

What about Matching?

**Matching Your Blessed
Children**



A Story of God's Love

Sorry no handout is ready.

Don't worry about taking notes.

I will freely give away copies of this Powerpoint presentation if you want it.

Email me: jimstephens5@comcast.net

Website: www.bccandidates.com

I can mail you a CD for a small donation. Just give me a note this weekend.

Some thoughts

- **Each Blessed Child is a new Adam or Eve for creating God's descendants...and His ideal.**
- **How do we protect God's new lineage, maintain it, and create the heavenly family culture & tradition.**
 - **One couple after 300 years, 10 generations, average of 4 children per family = 1.4 million descendants**
- **Level of parents' love for each other is the model and the starting level of the new couple. Family is the school of love...bequeathed to our children.**
- **We are creating and pioneering the Traditions for the eternal Kingdom of Heaven (i.e. matching).**



Testimony by Yolanda (Yoli) Watanabe

... I opened every single girl's file on the Website one by one, at different times, different days, but nothing resonated much. AND THEN there she was, a soft, gentle smile, that felt very familiar and very warm. I was very excited to find out about her and her family.

Testimony by Bill and Susan Starr

...At the Pilgrimage in Israel last December 2003, Marlo heard God's voice during her prayer, "You are the dangerous daughter of God. You are the key to the 3rd generation."

... When Marlo's photo was posted on the matching website, she said she felt "more peaceful and powerful".

.. when I opened Yolanda's letter, I had a deep emotional experience. 'I was sitting at my desk at work having lunch. First I read your letter. As soon as I saw your son's photo, I unexpectedly began to weep and I could not stop---I was trying to stop as I was in the office situation. I closed the photo after just a few seconds, but spirit world was there for at least ten minutes'.

Forward in Faith

- **Many parents lack confidence**
 - True Father with God's agreement has bequeathed this responsibility to parents. Therefore it is "God's will" and He will help you. He has to by the Principle and by His Own Nature, provided we do our portion.
- **Many BC's lack confidence in their parents**
 - Or worse, they lack a relationship with their parents. Bottom line, the parents ARE the child's best hope for finding a good spouse when compared to any other options. (Secondarily, look to the support of the child, siblings, BC friends, other church members, leaders, etc.) When no parents, then church "aunt" or "uncle".
- **This is "Pioneering". You do your best and learn from others. Find your own new resources.**
 - Bottom line, any match you decide together with the four parents and the two BC's united will likely be accepted by God. With the right attitude, support, and commitment, it will be a successful marriage.



By Michael Keily

...Because True Father had given us this direction, we did feel that if we invested wholeheartedly despite our limitations, we would receive the guidance and help we needed beyond those limitations to accomplish the task.

... She insisted that we make the final choice and refused time and again to express her opinion or feelings about any potential spouse we discussed with her. She was adamant about not influencing the choice at all and determined, in this way, to fully follow True Father's standard for the matching.

Testimony from Kotun Kiely

... I realized that because True Parents gave the direction to my parents to choose my spouse, and not to me, that I should trust that Heavenly Father would work through my parents and guide them.

I was convinced that if I told my parents how I felt about certain people, that would make it harder for them to be guided to the person Heavenly Father had prepared for me. After all, parents heart is to make their children happy, and if I expressed to them that I did not like someone, it would be hard for my parents to choose him, even if he were actually the right person for me.



Testimony by Yusun Tobkin

When I heard that our parents would be matching their children, my first reaction was that they (my parents) have no idea what they are doing.

Just like almost every other girl, I have been thinking about the matching/blessing from as long as I can remember. The earlier I got blessed, the better (or so I thought).

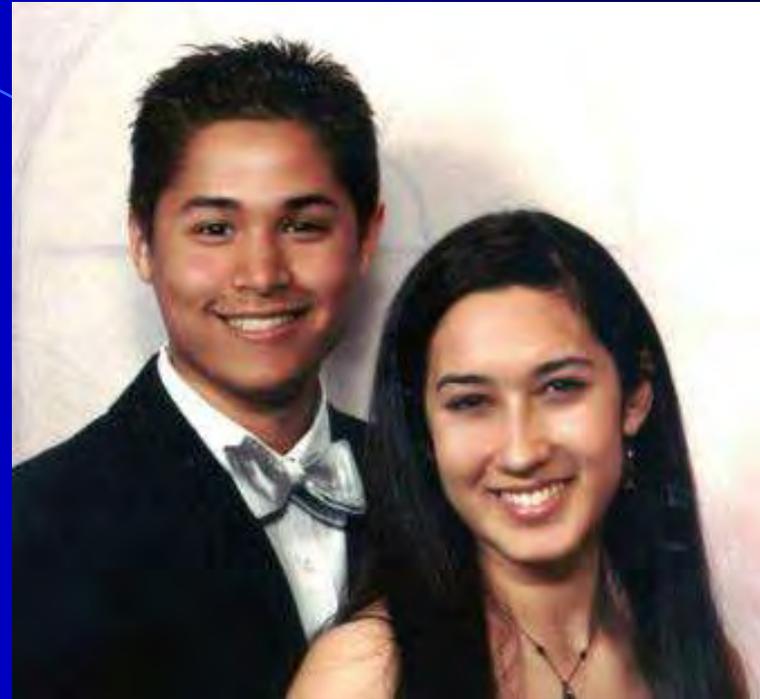
However, after spending some time on STF, my relationship with my parents developed and, along with that, my faith in them as well. I started trusting their decisions because I can now look back on my life and realize that they always had the best intentions for me.

