



Universal Peace Federation—Europe

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European Leadership Conference

Glory House, The Netherlands, December 10th - 12th, 2010

Peace in the Middle East and Lessons Learned from the Northern Ireland Peace Process

In this wicked world, states operate not under ethical considerations, but by what they feel benefits their own situation" asserted **former Dutch Prime Minister Prof. Dr. Dries van Agt**, currently President of 'The Rights Forum' an organisation that strives for a just Dutch policy in the Middle East. Prof. Agt spoke of the 'Middle East peace process' as a means to turn Palestine into a collection of small enclaves on the West Bank, while Israel establishes ever growing settlements to a level at which their presence in the occupied territory becomes irreversible. Urging that international pressure on Israel is essential to seek a drastically different approach, he concluded with praise for the Israeli doctors, lawyers, rabbis and housewives who often at great risk and certainly discomfort to themselves, sought to help their Palestinian brethren.



Ian White, a former CEO of the **Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation** and current Director of Glencree's International Programmes, speaking on "Lessons Learned from the Northern Ireland Peace Process", emphasized inclusiveness of all enemy parties as essential to success and related this to the need to involve Hamas in negotiations pertaining to Israel/Palestine. Ian might have become a "Protestant paramilitary", had it not been for his mother's influence, and later was deeply affected when he married a Roman Catholic.

He revealed some of the 122 Lessons to be learned from the Irish Peace Process. You don't need to trust your enemy to begin to talk, but you needed to trust the process and the mediating third party. There were so many factors and a change or failure in one area might affect all others. Interests are as important as "rights" - understanding the interests of the other might enable compromise: "one person might want an orange for the juice because he was thirsty, another merely the rind to make a cake - then they can share!" He suggested that there could be creative ambiguity in language, and emotive words should be avoided. There is a need for humility: "you do peace with people, not to people". While one might not be able to be neutral, one could try and be objective.



Mrs. Manal Timraz, a **British Palestinian**, born in Egypt, brought up in Norway and managing a restaurant in Coventry had her commitment to peace brutally challenged when she lost 15 close family members during one Israeli attack on Gaza. Her struggle to find peace and forgiveness led her to found the Million Candles for Peace campaign. She spoke poetically of a how a sceptical young Israeli border guard eventually helped her relight a candle that had been blown out and later became an activist for peace and reconciliation himself. She humbly concluded: "I do not know whether what I do does anything, but at least I didn't stay at home".

Mr. Rob Schrama, Dutch artist, spoke vigorously of his "Jerusalem Hug" and upcoming "Jerichon" campaigns, using his artistic talents to create events to unite, inspire and mobilize Israelis, Palestinians and foreign visitors to turn Jerusalem into a city of peace. The 2011 festival will last a week and include a laser light pyramid 800 meters high over the Old City. He hoped to eventually create a "critical mass to bring change" just as he had seen when a professor in East Germany at the time of the collapse of the Berlin Wall.



Senior UPF Nederland's statesmen Dr. W. van Eekelen (former Defence Minister), Jhr. Dr. Beelaerts van Blokland (former Housing Minister) and Dr. Bertens (former MEP) and other Dutch Ambassadors for Peace expanded the afternoon's participants to more than 70. There were 45 attending the whole weekend, residents of 15 European countries, but a number originally from far further afield. Dr. van Agt later remarked on how impressed he was by Huize Glory and the interest and openness of his audience which included a number of Muslims and non-native Europeans.



Friday evening: "The spiritual and moral Dimension of Peace Building"

Dr. Edy Korthals Altes, Honorary President of the World Conference of Religions for Peace and former Dutch diplomat, spoke on Friday evening, with reference to his recent book "Spiritual Awakening. The Hidden Key to Peace and Security, Just and Sustainable Economics, A Responsible European Union". After praising the "excellent UPF presentations", he said that during the Cold War he had realized we had the unprecedented potential to destroy our planet. The vulnerability of modern society and our interdependence, demand serious efforts for peace, religions need to move from confrontation to cooperation, like the spokes of a wheel, the closer you move to the centre, the closer you come to God, the Essence, and to one another.

Saturday's cultural evening included contributions from the conference participants: poems & songs from all around Europe, a Muslim lady exclaiming this was the first time she had ever sung in public, jokes from a Sufi Imam (with a senior Albanian politician adding an extra punch-line), Rob Schrama involving everyone in his Jerusalem peace songs and Dutch Ambassador for Peace Ann Harris movingly singing "Let There be Peace on Earth and let it begin with me".

UPF's New Vision for Lasting Peace

Friday afternoon was devoted to an Introduction to the Universal Peace Federation and its New Vision for Lasting Peace presented Mr. Timothy Miller, Vice Chair UPF Europe. Saturday morning followed on with Mr. Jack Corley UPF UK & Ireland talking on Understanding and Resolving the Root Cause of Conflict.



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The many favourable and enthusiastic comments about all aspects of the weekend included the common, but always fresh, remark that we arrived as strangers and now feel as family, delight from a Muslim lady to meet an imam with a gift for humour, a single mother commenting that she now felt she could place new trust in marriage and others appreciating the profundity of the lecturers' explanations of UPF's principles and the motivation of the Founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon.



UK Peace Council Report

London, United Kingdom, December 4th, 2010



The Universal Peace Federation - UK's Peace Council gathered many of UPF's UK activists who braved the cold weather and transport difficulties to review, strategise and share about their projects, activities and successes of 2010 to ensure that 2011 will be an even greater success. From enjoying each other's faith festive celebrations, to building low cost houses for the poorest on our planet, from youth mentoring to genocide awareness and the responsibility to protect the most vulnerable from war crimes, it was a rich mix of activities that express UPF's vibrant ideal of humanity living as 'one family under God'.

Held in the London HQ, 43 Lancaster Gate, on December 4th 2010, there were assembled the Branches of UPF from Scotland, Birmingham, Bristol as well as around London. Much of the discussion and the many of the activities outlined were inspired by UPF's vision to support United Nations initiatives such as the Millennium Development Goals. (Photo link) (Photo left Consultant to Sierre Leone Government participating in Break Out Discussion Group on Low Cost Housing Project.)

Programme:

UPF Video Introduction

Marriage and Family Activities in Birmingham: Dr David Earle, Vice President UPF-UK, explained the value of renewal of marriages through the Unificationist Blessing Ceremony. He shared about their experiences of having a Blessing Ceremony in Birmingham and also of those couples who had attended an International Blessing Ceremony in Korea.

UPF World Assembly, New York: Aftikhar Ahmed (photo left giving invocation) and Dr Satwant Multani from Scotland shared about their experience in the Assembly in New York. Dr Multani

who is the Chair of Central Scotland Interfaith said that it was very inspiring to see Rev Moon in person. He participated in a ceremony representing Sikhism during the Assembly. He reflected on his visit that faith is a wonderful thing.

