

FFWPU USA Blessing and Family Ministry: In Memory of Yuji Yokoyama

Carina Mendez
July 15, 2025



Manassas, VA 20110

In Memory of Yuji Yokoyama

Spouse: Michiko Yokohama

Children: Misono, Ted, Miwa, Kosei

DOB: March 9, 1952

Blessing Date: February 8, 1975

Ascension: June 29, 2025

Visitation: Tuesday, July 15 from 7-8:00 pm,
Capital FC NOVA Center 9720 Capital Ct, suite#
203, Manassas, VA 20110

Seonghwa Ceremony: Wednesday, July 16, 2025
Time: 10:30 am to 12:30 pm Arbor Ballroom of
the Washington Times Building 3600 New York
Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20002

Zoom Broadcast: us02web.zoom.us/j/618147675
Cards and messages can be sent to: Mrs. Michiko
Yokoyama, 10310 7th Regiment Dr. Apt 203,

Yuji Yokoyama was born in Hiroshima, Japan, on March 9, 1952, to Toshio and Takako Yokoyama. He was the eldest of two children, with a younger sister, Chikako. From an early age, Yuji was known for his sharp intellect and quiet determination to seek the truth.

At 16, he encountered the Divine Principle through Mrs. Yukie Sawamukai. After reading the book thoroughly, he felt he had found a truth worth dedicating his life to. This marked the beginning of his lifelong spiritual journey. He later joined CARP, The Colligate Association for the Research of Principles, while attending Kyoto University. Then at 22, on February 8, 1975, Yuji and Michiko received the Holy Blessing of marriage in the historic 1800 Couples Ceremony, officiated by the True Parents, Father Sun Myung Moon and Mother Hak Ja Han Moon.

Yuji moved to the United States in 1976 to support the Yankee Stadium Rally and remained afterward to work in journalism. He began at The News World in New York and later served as U.S. Bureau Chief for Sekai Nippo, a newspaper founded by Father and Mother Moon. His time living in Harlem sparked a deep interest in racial justice, leading him to interview Civil Rights leaders including Coretta Scott King and Walter Fauntroy. He published a book on the Civil Rights Movement in Japan in 2011, one of three books he authored.

In 1986, Yuji and his family settled in Washington, D.C. Over time, he shifted from journalism to interpretation, ultimately serving as a high-level interpreter for international diplomatic events, G7 summits, and U.S. - Japan defense initiatives. His calm presence and precise translation helped bridge cultures during critical conversations between world leaders. Colleagues respected him not just for his skill, but for his belief that language, faithfully conveyed, could build understanding.

Beginning in 1998, with a break from 2001 to 2005, Yuji served each year as an interpreter for the Chu-SAM Project, a long-standing bilateral initiative between Japan's Self-Defense Forces and the U.S. Army, at White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico. He often said, "New Mexico is my second home." He loved the vast landscape and found joy in hiking throughout the Las Cruces area during his free time.



Yokoyama Family

Yuji was active with the American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACLC), and The Universal Peace Federation (UPF), where he and Michiko built deep and lasting friendships across many ethnic and religious communities in Northern Virginia.

In April 2025, he was honored with a 50-Year Faithful Service Certificate, presented by the Founders in recognition of his lifelong devotion. Together, Yuji and Michiko were also designated a CheonBo couple for their steadfast commitment to building a world of peace and unity.

Nature was one of Yuji's greatest loves. With a camera in hand, he enjoyed hiking and exploring, whether on his own, with friends, or with family. He made a point to visit many national parks throughout his life, and one of his favorite local destinations was the Shenandoah Valley. He often stopped to photograph flowers, trees, or wide scenic views, and would later excitedly share his finds with his loved ones.

On Sunday, June 29, 2025, Yuji went hiking in the Slot Canyon area of New Mexico and did not return. He was found on Tuesday, July 1, having passed away during the hike.

Yuji leaves a legacy of love to his beloved wife of 50 years, Michiko; their 4 adult children Misono (Daniel), Ted (Elisa), Miwa (Kenneth), and Kosei; their granddaughters - Mio, Mirei, Mia, and Sophia; and a grandson expected in October.