

Peace Road 2015

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On July 5, **Luxembourg** held a Peace Road event under the theme “European Unity.” Thirteen persons took part in the tour, even though temperatures reached 39 degrees Celsius (102 degrees Fahrenheit)! The launch was held at the birthplace of Robert Schuman, an architect of European integration. Schuman (1886–1963) was a French politician who is widely regarded as one of the founding fathers of the European Union.

The participants visited a number of meaningful places by car, including the American cemetery where 5,500 soldiers who died in World War II are interred, as well as Schengen, a small village in Luxembourg where the Schengen Agreement was signed, which led to the creation of Europe’s borderless Schengen Area. Near the end, they moved on to the Abbey of Echternach, founded by St. Willibrord in the seventh century. To conclude the 120 kilometer (nearly 75 mile) tour and for a victory celebration, they visited the Holy Ground established in Luxembourg by Reverend Sun Myung Moon on August 9, 1965.



On July 5, **Hong Kong** held a Peace Road event at the Zoological and Botanical Gardens with 100 participants. The local Peace Road organizers focused on encouraging young people to participate on college campuses. The Peace Road team moved 91.5 kilometers (almost 57 miles) from Hong Kong University to Lingnan University, continuing on to the Chinese University of Hong Kong. The last stop was at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

All day long, using two buses, the Peace Road team visited major universities all around Hong Kong and held educational activities. For the launching event, Chae So Ok, deputy of the 12th National People's Congress Committee of Hong Kong; Namhi Hwang, president of FFWPU Hong Kong; and Gwang Seok Song, secretary general of UPF-Korea, attended, as did a professor at Zhejiang University and the president of the Confucian Society. After the activities at the major universities, they gathered at Millennium Hall to read the words of Reverend Moon.



On July 4, in the hamlet of José Ignacio, **Uruguay**, seventy persons participated in a Peace Road event under the theme “Strong Family.” José Ignacio is where Rev. Moon was fishing in December 1996 with 33 rods, representing the nations of South America, Central America and the Caribbean region. This act represented the unity of South America and North America and unity between Protestant Christianity and Catholic Christianity. Local Unificationists still repeat the tradition every year.

At 11:00 in the morning, the Peace Road team went from Montevideo to José Ignacio to hold the launching event. Mr. Cono Rossi, representing local Ambassadors for Peace; Mr. Sergio Freitas, a professional cyclist; and Mr. Dong-mo Shin, the regional leader for FFWPU of South America, gave welcoming speeches. The opening event ended with a prayer by Mr. Jorge Mendez.

After the launching, ten cyclists left on the 40 kilometer (almost 25 mile) journey from José Ignacio to the resort town of Punta del Este. Other participants followed them on foot, some marching and others jogging. The last eight participants to finish the journey arrived late at night after walking for ten hours.



The closing event was held in Punta del Este at 4:00 pm. Juan Pigola, an Ambassador for Peace; Dong-mo Shin; and Kazuhiro Tusake, president of FFWPU-Uruguay, all spoke. In the end, they cut a cake and a

Unificationist named Elena da Silva led them in three rousing cheers.



On July 4, a Peace Road march was held in **Tanzania**. The 3-kilometer (more than 1.86 mile) march started around 4:00 pm from Mombasa Bus Terminal and ended in the town of Pugu. Among 50 marchers were several from the city of Dar es Salaam, including Frank Mavula, the City Council youth development director, and Rev. Stylos, the UPF-Tanzania secretary general. FFWPU members as well as members of the Association of Motorcyclists and some Ambassadors for Peace also participated.

The ceremony began with the singing of the Tanzanian national anthem and a peace song, and a prayer by Sheki Juma Ugoga. Hon. Mavula and Rev. Stylos each gave a short speech. Marchers insisted on holding another Peace Road march before August.



On July 4 in Niamey, **Niger**, the Peace Road flag rode on under the theme “Forgive, Love and Unite.”

Among the 120 participants were Family Federation members, students, members of the foreign office community and of ECOWAS (Economic Community of West African States) living in Niger.

The launching ceremony took place at the sports stadium (palais de sport). There were three meeting points on the way to the sports stadium. In front of the stadium, a former minister of defense welcomed all the participants.