Testimony by Judith Mogavero.

...At first, I was a little skeptical about it because my parents had no clue what was going on. My dad didn't even know that True Parents had given parents the responsibility to match their own children.

It wasn't like I didn't trust my parents, but more like I was wondering how this would all turn out.

... I made sure that I talked with Heavenly Father everyday to give Him an update about me and tell Him at least how my day was, how I could improve and make my days better and how I can make a bigger and better impact on people. I wanted to do this the right way. I wanted to secure a good, vertical relationship with God and with my parents first before even thinking or picturing myself being matched or Blessed. Without doing that, I knew I would truly be lost.



... I feel that saving myself for him was the best decision I ever made in my life. It was completely and incredibly worth it. God works in the most amazing ways.

Getting Started

- **When to start. Start RIGHT NOW.**

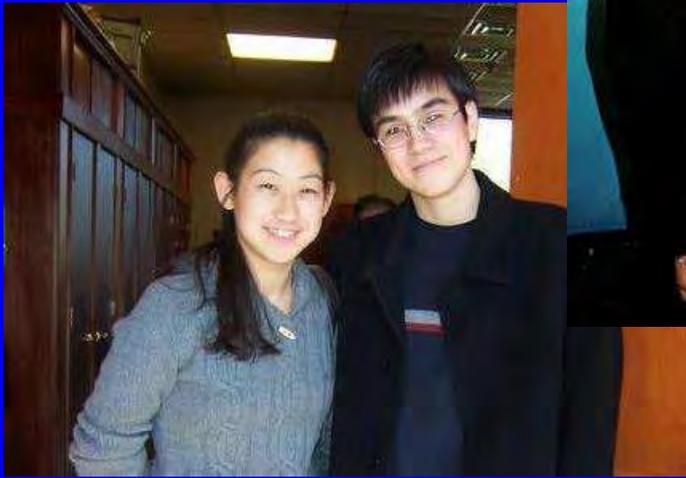
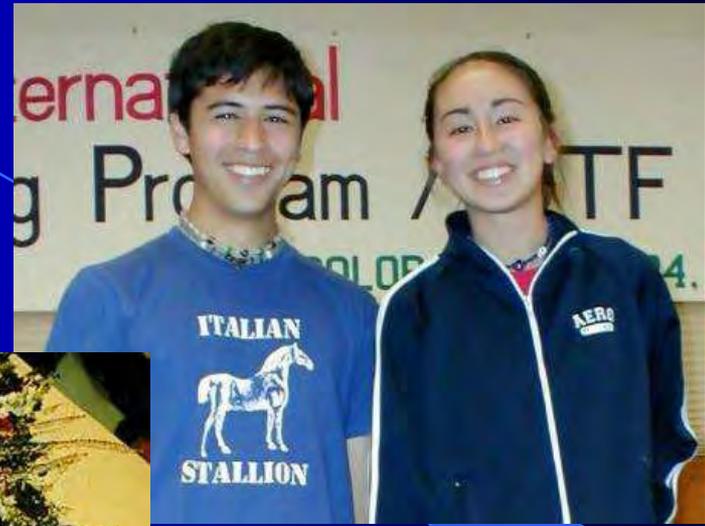
- **Parents have the responsibility. Start to guide them in this tradition from 10 years old at the latest. The average girl starts thinking about marriage around 12 or 13. The average boy probably not until at least 16, maybe 18 or 19. Be prepared.**

- **Study about matching and read testimonies.**

- **Study Father's words on matching. Study Dae Mo Nim's guidance (see website). Read the many matching testimonies.**

- **Decide a plan or a strategy as a couple.**

- **Figure out what you believe about the matching process. Husband and wife need to take a lot of time together to discuss matching. Make sure you know what the ideal is that you are going to present to your children. Make a list of points to discuss about matching with your Blessed Child. Pray for guidance. Meet other couples and share with them a lot. Have others over for dinner. Be intentional.**



Testimony from Yuji and Michiko Yokoyama

By the beginning of this year, we came to realize that the process of finding a match is really spiritual and all spiritual elements have to be in total alignment centered on God for matching to be realized. My wife and I set up 21-day prayer condition about M's matching from January and during the condition my wife went to the Cheon Il Guk activities in Korea that ended on February 16.

