True Parents’ Birthday

True Parents’ Birthday was celebrated February 12 with great joy. The Pledge service began at 7 am at the Peace Palace with several thousand in attendance. True Parents entered looking vibrant and healthy. Father and Mother were wearing traditional Korean attire, Father in dark blue, Mother with a blue dress with a red jacket. All True Family and representatives of all nations and faiths offered bows of respect to God and True Parents.

Rev. Chung Hwan Kwak opened the celebration with a beautiful review of Father and Mother’s life course. He reminded us that Father came on the foundation of the Old and New Testaments and the history of God’s providential preparation through all faiths. Jesus was the center of this history but because of the rejection he couldn’t establish the True Parents on the earth. God called Father on the foundation of Jesus promise to return. Jesus appeared to Father and gave him his mission. Christian spiritual groups had prepared to receive Father. His family was a family of great patriotism and yet Rev. Kwak reminded us that when a family is chosen for such a heavenly mission so much suffering must come. As
Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak took the podium and delivered the commemorative address. In his address Dr. Kwak asked that we all emulate True Parents who live consistently in absolute faith, absolute love and absolute obedience in order to liberate God from His grief and sorrow. Dr. Kwak emphasized that we should all become true owners of true love and true life and true lineage through True Parents' words that are encapsulated in the Family Pledge, Cheon Seong Gyeongsang and Cheon Seong Gyeongsadang.

Rev. Dow Soon Yim then offered a prayer. In his prayer he earnestly expressed his hope that this occasion be one where all participants could come together in heart with True Parents to strengthen their resolve in fulfilling and completing their responsibility and mission.

A number of guests were introduced this day. Especially noteworthy were H.E. Tullara Praisegod, Prime Minister, Independent State of Samoa and H.E. Ham Lui Prime Minister, Republic of Vanuatu.
Following this True Father took the podium and delivered his address for the day.

It was titled "A Providential View of the Pacific Rim Era in Light of God's Will."

After the speech Dr. Chang Shik Yang led everyone in three cheers foróg-man-

rected heads of states, ladies and gentlemen! On behalf of my family I would like to express my deep gratitude for your coming all this way in the cold weather to the Cheon Jeong Peace Palace to celebrate my birthday and that of my beloved wife.

The Pacific Rim Era of Peace in the New, Godly Civilization

Ladies and gentlemen, we have crossed the threshold into the twenty-first century where a new, Godly civilization is to rise in our history. Up until now the human race has known only an era of conflict, hostility and war. From this time on, however, it will be an era of love, service and sacrifice with God at the center. An age of happy families overflowing with pure love, and characterized by peace and justice is dawning.

This new era of Godly civilization will be a time of peace when God, humankind and the natural world are harmonized as one, when all beings can freely communicate with one another without conflict or separation.

The connecting point for all these relations is the ocean, all living creatures on the earth are born from an environment based on water. Therefore, the twenty-first century is the oceanic era of the Pacific Rim, the era of a new and Godly civilization of peace.

Ladies and gentlemen, at the beginning of the year 2007 and also this year, 2008, I proclaimed a jubilee year in God's providence. God has greatly blessed this holy year. It is a jubilee year the likes of which God and humankind have never experienced in thousands of years of history. God's heart has been in pain throughout history for thousands and tens of thousands of years because humanity has been confined under Satanas's dominion. Humanity had endured oppression under the sovereignty of evil throughout the era before the coming of heaven. That time has finally come to an end! From now on, with these two jubilee years as a turning point, the gates are opened wide to the revolutionary "era after the coming of heaven." Uniting in the time of a new sovereignty of goodness in which humanity can serve and attend God as the Central Being.

The Progress of Human History

Ladies and gentlemen, if you carefully examine the progress of history, you will undoubtedly discover God's plan and sense His presence as He tirelessly worked behind the scenes. Consider the history of civilization, which began centering on four of the world's great rivers. We are familiar with the Egyptian civilization that flourished along the Nile River, the Mesopotamian civilization between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, the Harappan civilization on the Indus River, and early Chinese civilization around the Yellow River.

The center of civilization shifted over time to the shores of the Mediterranean Sea where the Mediterranean peninsula civilizations flourished in Greece and Rome. History continued to progress and the European continental civilization emerged. This continental civilization in turn gave birth to an island civilization, Great Britain, which flourished in the Atlantic sphere. The British Empire, which dominat-
ed the seven seas and wielded its might as "the empire on which the sun never sets," passed its splendid culture on to North America. We know these facts from history.

Civiiization on the North American continent raised the banner of democracy, which was rooted in Christianity. It bequeathed to the world the principles of freedom and respect for equal human rights as it led the struggle against fascism and communism, which had already started becoming evident. Evil sovereignies. Through the victories of the First and Second World Wars, and in accordance with His providential plan, and had raised and trained the American people through Christianity. God worked through America to bring His providence to its present stage of fruition.

Ladies and gentlemen, the present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. Civilization has completed a circuit of the entire globe and has now arrived on the shores of the Pacific Ocean. History's course has come to the point under God's providence where it must be concluded in the Pacific Rim region.

No force can stop God's providence now. Though there were both victories and defeats during the course of indemnity under the evil sovereignty in the era before heaven, now nothing can prevent the rise of the Pacific Rim Era. Herein lies the special reason that Heaven declared both last year and this year jubilee years.

Respected guests, human civilization will be brought to fruition in the Pacific Rim Era. Within this current of heavenly fortune brought about by this age, we can say that the Korean peninsula is a land prepared by God—a holy land. From a geopolitical point of view, Korea occupies the central point where land and ocean meet. The Korean peninsula also serves as the basis of two great currents of cultural history with regard to ideological foundation made in Heaven, I proclaimed the decade following the twenty-first century as the twenty-first century as the special era of God's promised revelation. A new age of eternal reconciliation and peace will be ushered in. In this nation, all the religions that have guided the flow of civilization will be brought to fruition. It is no coincidence that a time of co-existence and reconciliation never previously seen anywhere in this world is now unfolding with this peninsula as its axis.

The twentieth century was the century of material civilization; the twenty-first century is to be a time when a spiritual culture must guide and lead history. The Korean people will serve as the birthing room for this new culture. They are prepared to bring the world into unity based on their tradition of revering Heaven and loving humankind under the realm of singleness, uniting heavenly culture of heart.

Now indeed is the time of God's promising revolutionary change throughout heaven and earth.

A Vision of Peace with God as the Central Being

Distinguished guests, on this providential foundation made in Heaven, I proclaimed the decade following the twenty-first century as the twenty-first century as the special era of God's promised revelation. A new age of eternal reconciliation and peace will be ushered in. In this nation, all the religions that have guided the flow of civilization will be brought to fruition. It is no coincidence that a time of co-existence and reconciliation never previously seen anywhere in this world is now unfolding with this peninsula as its axis.

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Now indeed is the time of God's promising revolutionary change throughout heaven and earth.

In the vision of peace that I presented, I emphasized first that a new heaven and a new earth, with God rather than humankind as the center, should unfold in the era of heaven—in the era of peace based on the new, Godly civilization in the Pacific Rim.

As you all know, throughout the ages men and women both young and old have dreamed of a peaceful world and a life of happiness. They made efforts in the sphere of politics, economics, society and culture with a view to realizing that dream. However, what is the fruit of those endeavors that we see today? Conflict and strife continue without ceasing in all fields of life and in all corners of the world.

The reason for this is that human beings are beings with a contradiction within themselves, harboring both good and evil. That is why the truth that has been revealed throughout society and history. And it is why we should make efforts in this era after the coming of heaven to restore God, the Master of
for humanity to establish true families. Ladies and gentlemen, God’s true family establishes the pattern for people to live for the sake of others. The warm environment of oneness based on love and respect between parents and children, mutual fidelity and love between husband and wife, and trust and mutual reliance among siblings is the true manifestation of the model, ideal family. This means that you need to establish a true family wherein the long-standing walls. When blacks and whites, Christians and Muslims, and young people from democratic and communist nations build families with God at the center, all the walls and national borders that have remained unresolved by means of political, economic, diplomatic and militar might will be brought down. To open a path of humanity to go forward within this vision of peace, for more than half a century I have pro-

recent and even insist on their own inter-
ests. They seem inherently unable to resolve conflicts and achieve peace. Ladies and gentleman, on September 12, 2005, I proclaimed throughout all of heaven and earth the establish-
mation of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), which will enable God’s provi-
dence to flourish. In September in the providential jubilee year of 2007, I ele-
vated the Universal Peace Federation to the status of the “Peace UN” and I am developing it so that it may become the most respected institution in name and substance through its con-
tribution to the realization of global peace and harmony.

Numerous Ambassadors for Peace throughout the world have made my teach-ings centered on the Heavenly Father, con-
sisting of the principles of true love and the ideals of true family. They will seek to establish true families, upholding the heavenly mandate, will invest their whole-hearted effort to fulfill the “One Family under God.”

A Vision for the Development of the Marine Industry in Korea

Recently we held a magnificent grand opening of the development of the Hwayang District in Yeosu (in the southernmost reach-
s of the Korean peninsula). This project will serve as the cornerstone of the development of the marine leisure industry in Korea. I firmly believe that this development, which signifies a huge investment, will open new hori-
zons in the marine leisure industry and greatly contribute to Korea’s growth to become a great nation in the marine leisure industry.

This project’s development will spread out to the continents through the region of Yeosu, where God’s providence on the Pacific Rim will bear fruit. It will greatly contribute to the realization of the reunification of the Korean penin-
sula and to world peace. Furthermore, it will enhance the overall happiness of the world’s people.

Ladies and gentlemen, Rev. Moon’s efforts to promote the welfare of humanity and peace is continuing in many fields of endeavor. By developing the “Abel UN” and the development of the “Bering Strait Bridge-Tunnel Project” and the “Gwangan Bay Free Economic Zone Development in Hwayang District” are ultimately part of this effort, and will play a central role in establishing peace in the realm of the Pacific Rim.

You have all now received God’s call. I sincerely pray that you will wholeheartedly enter into creating the brilliant culture of the new, Godly civilization in this revolutionary era, and fulfill your mission as a princi-
maker that will be revered by all future genera-
tions. Once again I thank you for your presence and your presence on this significant occasion. I sincerely pray that God’s blessings and your mission as a pioneer in Septem-

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SPEECH from page 3

absolute goodness, to His position of
domination, and realize a world unified under the vision of “One Family under God.”