Also on July 4, a Peace Road event was held in The Hague, the seat of government in **the Netherlands**, under the slogan “Renewal of the Road to Peace in Europe and the World.” The event drew 106 participants, who met at a Sufi center. The weather was unusually hot for the Netherlands. The day started at 11:30 am with registration and a reception including coffee and tea, followed by a kickoff meeting at which FFWPU National President Hans Campman explained the vision of Peace Road 2015 and Dutch elder statesman Dr. Wim van Eekelen spoke warmly about the activities of the Universal Peace Federation.

After a light lunch, the main event began with a 10 km (over 6 mile) walk passing 24 important institutions or monuments. (Some participants took a 5 kilometer route.) At 5:00 pm, after the completion of the march, everyone met and sang, “Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me” before releasing 21 doves. This was followed by a closing session and festive meal. Eleanor Flowers Klerkx led everyone in singing “We Are the World,” after which the celebration cake was cut and the participants joined in three cheers. At the end, participants were joyful, filled with a sense of victory and unity of heart, having overcome a challenge together.



On June 27, a Peace Road event was held in **Morocco**. Holding it here was a major challenge, as there were no Unificationists living in the country full time, and the event took place in the middle of Ramadan, the fasting month for Muslims. So a Unificationist representative of Morocco, Umberto Angelucci, the regional FFWPU president of the Middle East region, delivered the Peace Road flag from Casablanca to Rabat, 86 kilometers (more than 53 miles) away, by train. A group of 25 held the Peace Road event inside the Academe of Sports Martial Arts Alliance. The participants included four Ambassadors for Peace: Abdellah Benlamhidi, a lawyer and professor; Hajiba Benaboud, a Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP) activist who is also a public health supervisor; Khalid Benaboud, her husband and a very accomplished master of martial arts; and the main organizer, Abderrazak Elkhaoudi, a master and martial arts trainer. Among those in attendance were key martial arts masters from various disciplines, social activists and youth. With their support and a few adjustments, Morocco held a very successful Peace Road rally.



Out of respect for their Muslim hosts, they chose to host the event after Iftar, the meal eaten by Muslims after sunset during Ramadan, when they break their daily fast. Because of their tradition, the event took place at 9:30 pm. Everyone recognized the special impact of Rev. Moon's visionary proposal of a peace highway. Some recalled the former Moroccan king's emphasis on building a bridge to Europe (Spain), which of course would be a key part of the peace highway.

At the end of the event, participants distributed Rev. Moon's autobiography, and each spoke highly of his vision and work. David Fraser Harris, the secretary general of Universal Peace Federation (UPF) for the Middle East, said, "I was honored and happy to be part of this dynamic event, which provided a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with Peace Ambassadors and share the vision of the UPF founders with them. This was a great renewal of the work done by our former missionaries, and we hope we can continue in the future on this foundation."



On June 19, FFWPU and UPF in **Mali** organized a Peace Road 2015 rally. The theme was "For a Mali of Peace, Reconciliation and Unity." The event was held at the ACI 2000 neighborhood of Bamako, Mali's capital. It was organized with the partnership of the National Malian Federation of Bicycle Riders. At 4:00 p.m. some 105 people gathered for the launching ceremony. Youssouf Cisse, an Ambassador for Peace and candidate in the last presidential election, and Amadou Togola, the national president of the Malian Federation of Bicycle Riders, participated. They sang the national anthem and the president of FFWPU Mali, Dembele Jules, gave a speech explaining that the Peace Road was set up by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, as a project for world peace.

Fifteen professional bike riders were selected for a 15 kilometer (more than 9 mile) contest because as Muslims, they were fasting. Some prizes were given to the five winners, and symbolic prizes were given to the other cyclists. Fifteen police officers ensured that all went safely. Amadou Togola, who is also a newly appointed Ambassador for Peace, gave the congratulatory speech. He explained that bike riders in Mali are "riders for peace" and promised to make a lasting partnership with FFWPU. After his speech, the banner was signed by the officials and the event was over. The event was covered by three newspapers: the government newspaper (*Essor*) and two private newspapers (the *Challenger* and the *Independent*).



