

UPF USA November Newsletter

Michael Jenkins
November 29, 2025



November Newsletter

Universal Peace Federation is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the UN ECOSOC. Together with our global network of ambassadors for peace we are working towards building a more peaceful world.

The Transformative Power of Gratitude in
Peacebuilding



In a world marked by polarization and stress, gratitude is emerging as one of the simplest, and most transformative, tools for peace building. Far more than a pleasant feeling, gratitude softens hearts, strengthens relationships, and nurtures the emotional stability needed for reconciliation.

For UPF, gratitude aligns deeply with its vision of one human family under God. It awakens awareness of our interdependence, encourages service, and reflects the teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han, who emphasized that lasting peace begins in the heart.

Practiced in families, gratitude becomes the foundation for empathy and healthy relationships. In interfaith and intercultural settings, it opens space for trust and understanding. For leaders and Ambassadors for Peace, gratitude fosters humility and cooperation, shaping a culture where people feel seen and valued.

Gratitude may not solve every conflict, but it changes the way we meet challenges, and one another. This week, UPF encourages each of us to offer one intentional act of appreciation across a cultural, religious, or ideological boundary. Small acts of gratitude can illuminate a path toward unity, healing, and shared hope.

Let us lead with grateful hearts and build peace, one act of appreciation at a time.

[Read the Full Article **HERE**](#)

Inter Parliamentary Dialogue Enhanced



Global voices for peace converged in Islamabad as the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) joined over 40 national parliaments at the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC), held 11–12 November 2025 under the theme “Peace, Security and Development.”

Hosted by the Senate of Pakistan, the conference underscored the growing role of parliamentary diplomacy in tackling shared global challenges. UPF International President Dr. Tageldin Hamad emphasized ethical leadership and principled dialogue, highlighting UPF’s pillars of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values as essential to stability and inclusive development.

The ISC concluded with the Islamabad Communiqué, reaffirming commitments to international law, the SDGs, climate-resilient development, and coordinated action on global risks.

[Read the Full Article HERE](#)

AMBASSADOR FOR PEACE SPOTLIGHT

Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, PhD
Founder & Pastor, The Greater Grace Family Ministries
Church | Founder, Greater Grace Family Ministries Global
Fellowship | Washington, D.C.



The Universal Peace Federation USA is honored to highlight Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, a pastor, educator, and mental-health advocate whose work exemplifies UPF’s belief that peace begins with transformed individuals and strong families.

For over 30 years, Bishop Barnett has led The Greater Grace Family Ministries Church in Washington, D.C., a ministry he founded in 1991 after a mission trip to Kenya. Supported by his wife, First Lady Adreinne Barnett, and their children, the church has grown into a vibrant, multigenerational community with partnerships in Kenya, Zambia, and Asia.

A certified substance-abuse counselor, he has spent decades serving Maryland communities through recovery education, public-health outreach, and his long-running radio show and podcast, “H4H – Help for the Hurting.” He is also the author of *Living Wittingly* and *Living Wittingly: Higher Dimension*, with two new books forthcoming.

Bishop Barnett’s leadership has earned wide recognition, including a D.C. Council Resolution, UPF’s Ambassador for Peace appointment, the Parents of the Year Award, and the 2024 Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award.

Today, Bishop Dr. Barnett continues to uplift families and communities, advancing UPF’s mission of spiritual renewal and peace.

[Read the Full Article HERE](#)

Interfaith Strength on Display at the Indianapolis Religious Freedom Rally



Voices from across Indianapolis' diverse faith communities came together on November 1 as the Peace Starts With Me Alliance hosted its first Religious Freedom Rally at the Indianapolis Family Church.

The event highlighted powerful testimonies: Muzaffar Ahmad of the Ahmadiyya Muslim community shared how faith sustained him after his brother's murder; Jitender Sandadi, president of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, spoke about a community prayer vigil following recent violence in Kashmir; and Pastor Robert Abendroth addressed concerns over the unjust imprisonment of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon.

After an inspiring musical performance, attendees joined a Call to Action, signing a Proclamation of Religious Freedom and affirming their commitment to stand for the rights of all faiths. A group photo captured the enthusiasm of the 40+ participants, followed by warm fellowship that strengthened interfaith bonds.

