

Golden Age Newsletter January 2025

Richard Buessing and Carol Pobanz
January 4, 2025



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Hello Goldies, Welcome to the new look! It's all the same content with a simpler format. We hope you enjoy!

This month features 3 testimonies from Ken Owens, Bruce Sutchar and Chad Martin, and a short sharing about artist, Lily Yeh on how Art transforms brokenness into beauty.

This Month's Message



Photo credit: Ken Owens

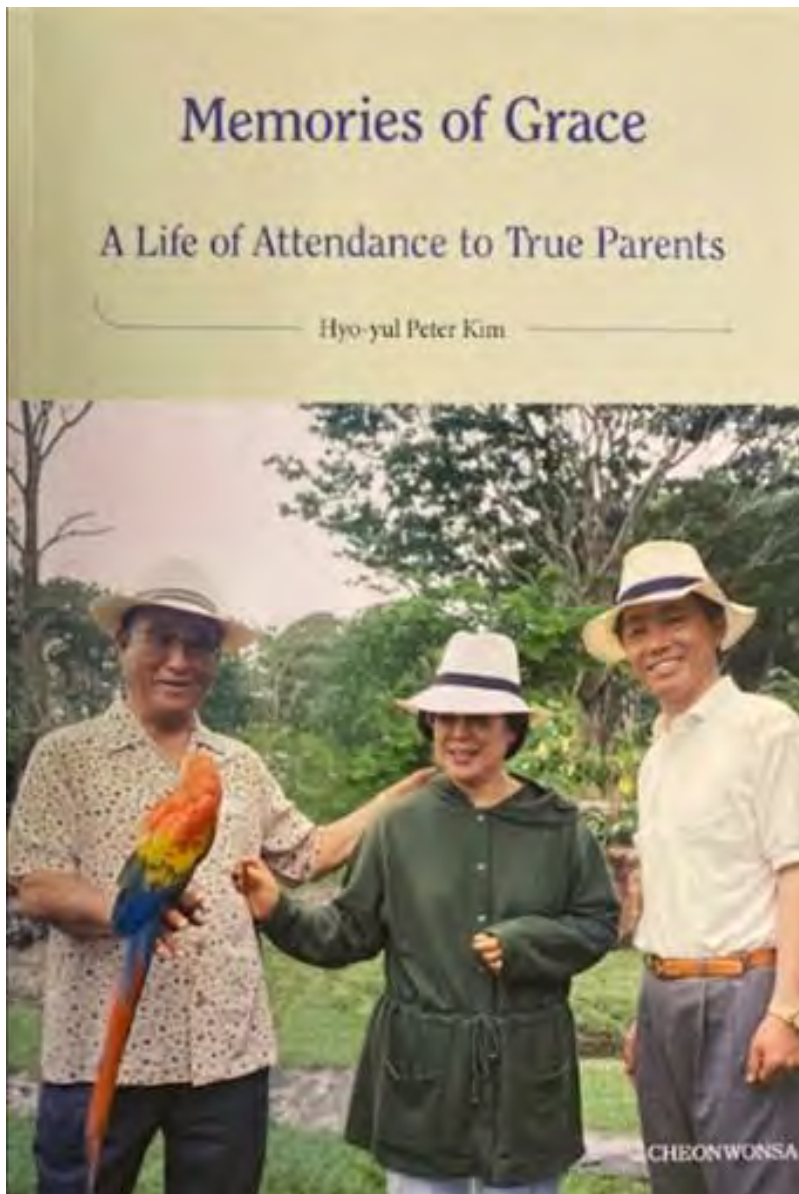
Reflection of Peter Kim's Autobiography

by Ken Owens

Ever since I learned that my spiritual grandmother, Phyllis Kim, was blessed to Peter Kim, I had a rather personal reason to admire and trust Peter Kim for more than 40 years.

Being able to attend many events with True Parents, and having witnessed Mr. Kim attending them directly, sometimes under difficult situations, I had asked Phyllis to

try and get Mr. Kim to write his autobiography. He would be able to share some insights into the lives and hearts of our True Parents that we all could learn for generations to come. She was finally able to help him write his testimony while he was ill in the last few years.



I ordered the book immediately and read it every night until I was able to finish it. Many of the events he described I either photographed or had heard reports about from other leaders.

The first few chapters related to what I think he considered the most important event that True Parents experienced, and that was their visit to North Korea in 1991 to meet Kim Il Sung.

The main point that I learned from this particular testimony, and all the other events he describes, is how much he felt that he was not attending True Parents as a filial son or that he was not fully understanding the heart that True Parents' have for Heavenly Parent in fulfilling the goals of the Providence.

