

21-Day Peace King Cup Fishing Tournament Fishing Tournament

Kensaku Takahashi and Yoshie Manaka

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(Left to right): Members of Generation Peace Academy and Leadership Initiative Samuel Ferrete, Elijah Whitmore, Aika Davis, Klein Gauthier, Marcus Hill, and Kazuhiro Omori pose with Captain Mitsuru Nakatsuji and their catches after a day of fishing.

The annual *Peace King Cup Fishing Tournament* on the Hudson River, concluded after 21 days on Friday, May 18, 2012, was a hit with 70 young Unificationists. The tournament was established in 2000 by National Ocean Church to commemorate the Holy Wedding Anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. An awards ceremony for the winners was held on Sunday, May 27 at the Manhattan Center.

The tournament was organized by Jana Iparraguirre, communications and media director for District 3 (New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware) and Captain Kensaku Takahashi, who captains Rev. Moon's boat when he is in the United States. The competition, which was held on the Hudson River, had a total of 110 participants, 70 of whom were under 21 years of age and three of whom were prize winners.

Iparraguirre said she was particularly inspired that so many second-generation Unificationists participated in the tournament. "Our youngest participant was in sixth grade. Members of Generation Peace Academy (GPA) were able to fish as well, so that was a great addition to the competition. The captains really enjoyed having the younger crowds around. And three out of the four winners were under the age of 21! Because of all the young participants, I see a bright future for Ocean Church – and for the future of this tournament."

The grand prize of \$3,000 and a trophy was awarded to Rev. Ki Leal Lee, national Korean Evangelical Association (KEA) leader, whose bass measured 44". In second, third and fourth places were second-generation Unificationists Matthew McMahon from New Jersey (41"), Young Jin Jeon, a member of KEA from New York, and Justine Spicciani, a GPA participant from Alabama (36.5"), respectively.

Dr. Tyler Hendricks, former national president of Ocean Church, said the organization was founded under the direction of Rev. Moon in the early 1980's. "Ocean Church stemmed from True Father's love of the ocean," he explained. "The idea was to begin centers in 30 cities on the United States coastline. He asked us to witness to young people from the ocean-side towns, and to revive the ocean industry in the United States. The boat would be the church. Through fishing, the young people would be challenged and come in touch with God. This was his vision for expanding as a movement.

“Today, Ocean Church is being continued by a few individual members who love the ocean, love fishing, and want to pass that on. Ocean Challenge is a program organized by Ocean Church that typically takes place in Kodiak during the summer and that allows youth to experience the Unificationist perspective on fishing. This year, there will be a program for ages 16 and above from July 15th to August 5th, and a program for 13-15 year olds from August 5th-19th. Ocean Church also sponsors the *Peace King Cup Fishing Tournament*, as well as one that takes place annually during the fall in Alaska.”



Winners and coordinators of the fishing tournament receive their trophies at the awards ceremony in the Manhattan Center. The trophy-winners are (left to right): second-generation Unificationists Justine Spicciani, Young Jin Jeon and Matthew McMahan and Evangelical Association (KEA) leader, Rev. Ki Leal Lee.

Iparraguirre said the new 21-day format for the tournament was proposed by Terry McMahan, a first-generation Unificationist and volunteer for the New Jersey Ocean Church. “Last year, the tournament only lasted one day and it rained. Not as many people were able to participate and no one caught any fish over 40 inches,” she said. “This time, there were more opportunities for people to come out and families to come together, because the time-span was much longer.

“This tournament was definitely a success. We had people come all the way up from Maryland. We even had a few non-Unificationists come with their Unificationist friends. This proves that our Ocean Church can be an outreach tool. It’s something people love to do.”

Dr. Ann Iparraguirre, district pastor of District 3 and mother of Jana Iparraguirre, said, “when we organized the tournament, we really tried to keep these words Rev. Moon said about Ocean Church in our hearts and minds:

People who can protect ocean will lead the world from now on. There will come a time when humanity will invest every authority, cultural background, tradition, and national powers to develop the treasures under ocean floors. In order to develop them, the key will be the question of who will occupy the ocean territories first. As we face this question, as the founder of Unification Church or as a historical person of responsibility in the name of True Parents, what kind of place will I leave for the base of Unification Church? It will not be in metropolitan area but it will be at a coast. There, we will do things that no one would ever think of doing. America has retreated from all marine businesses. However, because I know how the world will develop from now, I continue to invest in marine businesses even if it is difficult. Even if I cannot build a big and wide highway through the beginning and the end of history, I train myself alone at sea since I think I need to build at least a small road.” (The Pacific Rim Ocean Providence, 220-11)

Dr. Iparraguirre continued: “Rev. Moon gave us a lot of education about the ocean, and the incredible

amount of participation this year showed us how our Unificationist community is still interested in ocean education. We want to pass on True Father's education about the ocean to future generations, and we plan to tap into this enthusiasm we saw. Because of this, we are planning to revitalize ocean-education work in District 3 and throughout the country.

"I want to thank Ocean Church Director, Captain Kensaku Takahashi and Assistant Director, Captain Mitsuru Nakatsuji, for helping to organize the tournament. I also want to thank Captains Akira Hayashi, Steve Kearney, Andy Fuwa, and Benny Axelsson," said Dr. Ann. "Also, none of this would have been possible without the support we received from national Headquarters. Because they really supported True Parents' vision for Ocean Church, we were able to have such a successful tournament."