

## How I Found My True Parents

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*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

*On a Sunday morning last June, as I was preparing for Sunday service, Miyuki Granstrom*

*came to my office to tell me a family she had never met was waiting alone in the sanctuary. She had one more thing to tell about the couple: They were blind! I went to the sanctuary to meet them, and found a married couple sitting with young girl who could see. The wife introduced themselves. They were Angela and Tony Noriega with Tony's daughter from a previous marriage. Angela said she had been waiting for years to visit the church, after learning Divine Principle and accepting True Parents completely through online study. She has since become a member of the Seattle Family Church. This is her amazing story how that happened, which has been sent to True Mother.*

*Pastor David Roberts*

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My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Many in my church have asked me how I was introduced to the Unification Movement: how I came to know about the Divine Principle teachings and how I came to believe in our True Parents. I have found that the more I tell my story, the more at peace I feel in my heart. It's as if our Heavenly Parent Himself wants me to tell this story. Though I have told it to a few of my brothers and sisters, I would like to share it with everyone. My son's father and I were talking late one night and we were discussing different religions and cults. He happens to be Korean and he said something about Rev. Sun Myung Moon. He referred to him as "Jesus Moon." I asked him what he meant by that and why it was so negative. He said that many non-Unificationists referred to him that way in Korea. "His followers claim he's the Messiah," My son's father said. "And so does he."

"You mean this man thinks he's like Jesus?" I asked.

"Yes," my son's father said and laughed. "He thinks he can perform miracles."

I thought about this for a while that night before going to sleep. The next day, I started doing research. I googled Unification Church and found a whole lot of information both good and bad. I sorted through it and found the pages that had to do with the church itself. First, I found one that had all kinds of texts and a list of Holy Songs. That's where I found the Divine Principle. I started downloading whatever I thought could help me understand the teachings. Next, I found the Family Federation website. This website, as we all know, has news articles, and videos. I found other websites pertaining to the church that had a lecture series on the Principle, Talks on the Blessing, and so many other things. I downloaded all I could. After this, I subscribed to the Unification.net emails. All of this happened in mid-2005 through mid-2006.

In June 2006, there was an email and some news about the opening of the Peace Palace. I remember talking to a friend on the phone and telling her about the church and how badly I wished I could have been at the ceremony. Not five minutes later, I got an email from the brother who hosted the [unification.net](http://unification.net) home page. It had a link to an FTP server that contained videos of the ceremony and speeches by two of the True Children. I was so happy I couldn't believe what I was reading. I immediately told my friend about it. She said it was God answering my prayer.

Growing up, I was always told that if God was ever trying to tell me that something was the right thing to do or the right path to follow, I would dream about it. During my early time of studying about the church and its beliefs, I had two dreams about our True Parents that I can remember. The one that has stayed with me the longest was about True Mother.

It was God's Day. I don't really know where I was, but there was a talent show and other events happening. At the end of everything when everyone was leaving, someone said that True Mother wanted to see me. I remember being surprised because in the dream, I was merely a member of the audience. I followed the person backstage and sure enough, there was Mother waiting in the wings. I remember bowing to her and realizing that True Father wasn't there.

"Mother," I asked in Korean. "Where's True Father?"

"True Father is not here," Mother replied. "But you must come with me so we can talk about your future." She took my arm, and we walked away. As we did, I awoke with a profound sense of peace and I knew that this was the right path to follow.

In October of 2006, we moved to Seattle. Though I was constantly looking at the websites I found and collecting more information on the Church, I wondered if anyone was really out here. Was all this only online? Were there any Unificationists in Seattle? How would I know them if I met them? These questions haunted me until one Saturday afternoon in late October.

We were at a hair salon getting my son and his father's hair cut. I was waiting patiently trying not to fall asleep in a chair. The door to the salon opened and a young woman entered. She walked up to the counter and said that she was from the Unification Church in Beijing and that they were raising funds to try to set up a church in Canton. She asked if the owner of the salon could contribute anything. The salon owner told her politely that she couldn't help and that she didn't know who could. My eyes flew open at the sound of the conversation and as the woman was walking away from the salon, I jumped up from my chair and followed her out the door.

"Sister!" I called after her. "Wait!" She stopped walking and turned around.

"Yes?" she asked.

"Did you say you were from the Unification Church in Beijing?"

"Yes," she answered. "'Do you know about us?"

"Yes," I answered, trying not to seem like a crazy person. I was so excited. I was smiling widely, but I was also trying not to cry for joy. She asked if my family knew about the church. I said no and that they wouldn't understand. She seemed to accept this as normal so we talked about how I came to know about the church. She was amazed that I found out a lot of my information online.

After we talked, I apologized because I couldn't help her either. I asked her if she'd be alright out there on her own. She said that she would and that she was not traveling alone. I was relieved when I went back into the hair salon. My family had no idea that I had left. I told my son's father about what had happened. He said the same thing he always said whenever I mentioned the Unification Church. "You and your cult." I had grown used to that, but I still tried to get him to try to find a church in Seattle. He never did; in fact, he told me that he wanted nothing to do with the church. I also tried to get my son interested in finding out about our True Parents by showing him stories for children about True Father's life, but he also wasn't really interested.

After meeting the young sister from Beijing in the hair salon, I was convinced that yes there were really Unificationist members out in the world, but I still couldn't find a church. The directory pointed me to Tacoma where there is a small Korean church and I was starting to wonder if I would have to go there to hear the teachings of True Father, but a few years later, in 2009 I think, I found the address to this church here in Ballard. It still took five more years for me to finally come here to this church. But ever since I have, I know I have found the place I can call home. After so many years, I have finally found my True Parents.