God's intervention in a time of crisis which saved my life from the communist atrocities in the southwestern region of Korea. I retreated deep into the south to avoid the communist guerrilla attack, near the mountainous area of Namwon City. However, it was too late to continue southward because communist guerrillas had already blocked one of the two highways leading to safer places.

In the midst of this total chaos and terrible confusion I prayed desperately to get inspiration about which road to take. Suddenly an "old, gentle, loving man" with purple robes appeared in the midst of my deep prayer, clearly giving me instructions about what to do from that time until the United Nations troops liberated that region. Thus my life was spared. I clearly remember that "old, gentle, loving man" and his clear voice instructing me on how to survive in the midst of the Communist occupation.

Excerpted from *My Early Days in the Unification Church during the 1950s* Speech given by David S.C. Kim, Manhattan Center, New York, May 1st, 1984, the 30th Anniversary of the Unification Church.

Guided by God to a Buddhist monastery in the mountains, Sang Chul Kim spent three months in intense prayer. His desire was to avoid capture by North Korean Communists and he concentrated his entire being on his prayers to that end. He prayed that his life would be saved and that his family would be safe, pledging that if he lived he would serve God for the sake of humanity for the rest of his life. God granted his prayers.

This was my first encounter, where Supreme God presented Himself to me as an "old, gentle, loving man." I later interpreted it as God's Divine intervention to save me for the higher purpose to meet our Father in 1954, four years later.

During the three months I hid in the remote Buddhist mountain temple, I had a chance to learn from the Buddhist priests how to communicate with the spiritual world and research how to apply Buddhist doctrines and philosophy to Christianity and other messianic groups scattered in the land of Korea at that time.

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Conversion

The story of Sang Chul Kim's conversion to the Unification faith is quite unique! It is a testament to the preparation for his life of faith that he was able to accept the Unification teachings and Reverend Moon in such an unusual way.

It was in the first week of February, 1954, when I accepted Father as the Messiah to come, as prophesied in the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, as the Second Coming of the founders of the major world religions in other non-Christian sacred books; and as the Righteous Man, Chung Do-Ryung in the book called Chung-Gam-Rok, a prophetic book written during the Lee dynasty in modern Korean history. I accepted him before I met him in person and even before hearing the lectures of the Divine Principle from the late Mr. Eu.

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The context for his conversion is important. It was the time after the end of hostilities in the Korean War; a time which had divided Korea into two countries: North and South. With relative peace returned to the country and the government re-established in Seoul, young people were able to discuss more freely questions of religion and other matters of serious import. Sang Chul Kim was no exception.

When our Korean government returned from the temporary capital of Pusan to Seoul, I made contact with Mr. Aum, Father's classmate from college days in Japan, a very dear friend, now heavenly Unification architect), through my junior alumnus of college, Mr. Lee. For several months, the three of us would meet regularly at a café, to talk about the Korean and other world religions. We were talking seriously about the unity of all religions in the future.

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Everyone experienced hardship during the Korean war and its aftermath, early members of the Unification movement included. Reverend Moon had suffered the most, having been incarcerated in a Communist prison camp for three years during the war. As soon as he was liberated, although he faced great difficulty, Reverend Moon immediately began to rebuild his following, and Sang Chul Kim's friend, Mr. Lee, soon made contact with them.

Father came down to Pusan from the North Korean concentration camp and started his work again in South Korea. Father had to start all over again since his followers in North Korea were scattered, some coming down to South Korea as refugees. My alumnus, Mr. Lee, visited Father's small Taegu group around the latter part of January 1954 and returned with a report that this group, so spiritually powerful, could communicate directly with heaven. Based on his strong and persistent pressure, I finally decided to make an appointment to see the leader of the group.

Based on my own spiritual experience, Mr. Lee's excitement did not impress me at all. I just took a wait-and-see attitude. Finally, dates were set up to visit Father's small group in Taegu, a very strong Christian city which severely persecuted Father and our movement in the early 1950s and 60s.

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Although Sang Chul Kim was not particularly excited, perhaps God was pushing him! Thus, he had an expectation of meeting the leader of this new group in person, and was ready for something to happen. What actually transpired was very different from his expectations.

