

**GOD'S WAYS ARE  
WONDERFUL, OR:  
HOW AND WHY I  
BECAME A CATHOLIC**

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God's ways are wonderful, or: How and why I became a Catholic by Martin J. Th. Eberhard

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**MARTIN J. TH. EBERHARD**

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*Veritas Domini manet  
in aeternum. Ps. 116  
M. J. H. Schickel.*



# GOD'S WAYS ARE WONDERFUL

*or:*

HOW AND WHY I BECAME  
A CATHOLIC.

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"Blessed are the homesick;  
for they shall return home."

—Heinrich Stilling

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A word of justification, first of all for my children,  
as well as for those who seek  
the truth,

*by*

MARTIN J. TH. EBERHARD,

Formerly Lutheran Minister in America and Australia.

FOURTH EDITION

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN.

Entered according to Act of Congress in the year 1905,

*By*

MARTIN J. TH. EBERHARD,

St. Paul, Minn.

in the office of the Librarian of Congress, at Washington, D. C.

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St. Paul, Minn.  
Randall Printing Company  
1905

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS OF  
ARCHBISHOPS AND BISHOPS FOR  
THE GERMAN EDITION  
OF THIS BOOK.

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St. Paul, August 6, 1898.

*Mr. Martin J. Th. Eberhard:*

Dear Sir: I am pleased to hear that you are preparing a third edition of your book, "Gottes Wege sind Wunderbar." The book deserves to have a wide circulation. It cannot fail to do much good. It sets forth very clearly and in an interesting style strong arguments for our holy faith, and these are made to possess further strength when presented, as they are, in connection with the recital of the sacrifices made by yourself through your submission to the teachings of this faith.

Very sincerely,

†JOHN IRELAND,

Archbishop of St. Paul.

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St. Peter's Cathedral,

Cincinnati, O., June 28, 1900.

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\* \* \* \* \*

His book, giving an account, in German, of his conversion, has been highly commended by some Archbishops and Bishops, who have read it. They regard it as both interesting and instructive, particularly calculated to lead non-Catholics to the truth. He is preparing an English translation, and I recommend him to Priests and others who may be able to assist in circulating the book in either language.

†WILLIAM HENRY ELDER,

Archbishop Cincinnati.



Milwaukee, April 19, 1898.

My best thanks for your book. I read it with the greatest interest, and to my edification. I have no doubt that it will do much good and strengthen the Catholic cause. You may be sure of my hearty recommendation.

Very sincerely yours,

†FRED. X. KATZER,

Archbishop of Milwaukee.

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La Crosse, Feb. 9, 1899.

We recommend from all our heart \* \* \* Mr. Eberhard and his excellent book, "God's Ways Are Wonderful, or How and Why I Became a Catholic."

†JACOBUS SCHWEBACH,

Bishop.



## Preface of the Translator.

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ON his many travels the author of the well-known book "*Gottes Wege sind Wunderbar, oder: Wie und warum ich katholisch geworden bin,*" was so frequently requested and advised by bishops, priests and laymen to publish an English version of his book that he has at last decided to comply with the request of his numerous friends and acquaintances among clergy and laity, and to this end has authorized and favored the writer of these lines with this work.

To give a good and correct translation is by no means an easy task. However, I have tried my best to render it in an easy and flowing style and to overcome the stiffness so frequently found in translations. How much or how little I have succeeded I leave to the kind reader to decide, but at the same time hope he may not be too severe in his criticism.

Since its first publication in 1897 up to the present time, twenty thousand copies of the German original have been sold, and it has undoubtedly done much good, as can be seen from the numerous letters to that effect received by the author. The hope that his work may also do much good among the English-speaking people of this country is the author's main object in publishing this translation.

That it may receive the same hearty welcome which was tendered the original is the sincere wish of

The Translator.

## Introduction of the Author.

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**G**OD'S ways are wonderful. Innumerable Christians have experienced the truth of these words.

Through God's grace I also was permitted to have this experience. Wonderfully has the Lord led me during my whole life; wonderfully has He guided my footsteps over very complicated paths indeed; out of the confusion of Protestantism, back to the unity of our sweet, gracious mother, the Catholic Church. Therefore: May Jesus Christ be praised!

My object in writing this book is, *to praise God for mercy He has bestowed upon me*, giving me the grace to find the One True Church in a way so marvelous; and especially as a justification and explanation to *my own children*, about whose future welfare I was especially anxious, when, through God's grace, I became convinced of the truth of the Catholic religion, renounced the Lutheran sect, gave up my ministry in it, and therewith Protestantism. Moreover, I wish to comply with the request of a *competent personage* and narrate the story of my conversion *for the benefit of others*.

MARTIN J. TH. EBERHARD.