Community Cohesion: Margaret Ali, Vanessa Edwards and Cllr. Liaquat Ali

The Community Cohesion Committee has been one of the most active groups over the last three years. There are several themes of events held during the last few years. Twice a year there are Joint Faith Celebrations held usually at UPF-UK HQ in London to promote understanding of other community's traditions and religious observances during those occasions. This will include the foods eaten or offered, music and songs of the festival commemorated and the scriptural readings associated. The second is a theme of 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation' that started as a one-off but now has become a series of events. The emphasis on sharing stories rather than reciting what our faith believes in theory about 'Forgiveness and Reconciliation'.



Brenda Hodgson (photo left) shared that she had been really moved by one of these events, 'As a spiritual person, the love and harmony and peace in this room was absolutely inspiring and amazing. One particular person who was a drug dealer completely transformed his life. When he went to prison he changed his life through

education and now he helps people.'

Another regular feature of the Community Cohesion Group is an event held to promote 'Genocide Awareness and Holocaust Commemoration'. These have included speakers about the Holocaust, Rwanda, Bosnia, Roma or Gypsy people and Armenians and raised the awareness of the Responsibility to Protect Resolution that has passed through the UN.

We hope to start to develop an immigration theme started in House of Commons in November 2009 and take this to the Boroughs of London, starting with Waltham Forest, to highlight immigrant's contributions to the UK.

Cllr Liaquat Ali from Waltham Forest is the Co-Chair of the

Community Cohesion committee. This involves the interfaith community and the understanding of different religions and their celebrations. Last month we had a big event in LG for faith celebrations. Better understanding and better community cohesion, brings peace, love, harmony and compassion. At the local level in Waltham Forest we have had interfaith council and dialogues under the UPF Community Cohesion banner.

Vanessa: There is always something to learn at Peace Council meetings. Cllr Faizullah Khan said we need to actively work for peace and find positive solutions. My small part is to put together a global peace prayer on postcards. I have distributed over 9000. This year I was working in the peace mala (bracelet) festival in Manchester. Each bead represents a faith and the clear bead represents your choice.

UN Inter-Religious Council speech by Imam Dr Sajid is informative of the issues to be resolved. Robin Marsh gave an update on the progress of the Inter-religious Council - Powerpoint presentation for further information. Imam Sajid could not attend due to bad health but a video of his views from July was shown. Later a discussion group considered the issue of representation on the Inter-religious Council.

Grassroots Interfaith Project in Luton - Developing Communities Across Faiths and Cultures

David Jonathan (photo left) explained that Luton is a place of



community challenges. On 10th March there were Islamic protests against soldiers. Then there were right-wing protests, illegal marches, fire-bombings, assaults on Jewish Rabbis, earthquakes, conflicts in Iraq/Afghanistan and burning Koran day. He explained that he has been trying to confront these challenges.

He shared that he considered the integrity of the family to be under threat. The establishment of state schools is good but we don't want to limit interactions with our neighbours. Communities can become too self-sufficient and demand understanding on their own terms. Democracy can be dominated by the shouts of a strident minority. Grassroots supported the Jewish community to promote the safety of Rabbis. Together they drafted an interfaith statement expressing confidence in ourselves and one another to promote peaceful resolution and offer ourselves as instruments of reconciliation that bear love where there is hatred.

Grassroots Objectives:

- 1) To work for strengthening relations amongst different faiths.
- 2) To Serve the wider community through supporting community initiatives and advancing educational development.
- 3) To accompany the churches in their mission and ministry.
- 4) To engage with the building of a civil society in Luton and vicinity.



Low Cost Housing and Sustainable Communities Project:

David and Marie Fairbank explained that they had been inspired by UPF to come out of retirement to promote low cost housing manufacturing in under-developed nations to alleviate poverty, promote skills and sustainable communities. They had encouraged Richard Price, former Managing Director of Costains Asia and Africa, to join them in this project. They have been encouraged by various nations and financiers responses to these proposals. The project has the value of being designed to produce low cost prefabricated houses with only moderate profits to sustain the business and train indigenous workers to take over the factory after three years. These houses can be assembled without the use of cranes in three days by a trained team of four workers. Environmental aspects of the houses and the proposal to add a waste to energy unit should create communities that are sustainable and of great value to the economic development of the region in which they are established. They are looking to UPF and its wider network to help find partners who have a similar vision to establish several factories in the Third World where they are needed. The project also plans to develop the facility of stored units to be able to respond to emergency relief at a time of natural disasters.

Break Out Groups

1. United Nations Inter-Religious Council
2. Millennium Development Goals (Photo Below)
3. Low Cost Housing Break Out Group

Ashley Crosthwaite: International Relief Friendship Foundation

He is running a lot of different projects on a shoestring. There



are several projects in Uganda. While he was visiting Uganda the Scottish UPF representatives, Robert Williamson, Iffy Ahmed and Dr Satwant Multani, visited them. They visited Destiny Junior school which is an IRFF project. The school is now building

the third classroom and the kitchen. IRFF donated money for a new water tank. At least 10% of the 70 kids in the school are HIV positive. IRFF shipped computers to the school to arrive before we came.

IRFF is also developing a farming project near Lake Victoria. The Farm project is a cooperative including a number of Christian and Muslim families. Other IRFF projects included establishing cottage industries through microfinance. They are also just starting a child sponsorship program.

Aids has become a terrible reality in Uganda. WAIT Uganda is a performing arts team that promotes a message to maintain purity before marriage and fidelity within marriage. WAIT was established after a visit from a WAIT - UK team visited Uganda two years ago. The Ugandan Police chief is supporting WAIT. 12 schools have officially recognized WAIT clubs. Ashley Crosthwaite and the Scottish UPF group went to visit some of these WAIT groups to encourage them.

Robert Williamson, Iffy Ahmed and Dr Satwant Multani in turn hosted Ashley Crosthwaite in Zambia. They launched WAIT in Zambia. The Balastone Park school has been going since 1982 and is well established. The MacKenzie community school in Zambia was built by IRFF.

Ashley went to South Africa where he introduced WAIT to various organizations. There are now 205 schools in Cape Town that want to adopt the WAIT programme. Sadly there is a limited capacity to assist with their development due to the lack of WAIT trainers.

Cultural Initiatives:



Peter Graham the founder of the [World Culture Association](#) explained its purpose saying that there are so many problems and conflicts around the world. What can we do about it? We need to look beyond politics and understand the roots of culture. Countries which are divided need help from us. We need to find ideas to bring resolution of conflicts. He is inspired to show the variety of the world's cultures and therefore contribute to a harmonious society. His slogan is "One World, One Stage". He has been cooperating with UPF, because of the common vision, putting on several performances over the last 18 months.

Branch UPF Reports:

1. South London UPF Sheridan Mangal: Youth Mentoring This is really on the leading edge in terms of the type of mentoring. He had concentrated on lifestyle mentoring with reference to youths who are overlooked, ie those who started a mile back from starting line. He started mentoring 3 years ago with 'Kids Company'. He always talks about social inclusion. He is currently mentoring 6 individuals. It's all about what you can do. It is really an adult-adult communication. He advises them of the options in order to help them make own decisions. In group



mentoring there is a different dynamic. He has run two training workshops. He has learned over time about the qualities that are needed for mentoring. The mentor needs to understand the mentee's perspective. Everyone has a talent. We just need to reveal it. Sheridan did role playing in training to prepare all to deal with real world situations. They all learned about the dynamics of communication. In group mentoring there are 4-6 youths in a group. It allows an opportunity to talk about their experiences within a small group.

