

What do you do when something is broken, falling apart or damaged? You fix it!

Angelika Selle
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Dear friends,

What do you do when something is broken, falling apart or damaged? You fix it! At least you will seek to fix it. Right?

America was founded on a great ideal, namely, that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." However, that ideal, the cornerstone of the American Dream, has never been fully realized. Why? I dare say it was because, from its inception, the ideal was compromised and tainted, especially

by selfish acts of exploitation, and racial and religious prejudice.

This struggle, so long unacknowledged, is now rising to the surface, so we can no longer ignore it. The good, the bad and the ugly of this struggle are what we read about today in our newspapers, causing many to experience fear, confusion and hopelessness -- and all this is in addition to the ongoing disruption caused by Covid-19.

In a way, however, this is also our great opportunity to finally "fix" our unrealized ideal. And how might we do that?

As a first step, we feel there is now a call, nationally and worldwide, to address the pain and hurt of the heart, for sincere repentance and forgiveness in order to lift the burdens of the past, to be able to rise above and find solutions to our problems TOGETHER. Peace and reconciliation begin with ME taking responsibility for the good, the bad and the ugly, to honestly and sincerely acknowledge the wrong, the pain, the injustice. Thereafter, there is also a need for genuine forgiveness from the side who was wronged. It always takes at least two to heal!

Our [Bridge of Peace Ceremony](#) (the flagship project of WFWPI) may seem like a simplistic tool, but the many women who have participated in it have experienced powerful healing and transformation. Former enemies have consciously decided to step on that bridge and repent to one another with a sincere heart and have forgiven one another, also representing their ancestors, cultures and religions that have been enemies to one another for decades and centuries.

At this time, when America is suffering and hurting, we are taking our Bridge of Peace to the next level, and ask EACH of us to BECOME A BRIDGE, initiating acts of repentance, forgiveness, reconciliation and healing as we take responsibility for each other's pain.

Thereafter, we will feel that we indeed are sisters or family members of the same human family, and that we do have the solutions right in our hearts. We will further discover that TOGETHER we can turn the tide and establish new and healthy relationships, patterns of behavior, just laws and so much more.

In this issue, you will find stories where women, motivated by their motherly hearts and bringing their expertise and creativity to the table, address some of the areas of family, education and also our racial divide.

We also invite all to join the PEACE ROAD 2020: Peace Starts With Me project, also dedicated to Heal the Human Family, which WFWP USA is co-sponsoring this year (see [article](#)). We invite you to join the PEACE ROAD starting on July 28 and concluding on August 21, 2020, possibly coming to a city near you!

The road to peace starts with me and you, and, I would say, many are already well on the way, as we are determined to "fix" the wrongs and heal our nation.

Wishing you a hopeful month of July!

Angelika S.



Bridge of Peace

“If women all around the world take one another’s hands as sisters, their men would cease to fight and kill one another...parents would no longer mourn the loss of their sons and daughters.”

— Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, WFWP Founder



WFWP’s signature project, the Bridge of Peace, was developed as a means of reconciliation, an avenue for individuals of conflicting backgrounds to come together in forgiveness for the past with hope and determination for the future.

In 1995 and 1996, on the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, over 20,000

Japanese women came to the United States to cross a symbolic bridge with an American “sister” in order to heal the gap which still existed between the former enemy nations. Many tears were shed, with laughter and smiles, as each side made a commitment to end the animosity of the past. Since then, we have used the Bridge of Peace in Ireland, to unite Catholics and Protestants; even in Jerusalem, between Israelis and Arabs, between Jews and Christians, and Christians and Muslims. In the United States, it has been used to heal racism by uniting women and girls in a multicolor bouquet of sisterhood, to mend the rift and misunderstanding between police and citizens, and to reconcile couples who have considered divorce and want to renew their dedication of love.

The transformative power of the Bridge of Peace lies not in the act of the ceremony, but within the heart and mind of each individual who take this step toward reconciliation. Two individuals stand at opposite sides of the bridge and bow both in repentance for anything they or their ancestors may have done to cause pain to the other as well as in forgiveness to the other side. As they cross to meet each other at the center, they cross over fear, prejudice, resentment, and pain, and embrace each other with a bigger heart and a bigger mind. In this embrace is also a commitment to a new future of peace. The Bridge is a symbol of crossing the barriers that we hold in our hearts and a willingness to embrace and accept someone different.



REFLECTIONS

“If we could have done this 50 years ago, maybe we could have prevented a war.”

— George H. W. Bush, Former USA President

“Things inside me loosened. I felt I had to apologize to Gloria for my family and for the culture in which I was raised to view black people as inferior and ignorant. Although

we have grown very close as sisters and twins, and had alluded to the fact that there had been racial tension between us before God brought us together; I had never said this to Gloria before...Apologizing was difficult for me, and she readily forgave me, for which I was relieved and grateful...I told her I was sorry. It was unbelievably liberating for me after confessing to Gloria and being forgiven which I honestly did not expect, and I wanted to apologize for more situations, but I could not go on.”

“I do believe that if peace is to ever become a reality in this world, women will be at the forefront of the efforts, as the bridge and the negotiators to bring it about. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of this event and meet the wonderful women who were present that day!”

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Peace Road 2020: The Reconciliation of All People

July 16, 2020 · Newsletter Editor

Women's Federation for World Peace USA is proud to be a co-sponsor of **Peace Road 2020**, a project that aims to bring diverse people together under the theme of **"The Reconciliation of all People."** We are all weary of the conflict, sadness and suffering going on in America right now. Peace Road 2020 addresses this with love, inclusion, understanding, repentance and reconciliation.



Peace Road was created by WFWP Co-Founders Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who have spent their lives working to resolve the large, intractable conflicts that plague humanity. The vision behind Peace Road is to realize their long-sought dream of a **Global Peace Highway** that all families may freely travel by car to every corner of the world, fostering the free cultural, economic and religious exchange, and cooperation of all humanity as one family (read more [here](#)).

The focus this year is on reconciliation, particularly addressing the racial injustice in this nation, and key historical sites across the United States have been selected to engage in meaningful dialogue and offer prayers of healing. Local WFWP representatives will be organizing and participating in events between July 28 and August 21, 2020 that honor the peace efforts of Mother Moon. Gatherings will respect social distancing recommendations and people are encouraged to join virtually as many events will be live-streamed on [Facebook](#).

This year, Peace Road begins on July 28th at Point Comfort near Jamestown, Virginia, where the first black slaves were brought to the United States in 1619, and on July 29th at Plymouth Rock in Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the Pilgrims landed in 1620 – the latter in search of religious freedom, the former in chains.

Black, White, Native American, Hispanic, Asian, brothers and sisters of all faith

backgrounds will join us to understand our history, the good and the tragic, and how God has always sent anointed men and women of God to lead us out of the darkness into the light. Though we live in perilous times in America and throughout the world, we see hope in the “Mother of Peace” who brought Peace Starts With Me to America. **The goal is to seek God's wisdom and loving guidance, so that the current situation of pain and injustice can be addressed by all Americans as brothers and sisters.**

Look out for exciting updates and reports on Peace Road in upcoming issues of LOL.



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