



*Suzue Morino (pseudonym), a woman in her 70's from the Tokyo metropolitan area*

## **Beaten by husband, ribs cracked**

**Interviewer** : Thank you for this interview, Mrs. Morino. When did you join the Family Federation?

**Morino** : I was witnessd in 1988 after I married, had a baby, and was raising my children. Around that time, a friend of mine had already joined the Family Federation, and she shared the Unification Principle with me, and I began to study it. Actually, I had already known about it because my younger brother had been led to join the Family Federation in the 1970s, but when I actually went to the church, I was happy to see that it was a very fine place. (Laughs)

I also went to a Christian church near my house when I was in high school and had read the Bible. I was interested in things like whether God existed or not, and what happens when we die. When I read the Bible, I wondered why God didn't exercise equality (in regards to Cain and Abel), but I understood why after listening to the lectures of the Unification Principle. I thought that it was something that could be applied in everyday life.

**Interviewer** : Did your husband oppose your faith?

**Morino** : It was a time when left-leaning newspapers were frequently criticizing the Unification Church. I had actually been attending the church and thought it was not as bad as people were making it out to be. However, when my husband found out that I was attending Unification Church, he vehemently opposed. My husband is usually very calm, but he sometimes became violent.

When I would be sleeping at night, he would get up at 2 or 3 in the morning and get angry at me, telling me to quit the Unification Church. I was very scared. I was young, in my 40s at the time, so I sometimes resisted.

No matter how much my husband opposed me, quitting the church was not an option because I was so happy to have found this faith and had a strong desire not to leave. When the opposition was really severe and I couldn't go to church or when things got difficult, I read Father's words (sermons of Rev. Sun Myung Moon). Father had said (in his sermons that) he had gone to places where he did not necessarily want to go, and that he had to love people and things that were sometimes difficult to love. I felt, "Oh, Father went through the same thing I was going through," and it was like I had received an answer that "I had to go in love like he did."

**Interviewer** : From your point of view, what do you think are some good points about people in the church?

**Morino** : Well, after all, True Parents (Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife President Hak Ja Han) are the core of the group, and since we study the same word, we do have a bond. Also, they are good at listening to what people have to say and can talk on intrinsic matters. With ordinary people, it is difficult to talk about what's really in my heart. My church friends are my friends for life. I am grateful for this church.

**Interviewer** : Since 2022, the conditions, in which churches and followers of the Family Federation have found themselves in, have changed drastically. How have things changed around you, Mrs. Morino?

**Morino** : Around 2013—about 25 years after I started my journey of faith—I was in my late 60s at the time, and I asked my husband to let me go on my own path. He never fully

understood my faith, so I had been managing to go to church by faking it, saying that I was “going out to meet friends.” I didn’t like that. I thought he might oppose me again, but I gathered up my courage and talked with him. It took about three years, but I managed to gain his understanding and he allowed me to attend church services.

Then two years ago (2022), after the incident happened and there was a lot of coverage on TV and in the newspapers about the Family Federation, things fell apart again. My husband started getting angry again. When he would get angry, he would hit me or poke me, and he broke my ribs twice. He once grabbed my arm so hard that it **bruised up**. When my husband would get angry, he would shout, “Why don’t you quit!” and “You’ve made such a mess of my life!” He would become a different person.

My husband has never apologized for what he did. I wonder if he even remembers whether he has physically attacked me or not. I am afraid my husband will get angry, so I don’t mention them to him.

診療明細書			
患者番号	104614	氏名	[REDACTED]
受診日		令和 4年 8月 [REDACTED]	様 (外)
区分	項目名	点数	回数
初・再診	*初診料	288	1
投薬	*処方箋料 (リフィル以外・その他)	68	1
	*一般名処方加算 2 (処方箋料)	5	1
処置	*肋骨骨折固定術	500	1
画像診断	*単純撮影 (イ) の写真診断	2 枚	1
	単純撮影 (デジタル撮影)		
	フィルムレス		
	電子画像管理加算 (単純撮影)		
	撮影部位 (単純撮影) : その他 ; 左肋骨	287	
	以下余白		

Medical statement at the time of rib fracture

**Interviewer** : Even after all that, have you not considered divorcing your husband?

**Morino** : I have no intention of doing so. Divorce has never been mentioned by my husband.

In fact, we did live separately for about 10 years, but that was due to my husband's job, not marital disputes. However, during that time, my father-in-law was opposed to my faith, and he repeatedly asked me to leave the house. (I was living together with my parents-in-law.) So my husband said, "If it's too hard, you can leave the house (temporarily)," so I rented an apartment near my in-laws' house for about seven years and lived there with my children. Later, when my mother-in-law passed away, I moved back into that home. For the next seven years, I devoted myself to taking care of my father-in-law, hoping to be filial to him as his son's wife. Before he passed away, he held my hands in his and called me by my first name and said, "Thank you." Something like that had never happened before.

Also, my husband recently said that when he was living away from home, there were only a few people around him (that he could talk to) that he felt like he was going crazy. I hadn't realized how lonely he was (during that time) until recently.

I lived with my father- and mother-in-law, but I don't think either of them were the type to express their affection towards their child (Morino's husband) in a straightforward manner. My mother-in-law was also a simple person. My husband may be acting this way toward me because of his loneliness towards his parents.

So, these days, I believe that we will come to understand each other someday, and I want to make an effort to be able to treat my husband like a mother in some respects.

**Interviewer** : Don't you ever wonder about the possibility that your husband's opposition towards your faith will intensify and that you will get injured (again)?

**Morino** : If TV and newspaper coverage increased, he may be violated again. In any case, my only hope at this moment is that the order to dissolve not be handed down.