2. Milton Keynes: David Rennie outlined the UPF cultural and interfaith activities he does in Milton Keynes Interfaith that had enabled a close community to develop beyond faith lines. This he said was even more remarkable in that the only way some of the denominations of particular faiths can meet each other comfortably is through the neutral ground of interfaith activities. He particularly helps with an Annual concert called 'Friends for Life'. He also teaches people how to make public presentations and to speak in public.

3. Birmingham: David Earle mentioned a newspaper article, entitled, "Sharing love between our city's faiths", that had featured the orphanage in Hyderabad that had been founded and funded by David and Patricia Earle and their WFWP Peace Meeting and Interfaith Contacts in Birmingham. He also mentioned the Blessed Family Association meetings that they were developing with their close friends. He showed several pictures of the UN Day for Africa that had been a very successful event.

4. Scotland: Robert Williamson (photo right). He is working with UPF in Scotland after living in Zambia for many years. He



has started tours in Africa that open up doors if you need to start something in Africa. He said he tours give support, enable visitors to gain knowledge and have dialogue. The 1st tour to Uganda and Zambia was in October 2010. They visited Mosques, and Churches. In Zambia the Moslem communities are divided. Iffy tried to bring about a dialogue between the communities. They also went to Victoria Falls for sightseeing. The next tour will be in July 2011. There are 5 out of 10 places still remaining.

5. Bromley: Eddie Hartley shared that there had been little UPF activity in Bromley in 2010. They had worked with Rev Dr Paul Baiden-Adams who founded the Multi-cultural Sports Aid Services-UK (MCSAS) with the specific aim of helping and guiding young people through sports through a 90 day programme. Bromley UPF had also commemorated the UN International Day of the Family together with UPF -UK Headquarters in a joint event. They are now putting together a committee of 5-6 people to plan a dynamic programme for 2011 centering on UN days.

6. Bristol: Tomoko Harris (photo below) explained that Bristol is the smallest branch in the UK. There are two Japanese ladies plus several wonderful Ambassadors for Peace. Their activities include a New Year Peace prayer usually led by Rev. Palmer, Mahatma Ghandi's birthday, the celebration of life of Prophet

Mohammed, and the celebration of Brotherhood. Tomoko said recently she had found an office for UPF that opens many possibilities for activities in future.

Comments from Participants:

1) *A note to thank you both for arranging another wonderful event last Saturday. I really enjoyed the day and I look forward to BEing with you again in the New Year. Enjoy the Festive Season.*

2) *It was a really good experience for everyone, judging by the conversation and comments in the car. I would say one of the best responses from a group we've brought down. Lots of positive stories, great variety - something for everyone, no-one speaking too long so the programme kept moving, keeping a good energy level. Very enjoyable discussions where people said they could get their teeth into something, and make a contribution.*

3) *It was a joy to be with you both yesterday. Thank you so much for sharing the day with us. Despite all the weather and health obstacles which meant that you had to re-adjust the planned programme, the day was a tremendous success.*

Robin Marsh, Secretary General



Introducing UPF and Cultural Evening for WFWP Contacts

Ljubljana, Slovenia, November 26th, 2010



On 26th of November in snowing weather we visited a Women's Club on the countryside, Okonina. We have among them already some AfP. We introduced them UPF vision connecting to the realization of Three Blessings. After we had a Korean cultural »show« with cooking. In the end one of our AfP read some of her poems to conclude this nice event.



UPF Conference - The Identity of the Christian Today

Barcelona, Spain, November 26th, 2010



Identity of the Christian today, title of the Conference issued the Marist brother Cecilio Díez Gutiérrez, gave an overall approach since the origin of Christianity, its evolution and as it is today. By what the exposition took place in three parts:

The source, the movement of the followers of Jesus, the name of Christians and the first Christian communities.

Its evolution, the figure of Peter (the Pope, bishops, priests), the ecumenical councils (heresies), monastic life, Crusades, pilgrimages, creed and dogmas, the faculties of theology, religious art, Marian shrines, missions and the evangelizations, martyrs and saints, the Council Vatican II, religious pluralism. Lights and shadows of this historical process of Christianity.

Commitment, be and do the believer, Laicity, secularism, the Christian spiritual identity. In conclusion, the significance of being a Christian today.



Defending Morality: Countering Secularism

South London, United Kingdom, November 20th, 2010



A powerful call was issued to protect our children from the prevalence of ever increasing sexualisation, through asserting our rights as parents and taking a stand against forces which aimed to corrupt young and innocent minds.

Speaking at a conference on Defending Morality: Countering Secularism, held at the Peace Embassy, Thornton Heath on 20 November, John O'Neill, coordinator of the Morality Forum, drew attention to parents' rights to view sex educational materials shown at schools and referred to existing legislation which mandates that marriage and moral values should be included as part of sex education. He spoke out against the use of condoms and abortion as a panacea against the consequences of permissive sex, mentioning the need for proper counseling on the serious and damaging after effects of abortion to be made available to young girls and women contemplating terminating pregnancies.

In the second speaker presentation, Fouzia Razvi spoke eloquently on Morality in Islam, outlining the basic tenets of being a good and moral Muslim emphasizing qualities of humility, care and love for others, good neighbourliness and respect for elders. Citing the example of the trend for groups of young people to roam aimlessly around our streets, she mentioned the problem of imparting Islamic values to youngsters, and the

need for young role models and purposeful activities to bring out better attitudes among young people.

Lance Gardiner, in the final presentation, addressed the rise of aggressive secularism which undermines traditional moral frameworks underpinned by religious belief. Explaining that religion was losing its authority due to intolerance and extremism giving rise to conflicts among faiths, he asserted that people of all faiths must discover common ground, mutual respect for each other's teachings and universal spiritual values in order to present a coherent message to combat the rising tide of atheistic philosophies.

The conference was ably coordinated by Saleha Jaffer, who urged participants to work together on projects such as UPF's youth mentoring programme to engage young people to strive for sound morality and positive achievement in life. The participants, who numbered nearly 30 altogether, were divided into 3 groups and entered lively discussion on the themes presented, addressing a wide variety of moral issues as well as practical ideas such as media campaigns to bring such issues to the forefront.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to share and network over refreshments to conclude a stimulating and informative conference.



Interfaith, the United Nations and Peace in the 21st Century Consultation on the establishment of an “Interreligious Council” as an organ of the United Nations Vienna, Austria, December 8th, 2010



The Conference took place in the afternoon of December 8th 2010 in Vienna with a selected group of 50 participants. As an introduction Peter Haider read excerpts from Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon’s speech delivered in the UN building in New York in August 2000, where the establishment of an Interreligious Council at the UN was proposed for the first time. A recently released UPF introduction video was shown to illustrate developments in this effort and the involvement of Ambassadors for Peace in its unfolding.