On June 28, Madrid, Spain held a Peace Road event with 90 participants. A group of young people began in the city of El Escorial, 50 kilometers from Madrid. They first posed for a picture in front of the famous monastery, built in the 16th century by King Felipe II. They took the train to Madrid and walked around the city, visiting famous landmarks. From the Recoletos Train Station they went to Plaza Colon to see a monument of Christopher Columbus. They then walked to “Plaza de Cibeles,” one of the most famous places in the capital. In the center of this square stands the famous Cibeles fountain, sculpted in 1782, by Ventura Rodríguez. Iconic buildings dominate each corner of the square. They were built between the 18th - 20th centuries.

The Peace Road riders continued their way through “Puerta del Sol,” at the very center of the city, and finally arrived at Real Palace to meet another group of people who had been walking from Puerta de Toledo. They took pictures together in front of Real Palace, and in front of Almudena Cathedral.

They concluded the Peace Road event with a Concert for Peace by three musicians. Around 90 people enjoyed music of the world, connecting to the world through their shared dream for peace.

On Sunday June 28, over 70 men, women and children rode their bikes and departed on the Czech leg of the international Peace Road 2015. The route was 26 km from the Prague city center to a nearby town called Dobřichovice, along the rivers, Vltava and Berounka.



Those without bikes took a shorter route of 7 km by starting their trip with a short train ride. The youngest participant on a bicycle, Charlotte Musil, had no problem keeping up with everybody over the whole distance. At the destination, the camping restaurant “Weir of Good Hope” sounded speeches by the Czech Republic National Leader and the UPF Secretary General in testimony to True Father as a peace-maker, who visited North Korea to embrace the Dictator Kim Il Sung, and who was striving all his life to see the Korean peninsula united. The local music ministry choir sang Arirang and Tongil. At the destination, there was barbeque and cake for everyone.

In Poland, the Peace Road theme was called “No more war, no more communism”. Gdańsk is the place where the World War II began in 1939 and where communism ended in Europe due to the Solidarity Movement in 1980. Gdańsk is also the place where many religions and nations lived together.

Riders started in a park that commemorates the first victims of the World War II – Polish postal workers in Gdańsk. They prayed, listened to a speech, placed flowers and lit candles. Then they marched to the monument which commemorates the victims of Communism in 1970 near the Gdańsk Shipyard, where the Solidarity Movement was established after the strikes in 1980.



Afterwards, they marched to the cemetery of non-existent cemeteries, which commemorates all religions and nations which lived together in the past in North Poland. Again they prayed, listened to a speech and lit candles.

Peace riders finished the Peace Road 2015 in Gdańsk on the hill, from where they had a beautiful view of Old Gdańsk and New Gdańsk with shipbuilding cranes. Natural cranes are the symbol of the Heavenly Kingdom, so this sight reminded everyone of the hope that God's Kingdom will be established together with True Parents in Gdańsk, in Poland, in Europe, and in the entire world before 2020. This was the last prayer in Gdańsk during Peace Road 2015.



On June 15, 2015, Peace Road world tour for Burkina Faso took place in Ouagadougou. Bikes,

motorcycles and cars flying Peace Road flags went through the town from the Patte d'Oie crossroads to the Municipal Stadium – about 7 km. Three bikes led the way with the leader holding the flag. They were followed by motorcycles and cars that participated in the rally. Some policemen cleared the road at intersections. The rally took about 15 to 20 minutes to reach the Municipal Stadium. The arrival ended with a picture in front of the main banner.



We presented the peace road flag to the state representative, Mr. Fousseni Ouedraogo, who was sent as a representative of the Prime Minister. After a two-minute explanation about the global meaning of the Peace Road, the National Leader of FFWPU invited the national official to sign the flag and asked that he may help to send a top representative of Burkina Faso to Korea in August 30, where the flag will go. The official representative Mr. Ouedraogo signed the Peace Road banner.

Then Mr. Ouedraogo gave a speech, explaining the Prime Minister's interest in peace activities. He assured us he would report to the Prime Minister about the invitation. Ambassador Peace Mogho Naaba Baongo, the traditional king of the Mosse tribe, which comprises 48% of Burkina Faso's population invited us to his palace. He always supports our activities. His majesty kindly signed the flag and gave an interview explaining how it is important for him to see young people acting for peace.