Throughout those events, he kept repenting and desired to do more to attend True Parents in the most filial way. No matter how close we are to True Parents, no matter how long we have tried to serve and love True Parents in our daily lives, we must always be humble and repentant, and always strive as filial sons and daughters to make our True Parents happy.

I believe strongly that this is one of the most important and historical autobiographies that every member for generations to come must read and understand.

Dawning Of A New Age

How Art Transforms Brokenness Into Beauty

By Carol Pobanz

I recently received an announcement regarding a TED talk given by a teacher/friend of mine from college, Lily Yeh. I also babysat her son during those years. Lily was my professor in art college, and I stayed in touch with her after I joined the Unification Movement. I always tried to visit her whenever I was back in the Philadelphia area.

I could say a lot about Lily – about her early life as the daughter of a general in *Chiang Kai-shek's* army or about her struggle to become an accomplished artist in the United States, about the *Village for the Arts and Humanities* – an 18-year project she worked on in a poverty-stricken area in Germantown, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; or I could talk about the NGO she established called *Barefoot Artist International* (working with the most vulnerable people in Rwanda, Mexico, Kenya and in China). But I need not share about these things because they are all covered in her TED talk. What I do want to share though, is my reflection regarding her TED talk.

Lily talks about the place of comfort which she refers to as the “Dustless World” – a place of beauty, peace and serene happiness. The “Dustless World” I believe can also be referred to as the world without shadows or the original ideal world. Lily’s explanation of her work is amazingly honest. Her simple activities are an expression of hope. This is, I believe, one way art can be used by God. Please view Lily Yeh’s TED talk: **How art transforms brokenness into beauty.** [Click here](#). You can also view the full-length documentary about her life, filmed by her son Daniel (the same son I changed diapers for). [Click here](#)

Testimonies and Tributes



Photo credit: Bruce Sutchar

Witnessing and Blessing

by Bruce Sutchar

I was witnessed to in the waiting room of a hospital by two medical people who had set a witnessing condition. It was the only public place that I ever visited. Otherwise, I would be reading a book in my own backyard in San Francisco. Six months later I was witnessing nearly every day. I brought many guests to dinner, but none stayed more than three weeks.

Finally I met my first spiritual son while fundraising on the beach at a sand volleyball tournament in California. I followed the players into a local bar and I was amazed

[To read more, please click here!](#)



Photo credit: Chad Martin

Chad Martin's Testimony

By Chad Martin

My physical brother, John, is my spiritual parent. Starting in 1973, once a year for five years, I attended three-day Divine Principle workshops in Montana. I studied the Divine Principle black book. I had a critique and counterproposal to the Divine Principle, including a Hindu doctrine, spiritual practices and I belonged to another organization (Ananda Marga). My father commented, "How could I raise two sons who joined crackpot religions?"

In January of 1978 I visited my brother at the Boston Center as I was on my way out of the United States to go into training to become an Ananda Marga Teacher

(Acharya). I began attending the Boston workshops

[To read more, please click here!](#)

Bulletin Board



Photo credit: Carol Pobanz

The Golden Age Newsletter began as a small Clifton Senior newsletter about 3 years ago.

ARTICLE GUIDELINES

Purpose: The Golden Age newsletter has been created as a means to keep our elder community connected to one another. Articles are not in any way meant to proselytize or push a point of view.

It is a place to share God's Love – what is positive in our life as a result of finding our Heavenly Parent and True Parents.

Motto: "This is the Dawning of our New Age" – We are always in the process of redefining ourselves as we grow older and as we add experiences to our lives. Therefore, we must consider how God can use us even when we may be decreasing in our physical capabilities.

The e-newsletter is broken down into eight sections:

1. A Featured Message of Inspiration – Helping others to feel hope and inspiration for the establishment of CIG.
2. "Unification Thoughts" – any educational article on the "Fifth Realm of Heart" – Grandparents' heart
3. History Byte – A short article on a positive memory, a funny or affectionate story about experiences in the church with True Parents or with brothers and sisters or an article about the development/experience of helping to

- develop one of True Parents' providential projects or events.
4. Arts and Culture – A sharing about one's talents, hobbies or interests and how this relates to sharing God's love (to family, community, nation or world).
 5. Tributes and Testimonies– a personal testimony of one or more life learning experiences or a Tribute to a spouse, friend, or leader
 6. Health – An article that relates to health (physical or mental), possibly providing a link to an article you think might be interesting or important to other seniors.
 7. I Love being a Grandparent – stories about grandparenting or about things to do with grandchildren
 8. Recipe – Preferably a healthy recipe along with 2–3 paragraphs about what makes it a good or memorable recipe.
 9. Book Review – report on a book that inspires thoughts toward a world of peace
 10. Bulletin board – reports on personal activities, or request help on a project
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Witnessing and Blessing

by *Bruce Sutchar*

LOGIN



photo credit: Bruce Sutchar

I was witnessed to in the waiting room of a hospital by two medical people who had set a witnessing condition. It was the only public place that I ever visited. Otherwise, I would be reading a book in my own backyard in San Francisco. Six months later I was witnessing nearly every day. I brought many guests to dinner, but none stayed more than three weeks.