The initial speaker of the first session of the conference was Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, a former Austrian Ambassador to Canada and several other countries. During all his life as a career diplomat he was involved with UN projects as well. He was one of a few participants in a conference initiated by the former Iranian president Khatami which gave birth to the organization “UN Alliance of Civilizations”, created as an answer of concerned world leaders to the “Clash of Civilizations”. This organization is now especially supported by Turkey and Spain, which became a

leading party after the experience of the Madrid train bombings in March 2004.

In his speech Dr. Lichem also spoke about the challenge of the people in the 21st century to live in a society of neighbors with multiple identities. He further emphasized the importance of respect for every culture and the necessity of an open and interested mindset while living together in a peaceful, harmonious and probably happy setting despite experiencing otherness when we look at the religious or cultural traditions of people around us today.

The second speaker was Fr. Richard Reinisch, a Benedictine monk from the famous monastery of Goettweig, located on a mountain overlooking the river Danube. Before Fr. Reinisch joined the monastery he worked as an engineer in China and in Africa for several years. In Africa he experienced how different religions lived together in harmony: Hindus, Catholics, Protestants and Moslems. Further he emphasized that we have to return respect and dignity to other religions. And religion should not be separated from social initiatives. As good examples he mentioned Mother Theresa and Ute Bock, an Austrian Ambassador for Peace who engages herself completely in helping asylum seekers. The common base for interreligious dialogue Fr. Reinisch sees in accepting God as our father, because then we can be brothers and sisters, we can be one family. Also, we need to trust in the goodness of the other person as a prerequisite for dialogue. Fr. Reinisch recently published two books: “Christianity in China” and “Humor in Religions”.

The third speaker was Alexej Klutschewsky, a Russian anthropologist, whose topic was “How could the Orthodox world deal with an Interreligious Council at the UN?”

Mr. Klutschewsky explained that in Russia there are four privileged religions: The Orthodox Church, the Sunnite Islam, Lamaistic Buddhism and Judaism. Smaller churches or new religions



Dr. Walther Lichem, a former Austrian Ambassador to Canada



Fr. Richard Reinisch, a Benedictine monk, monastery of Goettweig,

are not very welcomed. The immigration from the Central Asian Moslem countries to Russia is causing ethnic tensions and common Russian people feel threatened by such developments today. The political leaders try to balance these tensions.

Then Dr. Herbert Rauch, a sociologist and social philosopher, who had participated in international UPF-Conferences made his statement. First he praised the atmosphere of generosity and hospitality created by UPF. He can clearly see that the agenda of UPF – promoting an Interreligious Council at the UN – is the right idea at the right time, because the global problems are increasing, and they need to be resolved!

He emphasized three topics on which there should be global agreement:

1. The dignity of human beings.
2. The right for all people to live, which can be achieved if wealth is equally shared.
3. The ecological footprint: we need to take steps to use less and leave more for future generations!

We need to give “reason” a more prominent place in our interreligious discussions again!

After Dr. Rauch’s contribution there was a coffee break with refreshments.

The first speaker of the second session was Prof. Dr. Elshahed, director of the Institute of Intercultural Islamic Research at the central mosque near the UN in Vienna and a professor at the German department of Al-Ashar University in Cairo, Egypt. The topic of his speech was: “Does society need religion and if yes, how much religion is needed?” In his opinion, secularism is the answer to theocracy, as it existed in the Middle

Ages in Europe. But in some cases, secularism has become a kind of religion itself! However secular societies are shallow and drained. We need God and we need religious values. Dr. Elshahed thinks that religions will play a more important role in the postmodern world.

One of Prof. Elshahed’s great achievements was organizing a Conference on “World-Ethos” in Saudi Arabia, where he was a professor in the 1990s and despite many obstacles he managed to get Professor Dr. Hans Küng, the founder of “World-Ethos”, invited as a professor of Christian theology there. Finally Prof. Küng left Saudi Arabia with hopeful impressions. He had met Moslem religious leaders and scientists there with whom he had fruitful discussions!

Also, Prof. Elshahed could get the Saudi Arabian government to participate in the Parliament of World Religions in Chicago in 1993, which was a big step forward as well. “If we want a dialogue between religions, we need to be ready to look at the problems as well, not only emphasize the common points”, Dr. Elshahed emphasized. And, according to him, we need to be ready to accept criticism from within and also from outside our religious circles.

The opportunity to practice readiness for criticism opened right away when the next speaker unfolded his ideas. Mag. Christian Zeitz, secretary general of the Austrian academic society, a rather conservative Christian federation, first gave an enthusiastic report on the August 2000 Conference in New York, which he was lucky to participate in ten years ago, when Father Moon introduced the idea of an Interreligious Council at the UN for the first time. Mag. Zeitz could meet so many important people there as never before in his life.

Then, Mr. Zeitz put up three questions for the interreligious dialogue:



Alexej Klutschewsky, a Russian anthropologist



Dr. Herbert Rauch, a sociologist and social philosopher



Prof. Dr. Elshahed, director of the Institute of Intercultural Islamic Research - Mag. Christian Zeitz, secretary general of the Austrian academic society

1. What is interreligious dialogue? Quoting Plato, he stated that is has to be a learning process for both parties.
2. What is the purpose of interreligious dialogue? Quoting Plato again, it is to find a common base. Every religion claims the absolute truth. Is there a third perspective which can make a connection between the two parties? Can we find a basic agreement?
3. Who are the partners in the dialogue, religious leaders or politicians? Are they qualified and do they represent their communities? Another problem Mr. Zeitz sees is that while we are engaged in dialogue, there are things going on in the world which nullify the efforts of the dialogue.

Also, according to Mr. Zeitz, the question of religious freedom has to be separated from juridical or social questions, which have to be dealt with by the legal system and through political representation. After Mr. Zeitz' speech, which included some criticism of developments within the Muslim community in Austria and internationally, like the persecution of Christians in the Arabic world, tensions between him and Prof. Elshahed became quite apparent, and it was clear to all participants that as UPF we have to invest continuously into this interreligious dialogue, putting all our efforts into it.

As a last lecture Mr. Heinrich Kreck, a Unificationist who had been a Benedictine monk before, introduced the book "World Scripture", an anthology which introduces sacred texts of the world's religions. Mr. Kreck mentioned that we are on our way to a world culture and no religion can stand by itself. More and more theologians are calling for a world level theology. After Mr. Kreck's speech there were questions from the audience to the speakers.

As a final highlight of the conference Mr. Warren Rosenzweig, founder of the Jewish theater in Vienna, who attended a MEPI

conference in Jerusalem last August, drew the attention of all those present to the fact that this year December 8th was the final day of the Jewish celebration of Hanukkah. He lit all the candles of his Jewish 8-armed candleabra and all remained silent while listening to the story of the flask of oil that miraculously burned for eight days in the temple during the uprising under Judah Maccabee against the Greeks in 161 B.C. The light of the candles created an atmosphere of peace and unity at the end of sometimes heated interreligious discussions.

A small buffet dinner with many individual discussions concluded this very meaningful conference.

The United Nations was founded in 1945 to protect succeeding generations from the scourge of war, poverty, hunger and disease and to work towards the realization of world peace. Despite its inception with such lofty ideals, the UN has not been able to come close to global peace even with the investment of tremendous resources, and today it faces even greater challenges.