[Read the Full Article **HERE**](#)

Youth Voices Ignite New Jersey's Next Generation



More than 120 youth, families, and faith leaders gathered on November 22, at the Peterstown Community Center in Elizabeth, NJ, for “Youth Voices for Religious Liberty,” the second event in the Peace Starts With Me Alliance’s Faith, Freedom & Peace series. The program empowered young people to speak, create, and stand for the fundamental right of religious freedom.

The event opened with an international buffet and welcoming remarks, followed by a video highlighting the unjust imprisonment of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. A moving creative segment featured Maestro David Eaton, the PSWM Elizabeth Choir, and an original song by Matogba Nelson-Sugihara.

Keynote speaker Dr. Michael Nkrumah emphasized the vital role of family and youth leadership in protecting faith. A youth-led panel, moderated by Dr. Katarina Connery, explored the meaning of religious freedom today—from social media to campus culture and advocacy.

Participants added prayers and pledges to a “Freedom Wall,” affirming their commitment to defend religious liberty. The event concluded with music, community announcements, and a group photo. Thirteen attendees joined the PSWM Alliance as new members.

The gathering highlighted a rising generation ready to champion faith, freedom, and

peace with creativity and courage.

[Read the Full Article HERE](#)





The Transformative Power of Gratitude in Peacebuilding

How a grateful heart becomes a powerful instrument for unity and reconciliation

In a world increasingly shaped by polarization, stress, and fragmentation, the simple act of gratitude may seem too gentle to matter. Yet across cultures, faiths, and disciplines, gratitude has long



been recognized not merely as an emotion, but as a transformative discipline capable of softening hearts, strengthening relationships, and reshaping communities. Today, gratitude is emerging as a powerful tool in peacebuilding—one that aligns deeply with the mission of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and with the lifelong teachings of Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han, who both emphasized that peace begins in the heart of each individual.

Gratitude as the Groundwork for Inner Peace

Modern research confirms what spiritual traditions have always known: gratitude rewires the mind toward compassion, humility, resilience, and hope. When practiced intentionally, it shifts our focus away from resentment and toward appreciation, fostering emotional stability and openness. UPF teaches that peace is not only the absence of conflict but a quality that should shape all relationships, and a grateful heart nurtures exactly this quality. In times of tension and division, gratitude becomes a stabilizing spiritual discipline, grounding individuals in hope and preparing the heart for reconciliation.

Gratitude and the Vision of One Human Family

One of UPF's core values affirms that we are one human family under God, our Heavenly Parent, and gratitude helps awaken awareness of that truth. When we recognize what we receive from others, gratitude reminds us of our shared interdependence and connectedness. Rev. Moon taught that living for the sake of others is the path to peace, and gratitude fuels that mindset by inspiring generosity and service. Dr. Hak Ja Han's vision of embracing humanity with a mother's heart is also rooted in gratitude, as it softens judgment, widens compassion, and allows us to see one another with empathy rather than suspicion.

From Personal Practice to Community Transformation

While peacebuilding often focuses on institutions and global systems, UPF reminds us that true peace begins in individuals and families—the “school of love and peace.” Gratitude learned and practiced in the home strengthens marriages, nurtures empathetic children, and builds emotionally healthy communities. In interfaith and intercultural spaces, UPF encourages recognition and appreciation of one another’s traditions, histories, and contributions. These acts of gratitude build trust and reduce fear, allowing people of different backgrounds to meet not as adversaries, but as partners in building a shared future.

Gratitude as a Moral Choice for Peace Leaders

For Ambassadors for Peace and peacebuilders, gratitude is more than a personal habit—it is a leadership practice. Leaders who live with gratitude create cultures of trust, cooperation, and respect. Rev. Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han consistently taught that leadership begins in the heart, and gratitude is one of the most accessible ways to cultivate a heart of love and humility. It requires no special resources—only the willingness to notice goodness, acknowledge others, and respond to challenges with hope rather than resentment.

Gratitude in Action: A Pathway Forward

Gratitude alone will not solve every conflict, but it has the power to shift attitudes, heal relationships, strengthen families, bridge divides, and inspire service. By practicing gratitude, we align ourselves with UPF’s mission to build a world of harmony, cooperation, and shared prosperity. This week, let us commit to one intentional act of gratitude across a cultural, religious, or ideological boundary—offering sincere appreciation to someone whose efforts often go unseen or whose perspective differs from our own. In doing so, we become living reflections of UPF’s vision and carry the heart of service into our families, communities, and leadership.

