

In Memoriam: Masako Hisamatsu Corley 1958- 2012

Lloyd Howell and Chen Fong

November 28, 2012

Long Island, NY



A truly beautiful, standing-room-only, Seonghwa ceremony was held for Masako Corley at the Harnett Funeral Home in Uniondale, Long Island on November 28, 2012. Masako, the wife of Long Island pastor Tom Corley had resided in the Hempstead center for almost 20 years, giving joy and laughter to all. In appreciation for her giving life, an overflow crowd consisting of a small circle of the pastor's family, members from Long Island and beyond, as well as a strong contingent of Japanese Unification Church members and some American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC) pastors were present.

The love and appreciation for her life permeated the air creating a Heavenly environment. Among the speakers was Kiyako Miazawa, Masako's spiritual mother, who shared her deep tears moving everyone in the congregation. Kiyako's husband translated message from Masako's 81-year-old father who resides in Japan. Many other members, including Rev. Andrew Compton, District Pastor, and Rev. Bruce Grodner shared kind words, as did Rev. Corley's sister who shared her sweet memories of Masako. Chen Fong, a longtime friend of the family, officiated the ceremony.

Mrs. Donna Howell read Masako's biography. Several women gave testimonies, including Mrs. Howell, Mrs. Irmgard Baynes, Mrs. Josephine Phelan (Rev. Corley's sister), Mrs. Kyoung-Sook Fong, and Mrs. Miazawa (spiritual parent of Masako) who read and translated from Masako's father's letter. A final testimony came from Pastor Tom, with Emiko standing at his side. Rev. Corley explained that even though Masako's physical life was relatively short, he experienced 20 wonderful years of happy marriage with her. There were like a hand and glove.



Beautiful musical offerings of songs were sung by Rev. Desmond Green and Soon-Jung "Honey" Fong. A poem was written and read by Lloyd Howell, (posted below).

Dr. Balcomb presented a special calligraphy written by Rev. Hyung Jin Moon for Masako and presented it to her husband.

Mr. Fong writes that "We will remember Masako-san for her very special sisterly and motherly heart. She was the one whom you could count on to bring in the sunshine with her jolly laughter. Her joyful personality complemented her husband. She was an untiring, devoted wife and mother with so much faith in God and True Parents. She never complained about her personal situation, and she had great capacity to teach children and could communicate clearly her point with limited English. She loved to sing and had talent in art- and flower arrangements, and she loved to cook. She fully loved her faith, family, church

community, Long Island, and Japan/America. With her Blessed family she is a victorious sister in our Unificationist cause of unity between East and West.”



Dr. Michael Balcomb, Unification Church USA, vice president, eloquently wrapped it all up by giving a joyful account of the three stages of life as described by True Father. Afterwards, the crowd traveled to Greenfield Cemetery, where Masako was put to final rest with holy songs and flowers. A reception was then held in the Hempstead Center at 45 Front Street.

Masako was 54 years old on October 20th and is survived by her husband Tom and her 18-year-old daughter Emiko, who attended the Seonghwa and who will soon return to her training with Next Gen Academy in California.

Before becoming a full-time member in 1987 in Kyushu, Japan, Masako was an elementary-school teacher. After joining the church, she worked in front-line activities and helped with second-gen education in Fukuoka, Japan. She received the Holy Blessing from True Parents with Pastor Corley on August 25, 1992, coming to the United States a year later. Masako always kept the nurturing heart she had when she joined. She was cheerfully battling stage 4 cancer when she passed away from an unexpected, but related, infection on November 24, 2012. Her final hours were spent in the hospital surrounded by brothers and sisters praying for her.

We love you Masako. Please do a full bow for us before True Father.



The Fireplace at 45 Front Street - Lloyd Howell

Masako, the pastor's wife, like a fireplace
in an old, cold house;
laughter like the
flickering and crackling of flames,
her smile lighting up
the dark recesses,
her warmth spreading out
into the chilly corners.
And who is to say
how long wood is to burn?
Ashes, ashes –
we all become ashes
but you, Masako found your place
and burned there for 20 years
with a glorious flame
that warmed us all.