

themselves prompt, but most of the time, I haven't seen women who would make that change possible. Wherever I go, I think that they already know their place. Maybe they'd be able to be more open if there were open-minded bishops or stake presidents who would listen to some of the feelings and the ideas of the women. But when women get the message that their job is to be supportive and just agree with the decisions of the bishop, they become clams.

*Greg Prince:* Should the Relief Society president sit in on bishopric meetings?

*Chieko Okazaki:* It would be a great idea. They are in the council meetings, but in many council meetings the person who is in charge is the only one who is talking. I'm on several community boards, and sometimes I'm the only woman there or one of two or three women. I'm on the YWCA advisory board; I'm on the advisory board for the University of Utah Graduate School of Social Work; and I'm on the Belle Spafford Chair board. If I got the message that I was supposed to just sit there and listen to the men, I'd quit that board. I'd say, "What am I here for?" I speak up a lot in all of these board meetings.

In contrast, in 1995 when "The Family: A Proclamation to the World" was written, the Relief Society presidency was asked to come to a meeting. We did, and they read this proclamation. It was all finished. The only question was whether they should present it at the priesthood meeting or at the Relief Society meeting. It didn't matter to me where it was presented. What I wanted to know was, "How come we weren't consulted?"

*Greg Prince:* You didn't even know it was in the works?

*Chieko Okazaki:* No. They just asked us which meeting to present it in, and we said, "Whatever President Hinckley decides is fine with us." He decided to do it at the Relief Society meeting. The apostle who was our liaison said, "Isn't it wonderful that he made the choice to present it at the Relief Society meeting?" Well, that was fine, but as I read it I thought that we could have made a few changes in it.

Sometimes I think they get so busy that they forget that we are there. It's different from the time when Belle Spafford was president of the Relief Society. She was her own boss, as I read her life.