

## LAURA'S BIOGRAPHY

Laura Lykes was born Laura Jean Wilson on December 28, 1953 in Teaneck, NJ. Her parents, John Orley Wilson and Laura Ann Wood settled in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania when she was 3 years old where she spent her formative years. Her brother Michael and sister Elaine were very close even during the difficult family times. Laura was an excellent student who graduated from South Hill High School in 1971. She enjoyed the drama club and being in plays. Later she attended The University of Pittsburg with an interest in Psychology.

Laura was an independent person and thinker who wanted to better understand the human side of our world. After High School she became interested in exploring what life was like outside of Pittsburgh and at 19 left home for Arizona where she live in a commune. In this environment Laura began to see the greater world of diversity in people and religion. She later traveled to San Francisco where she joined the Unification Church.

In 1981 Laura was Blessed in marriage by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon to Lorman Lykes in a Unification Church ceremony. Lorman was a student at the time and she supported him by working at Jean's Foods, a business owned by Dr. Bo Hee Pak in Washington DC. Later she moved to New York City after her husband graduated from Unification Theological Seminary and became a church pastor. They had 3 children in New York - Adelle, Emerson and Esther. During these years, while Laura was a devoted mother and wife, she was also an active participant in her husband's ministry. At the same time she made time to pursue her own life's mission and served for many years as a staff person for the International Conference for the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS), originally founded in 1974 by Dr. Moon. In 1992 Laura's husband was called to Detroit, Michigan where they moved and had a fourth child, Emmanuel.

In 1999 the Lykes Family moved to Washington DC where Laura began working at the World Media Association, a logical extension of here work with ICUS. Most recently, she worked in the office at New Hope Academy in Maryland and The Washington Times newspaper in the human resources department.

At her core, however, Laura is best known as a person who earnestly seeks for righteousness and equality for all people, and who sincerely seeks to experience the tender love of God and share that tender love with all around her.