Secondly, I proclaimed the absolute
domina-

tion of the heavenly law. As a result they were

and conflict in all areas of life. Human

matters and instead inherited the evil lin-
eage of Satan. This has caused strife and conflict in all areas of life. Human

being must therefore follow the evil lin-
eage of Satan. This has caused strife and conflict in all areas of life. Human

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domina-

tion, and realize a world unified under the vision of “One Family under God.”

Unification News
a patriotic family of the March 1, 1919 Independence movement Father's family was bitterly persecuted and lost everything.

True Mother’s mother was part of that spiritual movement preparing to receive the Messiah. She was born into that environment and her mother, Dae Mo Nim, received a message from a spiritual leader named Mr. Rim who prophesied that her daughter would be great and the bride of the Lord. She also received in revelation that there were great threats and trials that would come to the life of her daughter and that she must prepare through conditions to protect her. She received that she should raise her as God’s daughter.

When we think of this history and providence from the time of the fall through the course of Jesus to the establishment of True Parents - we can realize that this birthday celebration is most meaningful.

True Father is now 89 (by Korean counting which considers the time in the womb as the first year) and True Mother 66 (by Korean counting). Both are in perfect health and in fact stronger than ever, leading the Global Movement of True Love, True Life and True lineage to realize “One Family Under God.”

After the morning meeting the Ambassadors for Peace from the Universal Peace Federation came for the 10:30 thru lunch event. Current Prime Ministers and heads of state and respected religious leaders gave their respect to True Parents. Gifts were presented by each continent. North America’s gift was the famous print of the painting of George Washington in prayer at Valley Forge by the famous painter Arnold Friberg. The special production was signed by the artist. Father has spoken about that prayer many times as the prayer that God heard that allowed America to be born.) Amb. Rita DiMartino and Dr. Yang presented this gifts. The first lady of Tanzania as well as many distinguished leaders presented gifts representative of their continents and nations. It was a great celebration. The former President of Korea University testified that a major publication just ranked True Father among the three most important Korean leaders for the future of the nation. Father delivered a new version of the Pacific Rim Era message. It was well received.

The banquet was filled with joy. Dr. Frank Kaufman, Dr. Andrew Wilson, Dr. Gordon Anderson and Dr. Shimmyo presented the newly completed New World Encyclopedia after a stunning video introduction on the project along with Rev. Kwak’s introduction. It was fascinating, an highly referenced scholarly work with values perspective. True Parents were so elated.

The birthday celebration concluded with such fine entertainment from Japan, Russia, Asia, Africa, South America and North America. (Larel Sayre Nagai made America proud with a beautiful solo that was very uplifting and inspired.) We concluded the celebration with three cheers of Mons. All of the Ambassadors for Peace from over 100 nations were very uplifted and further committed to bring peace in their nations and the world.

Let us celebrate sincerely God’s blessing, love and grace extended to us through our True Parents.
Have Internal Confidence through Overcoming Obstacles

by Ryung Jin Nim Moon

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ome members say that they cannot make time for the family because they are busy. However, if we take care of the family, we can see the TV drama “Chu-mo”. Many of you answered that you saw it. Then, isn’t it an excuse that you cannot make time for the family? We need to succeed in every part of our life. It is not for your boasting of it. It is because God blessed us in living a life of victory. God gave not a life of failure but a life of victory to blessed families in the Unification Church. On the way for success, there is only one obstacle. It is ‘myself.’ Therefore, it is very important to manage ‘myself’. Farther also said that I might become the biggest devil. Satan, and enemy. It is important to train ‘myself,’ and make ‘myself’ strong preventing from becoming the enemy. I have to give a power to me, become a friend of mine, and inspire me. When we live our lives, we desire to be encouraged by others. However, we cannot expect other people to encourage us always, so we have to raise our ability to encourage us by ourselves.

People usually want to tell how many difficulties there were in their life, or how big mountains of hardships they overcame. However, instead of talking about ‘MY’ difficulties, we should talk about God who was together with me who overcame the ‘mountains’ difficulties. ‘We should tell how big God was, and then, how big I became by overcoming difficulties. However big adversity we may fall into, we should overcome adversity. I have to see such strong myself, and have confidence internally.

Everyone encounters obstacles in his/her life. Everyone has pains. Whatever you may do, there would be a painful time spiritually and physically. However, through the time of endurance, your victory would become more valuable. It is a real victor who can overcome the adversities. If we escape from the difficulties making an excuse, it actually kills our future and our blessing. To give up might be easier in a sense.

The farther you go, the more obstacles there is an encounter. There will be many challenges. There will be many mountains you have to overcome. Such is life. When you overcome these challenges, you can get wisdom, and your mind is trained. Have you ever climbed a mountain? It might be difficult during climbing a mountain, but once stand on the top of the mountain, we feel good. “I won this mountain!” We can feel a joy of achievement.

By the way, after reaching the summit of the mountain, we have to go down next. It is easy to praise God on the top of a mountain, but it is not easy to praise after going down, or when we look up at the next big mountain. Everyone can praise God and thank God in a good time of his/her life. Everyone can do it. Even children can do it. However, in time of trials, when people betray us, or when people take advantage of us, it is more difficult than anything to be thankful for it. In such a moment, we go through a trial. When you are betrayed by the person whom you loved and devoted yourself to, it is difficult for you to love others again. Even in such a time, we have to be able to love people again.

Everyone! Love does not mean a certain feeling. If we think love is a certain feeling or emotion, we cannot find true love. Love is practice. Love is not a noun but a verb. Some people tend to tell that they cannot feel love between husband and wife, and tend to doubt the love between husband and wife. However, they do not know what love is. Love does not mean only a certain feeling.

After you have your children, there will surely be a time when you are disappointed at the children. Your children sometimes do not follow to your words. Actually, it is children who give you hardest trials. In a sense, children might make the parents grow. I also learnt a lot from my children. When we raise our children, our attitude should not change. It is not good that our attitude is sometimes good, and sometimes bad. We have to love them consistently.

Everything Starts From Your Thinking

If you want to be blessed in your life, you should start from your mind. There is a following lesson. “Be careful of your thinking, if you are not careful of your thinking, it becomes words. Be careful of your words. If you are not careful of your words, it becomes your action. Be careful of your action. If you are not careful of your action, it becomes your habit. Be careful of your habit. If you are not careful of your habit, it becomes your character. Be careful of your character. If you are not careful of your character, it becomes your life. Be careful of your life. If you are not careful of your life, it becomes your destiny.” In short, everything starts from your mind and thinking.

For the long time you walk the public way, the more obstacles Archangel (Satan) puts in your life. Never give up in front of the obstacles. In a sense, we can become bigger persons through the obstacles. If we give up in front of the obstacles, who becomes happy? It is Archangel (Satan). You might have such experience as this: when we go to school, there is a kid who annoys us. When the kid annoys us, if we cry out, the kid will annoy us more. However, if we go to the annoying kid, “how hard you might annoy me, it is nothing to me. Even though you abuse me and make fun of me, you cannot take my joy,” the kid will leave you. These kids may annoy us very much first, but if we show them an immovable attitude, they go to find another weak person.

Archangel (Satan) is the same. When we aggressively confront the obstacles in our life, saying, “It’s nothing to me. Even though you send me more troubles, I can easily bring victory.” Then Archangel (Satan) will surrender. The more you bring victory, the severer Satan’s trial becomes. However, if you were never shaken, you would get bigger blessing. You can share the blessing to other people. Everything starts from your mind.

As we can feel in meditations, our minds need to be trained. We are not able to control our lives. Instead, we are following our bodies. Therefore, we need to train our minds. We need to make our mind strong. Even though other people might try to weaken our minds, we should not be shaken. Actually, those who try to shake other people’s minds are the persons whose mind is weaker than anyone else. Therefore, if I ever show you, they give up, and try to find another weak person. If our minds are strong, it is impossible for them to make us fail. They cannot feel evil power and stimulation through teasing us. They rather come to reflect themselves.

Whichever way you may go, the way of church leaders, getting other jobs, or becoming teachers, it is important to have internal strength. Everything changes in our lives. Our situations are sometimes good, but sometimes bad. The relationship with people is also sometimes good, but sometimes bad. Our life is uncertain. Therefore, we need to have solid minds and its center.

It is very difficult to find peace in uncertain circumstances. In the uncertain circumstances, we are afraid of it. We might feel we cannot cope with it. We might feel what we had lived with fear. We might become anxious about everything thinking, “I did this, but if it goes wrong, how do I do? How do I do if people laugh at me?”

We need to accept the uncertainty of our lives as it is. We need to accept the uncertainty with clear mind instead of having fears. Please think that you can start new beginning at any moment. If we can aggressively accept the changing situation coming to us without feeling fearfulness, and if we can lead our lives with internal strength, we can bring victory at any situations. You might have difficult moments in your life, but you will bring victory overcoming the mountains.
From an address given at the Peace Palace, Cheong Pyeong Lake, Korea, February 13, 2008. Notes by Rev. Michael Jenkins, edited by L. Strait and J. Flynn. These notes are taken from a simultaneous translation. Simultaneous translation is done in summary form and depends greatly on the translator's ability to communicate the essence of the message. These cannot be published as definitive texts and should never be used in the future as an "official" publication on Rev. Moon's words. However, they do provide a good idea of the "spirit" of the message.

Each nation should have peace. Blessing. Through this, the unified kingdom can be established. The Abel UN and all nations must be united as one, centered on your tribe and nation. All nations should join the Abel UN. True women, true teachers, true owners, true families, and true nations should have been established by Adam's family. Due to the Fall, Adam and Eve were not able to fulfill their responsibility, and the mission eventually was accomplished by True Parents.