Finally I met my first spiritual son while fundraising on the beach at a sand volleyball tournament in California. I followed the players into a local bar and I was amazed that, for once, I didn't get kicked out. But I also didn't sell even one bouquet. Yet—I did witness to one brother and, a few weeks later while I was at a weekend workshop, I was told not to come back to the city because someone I had witnessed to had come over for dinner and would be coming up to the workshop that evening. We had been chanting, "Bring

second self today and stay” every night and I was amazed that this brother was absolutely my second self. Even though I was, 30 years old, one of the oldest members of our church, this brother was older than I. He would be matched at the same time as me in New York in 1980. I had done a seven-day fast the last seven days of 1980 and at midnight, he fixed me an elaborate fast-break. One final point—although I had not made any money on that run along the beach, my new spiritual son donated \$40,000 that he received when his grandmother had passed away.

My second spiritual child came one day, while I was working in our church restaurant. I took the name of this patron, whom I had talked to, off his credit card to recontact with him. His roommate had warned him to watch out for the “Moonies” but, as a Charismatic Catholic he had promised God that he would follow whatever God put into his path. Thus, he came over for dinner and immediately went up to the workshop and decided, while in prayer, to commit his life to our movement. Forty years later he is happily married to a lovely Brazilian sister, and they have two beautiful daughters.

While at seminary, we used to go into town and swim at the local YMCA. One day, I met a local sister in the hot tub. Another sister had been witnessing to her, but I took it from there. She came to dinner at UTS and heard the Principle. She joined and eventually was blessed to a French chef and now has three beautiful children and a handful of grandchildren.

Transition from Witnessing to Blessing

Having graduated from the seminary, I was qualified to perform marriages. One sister asked me to perform the wedding ceremony of her son to a Chinese girl he had met in college. The wedding was a beautiful outdoor affair at a local golf course. Her parents flew over from China and it all worked out. Today they have a beautiful son, and I feel deeply connected to the three of them.

One day a second-generation sister asked me if I would perform her marriage ceremony. The wedding was enhanced by my wife playing the piano and we, of course, feel a special connection to them, especially now that they have three children. So my successful marriage rate is 100% and these two marriages have produced four beautiful third-generation children.

Through the years my wife and I have blessed over 550 couples. We started out in 1997 after our experience at Cheongpyeong, blessing 180 couples and are still going. I remember that our first blessing was given to a young couple who would donate bagels from their bread route to our church. We blessed them right on their front lawn next to their garbage cans, because I was afraid that something would happen if

we moved indoors. Our one failure was when meeting a couple sitting on their front steps. The woman would not drink the holy wine because it would not mix well with her vodka drink.

Our clan now includes an Egyptian Coptic couple. The wife is a world religions professor, and she invited me to speak in her class. He is an engineer. They have been to Korea and, and on their last visit he asked to go to Pusan to see Korea's largest electrical power plant. They are currently planning on attending the April 13, 2025 holy blessing.

My wife is a piano teacher, and she has blessed one of her families. She started out by teaching many of our members' children and has expanded out to our local physical community.

Our children have been to many church camps, Father and Mother's speeches and Cheongpyeong workshops. They all participated in the GOP program in Korea.

We have blessed 35 couples in one ACLC minister's church and have blessed many of our ACLC ministers, as well as holding blessings in many of their churches. When one Lutheran pastor's wife was unable to attend our blessing ceremony, he gave the holy wine to his wife by touching it to her photo.

Our original 180 included many of the parents of our children's friends, my own Jewish parents, my brother and several of my cousins. When we blessed my parents, we put real wine in crystal goblets and poured holy wine into each cup. Amazingly, my gourmet wine connoisseur father could taste the different holy wine right out of the glass. And my mother was concerned that the holy water would mess up her hairdo.

My favorite aunt and uncle had moved to Florida. When the AFC started doing "American Leadership Conferences" in Miami, they learned the Principle by attending one banquet every year and gradually hearing the entire Principle and hearing Dr. Pak's testimony. This uncle truly helped support our blessing my parents.