Contrary to my expectations, the leader of the group in Taegu (supposedly Father), was not there. Only Mrs. Se Hyun Ok was in the house. In Korea it is very unusual to break a previously arranged appointment. So, when I came to Taegu, with all my pride and arrogance, I was very upset that the leader of the group was not present. However, my anger and indignation softened when Mrs. Ok talked about her visions seen in her early morning prayer.

She saw a vision in which a young man speaking a foreign language was talking to her, but she was unable to understand him. When I arrived at her home, she realized that the young man in her vision was me. That information made me pay more respect and become attentive to her, and soften my resentment toward the group. She treated me very nicely with good meals and prepared my sleeping room with comfortable bedding.

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Sang Chul Kim had become willing to listen to Mrs. Ok. However, it was not her words that he heard, but those of God, the same God who had spoken to him four years previously.

In that house Supreme God appeared a second time in front of me, this time through Mrs. Ok. Suddenly her body shook and jerked and the voice of God controlled her, and totally occupied her body and mind, causing it to act differently from Mrs. Ok.

Now God was speaking directly with a man's voice, just the same voice I heard in my vision in 1950, on the mountain during the Korean War, in the form of an "old, gentle, loving man" in purple robes. With awesome feeling and deep reverence, I listened, immediately humbled myself and became obedient. I heard God's voice solemnly say:

"Listen, dear Sang Chul! I have been training you for 30 years since the age of 9, for your search of the truth through various religious experiences and groups. The time has now come and this is the place I wanted to lead you to. Unconditionally surrender. From now on your new name is David, after King David who destroyed Goliath in the Old Testament. You will be going overseas for pioneer missionary work for this group."

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Most people would have been completely shocked by this experience! Fortunately, Sang Chul Kim's preparation was very thorough and he was able to recognize that this was truly a message from God and to accept it as such with a humble attitude. That was not all, however. Later that night God not only confirmed His message but also gave Sang Chul Kim the identity of the one he was to follow for the rest of his life: Sun Myung Moon.

At around 2 a.m., in a state of semi-consciousness, rather like a trance, a dramatic and dynamic scene occurred. Someone was running straight toward me in the distance from the opposite direction. At the same time, I was running straight toward him from my direction. Both kept running, shortening the distance rapidly. Finally, he and I approached one another and I reached out my right hand to shake his right hand. Immediately there was a powerful surge of electricity which penetrated my hand and entire body from him. I looked at his smiling and joyful face, when I received that tremendous shock.

Immediately, I awoke from the trance trembling because the electric shock was so great. The face I saw in my vision was the very same face of our beloved Father whom I did not meet until three months later in Seoul.

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Now, it is not so unusual to have a spiritual experience. Many claim to have heard God's voice, to have seen visions, to have been given instruction on some important mission they should fulfill. However, not all have followed those instructions for the rest of their lives. Especially those with a good education, a well-to-do family background, and a comfortable lifestyle with a successful career and a happy marriage and family! Sang Chul Kim had all those things, but he also had the right preparation not only to hear God's message but to act on it, and to continue to act on it.

Because of Father's rejection of me at that first appointment, Mrs. Ok and Heavenly Father together were able to help me overcome my fallen nature and my ignorance of God's dispensation centering on the 34 year old Master Sun Myung Moon. Because of Master Moon's rejection of me, I was able to receive and accept God's voice through Mrs. Ok:

"You have the mission of David. You must go overseas and fight as a general, like King David did in Biblical days . . ."

I immediately surrendered myself for my mission. A few months later, I met Father in person in Seoul. It was not breaking a promise, it was giving a greater blessing to me. What did I learn from this experience? God and True Father cannot guide and lead us directly. Through an Abel figure, however, you can come to God and True Parent's direct control when you have absolute obedience and absolute faith, which rids us of Satan's invasion and control.

Excerpted from *Interview with David S.C. Kim* conducted by John and Sandra Lowen, Poughkeepsie, New York, May 11, 1997.

From that day forward, Sang Chul Kim became David, a Heavenly General in God's army under the command of Reverend Moon, willing to take on any Goliath on the spiritual battlefield.