

## How I persuaded my husband to Attend 2016 Cosmic Blessing in South Tokyo

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I am a Japanese Brazilian. I met and married my Japanese husband in Brazil in 1982 and came to Japan in August 1983. I joined the Family Federation in 2009 when I had finished raising our children.

As I studied True Parents teachings, my desire to receive the blessing with my husband grew strong. My husband was a Buddhist and I was a Christian. Since we both had religious faiths and shared a good relationship, I believed it would be easy for us to go through the blessing. However, my husband held intense dislike toward the Family Federation and would not even try to listen to True Parents' teachings.

At the suggestion of my central figure, I offered prayers and practiced Hoon Dok Hae in order to persuade my husband. However, my husband was not supportive of my visiting the church. Moreover, he felt deceived.

He started to leave home often as if he were searching for a place to vent his anger. At times, he would not even come home and I fell into great distress asking myself, "What has happened to us? We were such a loving couple." Back then, all I could think of was that I was right and my husband was wrong and self-centered because he was opposing God. I was desperate to make my husband follow my way, and we were quarreling all the time. The effects of this drove me into a corner and I even started thinking of divorce.

However, God has listened to my desperate prayer. I started to learn the self-pastoral program "The Life of an Owner of Cheon Il Guk" and practiced a prayer named "a prayer to purify my heart" with the help of Rev. Yoshitada Sugita who was appointed church leader two years ago.

It is a wonderful prayer that helps you seek for your conscience when you feel unpleasant. I will ask my conscience, "What was the cause within me that brought me to such a result?" Then I would recite every day, "I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you."

Slowly, changes occurred within me. Until then, I used to think, "I will not forgive my husband. I must not forgive him. If I forgive him, I will lose." Through the prayer of purification, my conscience gave me an amazing "enlightenment" I can forgive him. I have nothing to lose from forgiving him. It doesn't matter if I lose." An indescribable feeling of gratitude welled up from my heart and I wanted to love my husband with God's love.

This made me feel at ease and I was filled with warm feelings. At the same time, I started seeing positive qualities within my husband. Perhaps my husband felt the change in me. He also became kind and we started to communicate more. We finally reached the level where we could work together as a team to figure out various issues.

When I told my husband that I want to receive the blessing with him on such basis, he accepted my proposal. My husband and I attended the Cosmic Blessing hosted by the South Tokyo Parish at the Keio Plaza Hotel (Shinjuku) last year September. Seven years had passed since I first joined the Family Federation and I am truly grateful.