When we moved into our new home, we found a handyman to help us with repairs. He was great but couldn't climb ladders because he had one wooden leg. He met his wife by constantly bringing clothes to her dry-cleaning store every day. They were one of our first blessing couples and when we sprinkled the holy water, he knew that he was receiving a baptism and communion. Sometime later, he stopped me on the street to tell me that his cancer was suddenly in remission.

Recently, I brought the daughter of one of our best ACLC ministers to study the Principle with Rev.

Compton in Las Vegas. She had a profound experience, especially as she began to understand the value of the blessing.

I grew up learning about natural witnessing. This meant witnessing wherever I was physically and in whatever situation I was in. As I result, I have blessed police officers, UPS truck drivers, people I met while walking our dogs and, of course, all of our neighbors. Our original 180 blessings were all completed in our own neighborhood.

It is now more than twenty-five years since we started blessing people and we are still going strong. We have blessed many couples from the group that we have met walking dogs in our local dog park and we have been meeting regularly with many of them for group dinners.

I always felt that knowing the Principle was like having a large diamond and I always thought, “Why would anyone keep this beautiful gem hidden in their coat pocket?” People wear diamond rings (especially wedding rings), diamond pendants and diamond earrings to display their beauty. Shouldn’t we be displaying the Divine Principle and the Holy Blessing just as publicly?

Chad Martin’s Testimony

An Intimate Encounter with Nature!

Frequently Asked Questions

Registration Questions

Q: I don’t see any welcome email, did my registration go through?

[Find the answer](#)

Airtable Questions

Q: I registered but it says I need to create an airtable account, how do I do that?

[Find the answer](#)

System Questions

Q: I forgot to bookmark my dashboard page! How do I find it again?

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*Blessed Family
photos by
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Chad Martin's Testimony

By Chad Martin

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My physical brother, John, is my spiritual parent. Starting in 1973, once a year for five years, I attended three-day Divine Principle workshops in Montana. I studied the Divine Principle black book. I had a critique and counterproposal to the Divine Principle, including a Hindu doctrine, spiritual practices and I belonged to another organization (Ananda Marga). My father commented, "How could I raise two sons who joined crackpot religions?"

In January of 1978 I visited my brother at the Boston Center as I was on my way out of the United States to go into training to become an Ananda Marga Teacher (Acharya). I began attending the Boston workshops, fundraising and witnessing. At the beginning of March, 1978, I had a revelation that it was primary that the basic unit of society is the family, not the individual, which Christianity and Buddhism promote. My response to God was that the other religious systems that were family-centered were Judaism and Confucianism. I then decided to pursue the Divine Principle and the Unification Church.

After two years on the Mobile Fundraising Team (MFT) I was selected to attend the Unification Theological Seminary, which was an extremely rewarding experience for me.

Then Rev. Moon matched me to the love of my life, Fusako Miyagi, from Okinawa, Japan. We were Blessed in 1982 at Madison Square Garden, next to my brother and his wife, Chris. I worked for church businesses in Oakland, Chicago and New York for the next ten years. For these ten years and more, I worked with Sunday school and youth programs, including with our four sons.

In 1993, we moved back to Montana where my family was very helpful in many ways. Billings had a nice church building. Four other Blessed families were all

actively involved in everything. In addition to the Sunday school, I developed a youth band that performed weekly and at public venues. We also had seasonal church campouts and retreats where the youth and others gave Divine Principle lectures. The youth developed friendships that will last a lifetime. Most of the adults and youth attended Camp Tongil (elementary) retreats and T-2 (Junior High and High School) retreats in Washington state, which gave them a greater vision for the future. Most of our youth participated in Special Task Force (STF) and Generation Peace Academy (GPA), including an overseas component. These programs helped prepare our youth for taking responsibility for our church after graduating, including preparing for the matching and Blessing.

For the past 17 years I have been teaching high school and junior high school science in Lodge Grass, Montana on the Crow Indian Reservation. After school, Monday through Thursday I offer after-school programs for kindergarten – 12th grade students doing Legos, competitive robotics, catching up on school work, and the Christian Club. The experience has been very rewarding for me personally. I have developed deep relationships with staff, students and members of the community. I frequently have three generations of a family in my classroom, including children of my former students. Our church has done many Blessings on the Crow Reservation. I have given out many of True Parents' biographies and some Divine Principle books to the school staff and administration.

I am presently writing my testimony and have several church members editing it. One of the photos include me piloting a 50-foot sailboat in Hawaii.



photo credit: Chad Martin

The other photo includes my wife, Fusako, my youngest son Robert and his wife Eiko, my second son's wife, Camille and their children (my grandchildren), Miles and Eleanor, and my brother's wife, Vandana, before our sailboat ride.



photo credit: Chad Martin

Witnessing and Blessing

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