The Peace Road event ended with some popular entertainment, such as dances by the Les petits anges dancers, new hope choir, popular singers and majorettes.

To conclude everything, His Majesty, King Mogho Naaba Baongo, joined Peace Road participants in a final photograph.



From June 17 – 20, 2015 the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification in Suriname held the Peace Road 2015 project. Despite the heavy rainy season, Heaven granted us on our prayer request 4 beautiful sunny days. Ambassador for Peace, Mrs. Mary Ghafoerkhan-Karamat Ali, who is a faithful member of the Surinamese Islamic Association (SIV), and who was one of our main speakers that day, reminded the audience of the fact that the Ramadan fasting period had started.



On Wednesday June 17, we had launch at Congress Hall at the Independence square. We started the program at 10:00 a.m. with several Ambassadors for Peace seated. We had a special item added to our

program, a candle-lighting ceremony in remembrance of 8 of our Ambassadors for Peace who are now in the spirit world. Everyone appeared deeply moved and grateful. Hoon Dok Hwe was done by the National Leader of FFWPU Suriname, Rev. Roel Rotgans, who read the first chapter of True Father's autobiography.

Afterwards there was a special message and Congratulatory song. Everybody who attended was asked to sign the PEACE ROAD 2015 banner and several group pictures were taken.

After we closed off the program inside the Congress Hall, we all walked outside to the monument close by, which was donated by the South Korean government to Suriname in remembrance of the fallen Surinamese soldiers in the Korean War. A beautiful wreath was laid at the monument and we released 93 balloons in the colors of the Surinamese flag into the air with three cheers of Og-mansei.

The next day, Thursday June 18, we held our first Peace Bike ride from Paramaribo to New Amsterdam, District Commewijne. The start was at 4:00 pm. at the Head Office of GOW2 Energy Suriname at the Van 't Hogerhuyssstreet close by the Jules Wijdenbosch bridge. In total, 7 riders participated—4 from the army, 1 from the Surinamese Cycling Union, 1 youth and 1 motorcyclist. It was a heavy but exciting ride, especially going up the Jules Wijdenbosch bridge.

On Friday June 19, we held our second Peace Bike ride from Poelepantje-William Kraanplein, Paramaribo to Lelydorp, District Wanica. It was an easier easy and more relaxing ride. We had 4 riders from the army, and 1 motorcyclist. On the way a motorcyclist called out to join us on the ride, so we attached a Peace Road flag to his motorcycle, which he gratefully accepted.

Media Coverage: We got good media coverage from 3 television stations and 1 newspaper. On Tuesday June 16, a day before the launch, we were twice on television station "RBN" that evening for an interview and the next day Wednesday June 17, there was an article in the newspaper "Dagblad Suriname." On the day of the launch June 17 we got media coverage from "Apintie Television Station" and our launch appeared on their most famous and widely watched everyday hot itemed television news program named "In de Branding."



On Thursday June 18, the first day of our Peace Bike ride, we had media coverage from newspaper "Dagblad Suriname" with an article appearing on Saturday June 20 in their newspaper, and on Friday June 19, the second day of our Peace Bike ride, we had media coverage from our national, government-owned television station "STVS." They reported on us twice in their news journal, once the next day Sun Myung Moon

Saturday June 20, and again the day after that.

On June 20, in Zimbabwe, Africa, FFWPU and UPF members, with the Zimbabwe United Nations Association (ZUNA) had selected children from ten schools and some of their teachers to take part in Peace Road. We had arranged for fifteen police officers to escort them from Harare City town House. 165 participants gather for the launching. The Zimbabwe government doesn't allow any public gatherings because of the difficult political situation. Our Ambassadors for peace stayed away for that reason. We had to have police clearance for this march but still on the day of the march there were plain clothes policemen and central intelligence asking us questions before and after the march. Once they were satisfied, they left us alone so that the march was indeed a success.



For the Media Coverage: The day before the event we appeared on national TV Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation (ZBC) and explained True Father's vision for peace and the peace projects initiated by True Father and about the forthcoming 3rd anniversary of his ascension. We explained about Peace Road 2015 and that we wanted to march to bring attention to the world about True Father's achievements.