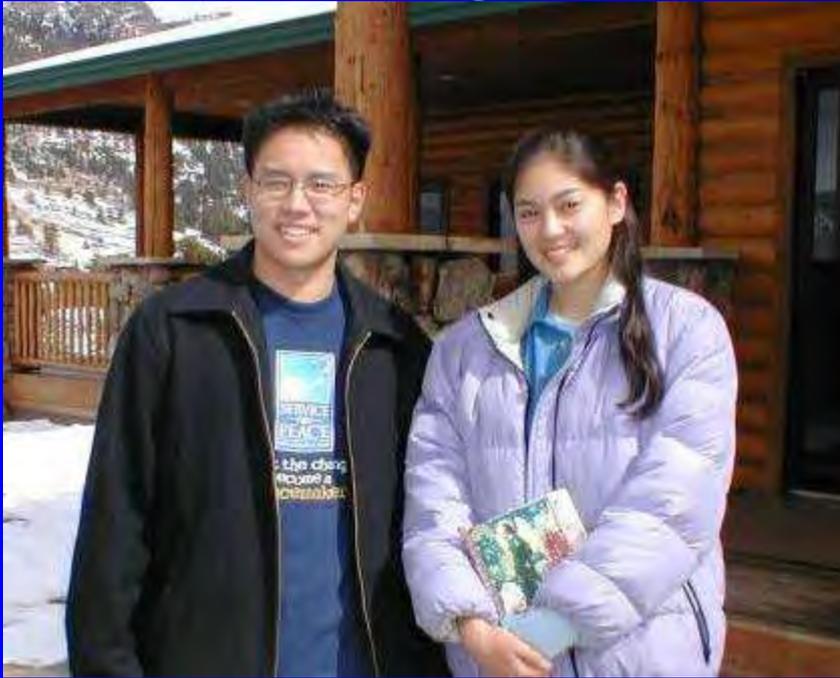


Around that time our daughter wanted to do a prayer condition for matching and blessing. She says that a lecturer's words during the STF blessing workshop, "True love is not about finding the right person; it's about being the right person" caused her to think about her attitude toward the matching.



Testimony from G. Baer

After that workshop everyone had about 8 days off, and during that time I did a 3 day fast. The first night, my best friend (basically a brother to me, T. Moran) had a dream that N. and I were matched. The second night I had a dream that N. and I were matched. And the third day, Rev. Schanker called my house and I happened to pick up the phone. He told me that he had been in contact with the Hong's and that they were asking him and also Dr. Yang, about the level of faith of my family, and myself.



Testimony by Rev. Chen Fong

...In the midst of 10,000 people at Chyung Pyung, Mrs. Watanabe and I kept running into each other. After the workshop in Korea, we continued to correspond and soon came to a conclusion that this was definitely heavenly intervention and God's desire.

... God worked through the complexity of the providences with our lives, crossing our destinies to make it one. We are grateful, pleased, and awed.



...As second generation, especially girls, you think you've been waiting so long to be matched, but when it happens, you realize that 18 years really isn't a long time. Our lives are just beginning.

Il Hwa (Cindy) Yokpore

For Il-hwa's part, she felt she was already matched. It was just a matter of finding out who.

About 3 months after her 14th birthday she got the inspiration that her husband-to-be was somehow threatened. So for 12 months she did a condition to keep him safe. Every night, the last thing she did before she went to sleep was to bathe, do 15 full bows, and pray for her spouse's protection and for him to keep centered on the heart of God.

Dee Yokpore

Communicate, Communicate, Communicate

- **Talk to your child**

- **Plan several discussion sessions. Don't rush it. Go over your list of points to discuss about matching. Get his/her opinions and preferences. Talk about trust in each other. Talk about faith in God and each other. Talk about commitment in relationships. What about confidentiality?**
- **Go out someplace away from home so this will be a strictly private discussion. No younger siblings should be allowed. Make this a special occasion in the child's life. Take this seriously. There is no such thing as too much give and take.**

- **Agree together how to proceed.**

- **Talk about how to prepare yourselves as parents and how the BC should prepare him or herself. Decide on any conditions you want to do. Decide how you are going to work together with God. Are you going to ask God for signs? How are you going to decide on a match? Agree on guidelines within your family. Are you ready? How will you know?**

Susan's testimony:

For most of my teenage years, I struggled with my faith toward God, True Parents, the Unification Church movement, and the Blessing. I thought God and religion were things made up by weak human beings who needed to rely on something greater than themselves. I never liked that I was born into a blessed family. I never felt God, or understood that True Parents are the Third Adam and Second Jesus.

