

## Aged Couple Guides Three Couples among Family and Friends to the Blessing

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*At an area meeting held at Mr. Akita's house. On the left in the front row are the representative of the Women's Association, Sachiko Kume, and the minister of the Tokushima Bizan Church, Rev. Yoshio Kasai (Komatsushima City, Tokushima Prefecture)*

Mr. and Mrs. Akita (the husband is eighty-eight years old, the wife is eighty-six) are working hard to fulfill their mission as the heavenly tribal messiahs. Let me introduce their testimony on witnessing.

The Akitas blessed among the 40-million-couple Blessing Group and married at the time have made various world contribution, completed ancestor liberation and blessed eight ancestral lines up to 210 generations. Recently, Mr. Akita went through surgery because his legs have become weak; he is constantly in and out of the hospital. However, they are always optimistic toward the providence and their hearts desire to give.

Whenever they harvest their vegetable garden, they distribute vegetables to the people in their district. Not only do they provide their home for area meetings, but they also welcome us with

sincere hospitality by preparing delicious dishes out of the vegetables they have harvested. Therefore, they have obtained deep trust from not only church members but also their relatives and neighbors.

They have witnessed diligently and constantly in spite of their ages, and they have finally reached a time of harvest. Over the past three years, they have led three couples among their families and friends to the Blessing. Among the three couples were Mrs. Akita's younger sister (77) and her husband (79). Mrs. Akita invited her sister to her house and had her listen to Divine Principle lectures several times before informing her about the Blessing. When Dr. Akita said, "I want you to live happily in the same heaven with your husband, even in the spirit world. That is why I want you to receive the Blessing."

The younger sister said, "If you insist," and attended the Blessing ceremony held at the church. Wearing a wedding dress at the Blessing ceremony, she muttered, "I'm shy but I'm happy." She and her husband completed the three-day ceremony, too.

The second couple was Mrs. Akita's one-hundred-years-old female friend, who is in a home for the aged. Mrs. A visited her with the former minister of the Tokushima Bizan Family Church and guided her to the Blessing as a single woman. Dr. Akita's friend was full of vitality and perfectly understood True Parents' teachings. She seemed to be happy to receive the Blessing.

The third couple was Mr. Akita's younger sister (76). She lives alone because her husband passed away last year. She received the Blessing after listening to the church minister Rev. Yoshio Kasai's Divine Principle lectures at Mr. Akita's house. She is still learning the Divine Principle at her brother's house.

The three couples who received the Blessing are all elderly but healthy. Since their perception of the spirit world was vague, the minister's lecture on the spirit world surprised them all and they listened very carefully. They said they feel great hope because the grace of the Blessing connects to their happiness in the spirit world. They expressed appreciation for being able to receive the Blessing.

Mr. and Mrs. Akita have always been earnest on their path of faith. They say, "We are grateful to True Parents for saving us in the most crucial period of life. We are even grateful for trials! All we have to do is to do our best to achieve our goal as heavenly tribal messiahs."