



*Yugo and Fusako Kashiwabara, a couple in their 70's from Fukushima Prefecture*

## **A window pane next to the front door is broken while praying at home**

**Interviewer** : Thank you for this interview today, Mr. and Mrs. Kashiwabara.. You live in a mountainous area in Fukushima Prefecture. We heard that you suffered damage in 2022 when a window of your house was broken. Could you tell us more about the situation at that time?

**Wife** : Yes, former Prime Minister Abe passed away on July 8, 2022. After that, critical press coverage of the Family Federation has intensified and the image of the Family Federation began to deteriorate. When I asked my husband about it, he said it was okay, but I was really worried and thought I had to change this atmosphere, so I decided to pray at night. I am not a good at praying, but I wanted to start praying, thinking that even I could be useful to God. So I started praying every day at home around midnight.

I think it was about 4 or 5 days after I started praying at night. It was about 30 minutes past midnight on August 12. I suddenly heard a loud sound “bang!” from the window pane next to

the front door of my house and I got scared. I felt fear and thought I could not pray. I went to my husband who was already asleep and got into the futon, clinging to him.

The next day, I looked at the window and found a hole in the tempered glass window, which should not be easily broken. It is like being hit by a pebble or something with a rubber slingshot.

A short time after that day, the light switch in front of our front door was sometimes turned on without our knowledge. There are a lot of grass and trees around our house. We sometimes heard rustling walking noises coming from them. It was kind of weird.

**Husband** : Our neighbors know that my husband and I are members of the Family Federation. But they have never said anything bad about it outwardly. I have no idea about what happened and it is really strange. We have also filed a police report, but the culprit has not yet been caught. I just hope the damage is not too extensive.

The broken glass was double glazed and the first of which was broken. Since the glass is expensive, we could not replace it immediately, so we just did first aid and continued to live with the broken glass.



A hole of about 1 cm in diameter in a double-glazing window made of tempered glass

**Interviewer** : Let me change the subject. I heard from a staff member of your church that you have recovered from an illness. May I ask for more details?

**Wife** : I have been ill for 2 years and a half, since December 2021. Suddenly my hip and femur muscles ached. At first, I only thought that maybe my legs hurt from holding my grandchildren too much. But it was still going on the following April, so I had a bone marrow test done and was diagnosed with leukemia. Then I did a lot of treatments for about a year and a half, until about June of last year (2023), but it didn't get better. The hospital told me I had one to three months to live. But I somehow couldn't believe it.

**Husband** : The hospital told me that they will switch my wife's treatment to home nursing. This is so-called end-of-life care. We had one visit, and then I looked for a new hospital for a second opinion. At that time, her white blood cell count, usually around 3,000 to 8,000 ( $\mu\text{L}$ ), had risen to 200,000 ( $\mu\text{L}$ ).

**Wife** : The doctor told me that if it were normal, it would be a wonder I was still alive in that condition. Three months after the doctor told me I had three months to live, I got really sick and couldn't hold anything or write. Even though I tried to keep my mind positive and to be thankful, all I could do was to be demanding and not to be thankful. I was in a state of powerlessness and abandonment, and sometimes I felt so lonely during the day when my husband was not at home for work. Somewhere in the back of my mind, I have a hard time believing that I will really go to the spirit world in three months. ....

But when I was really suffering, my pastor went to Korea and prayed loudly in the Cheon Shim Won prayer room. I was really happy about that. Anyway, pastors of our church try to send spiritual power for church members to be resurrected. Not only that, but everyone in the church takes time out of their lunch hour to come to church and pray for me. How grateful I was for that. I felt the benefit of being prayed for.

**Husband** : When my wife was very sick, the pastor had her stand in front of everyone during the service and told us all to send her power.

**Wife** : That really makes me feel energized by everyone. I felt I was so supported and being kept alive. Around the end of 2021, the prayer room of the church was renewed. Since then, I went to church almost every day to pray. Our church counted the number of days each day since the church's prayer room was renewed. It might be a coincidence, but on that very 700th day (December 8, 2023), after praying at church, I had a checkup at the hospital, and my white blood cell count, which was 200,000 ( $\mu\text{L}$ ), was in the 5000 ( $\mu\text{L}$ ) range! I am still taking anti-cancer drugs, but the doctor at the hospital says it will improve a lot and that I will

be fine.

There was an episode in which Jesus cured a sick man with prayer, wasn't there? I thought that story was true and was very happy. I feel that God and everyone loves me and I am here because of it. I am really thankful every day now.



**Interviewer** : After a difficult battle with the disease, your white blood cell count has returned to normal! What are your thoughts as you look at your wife's miraculous recovery?

**Husband** : I had been praying and meditating at the family altar for a long time when my wife became ill. I asked God, "Will my wife go to the spirit world or not?" Then, I was taught, "She won't go." So I thought it would be fine and was not too worried. I don't think I looked too worried to everyone around me or to my wife. Should I be a little more concerned? (Everyone laughed) I was so happy that she was feeling better.

**Wife** : Also, children were very accommodating and did a lot for me. Daughters are nurses, so they helped me by buying me a home nurse call and preparing other things for me.

**Husband** : Children lived with us and help her fight the disease for about six months, with

permission from their work places, bringing all of their grandchildren.

**Wife** : I was supported by my husband, children, church leader, church members, and many others. In the meantime, I got better too. God loved me and kept me alive.

**Interviewer** : So many people cheered you up! Thank you for sharing your valuable story with us.