Member States and many Secretaries-General have all agreed that the United Nations needs reform and renewal. The founder of the Universal Peace Federation, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, is introducing a timely proposal for the strengthening of the UN in order that it may fulfill its original founding purpose, principles and ideals as the embodiment of humanity's aspiration for peace.

The existing United Nations structure, composed of national representatives, may be regarded as a congress where the interests of each member nation are represented. However, I submit that serious consideration should be given to forming a religious assembly, or council of religious representatives within the structure of the United Nations. This assembly or council would consist of respected spiritual leaders in fields such as religion, culture, and education. (Remarks of Dr. Moon at the United Nations, August 18, 2000)



Mr. Heinrich Kreck, a Unificationist



Mr. Warren Rosenzweig, founder of the Jewish theater in Vienna



Russian - Austrian Concert with Ballet

Vienna, Austria, November 14th, 2010



For the third consecutive year we got sponsorship from the city of Vienna for 6 concerts a year. This adds to the attractiveness of our work here. This year we had a Jewish, a Persian, an African, a Syrian and the Russian concert. On the coming Sunday we will have a Latin-American Christmas event with an Brazilian singer.



UPF Turin

Turin, Italy, December 12th, 2010



On Sunday Dec. 12th 2010, the Torino charter of UPF was invited to attend the inauguration of the first Buddhist Temple in Torino. The director is one Ambassador for Peace, Upali Thero – Italian buddhist monk – who invited the UPF representative, Sergio Coscia, to give the introductory speech. The topic was the importance of the spiritual upheaval as a basis for peace, the interfaith cooperation, and an appeal to work together in preparation of the first Week for Interfaith Harmony in February 2010. On the occasion, two new Ambassadors

for Peace were nominated: the Ven. Vilachchiye Dhamma Vijaya Thero, Director of the Buddhist Center in Muenchen, Germany, that with this occasion becomes also spiritual advisor for the Torino Buddhist Center, and Mrs Michelangela Pennazio, president of the Dojo Miura, the oldest Martial Arts Academy in Torino, that gave the premises for the realization of the newly inaugurated Buddhist Temple.



UPF Roma

Rome, Italy, December 11th, 2010



After a couple of month of preparation, especially from a group of Ambassador for Peace of Rome, coordinated by Antonio Imeneo and the supervision of Giuseppe Cali, we held on December 11th, a very meaningful and high level meeting in the auditorium of the Institute for Tourism of Velletri, Rome.

The meeting started as a cake competition for Peace, with the participation of ten high level schools for tourism and cooking. The schools came from different part of Italy, with a selected group of students and their directors. The jury was formed by expert chefs, members of the Italian Food and Wine Institute and especially an International group of Ambassadors from fifteen different embassies. They evaluated the taste, the meaning connected to peace and the artistic presentation of the cakes. All cakes were presented in a very beautiful artistic composition recalling a peaceful meaning. So there were cakes calling for peace between Israel and Palestine, peace and harmony between man and woman, north and south and so on. Some of those cakes were authentic artworks. It was a joy for all the ambassadors to see it and they invested all their heart in evaluating carefully all the students efforts. Very moving was the cake presentation, out of the competition, made by a selected group of the about 70 handicapped children of the local school. They offered their cakes to everyone and received a prize as well.

The award ceremony was held in the main auditorium in front of about 300 people: the delegations from the schools, filling up one third of the hall, the ambassadors of Austria, Burkina Faso, Moldova, Honduras, El Salvador, Iraq, Albania, Serbia, Cameroon, Giordania, Zimbabwe, the Bishop of Velletri, the president of NATO, the President of the Italian Catholic Priest Associations, several catholic representatives, businessmen, politicians and representatives from the institutions on the national and local level. The Ambassador of Iraq, as President of the jury, after giving a speech on Peace gave the awards to the three winners.

Very meaningful was the ceremony of peace, were the Ambassador of Iraq and the head of all the Catholic Italian Priests, embraced each other, calling for peace between Catholics and Muslims.

Twenty new Ambassadors for Peace were appointed, including, the Bishop, the head of the catholic priests association, the Iraqi Ambassador, the representative from the regional government, the President of NATO in Italy, the President of the Italian Food organization and so on.

The sponsor of the event were the ministry of Education and the Italian Food Association, but the entire event was under the banner of UPF, and a presentation of its purposes and activities was presented by Giuseppe Cali. The reaction was amazingly good, opening many new opportunities for cooperation with embassies and institutions on the highest level. A copy of "Voices for Peace" the Italian UPF magazine was well received by all the VIPs in the hall.

Several journalists were present at the event and will report about it.

Especially good was the friendly spirit created with the Catholic representatives, after some difficulties that we had to face in the few days preceding the event. We started a good cooperation, between our medical center in Anzio and the Priests Association. The President is enthusiastic about UPF and he published an article about it. Right away he was attacked by the Vatican for supporting Rev. Moon "that is the enemy of the Catholic church since Milingo' story". I decided to speak to them and explain all our situation and vision, and I had to explain in details the Milingo story as well. At the end he decided to stay on our side and to attend anyway the event, saying "we are right in front of God and we will challenge this high ranking Vatican representative, with the power of our sincere desire for peace and interreligious spirit". So, together with the secretary that is a nun, they started their campaign to inform the Vatican about us in the proper way. I provided them with a lot of information about our activities and purposes to fight their battle and they intend to go on with it. The nun is a real warrior and she is very inspired and very well prepared even theologically. We will pray for them and we wish, together with them, that the outcome of this situation will be a new opening and brotherly relationship with the Catholic Church.



Reconciliation in Israel and Palestine

Giessen, Germany, September 25th, 2010



The Gießen, Germany chapter of UPF- invites Jews and Muslims to roundtable discussion. On 25 September 2010, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in cooperation with the Family Federation Association in Linden organized an inter-religious dialogue. The title was quite suitable to the current situation: "Reconciliation in Israel and Palestine." Featured at the meeting was the 41st MEPI Pilgrimage (Middle East Peace Initiative) which Mr. Christian Seeburger had taken part in earlier in August 2010. He moderated the program and chaired the discussion afterward.

Most people are aware that Jews, Christians and Muslims are all children of Abraham. This thought was the central focus of three impressive presentations given by Mr. Amnon Orbach, the Chairman of the Jewish Community in Marburg, Sheikh Hashim Jansen, doctor of Islamic theology and Imam in The Hague, and Mr Mark Bramwell, the Chairman of UPF in Hessen, which was followed by an enthusiastic discussion.

The program opened with the Youth Choir of the Family Federation. The young people sang very beautiful songs of peace. Then Mr. Seeburger told of his recently made pilgrimage to Jerusalem and the history of MEPI-Events (Middle East Peace Initiative) since 2002, a program which was initiated by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and has continued till this day. The

whole idea of MEPI has been deeply moving for the participants involved as they lean to appreciate and respect each other's religious traditions. For example, a Christian pastor baptizes a Dutch Imam in Jordan. These meetings underscore not only dialogue but encourage the participants to try out different religious traditions, without running the risk of having to negate their own faith tradition. The UPF seeks to find common ground and empowers so-called "peace ambassadors" to pursue efforts for peace. "It is not about blame, but taking responsibility and learning to forgive each other." There is a UPF initiative aiming to establish an inter-faith chamber in the UN, which would act to advise the General Assembly on policy decisions.

