

Rev. Sun Myung Moon took the leading fundraising teams fishing

Ken Weber
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Reverend Moon and the Flying Phoenix join the fundraisers.

Jesus once said that we must be "fishers of men," and he sent his disciples out into the world. Yet, what an honor it must have been for the fundraisers who were invited by Reverend Moon to go out into the ocean to catch live fish!

At the close of the fundraising contest at Belvedere on June 28, 1974, Reverend Moon took the leading fundraising teams out fishing. A boat was chartered for the fundraisers and Reverend Moon later joined them with the "Flying Phoenix." Much to the surprise of the captain of the boat, everyone seemed to love the stormy weather out on the ocean.

When the captain warned everyone that soon the waves would be breaking over the front of the boat, many people rushed forward where they would be splashed, and one of the mates informed the captain that it looked like they would be disappointed if the waves did not splash over the front of the boat!

Because of the stormy weather few fish were caught. But it was a day of much excitement and adventure, and the fundraisers constantly received inspiration by seeing Reverend Moon nearby in the "Flying Phoenix."

Many of the fundraisers were exhausted from the week of fundraising and a few fell asleep inside the boat. But, for the most part, the boat was always alive with enthusiasm generated by everyone on board. The captain of the boat, who had thought that our members would not be able to stand up against the stormy weather, finally gave in to their enthusiasm and took the boat out into the roughest part of the ocean, where everyone wanted to go, and gave them a ride through the waves before going back to shore.

Upon getting back to shore the captain apologized that the weather hadn't been better. (He still couldn't believe that everyone had enjoyed themselves so much.) But everyone cheered and said that the weather had been beautiful. Everyone then thanked him and he walked off smiling, still somewhat amazed at everyone's enthusiasm.

After that Reverend Moon took everyone to dinner in New York City and then to see the movie, "The Sting," with Paul Newman and Robert Redford. Then, after saying good-bye to Reverend Moon everyone went back to Belvedere with a fresh new feeling, now realizing that even a day of rest or play has the most value when you have poured all of yourself into that day.