Let us lead with grateful hearts—and build peace, one act of appreciation at a time.

Comments (0)

Newest First

Post Comment...



Inter Parliamentary
Dialogue Enhanced

Ambassador for
Peace Spotlight: Eric
Zuley Founder & CEO,
eZWay Network |
CMO, Better Vision
for Children | Loc



Join our Newsletter

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.



Sign Up

Universal Peace Federation USA
3600 New York Ave. NE,
Washington D.C., 20002
info@us.upf.org
(202) 636-3236



Inter Parliamentary Dialogue Enhanced

UPF Addresses Islamabad Conference

Islamabad, Pakistan, 11 to 12 November 2025. The Universal Peace Federation participated in the Inter-Parliamentary Speakers Conference (ISC) in Islamabad. The event was convened by the Senate of Pakistan and the ISC Secretariat and focused on the theme "Peace, Security and Development". Delegations from over forty national parliaments attended, represented by Speakers, Presidents, Deputy Speakers and senior legislators.



Chairman of the Senate of Pakistan H.E. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani highlighted the significance of the ISC as a new platform for structured inter parliamentary engagement. In his address he noted that the conference reflects Pakistan's role in parliamentary diplomacy and represents a contribution to advancing dialogue and cooperation among states. He encouraged delegates to use parliamentary diplomacy to build trust and develop coordinated approaches to shared concerns.

The Universal Peace Federation, represented by Dr. Tageldin Hamad, International President of UPF, took part in the general debate. In his address he highlighted the importance of leadership and parliamentary dialogue amid global uncertainty. He stated that peace, security, and development are interconnected elements of governance.

Dr. Hamad noted that the Universal Peace Federation is guided by ideals that affirm humanity as one family and emphasise service to others as a basis for social stability. According to Dr. Hamad, stability begins with individuals and extends to family, community, and international relations. He noted that parliaments convert values into legislation, oversight, and institutional practice.

The intervention focused on three principles central to UPF's work, which resonate with recent UN General Assembly discussions on multilateralism, such as the September 2024 Summit of the Future, calling for ethical governance to address global uncertainties including cyber threats and poverty eradication. **Interdependence** was described as the nations advancing through cooperation. **Mutual prosperity** was presented as inclusive development that protects human dignity. **Universal values** were identified as a reference for public life, encompassing integrity, human rights, and responsibility to future generations.

Dr. Hamad encouraged participants to prioritize dialogue and cooperation. He emphasized that parliamentary institutions and leadership guided by ethics can achieve progress in peace and development.

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Islamabad Communiqué on

The conference concluded with the adoption of the Islamabad Communiqué on 12 November. The document reaffirmed parliaments' responsibility to strengthen international law, support inclusive development and advance cooperation among legislative bodies. It highlighted reconciliation, mediation, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, climate-resilient development, digital governance and stronger institutional capacity. Delegates stressed coordinated action on global risks, including terrorism, climate change, food and water insecurity, poverty and cyber threats.

Throughout the program, delegations held bilateral meetings to explore collaboration. The schedule included cultural presentations on Pakistan's heritage and an official dinner for participants.

The conference gathered several national parliamentary leaders serving as Speakers or Presidents of their respective chambers, including Arthur Eugene Holder, Speaker of the House of Assembly of Barbados, Richard Nagbe Koon, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Liberia, Abdul Raheem Abdulla, Speaker of the People's Majlis of the Maldives, Mohamed Ould Errachid, President of the House of Councillors of Morocco, Rawhi Fatooh, Speaker of the Palestinian National Council, Hassan Abdulla Al Ghanim, Speaker of the Shura Council of Qatar, and Kalinda François Xavier, President of the Senate of Rwanda.

The Universal Peace Federation welcomed its participation in the ISC, reaffirming its commitment to working with parliaments and international forums on stability, cooperation, and people-centered development.

Comments (0)

Newest First

Post Comment...

<

AFP Spotlight: Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, PhD

The Transformative Power of Gratitude in Peacebuilding

>

Join our Newsletter

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.

Email Address



Sign Up

Universal Peace Federation USA
3600 New York Ave. NE,
Washington D.C., 20002
info@us.upf.org
(202) 636-3236



AFP Spotlight: Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, PhD

AFP Spotlight: Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, PhD

Founder & Pastor, The Greater Grace Family Ministries Church | Founder, Greater Grace Family Ministries Global Fellowship | Washington, D.C.