I was happy with my life with my friends at school, although in the bottom of my heart, there was always a part of me that I had to lock up and never express – my identity as a blessed child.





By John and Mary Gowey

... we would be clear about where we were in the process... help avoid misunderstandings or guess work which might jeopardize a good relationship.

...each step would only be taken with every person's agreement and free will.

THE PROCESS:

- 1. The parents would endorse the matching, including the process.**
- 2. The children would agree to participate in the matching.**
- 3. The children begin to interact and develop their relationship.**
- 4. Mutual confirmation: Both parents and children would agree on the match.**
- 5. Report to our central figures of our plans and decisions.**
- 6. Matching: Gather in one place and officiate the matching.**



**My Testimony
by Tiffany Sabo.**

Since I was twelve, I wondered what it would be like to get matched. The matching was always the number one thing to talk about amongst us 2nd generation sisters. I could not imagine what it would be like to actually be matched by my parents. I wondered what kind of person would they choose and how the matching would unfold.

...My mom hadn't told my dad yet but she couldn't wait any longer so she called him on the cell phone and told my dad how she had seen Ryan's picture on the website and couldn't sleep just thinking about him and how she felt very strong about him.

...So, if someone were to ask me how they can prepare for the matching I would tell them to keep their purity and that someday they will look back and be very proud that they stayed true for their "someone special"

...I also feel that the relationship between parents and their children is very important in the matching process. Although my relationship with my parents isn't perfect, I am grateful that I felt comfortable to be able to freely talk about the matching and the importance of the blessing. Also, I can talk to my parents about their experience being matched and how to prepare for the future.

The Process

- **When to start the search process.**
 - **Some parents wait until the child says, “I’m ready”. Others start the process before and inform the child that they are making contacts. It could take years.**
- **Start making contacts, connections, discuss it.**
 - **Contact your friends, church leaders, and local church parents to make people aware you are looking. Ask for suggestions and ideas. Think of other sources like older BC’s, matched couples, youth leaders, friends of your child, etc. Follow up on leads that may go several layers. Network. Follow your intuition. Everyone is unique and God works uniquely. My advice: DON’T BE PASSIVE.**
- **Use of the website: www.bccandidates.com**
 - **Familiarize yourself with all the information on the matching website. Get a password and look over the candidates. Consider putting your child there.**
- **Have a public heart for all BC’s.**
 - **Don’t center only on your child. Pray for other BC’s. Help other parents to find matches for their children. Try to have God’s point of view. Share with others.**



Testimony from Daniel's father, Peter Perry.

...I had been studying Tamara for some time, she "felt" like the right one. I asked my wife as she looked at the candidates who she "felt" good about. She also said Tamara. We asked our 2 daughters on their feeling about the candidates and likewise came up with Tamara.

...As Gilbert shared in his testimony that he first e-mailed us on December 15, but, in fact we didn't receive it because they mistyped the e-mail address. On December 18th I sent him my initial proposal so, I was surprised when he said to me in reply to my e-mail that he thanked me for responding to his.

It's amazing how God works!



Testimony from Aye Jin Masuda

... A few years ago, Father suggested to have Blessed Children being matched as early as 10 years old. Actually, in Heavenly Father's heart, they were matched even before birth.... at conception when "He" created them, two by two.

...I read some of the testimonies on Jim's website: one point struck me there when I read that actually Heavenly Father is so much more anxious than we are to have Blessed Children being matched right.

Testimony from Josef and Monique Derflinger,

...Kayo had once mentioned, "Who will want to be matched with me?" We reassured her, we had absolute faith in God, that some families can have spiritual experiences, "maybe someone WILL see light coming from your picture." ...Three days later the Masuda family e-mailed us. When we read their request for our daughter, we cried.

Aye Jin....When the following day I went back to the web and still looked at ALL the photos, they were all in 2 D, but Kayo's photo was blinking, looking like a 3 dimensional photo.

Three points became very clear:

1. Have absolute faith in God. HE KNOWS.
2. Husband and wife need to be united.
3. Parents and child must be one.

Josef and Monique



Testimony by Rob Sayre

...Sally and I made time to speak about Laurel, time that was not interrupted. The side benefit of this is that it is exactly what spouses need to do on a regular basis and benefits all relationships in the family.