Mother and I emphasize now that each family must become true parents, true teachers, true owners, true families, and a true family. The key to this is reading the Peace Messages every day. The Peace Messages give the core principles and contents through which the world can walk the path to peace. Rev. Otsuka and Rev. Oyama, please stand up. You are in charge of Japan. Who here is from Taiwan? Philippines and Canada? All of you stand up. What's the total population of all these nations combined? It's over 270 million. That's a very significant number. These nations all represent the other nations of the world. Centering on Japan, they should become united in supporting the world peace. These nations are standing in a feminine role as a mother. Japan cannot continue to sustain the burden by itself of supporting the world peace movement. Therefore, the Philippines, Taiwan, and Canada must shoulder more responsibility. One third of all your members should go to Japan to work there to support the world providence. You have to take collective responsibility. Japan must work to bless every single person in the nation. You must have the attitude that you will work harder than your sons and daughters and all the nations of the world. I am now 89 by Korean counting. Soon I will be 90. And January 13, 2013, is coming quickly. We have five more years. Now there is no significant number. These nations all represent the other nations of the world. Cen-

During this time we must mobilize all nations to support the Abel UN. The island nations can't achieve this by themselves. They must work together with the peninsular nations such as Korea to be able to fulfill this. America, Russia, and Japan are all concerned about what China is doing at this time,

especially in the Pacific Rim region. Rev. Lee, you are the leader of Cana-da. Do you support this? Do you understand Canada's responsibility? Please fulfill. When you make a decision to go the path of faith in God, even if you fall down 100 times, you must get up and continue. Love is the most powerful force in the universe, but love also can be a temptation. Love is the most dangerous thing. That's why the blessing is critically important to secure love within the context of the family. Mother and I have prayed so seri-ously when there have been obstacles in the path; we found that as we con-tinued to pray, a way would eventual-ly open up. Many times I found that
Students Play for Peace in the Middle East

F rom December 1 - 6, 2007, over seven hundred students from four different middle schools in the Haifa region of Carmel took part in a program sponsored by the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival (IPSF) that promoted sportsmanship and religious understanding through competitive sports.

Under the banner of “One Family under God,” these schools participated in a 5-day basketball tournament, despite their different religious backgrounds. Two of the schools had a majority Christian student body, while the school from the Nazareth area was predominantly Muslim and the high school was a Christian community.

The IPSF believes that positive events can help shape understanding and cooperation among children and promote a vital ingredient to securing an environment that will support peace and reconciliation. For this reason, the IPSF staff recently joined in the Universal Peace Federation’s 33rd Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) and helped to organize a local sporting event designed to support the principle to achieve this. If you don’t follow the Principle, I know it immediately.

Why is Japan responsible? We must understand what Japan took from other Asian countries in history. The Japanese took women from various nations as captives, also taking women’s jewelry from every house. My home was actually very wealthy because of my grandfather, but the Japanese took everything we had.

How about the Peace Palace? This is the palace of peace for all humanity. This is not a house for one family; it is a place for all humanity. It is a beautiful place before God. Mother truly loves the Cheong Jeong Gun. Many times she’ll say, “Let’s go back there.”

When you study my history, you will understand that there were enormous spiritual battles before me that I had to overcome. Ko mun do is another place of God in Korea, and we will build another peace palace there, in addition to the peace palace that should be built in Geneva for all religions.

Today is the 13th of February. Twenty years are important. There are 2,000 years from now until January 13, 2013. The 13th of every month should be marked as important days on our march to 2013. This is the ssang hap time of True Parents.

The IPSF will continue to work with the UFJ on future events in the Mid East region to support initiatives that promote religious cooperation and peace building.

Family Federation announces scholarships to attend Bridgeport high school

Family Federation for World Peace and Unification will again offer ten New Eden Scholarships for American students who wish to attend Bridgeport International Academy, which is a college preparatory high school that is located adjacent to the University of Bridgeport. Each church scholarship will cover all tuition and fees for students with outstanding academic records.

To be considered for a scholarship to attend BIA, a youth must be fluent in English, have an overall Grade Point Average of 3.75 or better for the last two years of school, have parents who are Unification members, either be an American citizen or have an American permanent resident card, and will be ready for ninth grade this fall.

For information on the New Eden Scholarship program, please contact Nora Spargin at Bridgeport International Academy, 285 Lafayette Street, Bridgeport, CT 06604. The BIA’s website is www.bridgeportacademy.org. The school’s phone numbers are (203) 334-3434 and (203) 289-6801. The email address is office@bridgeportacademy.org. BIA is currently taking applications for the 2008-2009 school year.

Bridgeport International Academy is fully accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, which is the oldest accrediting body in the USA, as well as being accredited by the State of Connecticut. In Japan respect for our True Parents, the Academy has a high standard morally and academically, has a beautiful new facility, and has an arrangement with the University of Bridgeport that allows BIA students to use university facilities and to take college courses while still in high school.

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Two hundred and twenty world leaders, including prime ministers, presidents, government ministers, diplomats, religious and civic leaders concluded the third Summit for World Peace hosted by the Universal Peace Federation in Seoul, Korea, February 9-13, 2008.

The three-day peace conference coincided with the joint birthday celebrations of the UPF Co-founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. In a birthday message, Rev. Moon, now 88, spoke with conviction about the coming age of peace that he sees dawning in the early 21st century. “The future of humanity and of world peace rests on the future of the Pacific Rim Era,” he declared, echoing a message given around the world in 2007.

In support of this vision of peace starting from the Pacific, two representative Prime Ministers from Pacific Island States – Samoa and Vanuatu – attended the conference, together with more than 30 other delegates who have held the highest elected offices in their nations.

“I have been waiting for a long time to come to this International Leadership conference,” said the Prime Minister of Samoa, Hon. Tuilaepa Malielegaoi. “The UPF has done important work in Samoa, and I was interested to learn more of the peace principles taught by Rev. Moon.” Malielegaoi, a champion archer, also took time to practice on one of Korea’s world-class archery fields.

The Prime Minister of Vanuatu, H.E. Ham Lini, promised the ongoing cooperation of the Vanuatu with the Universal Peace Federation to ensure that world peace prospers in the Pacific Rim: “On behalf of my wife and I, and representing all the people of Vanuatu, I would like to express our gratitude for the sincere investment that the Rev. and Mrs. Moon and the UPF have made to secure world peace for so many years,” he said. “The vision that world peace will begin in the Pacific Rim region is one that resonates in my heart and that of all the Pacific Rim peoples.”

Mr. Anton Bog, the former Prime Minister of Slovenia, inspired the summit with the gripping and hopeful story of how peace came so suddenly to his nation after decades of oppression and suffering. Once part of the former Yugoslavia, Slovenia became independent in the early 1990s and somehow managed to avoid the bloodshed and ethnic conflict that so devastated most of the Balkan peninsula in recent times. Slovenia joined NATO and the EU in 2004, and remarkably the nation now holds the revolving Presidency of the European Union for 2008.

As North and South Korea enter yet another year of seemingly endless division, the example of Slovenia is one that the Koreas – and many other nations seeking peace - could do well to consider.

Interreligious leaders were also very much in evidence. “As Christians from the United States and Europe met and diaologued with Muslim imams from Africa and Pakistan, a genuine spirit of brotherhood emerged,” said Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary General of the UPF. “Although it may be true that religions have often been the source of world conflict, UPF is confident and hopeful that a new generation of religious leaders will take the lead in reconciliation and peacebuilding.”

Dr. Hyun Jin Moon, the Co-Chairman of the UPF, spoke on the Federation’s plans for 2008, which include the holding of “Global Peace Festivals” in dozens of cities and countries around the world. The Global Peace Festivals, a celebration of service, education and cooperation, were held in eight nations in 2007, their first year. “People everywhere are excited by the vision of theGlobal Peace Festivals,” he said “and they will help propel the Universal Peace Federation and its many partners into even closer and more successful cooperation in the years to come.”
Global Peace Festival in Benin, Africa

The Global Peace Festival in Benin took place on October 26-29, 2007, in the coastal city of Ouidah, the historic slave-trade port, and Cotonou, Benin’s economic capital and main city. During each activity, the international delegates, Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., and Mr. Jin Man Kwak, were joined by representatives of all countries in the West Africa sub-Region: Burkina Faso, Niger, Nigeria, Togo, and Ghana.

To begin, 300 participants from different countries offered community service at the Ganve Public Primary School in Ouidah. Wearing Global Peace Festival T-shirts, they weeded and cleaned the school grounds. The mayor offered words of welcome.

UPF Kenya Call for Peace Education

Leaders of several denominations and religions in Kenya called for unity among all communities at a prayer rally organized by UPF Kenya in Uhuru Park in downtown Nairobi on February 6. They also called on UPF to offer peace education programs. A traditional site for outdoor speeches and rallies, Uhuru (Freedom) Park has been sealed off since the announcement of the results of the controversial Presidential elections held December 27, 2007. In order to carry out the program, organizers had to get permission from the Commissioner of Police himself. Permission was granted the day before, but the written permit was received only 30 minutes before the event began.

The atmosphere at the park was solemn and somber. At 10:00 am, the ceremony opened with lighting of candles and burning of incense. Rev. Mwalagho Kililo, Regional Secretary General of UPF-Africa, conducted a service that included prayers offered by Rev. Dr. Sirisio Oromo, a Lutheran bishop; Mr. Varma, a Hindu priest; Rev. Henry Omai, General Overseer of the Restoration of Life Ministry; three Sikh priests; and Rev. Dr. Luckio Otieno Odero, an Anglican priest.

The prayers for peace from these religious leaders were both touching and moving as people pledged to Almighty God to grant forgiveness based on repentance. There was no doubt, they stated, that we have sinned before Heaven and Earth and thus are not worthy to be called God’s children. From Hinduism to Sikhism, Islam, and Christianity the content of the prayers was the same.

Members of Parliament Hon. Elias Mbau and Hon. Joseph Nkaissery spoke of the need for members of parliament to facilitate UPF seminars that can promote peace. The Ambassadors for Peace have requested that seminars be held to remind them of their calling to promote peace at this time of anarchy and mayhem. The solution to this problem lies with promoting principles of peace education.

There is no doubt that peace is a rare commodity for now. When peace prevailed, Kenyans did not seem to appreciate it until anarchy and mayhem prevailed. Kenyans did not seem to appreciate it until anarchy and mayhem became the order of the day. Ambassadors for Peace recognize that the guiding principles of UPF and its founder’s vision are critical elements for making peace a reality. This is the moment for UPF and all affiliate organizations to come out clearly and fulfill their calling.

