

Article by 2nd gen Co-Director of NOCP and President of OPIINC, Naria Gaarder

Clint Woods
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Dear leaders, families, and friends of the Oceanic aspect of the "Third Blessing" arena.

We all appreciate True Mother's leadership in every sector of human life, perhaps none more immediately needed than that of the environment. She has elevated the narrative and process to include top world leaders in search of peaceful solutions. As True Father oft illustrated, the ocean is the key to solving world hunger, energy issues, and so many human struggles that could otherwise pit brother against brother. Just last night, I saw front page news about the "Fishing Wars". Resources wars are nothing new, and as China and other countries become more desperate to feed their burgeoning populations, more illegal and war-like military approaches to encroaching on other nations fishing grounds are escalating.

As part of that process to educate and train experientially and appropriately regarding the ocean and the environment at large, 2nd and 3rd generation leaders are stepping up to take more and more responsibility in line with True Parents guidance. History was made in NOCP's unique attendance of True Parents at Madison Square Garden during the program 2017, as well as 2nd generation largely strategizing, creating, and executing the program this year, with support of key 1st generation experts; a huge success and two thumbs up!

Enjoy the article written by 2nd gen Co-Director of NOCP and President of OPIINC, Naria Gaarder. Ocean Providence International, Inc (OPIINC) is a proactive entity; an "elder son" type of non-profit organization and think tank created to assist with these important processes. OPIINC now features a current report from the internationally successful National Ocean Challenge Program (NOCP) held in Kodiak, Alaska annually for the past nine years.

Feel free to further pursue the OPIINC website and get your "mini-phd" and update on the Ocean Providence. If you like what you see, join or support OPIINC. Also, visit Ocean Challenge.org and check out how you, or someone you know, can attend or get involved with NOCP.

Here's the article link to read and share: opiinc.org/News/a-successful-year-for-the-national-ocean-challenge-program

All the best,

Clint Woods

A Successful Year for the National Ocean Challenge Program

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The National Ocean Challenge started off with a bang this year in July with a new 10 and 24 day option, structure design and surprise change to the schedule. Officially starting on July 6th, three Captains-in-Training (CITs) from across the globe arrived for their training four days prior on July 2nd. From the Bay Area of California came Jonathan von Euw, from England came Oliver Davies, and from South Korea came our returning CIT Mathew Harding. As soon as they arrived they jumped into the schedule of boat maintenance, chart reading, navigation, terminology review, driving the boats and fishing. They also had the opportunity to experience fishing on a charter boat thanks to Chris and JaiNan Fiala, local Kodiak members who operate Kodiak Island Charters.





When the 10-day and 24-day participants arrived for the start of the program, they also jumped right into ocean fishing on the first day. Each morning and day a new theme was given to think about along with a Hoon Dok Hae reading, such as “Our Roots: What is True Parents’ vision for the Ocean?”, “Alaskan Spirit”, and “Leadership”.



The following day was the usual “Classroom Challenge” where all in one day the participants go through their CPR/First aid certification, USCG Auxiliary boating safety class and a tour of the salmon hatchery that plays such a big role for the Kodiak economy and fishing. The next day began the consecutive fishing days on the ocean along with a visit to the Chiniak property for river fishing. Some days on the ocean were sunny and beautiful, while others were rainy and cold, but the young people expressed their gratitude to be able to experience also the challenging weather and to learn to appreciate these aspects of fishing as True Parents did. We were blessed with a gorgeous day in Chiniak where we received a talk on the Principle of Creation on the beach by Pastor and Captain Greg Odlin, fished in the surrounding rivers;

played volley ball; explored the property along the beach and rock formations; heard inspiring words about True Father's term "Alaska Spirit" from the Ocean Church Director, Kensaku Takahashi; and sent off floating lanterns from the beach with the wishes, goals and prayers of the participants written upon them.



The final day of fishing for the first 10-day session was a tournament between the three teams and also the designated "Challenge Day" where everyone gets up at 4am, gathers for pledge and immediately gets ready to go out on the ocean before the sun has come up. Mr. Takahashi's talk about "Alaska Spirit" the day before helped guide the participants and prepare them for the day. Getting up for 6am Hoon Dok Hae was tough enough, but the teams made their goals and got up earlier and determined to accomplish their goals by the end of the tournament. The results were phenomenal. Many assortments of fish were caught, including rock fish, ling cod, yellow eye, halibut and an assortment of salmon.



Living up to Father Moon's "Alaska Spirit", which he expressed means to go out no matter the circumstances when God calls you, all the participants and staff of NOCP were able to practice this when the program was asked to attend Mother Moon's speech at Madison Square Garden on July 15th. On July 13th the group of 16 participants and 8 staff and captains flew to New York City from Kodiak Island. On the way everyone toured around Anchorage during a long layover and had the opportunity to visit Anchorage Garden, have a cookout with the Harnett couple for lunch, and hike up to Portage Glacier. One participant from Uruguay got to see snow for the first time in his life. After a full day of exploring and a snowball fight, the group was back at the airport for their flight to New York. Navigating airport shuttles and subways they arrived at the Manhattan Center on the morning of July 14th where all the youth and young adults of the group registered for the Hyo Jeong workshop and were greeted by crowds of young people practicing dance routines for the event in the Manhattan Center Ballroom. This was also overwhelming and a new challenge for the Ocean Challenge team after an overnight flight, but they did their best to join in and participate.