On June 20, in Bissau, Guinea-Bissau, we organized a Peace Road march with peace bikes. We prepared a hundred white T-shirts and a hundred and twenty blue T-shirts. The event started at seven in morning from round point at the Bafata airport to the national palace. We march and rode bikes for 7 kilometers.

The national television, radio and private radio covered this event, broadcasting it to the people for two days. At the end of the event, there was a speech about using peace messages. The national TV also carried the information in its main journal for two days.

On June 21, in North Poland city Gdańsk, the first Peace Road in Europe, FFWPU and UPF organized Peace Road 2015, under the regional theme, "No more war, no more communisms." Gdańsk is the where Second World War broke out in 1939 and where the end of communism began with the Solidarity Movement in 1980.

Furthermore, Gdańsk is where many religions and ethnicities once lived together.

We started the Peace Road Project in a place that commemorates the first victims of the Second World War – Polish postmen in Gdańsk. We prayed, listened to a speech, placed flowers and lit candles there.

We then marched to the monument, which commemorates victims of communism in 1970 near the Gdańsk Shipyard where the Solidarity Movement was established after the strikes in 1980. We prayed, listened to a speech, placed flowers and lit candles there.

Next, we marched to the Nonexistent Cemetery Memorial, which commemorates people of many ethnicities that once lived together in Poland. We prayed, listened to a speech and lit candle there as well.



We finished Peace Road 2015 in Gdańsk on the hill from which we had a beautiful view of Old Gdańsk and New Gdańsk, with shipbuilding cranes. Cranes in nature (birds) are a symbol of the Heavenly Kingdom. We hope that God's Kingdom will be established together with True Parents in Gdańsk, in Poland, in Europe, in the World before 2020. That was our ultimate prayer in Gdańsk during Peace Road 2015.



On June 21, with lots of participants we held the Peace Road march in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The fifth Central America nation. We started the march from a few blocks away from the Presidential Palace, Tegucigalpa, walked down ten blocks to the National Stadium then kept walking down to the Congress Palace, a total of 28 blocks.

Honduras is in the middle of conflicts, so everyday many organizations are marching. They also call their marches "Marches of Peace." The day before (Saturday), one of those marchers threw a bomb at the Congressional Legislative Palace. Fortunately, it did not explode. Because we also had planned to finish at the Congressional Legislative Palace, the authorities advised us to stop the march the next day and reschedule it, but we decided to do it anyway.

On that same Sunday, someone else threw a bomb at the Justice Palace and it exploded. The circumstances were not easy, but under the protection of Heavenly Parent, our Peace Road march was

successful. At the end, near the Congressional Palace, we celebrated the victory of our March for Peace and Family with folk music, dancing and some speeches.



On June 16 The Peace Road event in Cote d'Ivoire, was launched in Yamoussoukro, the Administrative Capital City. The Regional President, Rev Dr. Cho Dong Ho and the National Leader, Philbert Seka, members from UPF and FFWPU gathered in front of the UNESCO International Peace Foundation to launch the Peace Road event in Cote d'Ivoire.

The main event was held in Adzope on June 23, a city near to Abidjan, the economic capital city. The tour had the theme: "One Cote D'Ivoire, One Family". It started at 9:00 AM. The Governor of the city, the President of the District of la Me Me, the Mayor and Members of Parliament attended the event. At 9:30 AM, Mr Adama Doumbia, General-Secretary of UPF Africa and Rev Philbert Seka, gave signal to depart to 54 riders from Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Nigeria, France, Guinea, Benin and Burkina Faso. All the participants were dressed in the Peace Road colors. The Riders went through 100Kms. More than 4,000 people attended the main event. It was a kind of festival for the population to see people from diverse nations as rider to promote peace.

The 100 Km tour started in front of the city hall. At the end, the National Leader gave a speech to explain the meaning of Peace Road and mention the importance for people to break down barriers and live together as One Family under God. The authorities did congratulate UPF for holding such a wonderful event to build peace in the country. The event was covered by National TV and many other media.



On June 23 along the course of the Peace Road in Central America, Guatemala received the Peace Road baton. They marched from their FFWPU national headquarters to John Paul II Plaza. Participants marched with Peace Road the banner and flags. With the support from the traffic police, the march ended successfully.