...So when I asked God, “Are these kids ready to be responsible for their finances, the answer was of course “No!” “They are ready, however to taste First, True Love in a safe and guided process. That is YOUR JOB.”

Different Matching “Styles”

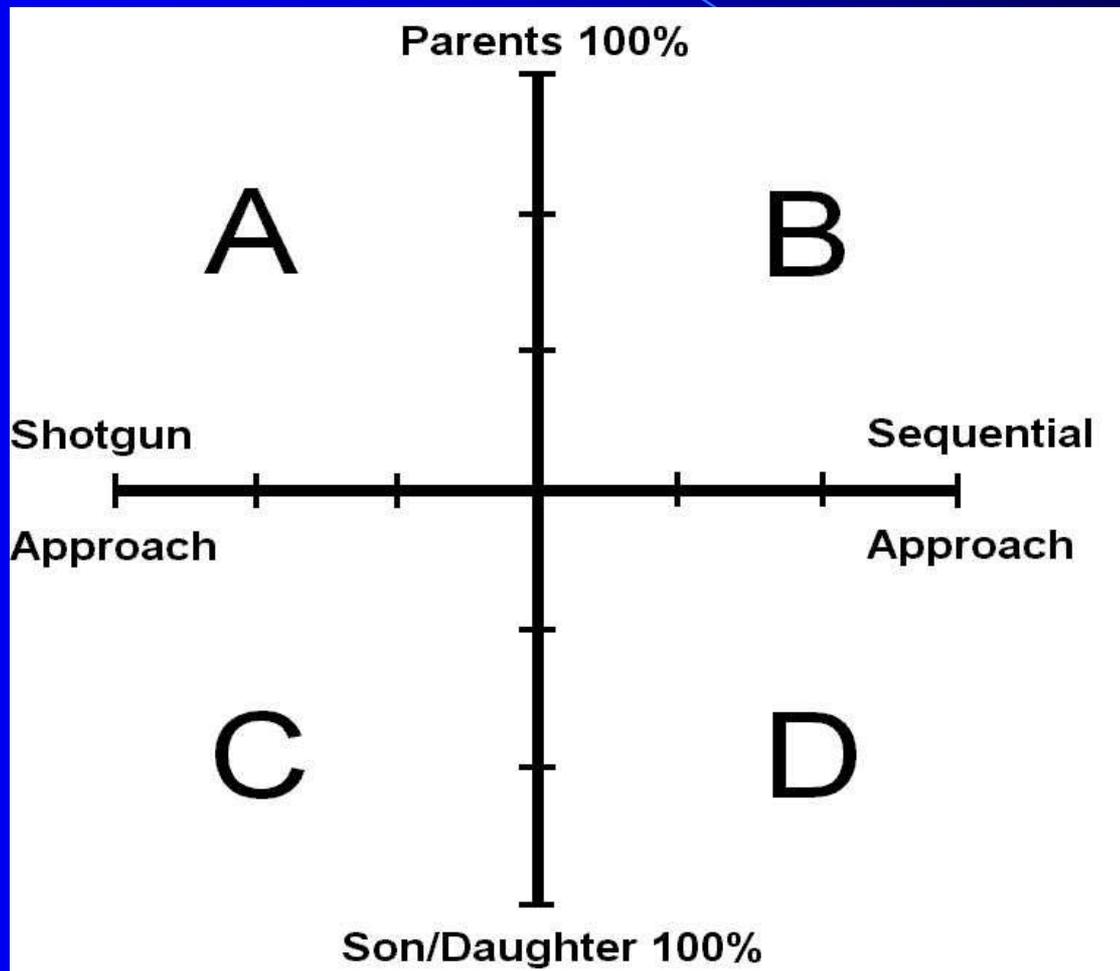
● Parents and child relationship (vertical)