The ceremony concluded with an offering of floral wreaths in memory of the more than 1,000 Kenyans killed to date in post-election violence.

A report of the event was one of the lead stories in the Daily Nation newspaper, the leading newspaper in East Africa. This underscores the importance of peace to this nation of Kenya.

The newspaper quoted former United Nations prosecutor at the Rwanda tribunal, Duncan Mwanyumba, making a proposal at the rally for the establishment of a National Council of Elders to create bridges of reconciliation among the communities. He envisaged that such a council could broker unity and cohesion by summoning political leaders to work for the common good of the country. The lawyer also proposed a constitutional review to create a mechanism for handling foreseeable electoral mistakes, power arrangements, and conflict resolution programs.
Brussels Conference on Religious Coexistence

By Hod Ben Zvi

Twenty young Italians ages 16 to 24 spent a week in Israel and Palestinian Territories learning to know the young people there and getting involved in community service activities. Mr. Giorgio Gasperoni, Secretary General of UPF-San Marino, led the group of high school and university students and recent graduates from ten cities in Italy.

"Israel is very close to the hearts of Italians and to our history," said his daughter Daniela, a university student who organizes service projects for young Italians and to our history," said his daughter Daniela, a university student who organizes service projects for young

In discussion groups they shared their concerns with other youth. Each youth could freely talk about their concerns and differences, and the soldiers asked the Italians what they thought about the separation wall. They also met with children, and discuss common problems.

In consultation with senior ambassadors for Peace, young Israelis and Palestinians organized an informal program that would give their Italian visitors as much time as possible to engage with local people of various communities. Meetings were held with all the main groups, giving the Italians opportunities to understand the diverse society in Holy Land.

The participants were welcomed to Jerusalem by Hod Ben Zvi, Secretary General of UPF-Israel, and Dr. Multi Peleg, a professor of political science from Tel Aviv University and co-chair OneVoice, an organization of young Israelis and Palestinians working for peace. Dr. Peleg gave an introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and explained his organization’s work to resolve conflict. A few “icebreaker” games with local youth led to laughter and helped the young people feel comfortable with each other.

Prof. Eliezer Glazman, former Jerusalem City Councilman, led a tour of the Old City of Jerusalem that included the Via Dolorosa, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Western Wall, a place of prayer for over two thousand years. Visiting Yad Vashem, the Holocaust memorial, offered the Italians insight into a painful part of Jewish history. The Italians also met city officials and religious leaders in various communities.

The itinerary included visits to holy sites and refugee camps in Bethlehem and East Jerusalem. They rode a boat on the Sea of Galilee and saw historic sites in Tiberias and Nazareth. Tours of Jaffa and Tel Aviv gave the young people experiences of modern metropolitan Israel, in contrast to the traditional religious atmosphere of Jerusalem.

What made the week unforgettable were the many opportunities to do projects with local people, play with children, and discuss common concerns with other youth. Each encounter had a unique flavor. At the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, they met leaders of the Student Union and volunteer groups. In discussion groups they shared freely with one another, with the Italians asking about Israeli student life and the Israelis asking the Italians what they thought about the separation wall. They also met with two women serving in the Israeli army. The Italians asked them many questions about their role as soldiers and their concerns for Israel, and the soldiers asked the Italians about their concerns for their own country.

The Italians helped a Jewish scout group, Mashamim, clean an area of trash in a forest where Jewish settlers used to live. Together, they joked while they picked up items such as old picture frames and inflatable swimming
UPF Seminar for Sierra Leone Parliamentarians

by John D.S. Samora

PF held a seminar, December 4, 2007, on Good Governance and Leadership, for Members of Parliament in the West African nation of Sierra Leone. It was held in the Parliament Building in Freetown. Earlier this year, a similar seminar was held for the parliament of Sri Lanka, and UPF plans to continue the series throughout the new year.

"The concept of peace in Sierra Leone is timely, since we just emerged from elections that were full of claims and counterclaims of violence," stated Hon. Sahr N. Fasuluku from Kono. "UPF came at a time when Sierra Leone needs a new approach to leadership," said Hon. Veronica R. Sesay from Moyamba. "There are a lot of hidden things that we came to understand about the concept of good governance and leadership, especially the root causes of conflict from God's viewpoint."

UPF Regional Chair

Rev. Eiji Tokuno opens the seminar and Sub-regional Leader Rev. Adama Bundu supported us in planning the event. With the help of the Chief Whip in Parliament, Hon. Bintu Myers from Koinadugu, they communicated to their colleagues who could not attend the main points of the presentations by Rev. Doumbia and Ambassador Gerald Coleman, Secretary General of UPF-Liberia. They found the unique information on topics such as ‘God’s Original Ideal of Peace.’ ‘Understanding the Root Causes of Conflict,’ and ‘Principles of Restoration’ very convincing.

YOUTH from page 11

pods.

At a community center for Ethiopian Jews in the southern city of Beira Sheva, one group painted an electrical box in a poor neighborhood, decorating it with lots of color and the word ‘Peace.’ The local people were disappointed that the young people could not decorate the entire neighborhood. The second group planted trees in the yard of the community center and cleaned the area. Afterwards, they played with children at a kindergarten.

An Italian high school student, Chiara De Notaris, said, ‘I will never forget the eyes of the children, the smiles of the boys and girls so extraordinarily similar to us in the same dreams, fears, and hopes for peace.’

In the central Israeli town of Petach Tikva, the Italians met with 25 youths in a leadership program for community volunteering. The Israelis listened with interest to their explanations about their volunteer programs, and the Israeli youth were inspired to hear about the Global Peace Festival.

They met both Christian and Muslim Arabs living in Israel. The Italians met with Christian Arab youth in Nazareth.

Most of the members of Parliament are new and young. ‘With this kind of education, we can surely perform our attitudes as well as the attitudes of our people,’ said Hon. Ibrahim Bundu from Port Loko.

Having experienced a decade of civil war that ended in 2002, participants expressed special appreciation for the presentations about the origins of conflict.

Hon. Sheku G. Dumbuya from Kamena said, ‘I learned during the seminar that peace comes only through understanding the root causes of conflict and said Hon. Jintu Myers from Kenema, Hon. Abu Konteh from Koinadugu stated, ‘This seminar pointed out the origin of problems by explaining the root causes of human suffering. This clearly reminds us about the mistakes of our forefathers in human history. Thank you for giving such an inspiring message to the Founders.’

On the second day, 101 members of Parliament listened as Rev. Tokuno elaborated on the core values and founding vision of UPF and its activities in 48 African nations. ‘Practically, it was full of hope for mankind and guidance for our lives and for future generations, especially on the importance of fidelity in marriage,’ stated Hon. Saliu Conteh from Freetown. ‘The seminar reminded us about our limitations towards our family, society, and nation.’

A Paramount Chief from Bombali, Hon. Bai Sehora Kassangba II, said, ‘The seminar was educational and admirable especially for the new Parliamentarians who are looking forward to bringing positive change for our people. I feel proud to have received such an inspiring message of peace. My many thanks to Rev. Eiji Tokuno for his love for my country.’

The Opening Ceremony began with invocations by Sheikh Luma Jaloh and Rev. Alfred PM Sembula, leading Ambassadors for Peace in Sierra Leone. Speeches were delivered by Hon. Eddie Turay, Ms. Alice M. Kamara, Mr. Masuda Peacock, and the Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Justice Abel N.B. Stronge. The Minister of Labor, Hon. Justice Abel N.B. Stronge, The Minister of Labor, Hon. Mohamed Sufian Kargbo from Tonkolili said, ‘I look forward to future seminars for the benefit of not only Parliamentarians but even cabinet ministers.’

We set up to want an office near the Parliament Building and create a Parliamentarians for Peace Committee. Hon. Victoria Saidu-Kamara from Freetown stated, ‘As a member of Parliament for my constituency and Sierra Leone as a whole, I would like to thank the organizers for their timely interventions that clearly remind us that we very family under God. For the United States and I knew about Dr. Moon for many years, but I never understood his message. Through this seminar, I clearly understand that he is a man of peace.’

Hope

There are signs of hope in Sierra Leone. After the September 2007 elections, the new President, Ernest Bai Koroma, promised to fight corruption, reform the justice system, promote youth employment, and develop the country’s power resources, agriculture, and tourism.

The government, citizens, religious groups, and international agencies are working together to rebuild the nation. Regional stability is a priority, and leaders of neighboring Liberia have publicly expressed regret for their country’s involvement in Sierra Leone’s civil war. The UN Peacebuilding Commission established in 2005 has been active in Sierra Leone.

Review. Philipp Schanker’s Presentations

For anyone interested, the Education Department of FFWPU-USA is making available Rev. Philipp Schanker’s lecture presentations from the “Special Workshop for the New Beginning of Cheon Il Guk and Amnesty for its Citizens” and “Consulting for CIG Blessed Families” and “True Parent’s Foundation for Cheon Il Guk and Amnesty for its Citizens”.

2. A DVD Recording of Rev. Schanker’s presentations from the Washington, DC workshop will be available for $15.00. This Recording will include the following presentations:

a. "The Results of the Fall & Separat

b. "God’s Grace & the New Beginning for CIG Blessed Families"

c. "True Parent’s Foundation for Cheon Il Guk and Amnesty for its Citizens""
A 7.9 magnitude earthquake hit the central coast of Peru on August 15, 2007, killing 519 people and injuring 1,366. Ambassadors for Peace in Peru were very busy in December 2007, taking the opportunity of this season of goodwill to visit some of the most deprived areas of Peru to bring them support and hope for the future.

One group, led by the National President of UPF-Peru Rev. Dr. Orestes Sanchez, travelled to Chincha, a small town about a four-hour drive south of the capital, Lima, that was seriously affected by an earthquake in August. Many people are still without jobs or homes, following the devastation that saw the main church of the town collapse, killing many people who were inside at the time.

The Ambassadors for Peace worked together with the National Police Force, doctors, psychologists, and volunteers, bringing food, medicine, free primary health care consultations, advice on creating small business enterprises, and the traditional Christmas "chocolatada" event that involves giving children hot chocolate and panetones (Christmas cake). The many children of these poor people also received some guidance from skilled pediatricians. Free haircuts were provided, something very basic that is always appreciated.

