

Comments

The profession of a fisherman clearly is not one for the fainthearted. As True Father stated in his Autobiography: "Catching fish is not a pleasure cruise." Every time a fisherman leaves the safety of a harbor, he puts his life on the line, not knowing whether he will make it back safe and sound. Paul and I personally experienced this fact many times during our fishing trips in Gloucester during the World Tuna Tournaments, but even more so, on the treacherous North Sea. After weathering a very dangerous storm near Helgoland, where we almost didn't make it back to the harbor, I told my husband: "That's it, never again." But guess what, we were out on the ocean again the very next week, and it was such a thrill to catch 6 mackerels dangling on one fishing rod, even if they were just small fish compared to a tuna. The ocean truly has a mysterious effect and magnetic power that's irresistible, the never ending fascination of God's beautiful creation.

During the Tuna Tournaments, sleep was a novelty for Father as well as for all of us, and going out at 4:00 am took quite some effort. In the early morning hours it was so bitter cold on the water, and shivering for hours, we couldn't wait for sunrise to get warmed up. These experiences were very special though, and I can relate quite well to Captain Gerhard's experiences out on the ocean as well as to the "mud-fishing for carp" adventures in the lagoon of Barrytown, we also participated in , supervised by Father himself.

Gerhard, this wonderful testimony of your day to day activities with Father on the ocean, especially during the annual tuna season, is priceless for generations to come. They can never be repeated. Whatever Father sets out to do, he invests himself totally, from the highest to the most menial tasks, never shying away from hard work or extreme conditions. Even now,

at the age of 93, he can be seen out on the water. How incredible. Father's boundless love for God and His magnificent creation, especially for the ocean and all its creatures, from the smallest to the most majestic, comes to light in your book and is also so beautifully expressed in the song: "How great thou art!"

True to your deep love for God and our beloved True Parents, you devoted your whole life to serve and protect them and to fulfill your difficult mission in Ocean Church. I was also deeply touched by the way you handled your responsibilities towards brothers and sisters under your care, always having their safety and well-being in mind.

To sum it all up: "If you want to be successful in life, follow Father's tradition!"

Mrs. Christel Werner, wife of the former president of the Unification Church of Germany, Paul Werner.

Even just reading the introduction of Gerhard Peemoeller's *Fishing with Our Father* you will perceive immediately that you are faced with an inspiringly honest and intimate account of sharing life with Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, identified as Lord of the Second Advent. Many of us may have asked ourselves as I have *what would I do if I could meet the Messiah at his Second Coming?*

One can feel the presence of Christ through the sincerity expressed in and between the lines of every chapter. Some may have misunderstood and imagined that Rev. Moon enjoyed a lot of free time on his yacht to escape other duties on land. Gerhard certainly shows that nothing could be further from the truth.

We can learn through the sincerity of Gerhard's description many intricacies of attending God as evidenced by Rev. Moon's behavior to make him a *real* fisherman. One is constantly reminded how Jesus wished to make his followers *fishers of men*, because Gerhard is teaching special aspects of the *Principle* on every page through his one-on-one experience with True Father.

As I know Gerhard did not have much formal education, but God certainly prepared his heart in extraordinary ways to give this historically most significant account. He gives profound insights in the life of the Messiah, his struggle to liberate America and the world, and the various and different responses of people who came into contact with him during this special time. I feel this simple book is most significant as a contribution for understanding these *last days*. As it addresses significant persons around Rev. Moon in an informal way without much introduction it may stimulate readers to dig deeper and investigate the origins of this movement for liberation and unification which Gerhard is so proud of.

From my own limited experience as a part-time only fisherman educated by Rev. Moon I know that the ocean and its fruit have an extraordinary potential to educate and give experience of *dominion over creation*. Blessed is he who can count on such events as highlights of his spiritual life.

Fishing with Our Father is also an honest personal account of a disciple trying to settle past errors and doing justice where it is due. I commend this with great respect, hoping it can be a guideline for many who are seriously concerned about eternal life as we should all be. Who has had an experience with the living God? Who can affirm God's principles? Who and how is a man of God? Gerhard gives many implicit answers from personal experience and expresses a fervent hope that future generations may assimilate the essence of life with Christ.

Gerhard also displays an exceptional gift of premonition which is a sign of his deep relationship with God. Having been guided by dreams and coming to understand God's love for humankind through the Messiah he gives much hope to anyone that it is possible to achieve an intimate and clear vertical relationship.

While *Fishing with Our Father* is not necessarily polished in expression or completely follows a synchronized timeline it nevertheless is an authentic account relating wonderful divine feelings while connecting to the arduous work of practical fishing. Even people with no experience on the ocean can sense a special presence and the 'buzz' of being with God.

How historically special and precious it is to attend the Lord in person and how much more frustrating it will be for many to have missed the chance! I offer sincerest wishes that Gerhard's efforts in creating this historic account will touch people everywhere profoundly and contribute to hasten the realization of God's wish for a peaceful world.

Dr. Ernst Gerhard Bessel, former president of the Unification Church of Germany.