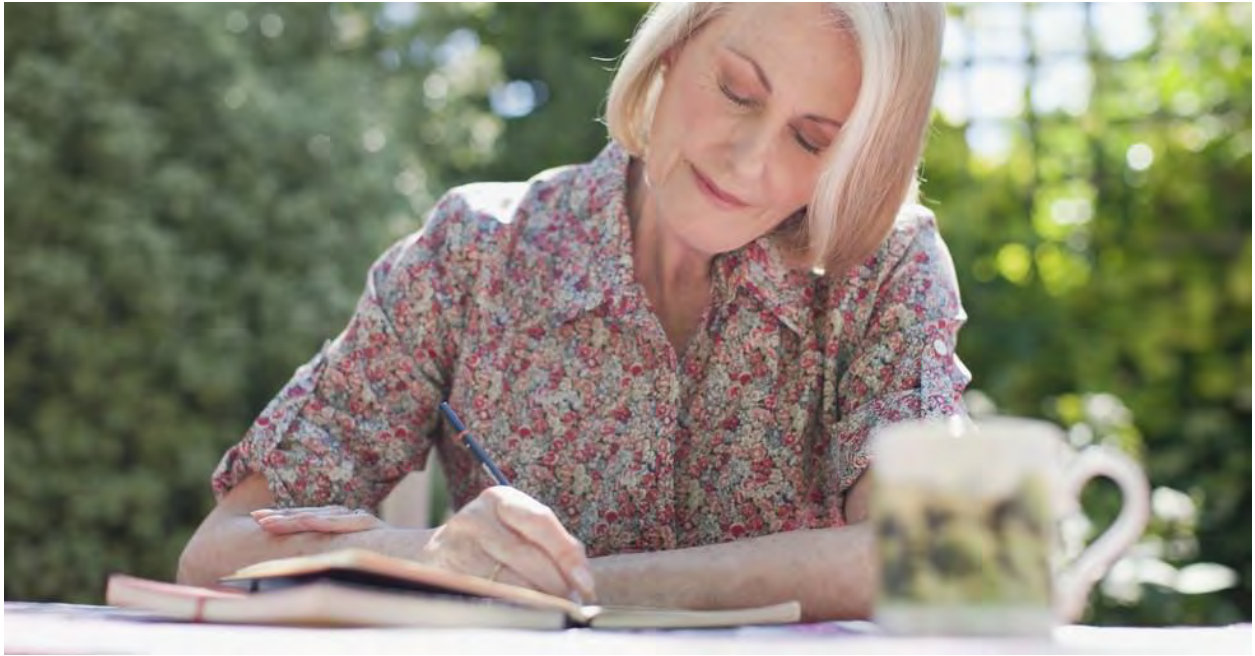


On Writing My Memoirs - Focusing on my internal, personal reflections and relationship with God

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Knowing my long years of working with children, many people encouraged me to write my memoirs. But I could never begin. I thought that if I did manage to write something it might be a humorous collection of the cute comments that children have made over the years.

I had often put such comments in monthly newsletters for parents to read. But whenever I tried writing more extensively, there was no flow of inspiration or ideas; my attempts would come to an abrupt halt. On April 1, 2018, I went out with brothers and sisters in faith to do some spiritual work for one hour. Later on that same day, I visited a Divine Principle website and quickly browsed an article on "How to write your memoirs." It said to just sit down, start to write, to not think of anything else, and just let it flow. I sat down, thinking I would briefly jot down some notes in a draft of memoirs, and the flow began. Apparently, now was the time for me to write. After I had written about four thousand words, I contacted a friend who writes and edits. Yes, he'd be happy to read over my writings. He offered nothing but positive comments and words of encouragement, for which I am most appreciative. I've been writing for three days now, sometimes sitting for several hours in a day, letting it flow -- remembering details, describing more fully, as he said I would.

I contacted another friend who encouraged me to write about things I had experienced in Oakland Family, which I had not planned to write about. I didn't feel I was the best person to share these things. But he said I needn't worry about being an historian. He said memoirs are just recollections of your own experiences that other people need to learn about. When I expressed concern for mistakes or wrong choices I had made in the course of my life, he reminded me that I had sometimes acted as a conduit for God to do good works, and also that I was uniquely special and very loved by God.

I now realize that I write when I am alone, when I experience challenging situations around me, when I experience a kind of emptiness, or when I am unable to sleep until the wee hours of the morning. It seems to be good for me, and best to avoid focusing on negative experiences and instead focus on my internal, personal reflections and relationship with God.