The director of the Mothers' Clubs in Peru, Sra. Rosa Castillo, who is also Vice President of UPF-Peru, coordinated this event. This was her second visit to the town since the disaster. On her first visit she mobilized people in Lima to donate clothing for those in the disaster area and then mobilized a convoy of trucks to deliver them.

UPF and its associated organizations have been working with the poor of Peru for many years, providing equipment for communal kitchens where parents join together to produce at least one good hot meal a day for their families. There are now over 100 such kitchens in Lima and some of the provincial towns sponsored by donations from Japan.
North Carolina ACLC Prayer Breakfast

On Tuesday, February 12th, the North Carolina ACLC held its monthly Prayer breakfast at the CRT Golden Lamb Rest Home, where Bishop Willie Davis, Jr. is the pastor. We gathered at 9 A.M; there were 13 participants involved in the gathering.

Rev. Burgi Hutcherson was the MC of the program. After a short welcome we had two representative prayers, and then Rev. Cynthia Hill read the “Statement of Purpose for ACLC.” She concluded with her inspiration to sing, “Our Father, Who Art in Heaven”.

Then Tracy from the Golden Lamb rest home served a nice meal in a beautifully set tables of many great works is Bishop Willie Davis. One of many great works is the Golden Lamb Rest Home, a senior citizens’ home. And there he was sitting with this golden smile on his face throughout the entire proceedings. I told him that I knew the secret why he just couldn’t stop smiling, “It’s obvious. Because you are practicing to the fullest Reverend Moon’s motto: Living for others.” He continued to elaborate on that subject. Later he invited me to see part of the facility and to meet some of his patients. The meeting finished up with lots of one-on-one sharing and picture taking. Just another day in the vineyard, doing grassroots work. I have the impression that God, Jesus, True Parents, and Burgi would not mind the help of a few more good workers.

ACL.C Cleveland Pastors Prayer Breakfast

Our Prayer Breakfast for January 12, 2008 was held at the International Assembly of Living Way Christians of St. Thomas on Cleveland’s east side. Bishop Cheryl Reed is the pastor and was the host for the Saturday morning event. This gathering was focused especially on commemorating the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the theme was “One Family Under God.” It was organized by our district Co-convenor Dr. Thelma D. Johnson.

About 30 people gathered at the beautifully set tables for a delicious breakfast cooked by Bishop Reed and her friends. After some wonderful songs, the keynote speaker, Reverend Vernnell L. Young, from Love Ministry, spoke on the topic of family. The Holy Blessing Ceremony was led by Reverend Joel Lindstrom along with other couples and families.

It was a beautiful and powerful event. One minister was feeling sick at one point and everyone gathered around him to pray. The spirit of love was amazing and strong. Our friend was healed and Bishop Reed, who has invested much heart and effort for this city, encouraged all in attendance.

North Carolina ACLC Prayer Breakfast

Dr. Shirley had a lot to share. I believe she could have gone on longer but at some point she decided to close. Everyone had been filled with the Holy Spirit through her empowering message. We felt very blessed.

We collected a love offering for her in order to show appreciation for her love.

After the keynote message, Brother Klaus Schiek, who came all the way from Charlotte, commented on important purity in raising our young people.

Then the program concluded with the Holy Wine Ceremony to give a toast to Peace. We prayed for God’s blessing to come and to dwell amongst us and heal our families, our communities, and our state.

We had announcements and a closing prayer by Minister Willie Muhammad from the Nation of Islam in Greensboro.

Testimony from Klaus Schiek:

What a great way to celebrate T.P. Birthday, by attending your ACLC Prayer breakfast in Winston Salem. For me it was an opportunity to help, to learn, and to get involved. There is obviously a great need to nurture these ministers and Ambassador for Peace in our beloved Cleveland and make it a better place in 2008.

Several ministers showed interest in joining ACLC and all became very inspired to work hard for great victories in the new year. Dr.King’s spirit really shined in our presence this day, but with a new added message of One Family Under God! Many thanks go to all the precious friends who made this event a success by their hard work, attendance and prayers.
The ACLC is starting to become an institution in Detroit. Our Sixth Annual Greater Detroit True Family Values Awards Banquet attracted the attention of the State, County and City offices, with representatives coming from all three to give welcome and congratulations. It was our largest banquet to date, with over 225 guests.

Bishop Jesse Edwards gave the keynote address, inspiring, challenging, and educating the audience on the “True” in True Family Values. The topic was most fitting, given the scandal rocking our city hall at the moment. With national news of our mayor caught in an affair with his female chief of staff, it was evident to all how much an impure relationship can damage not only a family but whole city.

We gave awards to eight couples in the community who were doing the opposite; they are serving others. We put ads in papers and sent press releases asking for nominations of couples who are doing good work in one of four categories: the Promotion of Marriage & Family, the Promotion of Abstinence before Marriage, Married Couples who serve the Community, and Community Service that Helps Families. An example was the award we gave to Wayne County Clerk Cathy Garrett. She received the Promotion of Marriage Award. We were inspired to hear that she holds group marriage ceremonies on Sweetest Day and Valentine’s Day. These are done in three languages due to the diversity of the community.

We focused on sponsorship this year. We have been to many large programs such as the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday banquets and have seen the multitude of sponsors supporting these events. We see banks, corporations, and hospitals supporting a Baptist preacher, Dr. King. We thought it is time to have the community support our efforts as well. We consulted with Peter Hayes, our AFC brother in Kentucky. Based in part on his advice, we planned to start by asking each of our families to support our program by going to one business where they spend money, such as a car repair or a doctor, and ask them to buy an ad for our ad book. Well, our families did well. The den- tist of one of our families bought a full-page ad. Our 2nd Gen sold business-card-size ads. We see it is more than possible to pay for the whole event through ads and sponsorships.

One note. It is interesting to see the changes in the city since we came back to Detroit as tribal messiahs some 17 years ago. The large entrenched reli- gious groups in the city seemed so pow- erful and exclusive. Now their leader- ship is changing. For us True Family Values is something we see is lacking and, with us of the 6,000 Couples reaching our Silver 25th wedding anniversary last year, we have a strong foun- dation to stand up and offer a path to communities that need help.
Ohio Family Fed. Lunar New Year Festival

by Bruce & Keiko Biddle

This special community festival was held on February 10th at the Highland Heights Community Center on Cleveland’s east side. About 40 people gathered, 20 members and a variety of old and new friends, relatives and neighbors. There were plenty of tasty home-made international dishes to share. We started with a prayer. Then with sparkling grape juice for all, Allyn Lipstreuer led a toast to family love and unity.

During the scrumptious meal a brief PowerPoint introduction of FFWPU was presented by Joel Lindstrom and was very well received, giving a clear spirit and meaning to our gathering of families. Bruce Biddle, as emcee, kept things lively with knock-knock jokes as many stepped forward to offer a song or words of inspiration. Denise Burton, who came with her whole family and their children’s friends, read a beautiful article on bringing harmony between husband and wife. It was message of love, leading to a comment that we should all be uniting in pledging a second lunar New Year’s resolution. The festival ended with a raffle drawing.

Forty people may not seem like many; however, it was an amazing number of people in light of the extremely cold, single-digit, snowstorm weather that day. Even Bruce Biddle’s parents who usually don’t drive at night, came and had to drive back carefully at 5 miles per hour. I’m sure God knew this because his mother won the grand prize of the raffle! Everyone stayed for a while sharing together, even though the blustery snow continued like crazy outside and all were anxious to get safely home.

It was a beautiful night with such a rainbow of races, nationalities and ages. Thank you, Megumi Lindstrom, our Kodan leader, who suggested we do this event and all sisters (some brothers) who brought wonderful tasty food and shared their musical talents. And finally, for the Second Gens who sang the beautiful song “When we Hold on Together,” which drew some tears from the appreciative audience. It has been 5 years since we put together a family festival such as this. We realize how much we need this kind of community gathering and how much other people are looking for this kind of experience.

Unificationist College Student Residence in Berkeley, California

The recently remodeled Hearst Center has rooms available for Unificationist college-age students.

The Hearst Center is adjacent to UC Berkeley and close to BART. Student residents are attending UCB and other local schools.

For more information, please contact:

Richard Eisenman
Hearst House Manager
ricardeisenman@yahoo.com
(510)785-8965

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NextGen Academy (NGA) celebrates its first anniversary this June. Internship applications are now available for the 2007-2008 program.

Service Projects & Workshops
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Southern California WFWP’s New Year Tea

by Era Thompson and Kimiyo Anceney

On January 27th the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) of Southern California held its annual “New Year’s Tea” to conclude the year 2007 and to usher in the new year of 2008.

The event took place in La Canada Flintridge Country Club, nestled on a hillside and overlooking beautiful scenery. This event was scheduled from 2-4pm. Just about 2 hours before the event started, the heavens opened up and poured down a shower of heavy blessed rain. Given this deluge, many of the organizing members were worried about cancellations. We had confirmed 60 servings with the Country Club. However, despite the heavy rain, 65 people attended. Among them was Mrs. Erikawa, senior vice president of WFWP USA, who flew from New York specifically to support this event. Also, we had three guests from Las Vegas and two sisters from San Diego. During the heavy rain, Claudelina Smith, our chairwoman, prayed to God and asked Him to show a rainbow as a sign of blessing.

Indeed, a beautiful rainbow appeared in the sky at the end of the event and made everyone happy. The program began with welcoming remarks from Claudia Smith, followed by an Invocation given by Mrs. Anna Woods.

Kimiyo Anceney, our new national vice president in charge of membership, then reported on the 9th International WFWP Leadership conference held in South Korea. Seven hundred women from 50 nations participated in this conference. They made an historical trip to North Korea and met North Korean women leaders. Kimiyo also reviewed the 15th Anniversary Celebration and Benefit for the Schools of Africa. This event hosted by WFWP Southern California last October made a $10,000 donation for the Schools of Africa project.

Era Thompson then gave a report on local monthly meetings we had during the year 2007. Centered on the theme “Empowering Women as Peace Makers,” after the reports, the participants enjoyed “High Tea” – tea served with individual teapots, small sandwiches, petits fours and fruit. While enjoying the food and each other’s company, our 16 year old 2nd gen, Laura Nomoto, blessed our gathering with her beautiful performance of the “Impossible Dream.” After this short break, Dawn Tully read True Mother’s keynote speech, first given at the 10th Anniversary of WFWP. This speech outlines clearly the future direction of WFWP. As it did 5 years ago, this speech moved the hearts of the audience and raised the whole tone of our gathering.