Mr. Amnon Orbach was born in Palestine, before the State of Israel was proclaimed. He chose two Hebrew songs and invited the visitors to sing along. His presentation focused on the political situation in the Middle East. He began his presentation with some important questions: How can we create real peace and development? What determines this? And which are the obstacles at the moment? Mr. Orbach emphasised several reasons for the two-state solution. That is clear from the demographic conditions and in response to the question of security, including Jordan and Egypt. Both sides sit together to discuss rather uninteresting issues. One should talk about the separation. Israel is the only UN country that has no fixed boundaries. The most important issues are the borders, then security. There was a problem of the co-existence of Jewish and Palestinian people. The majority on both sides would be willing to waiver areas for the sake of peace. The relation between Jews and Palestinians is improving daily. Since one and a half years ago, there has been few terror incidents. The Palestinians used to be terrorists, but now they are peace activists. Arafat made very little investment in the infrastructure and organization in the West Bank, but today, eight years later things would go much better, with better political leadership. Mr. Orbach could safely say that the Palestinian people were on the right track. The Arab states have helped the Palestinians in difficult situations and few Palestinian refugees in Arab states are without rights, passports and work. Palestinians are not only Arabs, they are the most clever in the Middle East. We Jews are connected with the Palestinians, like Siamese twins, linked to each other



through common water, energy, ports and even through the sky above us. For us Jews it would be much better if we could live in peace.

Dr. Hashim Jansen welcomed the participants of the event in Hebrew and Arabic, but spoke during his presentation in English. He participated in the last MEPI-event in Jerusalem and said that he had some very encouraging and beautiful experiences, but also saw things not so nice. What impressed him at the very outset was witnessing Jews, Christians and Palestinians working together as colleagues and friends in his Jewish, kosher hotel. Politics and human affairs are two different things. If someone says that his mother is the best mother in the world, then everyone can understand. I have the right to say this, but I do not have the right to say that your mother is not the best mother in the world. We should apply this principle to our religions. One of the most important things in Islam is to understand another person through talking, sharing food, traveling and having mutual respect for each other.

When we talk about Islam, many questions will arise, some critical, such as what is the position of women in society. "I believe that the first feminist in Islam was the Prophet Muhammad himself, because at that time, women had no rights." Before the time of the Prophet Mohammed, newly born girls were often buried alive. Muhammad changed these things. Women were not allowed to be "bought" but to be "married" and the dowry was introduced. Work and study for women was then permitted. A newborn girl represented now a value. The current problems of women in Islamic countries were not justified by any means by the Prophet. The Imams should clarify this with each other. The Koran says very clearly: the paradise is under the feet of mothers, they were the key to paradise. Mr. Jansen then raised the question whether Muslims understand their own religion and concluded by saying probably not! He cited another interesting example. It is stated in the Koran: "If you kill one person, it's like when you kill all humanity." Extremists understand this passage completely wrong, they only see things the way they want to understand them.

The MEPI-pilgrimage took place during Ramadan and in the evening there was a common meal. During the evening program, while a speaker was making a presentation, it became clear that he would not finish with his remarks before the fast-breaking at 19:20. At the round tables were Jews, Christians and Muslims. All were already nervous because for Muslim, it is a duty to break fast at exactly the appointed time. Suddenly a Jewish Rabbi stood up and asked the waiter for a jug of water and handed this to his Muslim brothers with the words "please start, it's time to break fast".

In this way, we should live together. That is living the principles of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Just like the prophets of the great religions speak. What can we do? Mr. Jansen has heard the speeches and prayers of the speakers carefully and the words "hope" and "desire" were often mentioned which made him a little sad. Since a long time, God has promised us all that peace would come. Perhaps we should rather ask God when peace will come? If we already have God's confidence, then we simply would need to do it together - and make peace. Mr. Jansen had confidence in God's promise, that God's kingdom of peace would come, but not so as he would like to have, but as God has envisioned it for us, His children. We ask God for so much, but we glorify and praise God too little. If I have faith, now is my time to truly practice it. God wants us to work for peace-loving for one another. Theological discussion alone will never lead to peace.

Towards the end of his address, Mr Jansen pulled a 60-year-old ring from his pocket and told a touching story of his family in Netherlands. He explained that his mother was of Jewish descent, and that she followed Jesus. Then he went on to explain that his grandmother worked as a nurse and once helped a wounded Nazi officer as he lay on the road. No one else wanted to help him because he was an enemy. She treated the German officer, and shortly before he died, he squeezed her hand tight and left her this ring. In spite of politics and war, these two people could relate to each other heart to heart, like brother and sister!

After the presentation of Mr. Jansen, there were many questions from the audience, especially on the topic of Sharia. Jansen referred to the fact that he had studied Sharia law five years, but it was still too little to know enough about it. In general, he could say that the way in which the laws of Sharia are practiced in Islamic countries today is not as the prophet Mohammed would approve. For example, cutting off the hand for theft requires four witnesses but Muhammad himself never practiced this. According to Sharia law a man who has committed adultery should also be stoned. It is reported that such a sinner came to confess and repent to the Prophet. But Mohammed turned his ear. Then the man whispered his offense in the other ear of the Prophet. He turned his ear away again. Only on the fourth attempt of the sinful man, the Prophet Mohammed: "Go home and clarify this with your wife and God" - Mohammed did not apply the Shariah. These laws are also based on the culture of that time and the Mosaic laws. In Arab countries, the Shari'a is not applied correctly. Mr. Jansen believes in the Sharia, but only as it was practiced by the Prophet Muhammad - Sharia with mercy. Islam says that war should be made, but only in defence when justified by a revealed threat.

The concluding remarks were made by Mr Mark Bramwell who noted with satisfaction that this event was one of the best and well balanced. Mr Bramwell explained briefly the views of UPF. He emphasized that conflict resolution begins with a spiritual approach. If this is achieved, then political solutions will be free of violence and successful. Without inter-religious understanding, there is no end to the conflict in sight, because religion and faith are the strongest forces in the world. Concerning the question what is God's aim for the Great Abrahamic Faiths - whether they go their own way forever or whether they are predestined to unite, he referred to the thoughts of the founder, Rev. Dr. Moon. Love for one another is the only real healing power to overcome all conflicts. God wants to see people united as one body. There have been concepts of truth in all religions. All believers should work together for the good of their fellow man and take their core practical issues more seriously than theology. The original world of God and His true philosophy goes far beyond religions and nations. The unification of religions is even more urgent than the unity of nations. Emphasizing complicated theories and conceptions are not on the priority, but rather the teaching of selflessness, to live for the sake of others and understanding God's heart and desire is the motto of the 21st Century. Finally, it is high time that the walls separating religions crumble and we understand that God, as our Parent, eagerly desires to see the great religions united as brothers and sisters united in love establishing "one world under God."

