

## Living Life Centered on One's First Love

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An 1,800-Couple who attends Cheon Bok Gung Church, in Seoul, part of Subregion 1



My True Mother! I love you. Thank you. I respect you. Since I joined the church in March 1973, Heaven has guided me for forty-seven years to follow the path of God's will, focusing on the first love I received from True Parents. I swore I would not forget my first love! God led me to take the road of absolute love, absolute faith and absolute obedience. Father even gave me the nickname, "Yes-Lady" and gave me the honor of forming a CheonBo family. I will give you an honest report of the process.

### **Becoming model a true family**

Since our blessing, we have been living according to the saying, "Completely dominate oneself before wishing to dominate the universe." If I vent my anger, I can't control myself and will give in to Satan. I was determined to even die if I had to; to overcome Satan, I would die. That has become my husband's, Kye-hyung Lee's, and my life pledge and motto of faith. By following that principle, we have not had a fight in forty-five years.

My family's two sons and one daughter were blessed at an early age, so there are ten children in our third generation. In the year of our thirtieth blessing anniversary, my husband gave me a plaque praising me as an expression of his deep love and I gave him a plaque expressing my appreciation for him. Our spiritual children and our children also gave us a meritorious plaque that read, "Mom and Dad, thank you for living well." The truth is that in front of an absolute subject an absolute object will appear.

### **Be the bridge to restore Cain**

When I was blessed among the 1,800-couple group, Heaven expressed his will, "Be the bridge to restore Cain!" That is witnessing. Since then, I have lived by the saying, "Witnessing is the main task and life is a side job!"

True Parents told me, "You should only witness to young people!" The first spiritual son I successfully witnessed to was twenty-two years old. Since then, continuously and curiously, I have only successfully witnessed to twenty-two-year-olds. After I meet a witnessing candidate three times outside, I bring him or her to my house. In our house, I introduce the candidate to my family members and in a natural way show the lifestyle of a blessed family.

When my spiritual children met my children, they harmonized, and this experience stimulated true love within them, which is better than love within the Cain world. When seeing how our family lives made an impression on my spiritual children, they began witnessing to their friends and those friends witnessed to

others. Later they witnessed to their brothers and sisters and even their parents. Personal evangelism continues like a sweet potato plant [with numerous potatoes connected to one root].

The process of blessing a spiritual child was never easy, but it was fruitful when I invested my heart to repay even a part of the love I have received. Internal family education is a priority when raising spiritual children. This is because although witnessing can be done through Divine Principle, at some point, if no one shows the example, you will encounter trials.

On August 13, 2012, I learned that True Father's final prayer emphasized the completion of the tribal messiah mission, as if it were something he left in his last will and testament. In December 2014, during a visit to Bonhyangwon [True Father's gravesite], I said, "Father! What do you want me to do" I received a message saying, "Go to the front line!" I promised then to complete the tribal messiah mission of gaining 430 spiritual children.

At Hoon Dok Hae, True Mother said, "You have to be a heavenly tribal messiah" appealing to us in tears. I again vowed to complete the mission. That night, in a dream, I asked True Mother, "How can I achieve 430" She replied, "You can continue doing what you have been doing until now, step by step."

In Gochang, in North Jeolla Province, centering on Elder Yi-jung Kim, my oldest spiritual child, ten of his spiritual children's families each witnessed to twelve families; in total 121 couples received the Blessing. At that point, 118 of my spiritual children had received the Blessing, so they became 118 couples. My spiritual children have successfully witnessed to 217 spiritual children. As of January 13, 2015, I completed the blessing of 430 couples.



Deok-rye Kang and her husband, Lee Kye-hyung, with their spiritual children and spiritual grandchildren

### **Second-generation education**

Second-generation education comes through True Parents' teachings and putting that into practice. Every morning at 5 am, I do Hoon Dok Hae with *Cheon Seong Gyeong*. I choose good passages and send them to my spiritual children, my tribe, over the phone using KakaoTalk. When I send a message to so many people, my shoulders ache, but with True Parents' love and my sincerity, whenever I send a message to start the new day with God's word, I feel great hope.

The way I manage spiritual children is specific, detailed. In the 6,500-Couple Blessing (1988) which were all Korean–Japanese couples, the wives were all Japanese. My spiritual sons' wives came to Korea after the Blessing. When they came to my house, it became a training center preparing them for married life.

In my heart, I thought all my daughters-in-law were my daughters! I made them study Korean at a Korean language institute so that they could adapt well in Korea. While living together in my house, I prepared them to live in Korea by teaching them Korean traditional recipes and the Korean cooking method, starting with kimchi soup and doenjang soup. For them to prepare to live and adapt to Korean culture and sentiments took seven months.

I educated children in our second generation experientially. On Children's Day [a national holiday], we went to Yeouido and rode rented bicycles. In summer and winter, they went to workshops for second-generation members and we spent much time together. Many of our spiritual children came together at Christmas parties and graduations.

We gathered, sang songs and played games to become closer to one another and to harmonize. They also received appropriate education when they entered puberty. Every 103-Day Ceremony, first birthday celebration, Engagement Ceremony, baby shower and third-generation births, second-generation children

would come and say, "I hope I get blessed soon. I want to live like that. I wish I had a baby." It made them think.

I have been continuously educating my second-generation children. During vacations, I hold a second-generation tribal workshop surrounded by nature. I have held these workshops for fifteen years, so my spiritual children and their families come together as a heavenly tribe.



*Deok-rye Kang's 430 couple Blessing Ceremony*

### **Experiential education**

In 2012, after True Father ascended, our tribe determined strongly to educate those in the second generation to follow God's will. On the first anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa, I held an eight-day workshop in Gochang, which brought together eighty children in our second and third generations. On the second anniversary, we went on a pilgrimage to holy sites throughout Korea. As we followed in True Parents' footsteps, I taught them in line with True Parents' hearts.