The Universal Peace Federation USA is honored to spotlight Ambassador for Peace Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett, a distinguished pastor, educator, and mental-health advocate whose life's work reflects the spirit of service, family strength, and community healing central to UPF's founding vision. For more than 30 years, Bishop Barnett has embodied the principle—often emphasized by UPF Co-Founders Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon—that peace begins with transformed individuals and God-centered families.



As Founder and Pastor of The Greater Grace Family Ministries Church in Washington, D.C., Bishop Barnett has nurtured a ministry rooted in deliverance, spiritual restoration, and the empowerment of families. Established in 1991 following a mission trip to Kenya, the church has grown from a gathering inside his home into a thriving, multigenerational community. His wife of over 35 years, First Lady Adreinne H. Barnett, has served faithfully by his side, and their adult children, Emmanuel and Gabrielle, now support the ministry in leadership roles—reflecting a legacy of unity and faith passed across generations.

Bishop Barnett's commitment to uplifting families and strengthening communities extends globally through the Greater Grace Family Ministries Global Fellowship, which partners with churches in Kenya, Zambia, and Asia. His preaching and teaching throughout East and West Africa and cities along the U.S. Eastern Coast continue to inspire individuals to discover their divine identity and purpose.

A respected mental-health professional for three decades, Bishop Barnett is certified in Substance Abuse Counseling through Catholic Charities and serves as both educator and advocate across Charles County, Maryland. He lectures monthly at Recovery Centers of America, teaches weekly at regional recovery programs, and conducts vital public-health education on infectious diseases and PrEP. His work consistently reflects a life lived "for the sake of others," a guiding ethic shared across all UPF peace initiatives.

Bishop Barnett is also a prolific communicator. His long-running radio show, "H4H – Help for the Hurting / Mental Health in the Community," and his podcast have brought healing, insight, and encouragement to countless individuals seeking hope and resilience.

As an author, he continues to shape conversations around spiritual growth, mental health, and family life. His first two books—“Living Wittingly” (2015) and “Living Wittingly: Higher Dimension” (2021)—offer tools for intentional, God-centered living. He is currently completing two additional works, “A Threat to Marriage” and “Mental Health and the Church,” addressing themes vital to both faith communities and broader society.

Bishop Barnett’s contributions have been recognized by civic and faith institutions alike. In 2017, the D.C. City Council honored him with The Dr. Edward Barnett Recognition Resolution for his leadership in mental health and ministry. In 2019, he was appointed by UPF as an Ambassador for Peace, and in 2020, he and his wife were named UPF’s Parents of the Year, honoring their steadfast support of families during the global pandemic. Most recently, in 2024, he received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for his lifelong dedication to service.

Today, Bishop Dr. Edward Barnett continues to be a guiding force—pastor, counselor, educator, and builder of peace. His work beautifully reflects UPF’s mission of fostering spiritual renewal, family harmony, and compassionate leadership for the sake of a better world.



Comments (0)

Newest First

Post Comment...

Join our Newsletter

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.

Email Address 

Sign Up

Universal Peace Federation USA
3600 New York Ave. NE,
Washington D.C., 20002
info@us.upf.org
(202) 636-3236



Interfaith Strength on Display at the Indianapolis Religious Freedom Rally

On November 1, 2025, the Indianapolis chapter of the Peace Starts With Me Alliance held its inaugural Religious Freedom Rally at the Indianapolis Family Church. As a grassroots initiative, the PSWM Alliance brought together multiple faith communities and concerned citizens in a united stand for religious freedom in America and around the world.



Mr. Muzaffar Ahmad, founder and president of the Fisher Multi-Faith Community of Compassion, represented the Ahmadiyya Muslim community. He offered a moving testimony about how his faith empowered him to heal after his brother was murdered in an act of religious hatred.

Mr. Jitender Sandadi, a founding member of the Hindu Temple of Central Indiana and president of the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, spoke about the community-wide prayer vigil he organized following the recent killing of Hindu tourists by Muslim extremists in Kashmir. His remarks emphasized solidarity, compassion, and the power of community response.



Interfaith Water Ceremony

Pastor Robert Abendroth, Senior Pastor of the Indianapolis Family Church, delivered a compelling presentation on the false legal charges and unjust imprisonment of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder and spiritual leader of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

After an uplifting musical performance by young missionaries of the Indianapolis Family Church, attendees participated in a Call to Action, inviting all present to support the Peace Starts With Me Alliance's advocacy for religious freedom. Many audience members signed a Proclamation of Religious Freedom, affirming their commitment to the cause.

