

Pat's Stories: Miscellaneous  
Mamie Seto:

In 1953, Mamie Seto was a long time Bahá'í who was a member of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States. In the opening of the World Crusade (1953-1963) the Guardian issued a call to pioneering. She was one of the five members who resigned from the National Spiritual Assembly and went to a pioneering post. Mrs. Seto went to Japan.

I first became aware of her when she came to Sacramento in 1964 to speak at a meeting sponsored by the local Spiritual Assembly. To the best of my knowledge I could not have done anything other than say hello, as it was a large gathering and I was a new Bahá'í. Actually, I don't even remember saying that.

The following year, our family was at Bahá'í Summer School, Geyserville California. I was sitting with a gathering listening to one of the talks being given under the wonderful, large tree that was its hallmark feature.

My first born daughter, Lynn, who had been out playing with the other children, came up to me quietly and said "Mom, a lady wants to talk to you." I said "OK, but not now honey, I am listening to this talk" She in turn, who was normally a well behaved and obedient child kept insisting that I come "now" as the lady said to her "child, go get your Mother" and she also said "now". By this time the whispered conversation I was having with Lynn was beginning to penetrate the Bahá'ís near me, and with them looking at us, I said, alright and got up to follow Lynn to the lady.

As I went across the all but empty field I could see a woman sitting in a chair all by herself in the field. As I got closer, I could see it was Mamie Seto! I went up to her and said "Mrs. Seto, you wanted to see me?" She looked up, looked me straight in the eyes and said "I want you to go pioneering!". I was really taken aback, but as Frank and I had already made that decision ourselves, I told her that. She nodded, said "good" and put her head back down, with nothing more to say.

In the next months, our efforts to go pioneering seemed to be stymied. Frank, with Engineering background and experience had written, it seemed to us, everywhere looking for a job. But we persisted. During that we again went to Geyserville to hear Hand of the Cause of God, Bill Sears, speak.

As one might expect, considering the esteem the Bahá'ís hold for a Hand of the Cause, the meeting hall was packed. His talk had already started; we were sitting near the back. Our row began to shuffle a bit to allow someone who had arrived late to take a seat at the far end of the row. As she passed me, I saw it was Mamie Seto. She didn't look at me, continued to her seat, but then leaned forward, somehow knowing I was still looking at her, she said "you're still here".

I whisper back, "we are going!" She nodded and our conversation was once again terminated.

Not too long after, in 1965, our pioneering wishes were granted. We went first to Puerto Rico. Frank got a job and lost it. The Foreign Goals Committee said to try St. Thomas as they were to form the first National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the Leeward, Windward and Virgin Islands. Frank did get a job there and we moved in 1966.

In October 1967, Six Intercontinental Conferences were called by the Universal House of Justice, the closest to us was being held was in Chicago, Illinois. We were privileged to attend.

During a break in the sessions, we were standing in one of the corridors. I looked up to see the Bahá'ís parting as if it were the Red Sea and in the middle walked Mamie Seto! I was astounded! As she got to me, she stopped, looked at me, and saysaid "you're back", I said "oh no, Mrs. Seto, we are just here for the Conference". She nodded, said "good", gave me kiss on the cheek and was on her way!!

A few years later, one night I awoke from a sound sleep, thinking Mamie Seto is dying. One of my friends in the States who knew this story later contacted me with the same information. I only replied "I heard".

I swear, that is the complete conversations I had with Mrs. Seto. How did she know??? What a wonderful and mysterious religion we belong to. We have guardian angels, who for the most part, we don't even know about. God is good!