

American Missionaries, I'd like to help you write a book about your experience

Wolfgang Schawaller
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1975
**VON DEUTSCHLAND
IN DIE WELT**

30 Auslandsmissionare
der Vereinigungsbewegung
berichten von ihren Erlebnissen

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Wie beschreibt man das Gefühl, wenn man verdächtigt wird, ein CIA-Agent zu sein und im Gefängnis landet, obwohl man über Gottes Plan für eine friedliche Welt sprechen möchte? Oder wie, wenn man in einem Niemandsland stecken bleibt, weil einem die Grenzposten die Einreise verwehren?

Dieses Buch enthält die Erfahrungsberichte von 30 Deutschen, die 1975 mit bewundernswerter Zuversicht als junge Missionare der Vereinigungsbewegung in ferne Ländern gingen. Ihr Auftrag: Im Namen der Wahren Eltern Brücken zu bauen zwischen den Kulturen und Religionen und Hoffnung auf Frieden in die Herzen der Menschen zu säen.

Die Erlebnisse dieser Missionare sind geprägt vom Spannungsverhältnis zwischen den Schwächen der Menschen und der Kraft Gottes. Ihre Erinnerungen machen deutlich, dass jedem, der Gutes in dieser Welt bewirken möchte und bereit ist, dafür Opfer zu bringen, zuverlässig Hilfe zuteil wird.

Dear American Missionaries,

My name is Wolfgang Schawaller. I'm a 1975 German Missionary.

46 years have now passed since True Parents sent us all out as foreign missionaries.

In 2006 a book was published called "Mission Butterfly". That was a collection of testimonies from Austrian missionaries who were sent out behind the Iron Curtain. At that time Communism was still an awesome threat. In True Mother's biography she wrote: 'Because of "Mission Butterfly" missionaries, True Parents could meet Michail Gorbatschow in Moscow.' With the blood, sweat and tears they shed, a strong foundation was created - which eventually brought down Communism. That book they wrote is now well-known in our worldwide Unification movement. Even the Korean FFWPU created a musical about those courageous east-bloc missionaries.

When that book came out in 2006 and I saw the musical performance, I felt very sad. I felt: in comparison, we the 1975-missionary group from Japan, America and Germany seem to have been forgotten by our worldwide Unification movement.

But when we witness today the successes of our True Mother in the Philippines, Nepal, the African continent and South America (just to mention a few countries/regions that were pioneered by us 1975-missionaries).

She meets heads of state, and other great breakthroughs can be observed in the past 5 years. All are impressed by the presidents, prime-ministers and religious leaders speaking at the Rallies of Hope.

I feel it is the blood, sweat and tears that we 1975-missionaries shed, that made the foundation for the fruits True Mother could harvest today.

More than 10 years ago I felt the strong inspiration, that we 1975-missionaries must record our experiences in a book for posterity. About 4 years ago the German missionaries (as many as we could gather) met for a kind of unofficial 'reunion' - wherein testimonies were shared with tears. A year later we met again, and I renewed my proposal: that we need to write a book. About 2 years ago we began writing down our own stories - enlisting the support of a German sister - Marianne Burtzloff - who is a professional German-language editor. With her help we published the German missionary book last month. 30 Missionaries contributed; the book is 600 pages long.

The first copy of the German book was presented to True Mother already.

During the last 3 weeks we've been doing weekly book-presentation-readings on zoom. I invited 60 US missionaries to join those readings (which include simultaneous English translation), of which a few attended.

Our book is now in the process of being translated into English. We hope once the book exists in English, it will also be translated into Korean.



When we started our German-missionary-book, I had the vision that America and Japan must write up books of their stories in comparable quality as well. Our efforts should not be forgotten in our own movement. That vision kept me going until we could achieve the goal of publishing our German book. We must remind brothers and sisters in our Church about what we did. In my heart I felt that: we must record our testimonies not only for True Parents and Church history now, but also for our future generations to refer to, even after we are gone from this earth.

Our German Book is indeed a good start, but by itself not enough. Imagine if we had books from the 1975-missionaries of Japan, America and Germany? What an impact that would have!!

Last Sunday at the Peace and Blessing event, True Mother reminded that True Parents sent American Missionaries out to the world.

If I can be of help, I'd like to assist you in writing your own American book.

Best regards to you all!!

Wolfgang Schawaller (now settled in my wife's hometown of Vienna, Austria)

PS: I'm planning to write a similar letter to the 1975 former Japanese missionaries.