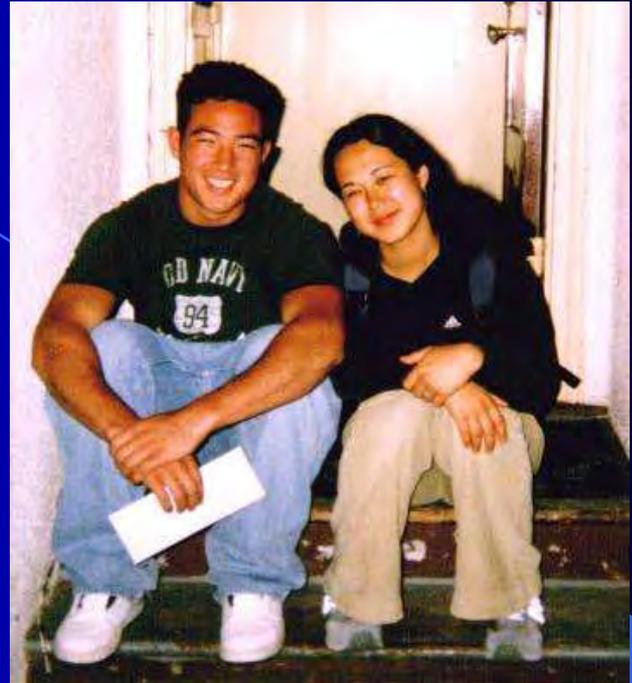
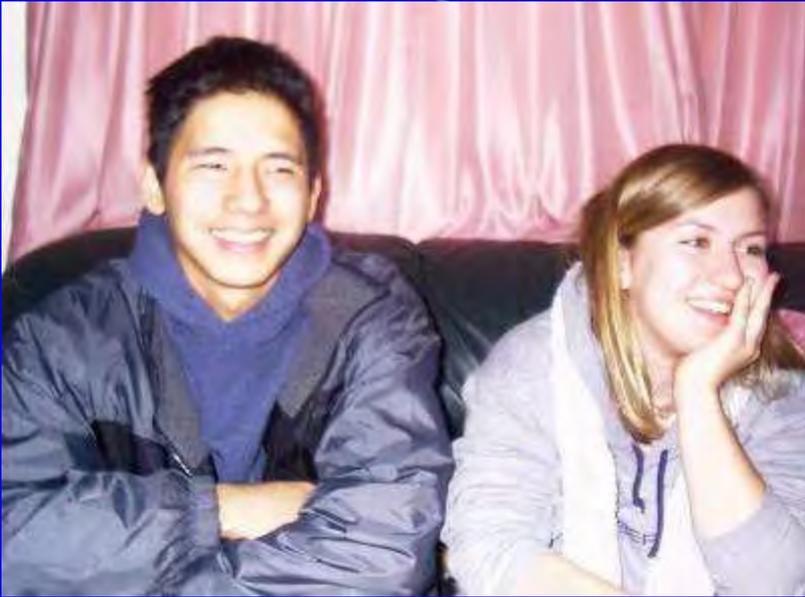
- What is the functioning relationship in your family between parents and the Blessed Child (i.e. are they close and do they share a lot or not so much)? Are the parents totally subject in finding a match and the child will unite in faith? OR will they be talking and thoroughly discussing each candidate? OR is the child the one that will be the controlling factor (the “Subject”) in the search process?

● Parents to other parents (horizontal)

- Will the parents contact as many families as possible (shotgun approach)? Or will the parents deal with only one family at a time and thoroughly decide about that family before considering another candidate (sequential approach)?
- Be sure to tell other couples when you first contact them about your “matching style”.

“Matching Style Matrix”







Testimony from Michael Stewart

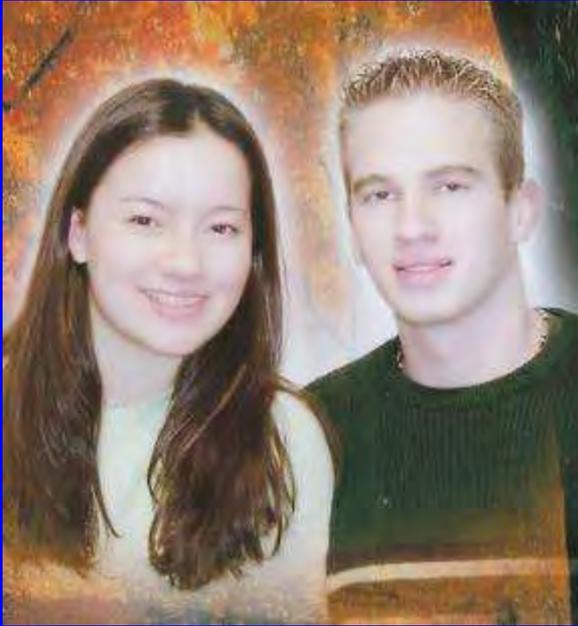
... It wasn't always a foregone conclusion that I would choose to go to the Blessing. There was a time in high school where I

became very skeptical of the church. While I never lost faith in True Parents and their message, I felt really hurt and confused by a lot of things in the church.

...Regardless of my reasons, it led to a string of decisions and experiences that my life could have done without. I ended up having a girlfriend during the latter part of high school, not because I was actively seeking one but because I didn't know what I wanted and really didn't have a reason to say no when the opportunity came.

