

In Chad on God's Day Eve, Tadahisa and I did a fishing condition to end the year

Kevin Winter
January 3, 1976



A fish market in Chad

God's Day eve (December 31st), Tadahisa and I did a fishing condition to end the year. The river has one fish in particular called a "Captain" which is really great. It's huge, has a lot of meat, and costs a lot at the market. We wanted to catch one to offer to Heavenly Father on the altar on God's Day. We went to the river about 5 p.m. when the sun starts setting and got permission to sit out on the bow of a barge docked at the shore. Nowadays the weather is much colder in Chad, especially at night, and the breeze on the river is even colder still. As we sat for hours in the light of my little oil lantern, string in hand and shivering from the cold, we tried to imagine what it was like for Rev. Moon out on the choppy Atlantic, waiting for that one big tuna to take his bait. He must have been colder than us.

We persevered for almost 7 hours until midnight, then we walked 50 yards or so from the shore and prayed to greet the new year and God's Day. We didn't catch a captain -- only about 10 or 12 smaller fish ranging from 6 inches to 8 inches long.

Tadahisa caught the last fish, a pretty unusual one. It has yellow skin (like he had from hepatitis) and three sharp spines from its back and sides which I'm told can inject a very painful poison. It was really an ugly and mean fish and most difficult to handle so we thought it must represent Satan. Thus God's Day eve we caught Satan and God's Day noon we grilled him and ate him, and he was very delicious!

After I got home from fishing I stayed up and prepared a big table covered with piles of fresh apples and oranges and lemons as well as beans, big tomatoes, eggplants, rice, millet, carrots, sweet potatoes, and green peppers which I had bought the day before. Then at 7 a.m. Inge and Tadahisa and I had pledge service and gave offering: Tadahisa actually had the service at his house because the cold night on the river made him too feverish to walk across town in the morning, so he phoned.

He came later in the afternoon and the three of us prepared the biggest and best feast I've had since our farewell banquet at Barrytown. Inge prepared a tomato salad, a fruit salad, and a special carrot salad in sweetened lemon juice, and also a big vegetable stew. Tadahisa barbecued all the fish (including Satan) and I barbecued some big thick steaks. We ate so much and also brought some to our neighbors.