On the third anniversary, thirty-three members of the second and third generations went on a pilgrimage to the US West Coast for fourteen days. They had a chance to experience the Las Vegas providence. On the fourth anniversary, wherever True Parents had visited, we visited. They had time to sincerely experience True Parents' hearts. On the fifth anniversary, we went on a tour focused on Baekchae (an ancient Korean dynasty) to look for the roots of our Korean or Japanese ancestors. On the sixth anniversary, they set conditions (*jeongseong*) and saw the Baekdu-Daegan [the chain of mountain ridges, like the backbone of the whole Korean Peninsula] as a way of reuniting North Korea and South Korea. On the seventh anniversary, we looked for the springheads of the Korean Peninsula's eleven major rivers and purified them with the four Cheon Il Guk holy items [holy candle, holy salt, holy wine and holy soil]. They prayed and wished the Korean Peninsula would become reborn and like pure water. These activities we offered to Heaven each year around the time of the anniversary of True Father's Seonghwa.

Many of my spiritual children cooperated so we could finish the Korean and American pilgrimages and could inherit True Parents' hearts, and the participants spoke about it to people who couldn't attend, so those people also benefitted. Through workshops and pilgrimages second- and third-generation children united, relied on one another and grew up together. Second- and third-generation members who receive the Blessing and start a family will continue beautiful traditions like these. I deeply appreciate True Parents for giving us this kind of wisdom.

### **I'll do my best**

On November 25, 1993, True Mother was on a world tour and True Father was educating fifty thousand Japanese women on Jeju Island. I went to Jeju Island with three senior members to experience the feelings within True Parents' hearts. True Father had the three of us testify before 2,980 workshop participants. After hearing my testimony, True Father told Vice President Do-soon Lim, "She's smart! Give that family a True Family Commendation plaque and send her to Japan to witness!" That is why since 1993, for twenty-one years, as Father's secret emissary, I have gone back and forth between Korean and Japan. I followed the course that Father had ordered me to.

Beginning on September 26, 1999, I attended forty-day training in Jardim in Brazil's Pantanal region. The day after Chuseok, True Mother took me on a boat and showered me with love. I hugged her from the back and said, "Mother! I'll live my life well!" That evening, through Wonju Jeong McDevitt, the chief of True Mother's Secretariat, I received a suit of True Mother's clothes and she said to me, "Wear this, go to Japan and give lectures!" In 2014, I completed the twenty-one years that True Parents had ordered me to do that mission. After that, I concentrated my activities in Korea.

True Parents said each family must establish True Parents' Day, True Children's Day, True Day of All Things and True God's Day. They must be established at the tribal, people and national levels. That is why our tribes representing all blessed families, must establish those holy days. On those holy days, tribes should gather and have a commemorative service with a sermon. Since 1985, every January 2, on the Day of the Victory of Heaven, our tribe has visited the Paju Wonjeon [a Unificationist burial site] and bowed. During this or other acts of contemplation or in dreams, True Parents convey some message. I try to practice what Father conveys to us through his messages. I make effort and offer the results.



*Deok-rye Kang hugging True Mother on the boat*

### **The second-generation blessing is Heaven's pride.**

On August 3, 2012, among what True Father said at his last Hoon Dok Hae was "Kang must open the door." I came to realize that those words allowed me to bear fruit through the blessing of second-generation members growing up in our tribe. Since 2016, I have blessed young people, including those in the second and third generations as my mission from Heaven. We are expanding the foundation of the heavenly tribe by raising second- and third-generation children as Heaven's children and matching them in an Engagement Ceremony. From 2016 to 2020, nineteen second- and third-generation couples participated in the Heaven and Earth Blessing Ceremony.

For Vision 2027, I have been working so hard to hold Engagement and Blessing Ceremonies

for forty-three couples from the second and third generations. I held a second- and third-generation couple Blessing Ceremony last October 10, and we are preparing for the engagement of two couples. Dedicating forty-three second- and third-generation blessed couples to True Parents is the way to return the first love they gave me. I will move forward with absolute faith, absolute love, and absolute obedience every day. I do not think of tomorrow. Whenever I do something, I do it today. By marking the calendar every day, I set a one-year schedule and promise True Parents with all my heart I will put it into practice. For me to get into that habit was not easy. Every day, I ask in my mind, "Mother! Did I live well Did I return joy to you" I do not get tired by pushing and encouraging myself like that, and I feel I am working with True Parents.

### **In conclusion**

I miss True Mother! For me, witnessing is expressing my love to True Parents. I couldn't live without True Parents' true love. My motivation for witnessing was God's heartfelt tears in trying to find his lost children and True Parents' struggles, blood, sweat, and tears to find a blessed family person by person. This created who I am today. The power of heavenly tribal messiahs for me is the first love from True Parents. If I let go of that first love, I become a valueless person. I am thankful from my bottom of my heart to Heavenly Parent and True Parents for letting me take the path of absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience for forty-seven years from the day I received that first love from them.

Our tribe has started to go forward with new determination for the second seven-year course to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of True God's Day in 2027 as a great victory. We began anew as pure white and pure gold in spirit and in body. Through absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience to Heavenly Parent and the True Parents of Heaven and Earth, we promise to become the light of filial piety. Let those in the first, second and third generations pave the way for True Mother with filial piety.

Dear True Mother! Remain cheerful. Our tribe is here. We will always serve you truthfully by your side. We will do our best out of filial piety and will sincerely pray for the safety of the True Family.