Many participants were able to see True Mother in person for the first time in their lives and we had the amazing opportunity to dance for her and 20,000 people on July 15th. On July 16th the entire youth

workshop was invited to visit Mother Moon at East Garden, Rev. and Mrs. Moon's residence in Tarrytown, NY. After concluding the Hyo Jeong workshop that afternoon we all went down to the New Jersey Ocean Church for boating and swimming in the Hackensack river, a sashimi dinner with the fish brought back from Alaska, and a relaxed graduation ceremony and prizes for the fishing tournament.





The 10-day participants returned to their homes after a day of fishing in the NYC bay while the 24-day participants were back at the airport early the next morning to return to Kodiak for the 2nd half of the program! A couple of the 10-day participants decided to continue the program and signed up for the 2nd half and returned to Kodiak with the others.



The next day after arriving back in Kodiak, it was straight back to fishing! The NYC event was a great experience, but the fresh air and nature of Kodiak Island was refreshing and renewing for most after visiting the congested city, an extreme contrast to rural Alaska. Going back out on the ocean and river fishing, the weather was rainier than the past week, but when the next 10-day session officially began on July 20th, a new group of participants were welcomed along with sunny skies. The new arrivals went through their CPR and Boating safety class then new teams were created.

Modeling after the first 10-day session, everyone visited Chiniak once again, but this time by boat rather

than van. Participants got to try a new, adventurous way of beaching the front of the boats and hopping off onto the shore and taking a walk through the woods to the campsite. After some river fishing and BBQ dinner we received deep and moving testimonies from elder 2nd generations, Lukas Bercy and Michelle Odlin. Participants also heard from guest speakers during other evenings of the program. Captain Chris Fiala shared about the philosophies of fishing, Clint Woods spoke via video conference from Montana about the internal aspect of Ocean Providence and True Parents' heart for the ocean, Frank Button presented about the Principle of Creation, Pastor Deanna Cooper of Kodiak shared an inspiring video about the efforts being made to save the oceans, Masako Whitmore gave a testimony about her experience as one of the 43 sisters working in Kodiak for 7 years, and a group of 2nd generation NOCP alumni shared about their current work in the fishing industry.

The first day of ocean fishing is always challenging for most first timers as they get used to the boat and swaying of the waves, but persevering through these challenges is what the program is about and encourages. When "Challenge Day" rolled around both participants and captains encountered an amazing surprise. As everyone went out early on the boats and traveled through a misty morning, they reached their destination to fish. One boat, after pulling up a couple rockfish, the CIT spotted some marks on the sonar that were most definitely salmon and called out the depths. The team dropped their lines and the unthinkable happened: participants started hooking up left and right, and by the way their rods were bending and lines moving around there was no doubt they were all king salmon. The same thing was happening to the other boat as calls of "Fish on!" and "Salmon!" could be heard. Looking at the sonar, an entire school of salmon could be seen coming across as colorful marks against the dark blue screen. Even the local captain living in Kodiak for more than 10 years had never seen such an occurrence. King salmon are usually found in small groups here and there as they chase schools of bait fish. An entire school as thick as a rockfish school was unheard of during all of the program's history. It truly was a blessing from our Heavenly Parent as almost everyone was able to hook up and land a king salmon that day. The next day was the same result. The excitement of hooking up on a king salmon is incomparable to most other fish caught in the area as anglers try to out maneuver the fish by letting the fish run, keeping the tension and quickly reeling in when the line goes slack, and following the fish around the boat while trying to avoid getting tangled in other people's lines and the boat propeller. The victory felt when finally being able to bring the fish up to the boat, net it successfully and land it in the boat is one to celebrate with teammates and offer up to God.







The final two days of NOCP concluded with a fishing tournament and the following day included a hike, delicious bento lunch provided by the Kodiak Hana Restaurant, city tour, an amazing dinner made by the kitchen staff, and graduation ceremony. Words of advice were given by each of the senior captains to the newly made fishermen and fisherwomen, and each received a certificate of completion. A celebratory talent show was held as some participants showcased their musical talents and skills to the group, and shared in a fun 'Just Dance' session together.



We had many amazing victories and blessings this year for National Ocean Challenge Program 2017. Not only did we get to attend True Mother, meet VIPs and catch a great amount of king salmon, we also had international participants from Uruguay, Britain and as far as Liberia, Africa come to attend, guests from Japan who work in Ocean Providence also joined us for the 2nd session, and the program was led by an all 2nd generation staff and co-directors team this year.



All of this could not have been possible without the help of many people. We want to thank our senior captains Greg Odlin from Maine, Minoru Kageyama from Kodiak, Jorge Mendez from Uruguay and Frank Button from Oregon for consistently committing a large portion of their summer to help with NOCP and captain and train participants. This program would not have been possible without the help of our 2nd generation staff Lukas Bercy, Amy Whitmore and Wendy Fiala; our hard working kitchen staff, consisting of the local moms of Kodiak who worked day and night to prepare meals for our challenging schedule; our local church members of Kodiak who work behind the scenes to support and help prepare and set up for the program; and FFWPU HQ and leadership giving their support and guidance. We want to give a shout and a big "THANK YOU!" to all our supporters and donors who not only help to fund this program so that it exists, but also gave more to help us travel to NYC this year. We want to give a special

thanks to Clint Woods, the previous coordinator and director of NOCP for guiding and raising up Branch and Naria Gaarder to become the co-directors of NOCP this year, and still working behind the scenes to make everything possible for this program.

And most importantly, we want to thank our Heavenly Parent and True Parents for their love, investment and heart for America and the world that began Ocean Challenge in the beginning.