A group photo was taken with the 41 participants, capturing the spirit of unity and determination. The event concluded with refreshments, where fellowship and new friendships helped strengthen interfaith bonds.

Comments (0)

Newest First

Post Comment...

< **Youth Voices Ignite
New Jersey’s Next
Generation**

**AFP Spotlight: Bishop
Dr. Edward Barnett,
PhD** >

Join our Newsletter

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.

Email Address



Sign Up

Universal Peace Federation USA
3600 New York Ave. NE,
Washington D.C., 20002
info@us.upf.org
(202) 636-3236



Youth Voices Ignite New Jersey's Next Generation

Elizabeth, NJ — On November 22, 2025, the Peterstown Community Center was filled with passion, conviction, and hope as young people, families, students, community leaders, and faith representatives gathered for **"Youth Voices for Religious Liberty,"** the second event in the Peace Starts With Me (PSWM)

Alliance's three-month *Faith, Freedom, and Peace* series. The program was designed to empower the next generation to speak, sing, and stand for faith, freedom, and the universal right to believe.



From 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM, more than 120 participants experienced a powerful blend of spiritual reflection, artistic expression, heartfelt testimony, and youth-driven dialogue focused on celebrating and defending religious liberty.

The event opened with a buffet lunch of international cuisine prepared by members of the Elizabeth Family Church. Master of ceremonies Rev. Jake Lavina, NextGen Director, welcomed attendees, followed by an inspiring invocation from Rev. Barbara Robertson, Lead Pastor of the NJ Family Church. A special video presentation then set the tone by highlighting the ongoing incarceration of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the Mother of Peace. Elizabeth Mayor J. Christian Bollwage sent a special message recognizing the importance of the gathering and thanking organizers for selecting the city to host this historic event.

A highlight of the program was **"Freedom Speaks,"** a creative segment that showcased art as a vehicle for peace and conviction. Maestro David Eaton—world-renowned conductor and global coordinator for the International Association for Arts and Culture of Peace (IAACP)—shared insights on the power of music to inspire genuine peace. He and the Peace Starts With Me Elizabeth Choir lifted the atmosphere with songs of hope and devotion. A special musical performance by Matogba Nelson-Sugihara, Northeast Hyojeong Music and Arts Coordinator, featured her original piece "Holy Mother Han," offering a deeply moving artistic tribute to Mother Moon.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Michael Nkrumah of Redemption Power International Ministries, who emphasized the essential role of strong families in securing peace, nurturing faith, and empowering young people to stand firm in their beliefs.

A major feature of the event was the youth-led panel discussion, **"Freedom Generation,"** moderated by Dr. Katarina Connery, President of WFWP USA.

Panelists Mr. Shogo Nakaza (PSWM NJ Coordinator), Mr. Joshua Collado (Montclair University student), and Ms. Priscilla Garces (Founder of Always Forward) offered diverse perspectives on modern challenges to religious freedom. Topics included:

- 1. What “freedom of faith” means to today’s generation
- 2. The ways social media supports—or undermines—religious understanding
- 3. How young people can respond when faith communities face targeting or silencing
- 4. How creativity and compassion can advance peace and moral clarity online and on campus

Their dialogue reinforced a central message: the defense of religious liberty must be led not only by institutions, but by courageous young people willing to speak boldly.

The program concluded with the “**Freedom Wall**,” where participants wrote personal reflections, prayers, and pledges in support of religious freedom and the release of the Mother of Peace. Closing music, community announcements, and a group photo captured the unity and optimism of the gathering. Thirteen attendees also signed up as new members of the PSWM Alliance.

“Youth Voices for Religious Liberty” embodied the rising spirit of a new generation determined to defend the God-given right to believe. Through faith, creativity, dialogue, and action, the event reaffirmed that the future of religious freedom will be shaped by young leaders who stand with courage and compassion.

Comments (0)

Newest First

Post Comment...

Interfaith Strength on
Display at the
Indianapolis Religious
Freedom Rally >

Join our Newsletter

Sign up with your email address to receive news and updates.

Universal Peace Federation USA
3600 New York Ave. NE,
Washington D.C., 20002
info@us.upf.org
(202) 636-3236

Email Address



Sign Up