Peter Valenta



Christmas Celebration and Honouring the Birthday of other Religious Founders

Berlin, Germany, December 12th, 2010



On Dec.12 UPF Berlin invited for a Christmas celebration. Around 40 people attended, among them 9 guests and Ambassadors for Peace. Brothers and sisters had prepared beforehand wonderful decorations, food and music performances to create a happy and joyful atmosphere for Jesus' Birthday celebration. Also AfP had joined us in the preparation work.

The second part of the day was filled with candle lights, traditional Christmas songs accompanied by flutes, guitar and piano and of course Christmas presents for young and old.

Report by Achim Pock



Pastor Lo-Lowengo from an African Christian congregation opened our service with a moving prayer about the meaning of Christmas.

Fritz Piepenburg spoke in the following sermon about the traditions in the 5 major religions to celebrate their kind of "Christmas", meaning the Birthday of their founders - Moses, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus, Mohammed. The title

of the sermon was "The prophet in his native land and in his time". It helped everyone to broaden our understanding of God's plan to restore His children by founding of all these faith traditions and we learned to value more the traditions of celebrating the birthdays of each of the founding figures.



Dr. Hedwig Raskob, a peace activist and ambassador for peace, cried out in her closing prayer about the suffering in the Middle East conflict, the suffering of innocent civilians among the Palestinians in particular. She really prayed for peace to come in this region where Jesus Christ had been born.

During the service we had also the opportunity to congratulate Mr. Nam Sool Oh for being a member in the Unification Move-

ment for 50 years. He joined True Parents in 1960 when he was 16 years and had a very intensive missionary time back then in Korea. He came to Germany in 1977 and has since been a very active and supportive member of our congregation. Through Mr. Oh's attitude we can get a glimpse of the spirit of the early years and of the Korean heart.





International Advent Celebration in the International Year 2010 for the Rapprochement of Cultures

Stuttgart, Germany, December 11th, 2010



Ending the "2010 International Year for the Rapprochement of Cultures", the UPF chapter Stuttgart organized an international Advent celebration in Stuttgart, on December 11.

More than 70 people attended - young and old - not only to enjoy coffee and cookies but also various presentations of international art and culture. The room and tables were beautifully decorated with Christmas ornaments.

The program started with Maike Tijsterman playing the piano piece "Kiss the Rain" by Yiruma. Ute Lemme, the MC of the event, welcomed the guests and everybody joined together singing a traditional German Christmas carol: "Macht hoch die Tür....".

Christoph Wenzel, head of the Family Federation in Stuttgart, read a Christmas story called "Wonder" by Heike Denzau. It was followed by the piano piece "Nuvole bianche" by Einaudi, played by Katrin Daudert. The actress Ida Kassiekpo-Schmidt then sang a moving African song. She is from the Ivory Coast, where she and her husband are supporting a relief project. She shortly spoke about the political and social turmoil of her country and asked everybody to pray for the country and the children of this project.

Mr. Bernhard Volk, head of IRFF Germany, gave a short introduction about IRFF and together with Ute Lemme presented a request to help the orphans in the Kawangare Slums (Nairobi). This was the idea of the participating youth, who were selling

their homemade Christmas Cookies to collect donations for the relief project. Simon Kingori, the founder of "Orphans and Street Kids Kenya" intends to use the money to bring some Christmas joy to these children. A slide show explained the work of Mr. Kingori and this project. We were able to raise 310 Euros to send as a donation.

Mr. Hubert Arnoldi, head of the UPF chapter in Stuttgart, sang the song "Jerusalem" while playing the guitar. Then Mr. Samir El Midani, a native from Egypt, read the Surah 19 from the Koran, the story of the birth of Jesus. Many of the guests never realized that this important Christian event was also included in the Koran.

Everybody sang the song "Daughter Zion.." together. Then a girl band sang "Hear you me..."

The last contribution before the coffee break was from a Japanese women choir which sang two songs - the Russian song "Troika", which is well known in Japan, as well as a Japanese winter song.

Everyone enjoyed the plentiful cakes or homemade cookies during the coffee break while Grandpa Wenzel played some songs on his harmonica.

To everyone's surprise even Santa Claus found his way into the gathering. Was it Santa Claus himself or someone in disguise? We don't know, but his presents were plentiful, not only for the children but also for the adults. A group photo was taken before everyone went home.



Peace Maker - The Memorial to the Legacy of Peace

Zagreb, Croatia, October 24th, 2010



UPF Croatia organised 24.10.2010 conference with topic "Peacemaker - The Memorial to the legacy of peace". This event we organised in our Embassy for Peace, Golobreška bb, Brezovica, at 11:00. There was 19 guest, 9 of them AfP.

All programs was led by Ilija Kosic, president of FFWP Croatia as MC and welcoming speech was given by Mr. Anto Tomas, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) for Croatia.

On the beginning we showed video "Memorial to the legacy of peace", after Mr. Goran Petrinic, Divine Principle lecturer and seminar leader for children and Youth FFWP gave explanation about honouring deceased persons. (a Seunghwa Ceremony) On this ceremony we honour following people from Croatia as Peacemakers.

1. Stjepan Radic - Born: June 11 1871, Trebarjevo (right next to town Sisak), died: August 8 1928, Zagreb, Croatian politician, who fight his entire life for human rights. He was true Croatian patriot who gave life in fight for injustice.

2. Ivana Brlic Majuranic - Born: April 18 1874 Ogulin, died: September 21

1938 in Zagreb, the Croatian writer who in his work directly and openly writes about the existence of good and evil and God as a single parent, recognized in the UK and the world as the best author of children's literature. Mother of 7 children, granddaughter of Croatian aristocrat, 2 times nominated for the Nobel Prize for literature (which she won with her student as the first woman who receive this recognition) 3. The canonized Aloysius Stepinac - Born: May 8 1898, Brezarić near

Krasic, died: February 10 1960 in Krasic, Zagreb Archbishop Cardinal,

beatified 1998th. He is considered one of the greatest person of the Catholic Church in Croatia. At his suggestion was founded Caritas of the Zagreb Archdiocese 4. Dr Franjo Tudmana - Born: May 14 1922, Veliko Trgovisce, died: December

10 1999, Zagreb, historian and first president of an independent Croatian Republic in service from 30 May 1990 till December 10 1999.

5. Nikola Tesla - Born : July 10 1856, Smiljan, died : January 7 1943, New York, scientist and an innovator of world fame. He worked in the field of electrical engineering and radio, and invented the rotating magnetic field and the polyphase system of alternating current.

6. Oreškić Mary (b. Kalamiza) - Born: 1920, died: 2010. Mother of 6 children, lost her husband early and worked hard to educate all children. As a sacrificial mother and grandmother, received the blessing of 1997 7. Mara Benkovic - Born: September 04 1918 in Sopje, died: February 06 2005 .Mother of one child. She lived as a good Christian striving to pass a best education to her daughter. Received the Blessing on August 25th 1995

After this ceremony our Ambassador of Peace Dr. Tihomir Domazet gave speech and PPP "Croatian peacemakers" it was deep explanation about Croatian peacemakers and their position in Croatia and world. Mr. Anto Tomas, Secretary General of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) for Croatia read speech from T.F. ,The Establishment of the Abel UN and the Completion of God's Kingdom of Cheon Il Guk in Korea.

