

## Thoughts about God – in different religions

Oslo, Norway, 29. August 2013



A couple of years ago we had a conference called *My Faith*, where representatives of different faiths talked about how their faith could contribute to peace. It was popular and we organized another one.

Some years have passed, and in a recent UPF board meeting we decided to revive this concept and hopefully make it into a standing conference that can build some momentum. Our intention is to invite religious leaders to talk about topics related to peace and universal values.

The first event took place Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August. The largest mosque in Oslo was the venue. We had a panel of five speakers; a catholic, a Muslim, a Seven Day Adventist, a Sikh and a Unificationist. All of them presented their thoughts about God from their religious conviction.

Of course different perspectives came up, but our idea was to find the common ones.

After the presentations the floor was opened for comments and questions. One central question was;

- all religions have different names on God and different rituals to serve him, but is it the same God we are all worshipping?

There was a consensus that this universe can only have one God, even though we have different names for him.

It might sound like a simple statement but the practical consequence of this answer would be a big step toward world peace.

Great refreshments and a guided tour around the mosque concluded the evening, together with the announcement of the next event; *My Faith II*, that will take place in a Buddhist temple.

Report: Steinar Murud

Photo: Ole Toresen

