Nepal: 60 Media Persons Support UPF's Vision of Social Transformation

Santosh Paudel July 6, 2015



UPF Nepal, Nagarkot, Nepal: Sixty professional journalists from print, television, radio, wire services, the government and on-line media agencies gathered for two days just outside the Kathmandu valley for the first Media Leaders' Seminar, July 5-6. After being introduced to the philosophy and activities of the Universal Peace Federation, offered their full support for UPF-Nepal's vision of social transformation.

The theme was, "Providing Vision and Leadership at a Time of Global Change." It was organized by the Forum of Nepalese Journalists (FNJ), a coalition of nearly 400 professional media persons working throughout Nepal. The Universal Peace Federation-Nepal helped to co-sponsor the event.

The Secretary-General of the FNJ, Mr. Chandar Mani Bhattari, opened the program saying their Forum wished all political parties well while not being aligned to any single party. At the same time he said journalists in their Forum wanted to do more than just report about events in Nepal, "We want to help transform society."

This was the point of convergence. Social transformation is also one of UPF's main goals which it seeks to accomplish through education that focuses on clearly defined Universal Principles of Peace.



At the Opening Session on the first night the Chairman of UPF-Nepal, Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, who is a Member of Parliament and former government minister, outlined an alternative political strategy termed, Headwing Democracy.

This philosophy seeks to span the ideological divide between democracy and communism by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of both systems of government. For example, one of the major shortcomings of both isms is sidelining spiritual and moral values.

The following morning during an interactive session Hon. Dhakal defended the right of the media to play the role of watchdog. "I don't mind the media criticizing the government when we do something wrong; that's your job," he explained, then added, "But don't criticize our nation; it is like our mother."



Dr. Robert Kittel, the Director of Education for UPF-Asia, gave an overview of Father Moon's investment in creating a worldwide media empire. The UPF Founder the called, "the conscience of society." Dr. Kittel then shared two key concepts of Father Moon's teachings: the Principle of Living for Others and the Principle of One Family Under God.



Mr. Santosh Paudel, President FFWPU-Nepal, told the journalists gathered together that they need to be models of the highest standards of human behavior. Quoting Father Moon he said media ethics must

focus on, "following the right path, being truthful, and maintaining integrity."



"The media educates a nation," said Mr. Richell Jalipa, national lecturer for UPF-Nepal. He explained, "After finishing formal schooling people are educated by the media on a daily basis. They watch TV, turn on a radio, or pick up a newspaper." Concluding his presentation Mr. Jalipa praised the media, saying, "Media leaders are patriots because they sacrifice and risk their lives exposing corruption and abuses in the government and business sectors."

The Universal Times (TUT), a national weekly paper, surprised fellow journalists by distributing the paper on the morning of the last day of the seminar. On the front page was an article about the media conference itself.



Dr. Chuda Bahadur Shrestha, editor of *The Universal Times*, supported the seminar. TUT carried the story on the front page (upper right, red box).

Dr. Chuda Bahadur Shrestha, editor of TUT, participated in the program and strongly supported the idea that marriage is an essential social institution needed to address many social ills. Mr. Binod Dangi,

Secretary-General of UPF-Nepal, outlined Federation's extensive work in Nepal carried out over the past 1.5 decades.

Mr. Yubaraj Bidrohi, the FNJ Chairman, spoke at the end of the 2-day program. He was grateful for the insights that UPF's educational materials provided and said that they wanted to continue the relationship and fully support UPF activities in Nepal.



🖌 Media Clippings

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