...When I met Liz, I definitely felt something. I wish there was a better word to use than "something". It wasn't the same as attraction (believe me, I would know). It was closer to the feeling you get when something important is happening. Like every part of you is waiting for something to happen.

.. I realized that I had to create the deepest possible relationship with my parents; no more secrets. I felt it would be very difficult for them (as wonderful as they are ?), to choose this man if they didn't truly know me; EVERYTHING about me.



My Matching Testimony by Mi-ae Schanker

... I realized 3 things:

- 1.) I did not want one bit of my matching to be out of my own selfishness. I did not trust myself to choose my match – even if my parents asked me.**
- 2.) I wanted and needed to take some responsibility for my matching. I couldn't just go about thinking that I wanted that "special guy" and expect things to just happen. So I began to pray more deeply to Heavenly Father. I began making conditions**
- 3.) I wanted my matching to be from God and I told my parents: "I have absolute faith in whoever you choose, just don't make any decisions until God tells you."**



What are you looking for?

- **Completely open to any matching vs. a prepared list of criteria**
 - **Will you be setting parameters for prospective spouses or will you seek to be open to any way that God might lead you? Think carefully about what “challenges” might come if you leave it entirely up to God.**
- **“Exchange Marriage” vs. Known quantity.**
 - **Meaning of “Exchange Marriage” may be international or intercultural OR it may mean polar opposite personality types or family traditions (ex. vertical and horizontal)**
 - **Discuss with your child different scenarios or likelihoods if God leads you to an “exchange match”. Be real with them about challenges of married life.**
 - **Second Generation matches are STILL for restoration. Better prepare for every possibility so there are no false expectations. Even in God’s Kingdom, His ideal may continue to be that extremes make a good match.**

By Jutta Tobkin

By this time we realized that it wasn't anything we had to do, rather we had to discover whom God had chosen for our daughter.

My husband stated that when he asked God what we should be doing, the answer came that we should continue to actively search for a match, implying that if we do nothing He cannot work.

Matching is an action and process. And just like the second coming, it is not necessarily best to look for great signs (dreams and visions) to be observed.



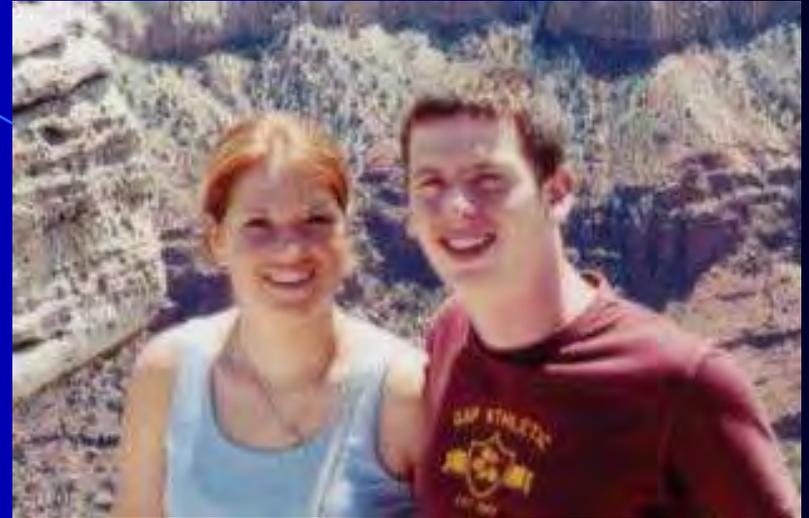
We started a 21 day prayer condition. One obstacle I had to this matching was that I was thinking of an international matching and this was a repeat of the American/German aspects in both families. When I prayed and asked about my concern, "Shouldn't we look for more of an international matching?" The clear answer was, "Why? Have either of your families completely succeeded in unifying America and Germany? Restoration is a long process and there is still much to be done. Don't worry, this is good." The obstacle was gone. When I thought about all the signs we had been given I felt very peaceful and content in moving forward.

Gary Abrahams



Sealing the Deal

- **How well do the parents know each other? The BC's?**
 - **It's very important that the parents take time to get to know the other parents and family. God is very idealistic in matching, so be sure you understand the practical reality of what you are getting into. Take it slow. Avoid rushing, especially if any one of the six is hesitating.**
- **Is a clear support system in place for the new couple?**
 - **A support system and communication system needs to be discussed and set up.**
- **Will you have a “betrothal” time period, a commitment ceremony to seal the match, etc.?**
 - **Consider a “betrothal” time period before the formal matching. Design a commitment ceremony and/or public “engagement” ceremony where there are parent and sibling testimonies and a public celebration.**
- **AIDS test, Purity interview, Forms, reporting, Blessing.**
 - **Blessed Family Dept. wants forms before matching. Reporting to church leaders and acquiring proper signatures is a must. True Parents want to see every match and have a chance to give their feedback.**

