

Mike Dover Leads Generation of Peace Academy Ocean-Fishing Module

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Aside from captaining the Ocean Challenge boat for GPA participants, Mike Dover is the President and Chief Executive officer of Ocean Challenge, a non-profit organization for “at-risk” youth to explore the ocean.

Every day for 10 days in December 2012 in Los Angeles young Unificationists hustled early each morning to load a 15-passenger van with the day’s lunch and scramble off to the Long Beach Marina. On some days they left at 5:00 a.m. just to catch the slow orange glow rise over the Pacific Ocean. During the usual traffic-clogged trip they read words from True Father’s, *God’s Will and the Ocean* and *As a Peace Loving Global Citizen*, both books with content about Father’s desire for using the ocean to meet the needs of a hungry world.

They were the first to experience the “Adventure and Divine Principle” module of Generation Peace Academy’s (GPA) new training curriculum. GPA thereby has added a fourth, two- and-a-half month module to the ten month program.



Dover handles rockfish caught while fishing in December.

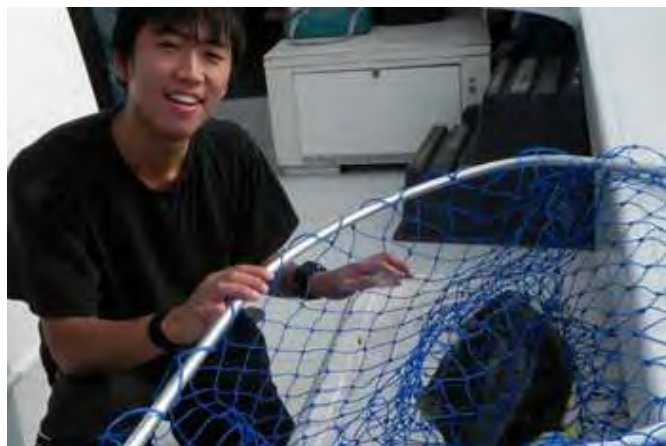
“In this module the ocean definitely is connected to Father’s heart, but the whole thing is to challenge one’s limitations and to become one with God through creation, which is the easiest place to experience God,” said Roland Platt, GPA Director. “In this module there is the *Divine Principle* where you learn about God intellectually and spiritually, and then you do Adventure or Ocean Challenge on the other side of that module to make it more substantial.”

The module is divided into two parts. One half is spent immersed in nature and the other deepening Unificationist roots by studying the Divine Principle at Morning Garden in Gloucester, Massachusetts. The nature portion consists of two options: participants spend time in the mountains of the Adirondack Mountains or set sail aboard the Ocean Challenge fishing boat in the Pacific Ocean near Los Angeles.

Captain Mike Dover, a first-generation Unificationist who heads the Ocean Challenge Program, took five GPA groups out on the ocean. Dover has captained boats for True Father and has captured many fond memories on the Ocean Challenge boat, many of which are told to the trainees, creating a connection

between the second-generation youth to Father and his days of fishing.

While on the boat GPA participants learned how to make fishing leaders, use different methods for catching fish, filet and gut fish, kayak, snorkel and surf as well as perform basic boat procedures such as maintenance and cleaning.



First-year GPA participant, Tadakuni Onoe, catches 19.5 inch halibut, just barely missing the 21- inch mark needed for him to keep it.

“Uncle Mike is strict on cleaning because he treated the boat as a place where God can come and dwell with us. It was more than it being about the smell or the chipped paint. It’s because the boat is a place where we can experience God, and it’s not just for GPA, it’s for other people too,” said Jessica Mock, a first-year GPA participant.

During the 12-day program participants practiced meditation- and breathing exercises under the instruction of Josh Swenson, Ocean Challenge Director. Swenson graduated from Northwestern University with a BS in Education and Social Policy, majoring in Human Development, Religious Studies and Psychology. Following meditation exercises in the morning, GPA read Hoon Dok Hwe from books such as *Peace is Every Step* and *The Miracle of Mindfulness* by Thich Nhat Hanh, and *God in the Wilderness* by Jamie Korngold to better learn about internal peace.

Participants were schooled in such passages from True Father’s words as the following: “A clean boat reflects a clean spirit. An orderly boat also reflects an orderly spirit. This means that all your jigs, rods, reels, lines, hooks, everything is in the right place. I can tell immediately if your boat has received a lot of heart or very little heart,” from *God’s Will and the Ocean*



First-year GPA participants Yuki Asanuma, Hudson Sylte and Gabriel Melgarejo on Catalina Island, 22 miles southwest of the coast of Long Beach.

Some trainees got insight into the romance of Unificationism that once had caught the imagination of their own parents. “My dad was the captain of New Hope and growing up hearing all about his spiritual experiences with the ocean and True Father, made me want to experience that. Ocean Challenge has given me a small taste of how it [the ocean] inspired them,” said Amanda Hokanson, first-year GPA participant.

The Unificationist tradition of learning the ways of God on the water continues in New York Harbor, too. Friday May 3, 2013 marks the kick-off of the 21-day Peace King Cup Fishing Tournament on the Hudson River. This annual tournament is taking place to honor the Holy Wedding Anniversary of Rev. and Mrs. Moon.

“We hope the youth can understand Father’s vision for the ocean, which is the best training ground for learning mind-body unity and for understanding the environment,” said Mr. Kensaku Takahashi, the tournament manager.