Next, an overview of WFWP’s international, national, and our local plans and goals was presented for the year 2008. Our local focus is to develop our monthly meetings and increase our membership to 3,000 nationally. We also mentioned the new “Pink Piggy Bank Project” to support the schools of Africa. We collected piggy banks at this event and made almost $700 from 33 piggy banks. We asked participants to write about their meetings and a local service project we can be involved with. Towards the end of the program, our sister Katrin McCarthy gave a tearful and moving testimony about her relationship with her Bridge of Peace ceremony sister, Elizabeth Little, who had passed away recently. We then concluded our event with the song “Let there be Peace on Earth.

As a result of this event, we landed up 5 new members. One of these new members committed to a $30 monthly membership; also, one renewal was upgraded from $50-a-year friendship level to $200 monthly support. This result made us confident that we will increase our membership if we can establish inspiring and consistent monthly meetings. In this way, we can surely build a strong WFWP organization upon which True Mother can stand.

The rainbow that appeared in the sky at the end of our event brought forth a joyful shout from all participants, and assured us that God’s Heart and Blessing were with WFWP.

The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race

by Theodore Verheven

Teddy Verheven was sent as a lone missionary in 1965 from Los Angeles to Holland (his country of birth), by the leader of the Unified Family, Reverend Sun Myung Moon.

This writing not only explains the purification and development of the inner personality (moral and intellectual), but also the unfolding of the innermost spark, by awakening and feeding the growing soul with the Love and Truth of God.

For more detail, go to: “The Deviation and Restoration of the Human Race” on AtlasBooks.com - “Category” Biblical Studies or Body, Mind, Spirit. See Summary and Testimony and click on “excerpt” for Foreward and 10 pages of Table of Contents.
Reaching Out at Annapolis Family Fellowship

by James Stewart

The seven families in our small group meet every Friday night. Over many months through prayer, the word and sharing with each other, we have developed a nurturing, safe community. We know what is happening to each other; we can pray for each other and the families around us. It is a place where we can support, uplift, and just plain laugh with each other.

At the end of the year we decided we wanted to share this with and reach out to others in our community.

The Saddleback Church in California use four major days for outreach to family, friends, and community. They are Christmas, Easter, Mother’s Day and Thanksgiving. With this in mind, the Annapolis Family Fellowship decided to organize a God’s Day celebration at Camp Letts on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland. Initially we found a Church hall we had used before and know the pastor. We prepared to hold our event there.

Two days before God’s Day we got a call from the Pastor. The boiler had broken down in the hall and it would be too cold to hold anything there. It looked as though we might have to cancel and try again another time. After a few hours of frantic calls, we managed to get Camp Letts, a stunningly beautiful place nestled on the shore of the Chesapeake Bay, and we set about confirming our families and friends.

On the day, over 80 people came. New friends, old friends we had not seen in a long time, families, neighbors, and children. We talked and shared about our group, we ate a mountain of food, we sang, we laughed, we danced, and we prayed together. As we said our farewells some of us shed a few tears.

We are in touch with many who came: some have joined in our small group.

We still want to reach out to more friends, new and old, and we are preparing for our Easter Celebration. If you have or belong to a small group, reach out this Easter to those around you. Many people are longing to find a safe and nurturing community to belong to. It does not matter if you hold your gathering in a castle, a hall, or a humble place.

Reach out this Easter and touch someone’s heart and in doing so, touch the heart of God.
The Secret of Eternal Expansion, Development and Growth

March 2008

by Dr. Tyler Hendricks

The address was given during chapel service at 1795 on January 30, 2008

I was at a conference recently, and one of the leaders of the organisation asked the gathered participants for their view on why the organisation is not growing. No one had an answer. I need to think about give and take action, because the Divine Principle as a whole is the foundation for multiplication. Through the agency of universal prime energy, the subject and object elements of every entity form a common base and create interaction. This interaction, in turn, generates all the forces the entity needs for existence, multiplication and action. This interaction generating these forces through this process is called give and take action.” (Exposition of the Divine Principle, pp. 22) So give and take action is the foundation for existence, action and to the point—multiplication.

In my view, give and take action is another word for love, and Jesus made a valuable summary of this when he said, “For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.” (Matthew 18:20) This means that when two or three have a relationship in Jesus’ name, then God is in it and their community will exist, act, and multiply. So, in the words of my friend Kevin Thompson, “You can’t teach the world, but if we don’t love, we can’t do anything.”

Now, if give and take action is about love, and love is all we need, then we should have no problem with give and take action. So I’m offering here a ten-step exposition on give and take action—on love.

1. Common base:
The common base is the shared purpose, idea or ideal that ultimately comes from God. God works through our relationships, so indeed when two or more are gathered together in God’s name, He will be with them. When mind and body are united in God’s purpose, He is in us. Among all human beings, there are consciousness of mind and each exist the physical body, so we can all ask, “how are you?” and get a response. We all exist in the same environment, so we can ask, “how is the weather?” We can get a kind of weather report, more we have more and common in Sports, teams, our nation, presidents, campaigns, movies… it could be a shared profession, such as an association of registrars, salesmen, priests or priests. It could be a shared goal, such as a weight-loss group or political organization or business, or a marriage.

2. The Lover:
The Lover is the creator, the source, the origin or, in Unification parlance, the parent. On this basis, we refer to the expression “lover and beloved” to “subject and object partners,” so that is what I will call them.

3. The Beloved, the “Other”:
The Other can be my spouse, my parent, my child, my friend, my neighbor, my student, my teacher, my community, the stranger whom I can serve as a customer. The Lover should have a clear sense of for whom this gift is being created. In the business world this is called a target market. In common life it is just having empathy and clarity.

4. The Lover creates what is given, the gift, the product:
The idea for the gift, the product, is shared by the beloved. The Lover shares the thinking about or praying or doing research about the beloved and realizing what this person needs right now. This should become a concrete manifestation, co-created with God. The Lover gives what the Beloved needs and wants in light of the shared purpose.

5. The presentation of the Lover presents the product:
Critical factors here include care, diligence, attention, good communication, on the basis of trust and legitimacy, consistency, reputation, commitment, reliability, etc. In the business world this is “branding.” In personal and social life, it is having a reputation.

6. The reception of the Beloved:
The beloved has to receive the gift, and ideally the heart behind it. This takes intelligence and sensitivity. How many times have you had a gift refused, or slighted? Have you done that to others? Do you exhibit gratitude? Do you honor your parents? Do you pay attention to your spouse? Do you appreciate the labor of others, in the goods that we consume? Are we Grateful? Or are we Dead?

7. The response from the Beloved:
In Divine Principle, the response is given the generic term, “beauty,” because it is beautiful to the Lover. Beauty assumes different forms: the response to parental love to a child: filial piety; the response to a husband’s love to his wife: fidelity; the response to a leader’s love to his followers: loyalty; the response to a teacher’s love to his students: excellence; the response to a politician’s love to his country: votes; the response to a performer’s love to his audience: applause; the response to a bel- lover’s love to his people: repentance and reform; the response to a businessman’s love to the public: money. Yes, money is a form of beauty; it is not the only form, but time, effort, life, energy and thought.

In an interpersonal love relationship, the response is freely given. It requires the Other to give in return freely, not by coercion. Therefore, St. Paul said, “For not the people, freely, St. Paul said, be a cheerful giver.” If there are many lovers, the beloved has the freedom to choose. Many sperm will attach to one ovum, and the ovum chooses which one to let in. Many types of potato chips attach to me when I enter a deli, provided by manufacturers who love me, and I choose which one to buy. For the relationship to grow, there has to be a response from the beloved. If the lover is not clear what the response is expected, the relationship will not develop. If the beloved is confused by the gift from the love, if it is not clear what the lover wants, or if the price is too high, or if the response is beyond the capacity of the beloved or is more than the beloved considers appropriate, the relationship will not develop. If a wife does not respond, there’s no baby. If the customer does not respond, there’s no business.

8. Transfer of ownership to the Beloved:
When the beloved receives and responds, or returns the gift in reflection, the beloved gains ownership. The lover transfers ownership to the beloved. In a job, the owner gives the task and goals and when the worker or staff person fully responds, the worker becomes an owner and shares the ownership. If the worker is forced to work or is just working for the money, the worker is not an owner. He or she is a slave or ‘9 to 5.”

In marriage, I give myself and when my wife fully responds, my wife owns me. Friendship is an abstraction of that. In childbearing, we give ourselves and when our child fully responds, our child owns the family—calling it “my family,” and the child owns him or herself. In education, the teacher gives the knowledge, heart and expertise and when the student fully responds, the student owns the material or skill. In a commercial transaction, a sale, the seller gives the product and when the buyer fully responds, by paying, the buyer owns the asset.

9. Assessment of the results by the Lover:
Here is where we truly, most critical, live for the sake of others. Love comes from the beloved. How much did my love affect the beloved? I know by my beloved’s response. Is my beloved responding? Did she, he or they respond to my giving? Did they return something? Does my beloved want ownership of what I am giving and, by extension, of me? There’s no way to assess results without a return that is measurable. There’s no way to determine value without some thing measurable. The measure is the price the receiver returns, is willing to give back.

10. Re-investment by the Lover:
Develop the giving based on the results Development includes self-criticism, self-reflection, willingness to change, to admit I’m not done yet. I’m not complete yet and I have greater heights to reach, reach your response with humility: look at yourself first, your own value, what you are offering. Not to blame your spouse, your child, your customer, your community. Check your product. Improve its quality, in light of the response of the beloved. On that basis, give more the next time. Our Father Reverend Moon’s teaching is that if the lover gives 100%, the beloved will re-invest and return that and add more, sending back 110%. Then the lover will be greatly stimulated. This process will continue, defying the natural law of entropy. He teaches that this is how God created the universe, and is the secret of eternal expansion, development and growth.

