

My Testimony to Natural Witnessing

Bruce Sutchar
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Bruce Sutchar and Kristina Morrison Seher, the person who persuaded Bruce to go to a workshop

I was given the blessing of witnessing in Oakland from 1976-1982, which means I had the opportunity to work with some of our movement's best witnesses including, Sheri Reuter, Dr. Mose Durst, Jennifer Morrison, and Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) activist Mrs. Caroline Betancourt. Between them there must have been hundreds of spiritual children. We would go every day to Market Street in downtown San Francisco or to Fisherman's Wharf.

The times were perfect for us as back packers from all over the world were coming to San Francisco with flowers in their hair, looking for the meaning of life. That was exactly how I joined the movement—then known as the Creative Community Project in the Bay area. Rest assured -- being Jewish I was not about to join any church (and I had done exactly that—not joined some spiritual communities who sold organic food and believed in the reality of Atlantis, or Scientology, etc.). But after dropping out of my Ph.D. program in counseling and psychology, in order to see if I could find any really happy people, I met the members of the Creative Community Project in San Francisco, came over for dinner at Washington Street on Christmas Eve, 1976 and never left. Dr. Durst gave me my first “elephant lecture” and Poppy Richie acted out the slide show, since the projector bulb was broken. I didn't like the fact that they changed Bob Dylan's lyrics to say, “the answer my friend is in the hearts of men,” or how they chanted “bomb with love” in the dodge ball game, but I couldn't deny that they seriously wanted to make the world a better place to live.



"Ryan was the young man I met with my dog, Jersey, and Fannie Smith I met when she was Rev Jesse Jackson's conference coordinator," said Sutchar. "Fannie is now our WFWP Minister of Outreach."

After the first two days I was inspired, but I had to get back to Oregon in order to pick up my dog-trainer boss who was returning from Ohio with some Afghan Hounds. That's when one Unificationist woman simply said to me, “Why don't you stay and study these ideas with us for another week.” So, I called my boss, apologized and decided to follow my conscience which was telling me that somehow I was in the right place at the right time.

I donated my last \$40 (which was a \$25 savings bond that my grandparents had bought when I was born and 36 years later) and I am still studying these principles.)

I probably have brought about as many guests to dinner programs in San Francisco, Berkeley, New York, Boston, Albuquerque, Cheyenne, Wyoming and Chicago as anyone in our movement, save Sheri Reuter, but sadly, I did not have the loving and mature-enough heart needed to help all of them commit their lives to God and True Parents. But at least a few have stayed long enough to get matched and Blessed.

One guest who stayed about six weeks said to me that she realized that we had absolutely nothing in common, but because of our witnessing system, she could connect with others more compatible for her. Yet, as much as I spent hours on the streets directly witnessing, my spiritual children did not join from those efforts.



"I met him on 6th avenue in New York City during the witnessing summit," said Sutchar

How I Met Spiritual Children

I met my first spiritual child near the San Francisco library with Ricky Joswick during a bomb scare. The young man said that he was a narcotics officer and would come to dinner after just one more bust that he had finish. We quickly learned that it was always best to accompany one's guest to the dinner program, because if you let them go home, ("leave the dead to bury the dead,") Satan would get them one way or another. Amazingly, he showed up at the evening dinner program and spent at least a few weeks in Boonville (our workshop site 100 miles north of San Francisco).

Our workshop was designed for Western members who were not necessarily religious and were definitely not looking for a church (or synagogue). For instance, we taught the Fall of Man and called it "the Cause of Crimes." I met another spiritual child selling flowers at a sandlot volleyball game down at the California coast. David Rendel was my team captain, and though I made exactly zero dollars at the tournament, I did witness to an Olympic volleyball player who came over for dinner a few weeks later and like me, never left. The interesting thing is that every day we recited the chant, "Bring a second self today and stay." This meant that we were focusing on meeting people just like us. I met my first spiritual daughter in a hot tub at the YMCA in Kingston, New York while I was studying at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS). She was a local girl and I met her with one of my best friends and soul mates; an Austrian seminary sister. We taught her the Divine Principle while still at UTS. She set some really good conditions and then came to join me in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Eventually she was blessed to a French Chef and now is the proud mother of three beautiful children.

I now have a natural witnessing dog, Jersey, who herself has two spiritual children. The first one is a wonderful minister. Pastor Zanetta was parked next to us (Jersey travels with me everywhere) and was praying in her van when we pulled up beside her. After she got out of her van she looked at Jersey and Jersey smiled at her. She told me that Jersey's smile was the answer to her prayers. We have attended Pastor Zanetta's church on several occasions, and she is an excellent preacher.



Witnessing contacts Sutchar met in a restaurant

Jersey's second spiritual child is a young man named Ryan. We met Ryan on a walk in the neighborhood. Ryan is a school teacher who gave up all his worldly possessions and moved back home to figure out what he was supposed to do with life. We went out for coffee and I spent about one hour sharing about Father's life and another hour sharing my own testimony. Since that time, Ryan has attended Lovin' Life, our church picnics, Heather Thalheimer's introductory Vision class and most importantly, he has spent numerous hours with me and my wife talking about many of the most essential

questions about life.

Giving Out the Autobiography

Over the years I have witnessed in line at the Department of Motor Vehicles (a suitable location because new people have to change their drivers licenses when they move to a new state) and there I met a professor who was standing next to me in line; a young lady working for Greenpeace handing out flyers on the street who goes to one of our ACLC churches, the manager of a local Radio Shack (to whom I gave Father Moon's autobiography book) and this very week I met a poet standing in front of his college. I gave him a \$1 donation and my wife and I enjoyed reading his poem about the pains in God's heart over dinner. Yesterday, [April 24, 2013] I went back to where I had met the poet armed with a copy of Father's autobiography. I was not sure that he would be there, but not only was he there, but he was being witnessed to by one of our own Unificationist sisters. Since she did not have a copy of Father's autobiography with her, I could give him the one that I brought. I have also given out Father's autobiography to congressmen, politicians, stewardesses, Korean dry cleaners (Korean version), Hispanics (Spanish version) and many others.

One of most important things about witnessing is to follow up. For us older members (although, I was there when Father said that anyone born after World War II is actually second generation!) we truly have to heed what Abraham told Lot and not look back or we will be turned into a pillar of salt.

What that means is that we have to forget that people used to scream at us, call us "Moonies" and run away. Most people under 50 have never heard of the Unification Church; some think that we are the same as the Unity Church or the Unitarian Church. But the bottom line is that most of the negativity is no longer there, so we have to stop being afraid of telling people about Father directly.

Last year I met an English businessman in his mid-thirties in downtown Chicago. We talked for several minutes and then he turned the conversation in a spiritual direction. When he asked me what church I attended, I told him, and he said he had never heard of the Unification Church or its founder. So brothers and sisters, let's get out before January 13th (and after as well) and share the breaking news with everyone we meet. Let's not forget to listen (this is a very key point when meeting any new person). If we think of the *Divine Principle* as a diamond—what a waste it would be to keep a diamond in our pocket where nobody can see it. People wear diamonds on their fingers, around the necks and in their hair. With the Divine Principle, we must do the same.

God Bless you all.