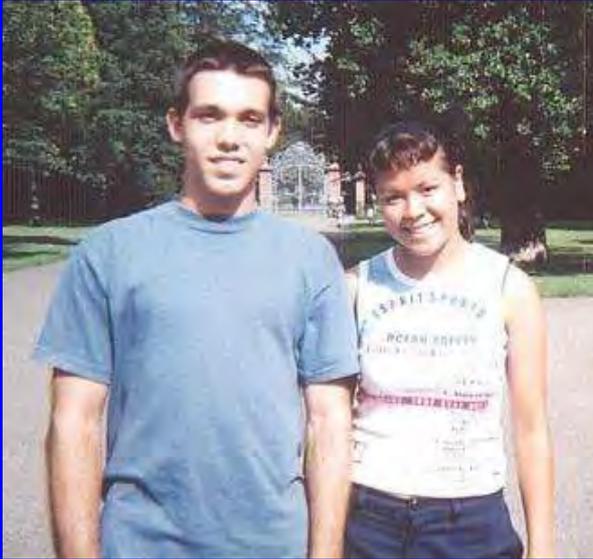


A Time to Struggle.

- **Does each B.C. have ownership of the faith.**
 - **All the First Generation were converts to Divine Principle, but Second Gens were born into the church and therefore at some point must decide in their own hearts to join the church and go this way.**
- **“I’m not really ready yet.” ...Cold feet for boys.**
 - **Boys are confronted for the first time with being a true subject. Be prepared in case other prospects appear. Be prepared for others to give their comments on what you did and how you did it, questioning, various opinions, doubts, etc.**

A Time to Struggle.

- **Child compares mate to own parent(s), has struggles with “in-laws” or unspoken expectations come out.**
 - **Your child will likely begin to notice flaws in his/her match after the initial joy subsides. Prepare for it. Expectations of romance from movies may appear which were unknown before. The family is the “School of Love” so each one “loves” according to his/her family experience. Boys might compare their match to their mothers. Girls vice versa. “In-laws” become a big issue. Fantasies come out.**
- **Spiritual attack will come - GUARANTEED.**
 - **Satan is still real. He hates Blessed Children and God’s lineage. He’ll use fallen nature and every doubt that arises as an opportunity to attack the match. Friends, neighbors, relatives, society, culture, school, etc. could all negatively influence.**



Testimony from Robert Irwin

...Thousands of thoughts and feelings flooded my mind, but one question really stuck in my head: can I fulfill my responsibility?

I felt so serious and excited at the same time. I know many BC's will feel the same when they get matched in the near future. I also felt a rush of gratitude and unworthiness towards my parents and God.



by Claire A. Daugherty (mother of the bride)

Just a few hours earlier at breakfast the couple and parents were discussing next steps including a civil wedding, a reception, STF, final exams, etc. Although we hadn't made an exact schedule yet, it hadn't crossed anyone's mind that they should get together right away. As we were packing and preparing to leave the hotel Lena asked me to pray with her about the correct order of the things to do. To my utter astonishment as I prayed, I heard spiritually crystal clear "she should return home with her husband immediately!"

It was just as clear to me that I couldn't share my insight with her and told her this was a decision she must pray about with her husband. Her logical mind felt duty bound to return to STF but after deep prayer with Christoph, she received the same revelation. Gertrud already knew that this was the proper course of action so she was not in the least surprised by our conclusion.

I was stunned that four of us had reached the same conclusion without consulting anyone but God. There was no discussion about this possibility. It was just given to each of us separately in prayer. I received confirmation in less than a day that this was the correct course of action.

Action Steps

- **Region by Region find a facilitator or coordinator to organize meetings for discussion of matching issues.**
- **Organize regular, consistent meetings.** (Monthly, bi-weekly, etc.)
- **Decide a consistent location.**
- **Possible guest speakers and discussion topics:**
 - **Elder Couples who were matched by Father to give a testimony.**
 - **Couples who have already matched a child.**
 - **Blessed Children matched by their parents.**

 - **Dating, going to the prom, etc.**
 - **Music, television, and movies**
 - **Hoon Dok Hae, Divine Principle study, workshops**
 - **Computer use, internet, Instant Messaging**
 - **Publish your conclusions for the benefit of all parents.**

A blue background with a white curved line starting from the top left and curving towards the center. A blue gradient shape, resembling a spotlight or a fan, originates from the center and extends towards the bottom right corner.

God Bless You

Good luck!!!!!!!