In conclusion, when the purpose is of God, then God is in this entire process. It is an unfolding of God. As Jesus said, when two or three are gathering in my name, I am in the midst of them. When my mind and body are absolutely obe dient to God, He is in me. When husband and wife are one in God’s bless ing. He is in their relationship, which creates children and a family. When the Lover and Beloved on all levels and of all kinds are one in God, and their relationship is a shared purpose to the response with humility: look at yourself first, your own value, what you are offering. Not to blame yourself, your spouse, your child, your customer, your community. Check your product. Improve its quality, in light of the response of the beloved. This is what our Father Reverend Moon teaches. This is how God created the universe, and is the secret of eternal expansion, development and growth.

In conclusion, when the purpose is of God, then God is in this entire process. It is an unfolding of God. As Jesus said, when two or three are gathering in my name, I am in the midst of them. When my mind and body are absolutely obedient to God, He is in me. When husband and wife are one in God’s blessing. He is in their relationship, which creates children and a family. When the Lover and Beloved on all levels and of all kinds are one in God, and their relationship is a shared purpose to
THE NEW VOICES OF OUR GENERATION

Coping with College Stress

The following article was taken from www.worldcarp.org

It's already 12 am. You are done on your third paper work but you still have two left for Algebra and an Elective. Minutes later, your cell phone beeps. It's your Editor-in-Chief, asking for the college paper lay-out for the next issue, you as the Lay-out Artist. As your stomach growls, you remember you have skipped lunch and dinner because you went home from your workplace (a fast-food chain); straight to your study table just to get rid of piled homework.

You then feel nervous, there's shortness in your breath and all of a sudden, a terrible headache follows. You're not yet dying of course! But you just hardly thought of one thing: STRESS.

STRESS. Stress What?? According to American Institute of Stress, 75 to 90 percent of visits to Physicians are stress-related complaints or disorders.

As defined by Dr. Tammy Coder Mikinski, Ph.D. (licensed psychologist and Director of Rockhurst University Counseling Center in Kansas), stress is anything that takes a psychological or physical toll on you. It's not necessarily a bad thing. You might be surprised to know that there are actually two kinds of stress: Eustress and Distress. It's like positive and negative.

Eustress keeps us alert; it motivates us to face challenges and drives us to solve problems. Distress results when our bodies overreact to events; this can cause health problems.

Warning Signs of Stress: Rate Yourself. You might be stressed when you have:

- Feeling of weakness, dizziness, loss of reality
- Insomnia
- Abnormal menstrual cycles
- Lower back pain, chest pain, and neck pain
- Accident-prone behavior
- Loss of appetite, compulsive eating
- Nightmares

Causes of Stress: College students are usually prone to stress due to following:

- Unrealistic expectations
- Loneliness (those who are far from home)
- Social pressure
- Academic Achievements
- Dissatisfaction

Stress Effects on your Body: And because you're stressed, you feel/have...

- Tension headache
- Sudden outburst of tears or inability to cry
- Decreased weight, excess weight
- Recurring feeling of 'hopelessness'
- Stomach or intestinal ulcers
- Excessive nervous energy
- Increased susceptibility to infection
- Shortness in breath
- Cardiovascular disorders
- Tendency toward fainting or nausea

Dealing with College Stress: Coping up and Getting Over

And now you realized, YOU ARE stressed out. So what? Isn't there always "a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow", a "silver lining in a prayer" and SUGGESTIONS on how to cope up with Stress? Here are few:

- Figure out what's stressing you out. Not enough money for project? Is it high maturity expectations from Mom and Dad? Irritated with a new roommate? Recognize the physical and mental signs of stress you are experiencing as well. It will be easier for you to deal with it.
- Be realistic with your time, avoid time pressures. Learn to say NO on needless appointments and unattainable deadlines.
- Set reasonable goals that can be accomplished. It's better to have fewer goals that bear result than to have pile of goals that are just "half-ways" in the end. Don't expect too much from yourself if you're not the "hero of Gotham City".
- Distract your mind off stress. Do physical activities that you enjoy once in a while and create opportunities when you can relax your mind and body. Breathe. "All work and no play makes Jack stressed."

"No man is an island, in a stressed world." Find time to talk with your TRUSTED family and friends. Go out and laugh with them. Remember pillow fights? Ouch, but sweet. Remember a Chinese Proverb, "Tension is who you think you should be. Relaxation is who you are." Learn to develop sense of humor. Laugh out at your problems and solve it.
...the primary focus of the workshop was discovering what it means to be a Blessed Child.

Theme: ‘Discovering My Identity’

Dates: February 16th to 18th, 2008

Location: Hearst Center, Berkeley, California

Introduction:

The west coast held a Junior STF Candidates Workshop over Presidents Day weekend at the Hearst Center, where many consider to be the birthplace of our movement. Blessed Children traveled far, some over 13 hours to attend this workshop. As the theme states, the primary focus of the workshop was discovering what it means to be a Blessed Child. The entire workshop was divided up into a day of education, a day of the challenge test, and the closing day. Participants’ ages ranged from 12 to 18, coming from a variety of communities such as the Bay Area, Los Angeles, Oregon, Washington state, and even as far as Canada.

The spirit built up and the culture became filled with God’s love and presence as insights about their identity started unraveling before them. The culmination of the workshop was the challenge test itself where participants were tested physically, mentally, and spiritually in bringing a victory for God. Whether they passed all the tests or not, all candidates were guided to grow through every experience in coming to understand their identity, and gain a sense of ownership over God’s dream. Below are some excerpts of testimonies from the workshop.

Program Components:

- Identity as God’s Child
- Identity as a Blessed Child
- Identity as an Extended True Family Member
- Core Values in Action
- Developing My Four Great Realms of Heart
- Challenge Test
- Testimonies
- Certificate Ceremony

Participants: 71 Total
57 Candidates & 14 Staff members
36 promoted to Jr. STF Green Level.
Vancouver, CA – 3
Seattle, WA – 9
Bay Area, CA – 23
Portland, Oregon – 3
Los Angeles, CA – 19

Quotes:

- "It made me realize that on a day to day basis I don’t try hard enough to get closer to God." – Katsumi M, 16 (Bay Area, CA)
- "I listened to all the lectures and it seems like God matched all of the notes and made it into a paragraph in my head and read it to me: who I was, who I am, and who I will be." – Yupohn N, 14 (Canada)
- "Sometimes I have felt myself as unworthy and unfit to be able to ‘save the world’. But that is totally the wrong feeling, and that is how we end up pushing ourselves away from God. He doesn’t want that at all! When you feel insignificant, that’s because you don’t truly understand your value. God has shown me that I have so much value and He believes in me, and so now I need to believe in myself. These past few days have been a testimony to the will and strength of BC’s." – Yuko Y, 16 (Seattle, WA)
- "I want to be able to reach out to people and learn to comfort their hearts. Also, I want to stay close to God and think about Him every single day. From the workshop, I learned how much God really wants to hold our hand but so many times we just look the other way. I want to return His love to Him and make God happy." – Harumi M, 15 (Los Angeles, CA)
- "My most memorable highlight was seeing all these Blessed Children come here on their own desire, to become better to mend the heart of God, seeing and being with all of them wanting to grow. Their motivation in life is just God and True Parents and that’s all they need." – Youngsoon G, 17 (Bay Area, CA)
- "I think the thing that struck me so clearly from God was that if I truly push myself, I can do anything. Challenging my limitations has never been so clear to me as now." – Felicia B, 15 (Bay Area, CA)
- "My determination is to bring my BC friends and tell them how interesting it actually was, especially to really truly learn who you are." – Gabriela V, 12 (Bay Area, CA)
- "I would like to encourage more BC’s to join Junior STF and to work on living for God’s dream. And work up to the standard of True Parents and God." – Megumi H, 13 (Los Angeles, CA)

The Center for Education at UTS wishes to encourage the development and publication of effective and creative curricula or teaching tools that can be used throughout the country. There is a tremendous need for effective curricula in each of the target age groups. Currently, some centers are using the national curriculum while others have simply done their best to teach Divine Principle or the Bible or a combination of the two. The Center for Education wishes to encourage those with the desire, experience or means to develop curricula that can be used in: K-6 Sunday Schools, Youth Ministries, Young Adult Ministries and even Adult Ministries.

In addition, there is a need to create effective teaching tools such as games, activities, specialized felt board teaching tools, dramas and similar creative tools for use in each of these ministries. Have you designed a game or teaching tool that you have found to be effective? Why not professionalize it or expand it so that others can use it?

Those who wish to apply need to review the grant requirements and submit an application. go to www.centerforeducation.net for more Grant Information and details.

Curriculum Mini-Grant Program

The Center for Education at UTS is announcing the Curriculum Mini-Grant Program. The mini-grants program offers grants between $500 - $1,000 for the creation of professional curricula and teaching tools for the diverse age groups within the Unification movement. The Center for Education at UTS wishes to encourage the development and publication of effective and creative curricula or teaching tools that can be used throughout the country.

West Coast Junior STF Candidates Workshop Report

"God has shown me the dream that He has for this world. However, for His dream to come true, I need to not only make His dream real through the world but to make it real within myself. God has shown me that I can do it!"

– Mark M, 17 (Los Angeles, CA)

"God has truly shown me the path I must take as a BC. He showed me that I need to strive for ‘One Family Under God’, and what True Parents have struggled for so many years. I know my identity, I know my value. I just need the desire and courage to do it. At the workshop, I gained this courage through the run. Many times Satan tries to pull you down and stop you, but you have to keep going because it is the right thing. You have to keep going. We’ve got to make a difference in this world.

– Anonymous"

"Internally, I am going to stop accusing myself so much when I fail, and accept and love myself as God does."

– Misun B, 17 (Canada)

"I think, definitely, the 3 hour run experience will stick with me till I am 99 years old, and if I have to be older than it will still be with me." – Kimberly C, 15 (Bay Area, CA)

"Especially during the running I felt His heart. It was just a wave of sadness that came over me, and I usually don’t cry during my prayers. But I just couldn’t hold it in this time."

