## Testimony: How I became the first member to join in Thailand

Lek Thaveetermsakul 1987



I was born in Bangkok, Thailand, on October 20, 1955. My parents came to Thailand from mainland China when they were young. I have five older brothers, one older sister, and one younger sister. My parents are from a traditional Confucianist background, but I was born and grew up in a strong Buddhist country, so Buddhism came to have much influence on me. Since I was educated in Catholic schools, I also came to know something about Christianity.

Generally, I was not very interested in religion. I only concentrated on studying and was quite a good student. But already in high school I started to think about the purpose and meaning of my life. I entered medical school at Chulalongkorn University, one of the best universities in Thailand, and enjoyed my first year there, but after that I started to think again about the real purpose of life.

Though I was successful in my studying, I felt empty and lonely and had many internal conflicts and struggles. I could see numerous problems within my own family and society, so I was quite desperate to find answers and some kind of ideal for my life.

I studied psychology, philosophy, and religion in order to find clear answers, but the more I studied, the more confused I became. Gradually I lost interest in studying. I just went on day by day trying to enjoy myself, but I suffered very much internally.

In 1976, while I was in my second year at the university, I was introduced to the Principle by a German missionary, Mr. Wolfgang Schawaller. (He was originally sent as a missionary to Hong Kong and then later to India, but he had visa problems, so he stayed in Thailand for a short time and during that time he witnessed to me.) After listening to a few lectures, given by Mr. Jack Hart, the American missionary to Thailand, I became very interested. I borrowed the Principle book and studied by myself at home,

finishing the book within two weeks. Although I couldn't understand it very deeply, for the first time I could get a clear picture of the meaning of life and the world. I felt very happy.

I could accept the Principle logically and intellectually, but I still could not believe it strongly. I had questions about three very important points. First of all, does God really exist? Although logically I could believe in God, I could not believe completely until I had a personal experience with Him. Secondly, is Father really the Messiah? Thirdly, can the ideal world become a reality? I also felt heavy responsibility on my shoulders if this turned out to really be the truth.

I struggled very much about these points, and asked myself how I could find out if these things were really true. Finally I realized that I couldn't find out unless I joined the church and proved it to myself by my own experience.

In 1976 I became the first member to join in Thailand. I studied the Principle very thoroughly, read Father's speeches, and prayed a lot. Gradually I changed and came to understand the Principle more and even had experiences with God and True Parents. Many times I felt God's heart and True Father's heart, and very often I cried. Through these experiences I came to believe strongly in God, True Parents, and the Principle.

I stayed in the church center and worked together with the missionaries while still studying at the university. Soon I began translating the Principle into the Thai language and started teaching the Principle in Thai.

I was blessed in the 6000 Couples' Blessing in Korea to Chen Pai Hang from Taiwan. Presently I am working in the church headquarters as a lecturer, as well as working as a doctor for our IRFF medical team in Thailand helping the Vietnamese refugees. When I look back, I can see more and more the reality of the truth and of God's and True Parents' love.