

## The Family Who Establishes the Kingdom of Heaven

Setsuko Sakurai

1978

Director of Itinerary Workers in Japan

Translated from *Shuku Fuku*, Winter, 1978, by Atsuko Ono



*Photo date and location unknown*

### **I want to respond to God's desire**

Already eight years have passed since I was blessed by Father as one of the 43 Couples. When I learned of the blessing through Father's words, I dreamily thought that God would give us the ideal spouse. But my way of thinking changed as time passed.

Through the situation of one older couple I learned that marriage should not be approached fancifully but very realistically. I saw that it was very difficult to build a family of God's desire by uniting with each other, even if husband and wife were individually very wonderful people. And I also felt that a successful marriage was not something self-satisfying, sweet or dreamy; rather, it could be very difficult without our having God's love. I tried to imagine being married to men whom I disliked. Therefore, when the blessing came eight years ago, I had a very realistic attitude towards it, while still feeling hopeful.

At that time, eight years had passed since I joined. As I had come to recognize my own inadequacies through the years, I wondered if I would be blessed, and I wanted to fulfill God's desire more than anything else. As the day approached, I prayed in a concentrated way that I could sincerely receive the blessing. I wanted my feeling to be the same as God's feeling and my desire to be God's desire. When Father came to Japan, people who were going to be blessed gathered at Headquarters. Father took all of us many places and talked for several days. In his talk, he judged me strongly. Later on, I could well understand that it was due to his deep love for me, for my heart was proud. At his words, my heart melted completely.

Thus, at the morning of the matching, my heart was very humble. I felt I would be very grateful if anyone could accept me, who was so inadequate. I prayed that I could receive God's desire.

Although I was among the senior members, I was matched to Mr. Sakurai, who was a three-year member and one of the directors for his area. When Father told us, "You shall be together eternally," and prayed for us, I felt that I could receive God's desire and that God really wanted to give this person to me. At that moment, deep joy sprang from my heart, a feeling quite apart from like or dislike. I felt inspiration that comes from fulfilling God's desire. The other members applauded us, and we went to Holy Ground together. Later on, I was teased by some members, who said, "We've never seen you so happy!" Anyway, my first conversation with my spouse was: "Mr. Sakurai, thank you so much. I'm so grateful."

### **To live for the other person**

After the wedding ceremony, we went to Mabashi, which was the Headquarters for my husband's district.

Since I had been lecturing for many years, moving to the district brought a completely new life to me. From the first day, my husband told me, "Even if we are husband and wife, love for each other will not come immediately. Let's create it patiently day by day." I remembered Mrs. Hayashi, director of the parents' group, told us, "Husband and wife should spend their whole life creating unity." I thought that was true, and I committed myself to patiently spending my life working for unity.

Once I came to the district, my husband took care of me well, but he didn't give me a mission or position. I was at a loss about what to do for a mission, but I finally decided to work in the kitchen. I knew that being the wife of the district director wasn't an automatic position; rather, I had to build it up by myself. My husband was very heartistic and everyone loved him. The members were quite united, so the church was very harmonious. There was such a strong foundation that I had a hard time figuring out where to fit in. I concluded that I should love the members as much as or more than my husband to build my position. I decided that the kitchen was the place where I could most easily communicate with the members.

My husband asked me to visit the churches in his district, working in their kitchens. When I arrived, older members assumed that I was in charge of witnessing or lecturing. And so they told me, "Please take a more prominent position, Mrs. Sakurai." But my husband never put me in such a position. I didn't attend any directors' meetings. Working in the kitchen, I had no chance to hear any reports of the meetings. I really wanted to know about what they were doing. But even if I asked my husband about them, he didn't want to speak about them. At that time, our relationship was distant, so I couldn't complain about it to him. Even if the director of a church or older members asked me to intercede on their behalf, I felt I should remain silent, since I didn't know anything about the people involved. Previously, I would have said something immediately, but I remembered what Father had told me before the blessing: "You are someone whose mouth is thin and wide side to side and can't keep secrets in your heart." It was for sure that I couldn't keep my heart in by saying the first thing that came into my mind. Father warned me very strictly: "Even though you are husband and wife, you can't talk about everything to each other."

Therefore even if I was urged by the members, I couldn't say anything. Anyway, there was no point in my saying anything without knowing the people well. If I did say something careless, it could adversely affect the direction of the district. So I restrained my remarks. Such a thing had never happened to me before.