– Clara S, 14 (Bay Area, CA)

"I will not be afraid to be myself in the outside world! I am going to tell all my friends about Junior STF and God’s dream! I will make God’s and True Parents’ culture MAINSTREAM!!!" – Mark M, 17 (Los Angeles, CA)
O
n past projects, we built schools in needy commu-
nities of Zambia and Bangladesh, and in small
ways, helped people to improve their lives, while changing ours.
Join us this year, as we journey to Peru
to build a community center in a small
village that will allow the residents to
have a central gathering place and to
provide food for the neediest of their
families. Join IRFF in Peru on our Dis-
cover True Friendship Service Tour: South American Edition this summer!
In a world divided by religion,
race, nationality and language, this is
your opportunity to create
understanding and friendships with
our brothers and sisters of other
countries and cultures in a way that
will change your life, as well as theirs.
Come share our blessings and bridge the
divides that separate us. You will
change lives; maybe most of all your
own. Join us.

The experience at Mackenzie
and the orphanage made me realize
how much love everyone needs and
how simple it is to express it. One
of those ways is by serving. I have been
blessed with so much; I found the least
i can do is give that love to everyone. I
discovered a passion and a purpose,
which is to give my heart to all those
who desperately need it. Since God
loves everyone, then I can and should
as well. * - Mikana Maeda, participant in
Zambia, 2006

Purpose of Discover True Friendship Service Tour: The purpose
of this Service Tour is twofold. Most
obviously, it is an opportunity for those
of us living in America and other
affluent countries to serve our brothers
and sisters who live without the many
luxuries that we take for granted in a
very real way. More importantly, the
Service Tour is a chance for people of
different races, nationalities, religions
and languages to break down the
barriers of division and create “true friendships” of understanding and
appreciation through working towards
a common goal. Components of the
Discover True Friendship Service Tour:
Service Project: Build a multi-
purpose community center to be used
for village meetings, trainings and
workshops, and as a commodore
popular - a place where meals are
prepared for needy families in the
community.

Educational Experience:
Learn about international
development, issues related to poverty,
microfinance programs and
sustainable development practices.
Discover True Friendships: Work with
local villagers and college students
from Peru and other Latin American
countries, and learn about their lives
and cultures. Visit Non-Governmental
Organizations (NGOs) and Non-Profits:
Meet with UNICEF, UNESCO, local
schools, orphanages, agencies working
with children infected with HIV/AIDS
and others to learn about their work in
Peru.

Learn about microfinance and
the ways that it is empowering families
in communities like San Juan del Alto.
Visit Machu Picchu: A once-in-a
lifetime chance to explore the storied
and mysterious hidden city of the Inca
and one of the New 7 Wonders of the
World. The ruins of Machu Picchu,
rediscovered in 1911 by Yale
archaeologist Hiram Bingham, are one
of the most beautiful and enigmatic
ancient sites in the world. While the
Inca people certainly used the Andean
mountain top (9060 feet elevation),
erecting many hundreds of stone
structures from the early 1400’s,
legends and myths indicate that
Machu Picchu (meaning “Old Peak" in
the Quechua language) was revered as
a sacred place from a far earlier time.
Whatever its origins, the Inca turned
the site into a small (5 square miles)
but extraordinary city. Invisible from
below and completely self-contained,
surrounded by agricultural terraces
sufficient to feed the population, and
watered by natural springs, Machu
Picchu seems to have been utilized by
the Inca as a secret ceremonial city.
Two thousand feet above the
rumbling Urubamba river, the cloud
shrouded ruins have palaces, baths,
temples, storage rooms and some 150
houses, all in a remarkable state of
preservation. These structures, carved
from the gray granite of the mountain
top are wonders of both architectural
and aesthetic genius. Many of the
building blocks weigh 50 tons or more
yet are so precisely sculpted and fitted
with such exactitude that the
mortarless joints will not permit the
insertion of even a thin knife blade.
Other Sightseeing and Activities: Visit
Lima, Arequipa and Cusco, see
Juana, a frozen 500 year old Incan
mummy, go horseback riding and
more...

Cost:
A fee of 8750 - 21,000, depending on when tickets are
purchased. We will be flying as a group
from New York to Arequipa. For
our return, however, we will fly from Lima
to New York. Participants are welcome
to coordinate their travel to Peru
through the IRFF International Office
if they wish to do so.

Participants Must:
- Be 16 years of age or older
- Agree to abide by the Participant
Guidelines. Complete the application
and return it to Paul Byrne by May 1,
2008. - Participate in an interview if
requested.

Pay all fees in a timely manner
Further Notes:
We are looking for approximately
15 participants for this project, but the number of participants
needed is subject to change.
Applications will be reviewed and
candidates will be selected from the
information provided, including the
essay. Interviews by phone or in person
may be requested at the discretion
of the organizers of this project.
All participants are responsible for
all necessary documents such as
passports and vaccinations.
A visa is not needed for participants holding
American passports.
Applications due May 1, 2008. Send to:
Paul Byrne
102 Bradhurst Ave. Apt 612
New York, NY 10039
byrneIRFF@yahoo.com
Phone: (845)982-0618
Email: byrneIRFF@yahoo.com
Or visit our website: www.irff.org

To all young men and women looking to make a difference this summer
IRFF’s 3rd Annual Discover True Friendship Service Tour is being held this
July in the
community of San Juan del Alto, Peru. We are looking for approximately 20
participants to join us in a
project that will change the way you look at the world and our place in it.

Participants will build a community center for a small
city and meet with local and international non-
profits and NGOs to learn about the most current methods of combating the challenges faced by
developing communities.
After the project, we will have a once in a lifetime chance to
experience the famous and
ancient Incan city of Machu Picchu.

See the attached description of the project for more information, and email Paul Byrne at
byrneIRFF@yahoo.com with
any questions.

If you are interested in joining us this summer, please return an application by May 1st.

Many blessings,
Paul Byrne
There is no way that a soggy bundle of neurons can trick itself into analyzing itself; or seek to comprehend the cosmos as a whole, from fractals to quasars. The very fact that humanists are able to argue their case, disproves their conclusion from the start!

How can we discuss this fascinating and controversial topic?

A guest at last year’s BayCon gathering said, “The calcification of the mind is our enemy.” Whether political, religious, or otherwise, too many people have fixed, unexamined doctrines.

At that same presentation, philosopher Martin Young advised, “Talk to the reasonable people. With unreasonable types, logic just pisses them off.”

God is the source and upholder of free will, for all of His thinking creatures. As His own special children, let’s do our best with this blessing, and share it in many ways. Reality is on our side.

Suggested reading:

“Modern Physics and Ancient Faith,” by Stephen M. Barr
For a different view, “Blindsight,” by Peter Watts.

FREE WILL from page 26

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“Modern Physics and Ancient Faith,” by Stephen M. Barr
For a different view, “Blindsight,” by Peter Watts.
Happily, another British scholar, Galen Strawson, has chimed in on this.

In a previous UNews column, I echoed the philosopher Liebniz in doubting that ‘unaided’ lifeless matter could ever give rise to living things. Since then, ‘new life form’ experiments have made headlines. So far, these are only rearrangements of existing cellular materials, but some hope to go further, like replacing the usual amino acids, and DNA as well, with different entities.

Scholar Paul Davies says that new universal laws, and a better grasp of underlying patterns, are needed to explain the origin of life itself. Even so, science may yet prove Liebniz wrong! Believers can either be informed and prepared, or get left in the dust, along with the medieval Luddites.

Could such artificial beings become intelligent? Could they have free will? Would society grant them rights and freedom? Science fiction has explored these questions in depth, and in a form that’s fun to read.

How does free will apply to reason and science? What happens when we add reductionism to our own minds? To everything that we, as thinking beings, understand?

We can observe, test, and agree that ‘one plus one equals two.’ Right? But is this an objective reality (or Platonic ideal), that we can seek and grasp by using our free will? Or are numbers a mere reflection of brain chemistry? What about new and complex hypotheses? As Stephen Hawking notes, human experience is nothing but passing neural impulses, what is the difference between a thought and the Theory of Relativity?

In pure Determinism there is no way to decide such things with confidence. So then, what in the universe could ever be deemed true and correct? Reason itself is undermined. The followers of Popper and Kuhn are influenced by such thinking. On a different tangent, starting about a hundred years ago, some who were interested in artificial intelligence mechanisms decided that everything happens by random chance. Not only on a tiny scale, but for all of existence. Therefore our character, actions, and the entire world, are random and ultimately unpredictable. Thus, any impression to the contrary is just an illusion we’ve created to comfort ourselves. This is, if anything, worse than classical Determinism!

Computers自动ing about fifty years ago, the advent of computers (circuits and software) pushed back the old arguments against Determinism, by showing that Logic is a real and independent entity. Could it be that our brains are computers, and our thoughts a software program? This brought a deep (and fairly recent) shift in how many people view themselves.

The concept of free will is tied into human nature. Many common assumptions we make about ourselves are incorrect. Even the experts are getting it wrong.

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In a philosophical sense, do we have only the illusion of free will? Then we must ask, what is the actual thing, that we’re so easily fooled into imagining we have? If there is no conscious awareness, as it seems clear you cannot have the one without the other. This could be doubly true if consciousness is found to be fundamental to the cosmos, like electrons and gravity.

Scholars began to claim that we are all ‘programmed’ to act and respond as we do. That makes the very impression that we are acting freely an illusion; a sly consequence of that same programming. But on the other hand, scholars allow the fallacy of granting evolution its own plans and purpose (and many scholars are doing the programming! Everything we are came about because of blind natural selection, and a series of meaningless inputs.

In the event, artificial intelligence researchers are using machines to scan for a blurred shadow of our mental processes, but still have little idea about what is really going on.

Even so, there have been a few surprises. In many cases, our brain is ‘cracking’ well before we become consciously aware of a decision, much less, perform some action.

Hah! They can electrically zap a brain into experiencing an orgasm. Does this dispire the existence of sex? Not to mention, love is all its wondrous forms! Of course not.

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**4 West 43rd Street**

**New York, NY 10036**

(212) 997-0050 x 208

e-mail: UNESW@HSAHQ.org

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<td>Total</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**American Directory**

For 2008

**METHOD OF PAYMENT**

Please add up the cost of personal and gift subscriptions along with any optional donation and pay this total (in UBS) by check, money order or credit card.

**GIFT SUBSCRIPTIONS**

- **NAME:**
- **ADDRESS:**
- **CITY:**
- **STATE ZIP:**
- **COUNTRY:**

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