Program of this event finished by presentation: The challenges of spiritual growth - given by Mrs. Jolan Petrinić, Coordinator of the program and seminars for children and young FFWP members.



Meeting with Baha'i Community Koprivnica, Croatia, September 14th, 2010

Good day everyone! Here is a brief report from the conference on character education which was held in Koprivnica, 24.09.2010. in the hall of the Youth Koprivnica. The conference was organized by Ivica Koluder a lecture on character education held Anto Tomas and our ambassador of peace Mr Marko Tarle. The conference has received about 30 guests. Basically it was a kindergarten teacher and teacher of elementary and secondary schools in Koprivnica.

After the excellent presentations, which are greatly interested listeners and listener Mr. Anto Tomas presented books that have character education in particular those in the Croatian language. Then came the musical entertainment program in

which Ivica and his friends played and sang several songs. After the musical part of Mr. Anto Tomas invited all guests to a table where they were exposed to all the books we have on the education of character. This was followed by socializing with the guests with a rich prepared reception. reviews Reactions were more than excellent, and many a teacher and educator from kindergarten expressed a desire to meet with us again and learn more about character education through the following conferences and lectures, both in Koprivnica and by us here at the Embassy of Peace in Zagreb.

Thanks for all of Slavko from central blessed families Kovačev



Monthly Peace Festival South Norway, December 11th, 2010



This was our final Peace Festival of this year in South Norway. Tron Evensen began the program with guitar and songs. We watched a video explaining the work of UPF. Our guest speaker was a refugee from Palestine who shared his thoughts and life story with us. The evening ended with homemade Christmas food prepared by members and one of our Peace Ambassadors. It was a truly enjoyable evening.



15th Gathering of Ambassadors for Peace - "Letting Go"

Komagata Family, November 20th, 2010



Each event is prepared by the Komagata family, as an opportunity to invite new guests and keep AfP involved in the activities. It's a preparation for DP education and Blessing.

Every trimester, the penultimate Saturday of the months of February, May, August and November at 5:30 pm, the Komagata Family organizes an event for ambassadors for peace (AfP) and for new guests. Food is prepared all afternoon as a way to create an atmosphere of service and love. The guest that presents the topic chooses it beforehand. The network of Ambassadors for peace receives the invitation about one month in advance and is asked to confirm their attendance.

Norbert Martin, who became an AfP at the last gathering, presented a way that we can let go of our emotions, positions or things we hang on to. As an introduction to that, passages from World Scriptures II were read, from Buddhism, Matthew, the Qur'an and True Father's words: "How do we cross over the dividing line between good and evil? Good abides where we live for others and evil abides where we live centered on ourselves. If we look within, our mind always tries to lead us towards good thought and a good direction. It says, "serve others Have an

affectionate heart for others. Sacrifice for others. Live for others". Such is the path of goodness. ... If you act as your body desires, you are connected to hell. On the other hand, if you act as your mind wishes, you are connected to the Kingdom of Heaven. You alone are the dividing line between the Kingdom of Heaven and hell." These deep words very well introduced the topic of letting go.

Norbert is a retired protestant pastor and chaplain of the University of Neuchâtel. He gave an introduction to the book about the Sedona method he had just finished translating into French. He then gave a few examples and we experienced a simple exercise of the method of letting go by dropping a pencil we were holding onto. Like choosing heaven or hell, choosing to hang onto things or letting them go comes from within and requires responsibility, understanding and will.



"The Role of Grandparents in a Changing Society"

Ticino, November 24th, 2010



UPF Ticino is since January 2009 a registered association with 22 members (UC and non), and our purpose is to propose to the large, traditionally catholic society, regular public events about peace-related themes. The character of our events can vary from: cultural, social, spiritual, beneficial, and so on. After our success with the conference about family-values in May, we proposed in the same hall another public conference about the theme "THE ROLE OF GRANDPARENTS IN A CHANGING SOCIETY".

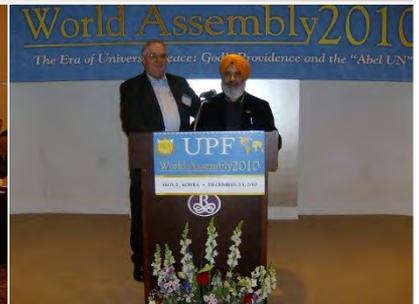
Alberto Zoffili from UPF Milano as MC, presented a good introduction about UPF International. Then, Giuseppe Termine, gave the first talk about: "Being grandparents: a big heart for a process of growth", followed by Dr. Lehmann, who is a protestant pastor and psychotherapist. He spoke about: "Being grandparents: putting yourself into the position of listeners, and, if necessary, recreate the roles". The third speech, given by Mauro Sarasso was entitled: "New grandparents for new grandchildren: a very complex job". His talk was enriched by a series of beautiful photos from a show about "Grandparents with grandchildren" illustrating the Junior - Senior activities in the part of Italy close to the Swiss border

After the conference we had a nice snack at the entrance of the hall. Almost everybody stayed longer, so we could make some new contacts and take care well of the friendly couple of our guest-speaker.



Supporting God's Providence

Basel, Switzerland, December 5th, 2010



Ambassador for Peace, Mr. Prithpal Singh Khalsa from Basel, spontaneously agreed to also attend the ILC and the 3rd Cosmic Assembly in Korea, representing Switzerland –even though he had attended the Interfaith Assembly & Blessing last October (10.10.2010) and even though this is one of the busiest times for his business.

It was already Saturday evening, Nov. 27 (*Gregorian*), after we had received an urgent request by e-mail at lunch time on that day, to find someone to represent our country. Finding the e-mail at 3pm, we initially contacted 3 persons: First a protestant pastor who knows the Unification Church for many years, but on such short notice it was impossible for him to attend. In case of a Korean theologian, we could not reach her that day. However, Mr. Singh Khalsa confirmed and we immediately moved to prepare everything for an express visa to Korea. Mr. Singh Khalsa could depart on December 1st.

During the Assembly, Mr. Singh Khalsa had talks with Dr.

Walsh, Mr. Taj Hamad and others, proposing a certain peace initiative centred on UPF's Peace Council. Mr. Singh Khalsa is a devout Sikh, chairman of Dal Khalsa Human Rights International, and a very active AFP, constantly promoting UPF among his friends and associates. We will work together with Mr. Singh Khalsa on a detailed proposal to be submitted possibly by middle of January 2011.

Excerpt from Tongil Group Report:

*Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF secretary-general, was the master of ceremonies for the day. The occasion began with **prayers for peace** from Rev. Jesse Edward (Christian), Ms. Yoneko Nakamine (Shintoist), Imam Abdul Maji Tamir (Muslim), Dr. Joon-ho Seuk (Unificationist), Mr. Chiachen Chiyao (Confucian) **and Mr. Prithpal Singh Khalsa (Sikh)** (**correct name: Prithpal Singh Khalsa**). Dr. Sun-jo Hwang, UPF-Korea president, then welcomed those present.*