I struggled. Little complaints would arise in me. I would think, "My husband should have done this or said that." But I restrained myself because the point was not my feelings but the welfare of the director and members. At that time I prayed very much. And I experienced that my prayer was answered miraculously. When I learned that something was decided which I disagreed with, I prayed about it without saying anything. The next day, my husband would say: "I had decided such and such a thing, but I have changed my mind." This was not my previous custom, but I knew that it left a more pleasant aftertaste and brought more joy to my heart.

I felt myself changing. When I learned how to help people while keeping my feelings to myself, I felt more joy.

### **The world which I didn't have**

As the days passed, I felt envious that my husband had many things which I didn't have. I held the ideal of Father's words before me, but I never measured up to them. I didn't know my true self, and I constantly walked in tension because of that.

But my husband was very free and natural and he expressed himself very frankly and honestly. Also, he wasn't selfish -- he always lived for the sake of the members. And his actions were an honest expression of his heart. He reflected the world freshly and newly for me. I had been constantly tense because of my awareness of not measuring up to Father's words. Being with my husband, now I felt relief and peace embrace me.

I found that his way of life was completely different from mine. I was so impressed in watching his world of loving people, feeling every moment of his life was alive. It was a really fresh joy for me, and I found a treasure within him. My way of faith was beginning from a standstill. Observing him silently, I could learn many things. It seemed that the world of my heart was opening. I lived for several months finding this joy.

I was always aware of my heartlessness or childishness while observing his attitude towards brothers and sisters. His heart was always with them and he always thought of them more than himself. My heart was very impressed, and I came to truly love anyone who had such a heart.

### **By having received the blessing**

I cooked or washed clothes for several months. At that time, it was difficult to make a foundation for the

main providence in Japan. Many members were working hard for it in our district. Then all wives of the 43 couples were gathered in Tokyo to work on the front line for forty days. When I heard about it, I felt relief in my heart. At the blessing, Father told us, "All blessed wives must stand on the front line of God's providence."

In Tokyo the twelve wives worked together for forty days. In the beginning we couldn't get going in the right direction and we had many struggles. Since I was blessed, I had felt one special trial, which I had been unaware of while single. After the blessing, one's consciousness for the family emerges. The feeling that since I am a housewife I want to live the life of a housewife springs up unexpectedly. On the contrary, however, we worked in our shoes from morning to night during the forty days. So sometimes I envied the housewives I saw doing their grocery shopping.

In these times, questioning emerged within me. Would this course continue all of my life, even if I was blessed? Would the Kingdom of Heaven really be established by working like this? One night I missed Father very much during a forty-minute prayer condition. I questioned why Father had to walk such a difficult path, even doing such unusual and unexpected things, though he had such excellent abilities and could otherwise have been esteemed by everyone.

We have heard so many times that he knew God's situation and providence. But I came to realistically feel that he knew God's tears truly, and at the same time he knew the world which God gave to man originally. That's why he loves and misses the world more than anybody else and works like a crazy man to establish the ideal world. He walks a way which looks silly to this world to internally restore the original world God created. As a matter of fact, Father thought such thoughts, walked such a way, and lived such a life. In prayer, I came to miss Father so much, really believing in the establishment of the ideal world because such a man was living. If we know the man who introduced such a world and built it realistically at the risk of his life, we cannot leave him because our original mind misses him. When I thought that such a world could be established because of him, I felt so sorry that I had been faithless even for a moment. We call him "Father" because he walked such a way, and it's really natural to work hard with him if we are his children.

If the relationship between us is that of parent and child, we have to inherit his world. We must go to the center of his desire, working harder than anybody else, because he blessed us for that purpose. As the victory of God's providence is the task at hand, it is very important to do our best to set the proper foundation. I was very thankful to work for that, thinking not only of the external work, but also of restoring God's original world. When I became determined to meet people with such an attitude, I could become satisfied internally. And then, I could have a consistently good external result.

### **Through letters we shared God's grace**

When I received God's grace, I wrote about it right away. At this time I felt God's heart more than usual. And then, I thought that this was the world which God was going to give everyone, not just me personally. Therefore, whenever I felt God's grace, I wrote to my husband and district members because I wanted so much to share it. Through this, our relationship became much closer. I wrote many letters during the forty days. The members were very happy to receive them, and I felt our hearts were connected through them. Since my husband was a person who appreciated heartistic things, he was very happy about me. I was also encouraged through his letters, which were very delightful.

I came back to his district a different person. Before, I used to sympathetically tell the members when they came back from hard work, "You must be tired, so please rest." But, since I stood on the front line and I knew there was merit in it, I could expansively tell them, "Let's go on. Let's continue. It's no problem." Since then, I came to gradually work more positively for our district. The director also gave me more time for my talks or testimonies.

In 1970, the World Anti-Communist League conference was held in Tokyo. Wives of the 43 couples went canvassing for it. It was the first time we had gone canvassing. We gathered again and started from Kyoto, working 80 days. It was a long time. I sometimes became lonely while separated because my husband and I had established a heartistic base by that time. If it had not been so, it would not have been a sacrifice of love.

I felt our relationship deepen through letters, which I wrote when I felt God's grace or when I had a difficult time. In this second course, I felt something different from the first course. We started every day at 6:00 am with a prayer meeting and speech practice. One day close to the end of the eighty days we prayed and practiced our speeches as usual. Outside, I could see the plum blossoms. I thought, "Oh, spring is coming." Looking at the flowers I longed for my dear husband and brother and sisters. And the next moment, I thought, "Heavenly Father loves all mankind in such a way. The origin of my longing is Heavenly Father." Through my heart, I felt so close to Heavenly Father, who has felt such love for all mankind so deeply more than a thousand times. When I realized that God is awaiting the day when He can embrace all mankind in his heart, I knew that blessed couples should not only have their love, but also

God's love between them. I wanted to turn my longing heart to the people around me. When I realized that God separated us to teach me this, I was grateful and I determined to do my best for God's desire.

### **Thinking now, It was love**

One year later, the third course was fundraising. We volunteered for this. It was the same time that 1,200 Korean wives were pioneering at the risk of their lives, and we felt we couldn't just sit. We went from the north, Hokkaido to the south, Kyushu.

We heard that the Korean wives had sung one song with tears and more tears with our Parents. It was the song, "Our Wedding Dress." The meaning of this song is: "Our wedding dress is a heavenly blessing. Thinking now, of the days when we were so far away, it was love. Thinking now of the days we worked so hard, it was love. Our wedding dress is so beautiful." For us, this song became very popular.

Especially a woman has a strong will toward stability as a housewife when she has a family. But Father always breaks that will, telling us not to seek that standard of life. He pushes us to the way of pioneering. In such a way, we can meet with Father truly and we can inherit the world through which True Parents walked and gained victory.

We usually settle ourselves in general living and fall into our own pace without seeking such a severe life. Therefore when we were sent out to such a course, we can be closer to the world of Father's heart.

I worked very hard from morning to night this time, also. I realized very deeply that I wanted to be part of the world Father is going to give us -- in the future. He is working very hard to gain it, and it is for us. Receiving the so grace which God has prepared for us means inheriting Father's world through the blessing. This is the real "wedding dress." The pioneers in Korea sang this song with gratitude and tears. I really felt that I wanted to continue to have such a spirit after returning to a normal way of life.

### **The fight to become parents**

Right after I came back from this condition, I became pregnant. When I was three months pregnant, the IW system started. My husband and I both became IW's. We brought all of our luggage to the training center and closed our home -- for this mission. Through the three previous courses, I knew that our heart could be the most fulfilled when we walk on the front line of God's will. Therefore, willingly accepting our missions, we set out in different directions.

While traveling as an IW, I had my first daughter in Nagoya. After that, I was given two more children. The next battle begins with having children. I am in that one right now. I feel that this is the most difficult struggle yet. My home is very noisy, so sometimes I carelessly snap at the children. Becoming emotional, I tell them, "You had better do what I say!" Later on I think: what if the rest of mankind were blown off the earth and God had only parents like me on earth. Surely He would want to say: "You'd better do what I say." But instead, He never pushes us. He watches our growth and waits very patiently. If we don't inherit God's heart, we can't say that we are really parents. If we don't have such a character, we can't become parents whom children respect. Ye Jin and Hyo Jin think that their parents are absolute. I feel that such a standard for parents is wonderful.

In the Principle, it says that Satan can't invade the four-position foundation centered on God. If we truly inherit God's love through family foundation and the density of God's love for us becomes great, we will restore the original world and eliminate the original sin.

In the gratitude I felt with the birth of my second child, I remembered Father's words to me in 1965: "When I bless you, I will be marrying off my own daughter, and then I want to see your joyful face and know that you are happy." Also, after the blessing he told me, "I took special time to consider whom I should bless you with." Father gave my husband to me sincerely with the desire for my happiness. He wants to give us the world in which we can be completely happy.

The purpose of the family is not only for a man and woman to live together. It is the place where the desire of all mankind can be accomplished. We are given such a wonderful position. Therefore we are a building history and starting the new world, going beyond the personal level.