

JULY 2011

# UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



**Founders' Tour 2011**

**Africa Day and the Diaspora**

**UN Day of Families**



A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

# FROM THE PUBLISHER



## UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

**W**HIRLWIND speaking tours have been a hallmark of UPF. In fact, when our founders launched the Universal Peace Federation in September 2005, they immediately embarked on a world tour to 120 nations, carrying a message of peace, rooted in spiritual and moral principles. Throughout his life, Father Moon has taken his God-centered, providential message to the world, calling for people of every religion, race, nationality, and culture to come together as the restored sons and daughters of one God, thereby creating one global family under God.



**Dr. Thomas G. Walsh**  
President, UPF

This issue of *UPF Today* leads with the most recent speaking tour to ten nations, including eight in Europe. Many Ambassadors for Peace and UPF volunteers said they were struck by the vitality and seemingly inexhaustible energy of the founder, now in his 92<sup>nd</sup> year. But even more of an impact was made by the clarity and depth of his ambitious vision for peace in the 21st century. In fact, Father Moon speaks about a “D-Day” on January 13, 2013; he has indicated that at this time the secure foundation for peace will have been established.

We also cover the recent United Nations International Day of Families, celebrated by UPF chapters in almost fifty nations; our second major celebration of Africa Day in partnership with the African Union, and reports and highlights from dozens of different programs that our chapters around the world are conducting every day and every week. To all our friends, chapters, and Ambassadors for Peace, I once again thank you for your commitment and support.

UPF Chairman  
**Hyung Jin Moon**

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**Thomas G. Walsh**

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**Tageldin Hamad**

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## CONTENTS

<b>From the Publisher</b> . . . . . 2	<b>Africa Day and the Diaspora</b> . . . 12
<b>Founders’ Tour 2011</b> . . . . . 3	<i>By Michael Balcomb</i>
<i>By UPF International</i>	<b>UPF-Japan: Post Tsunami</b>
<b>Winds of Freedom: Middle East</b>	<b>Rebuilding Initiative</b> . . . . . 15
<b>Leadership Conference</b> . . . . . 7	<i>By UPF - Japan</i>
<i>By Natascha Schellen</i>	<b>A Week of Goodness</b> . . . . . 16
<b>UN International Day of Families</b>	<i>By UPF - Russia</i>
<b>celebrated in over 50 nations</b> . . . . 8	<b>UPF Chapter Updates</b> . . . . . 18
<i>By Genie Kagawa</i>	<i>By UPF Chapters</i>

## CHAPTERS FEATURED IN THIS ISSUE

Argentina	Germany	Korea	Solomon Islands
Australia	Ghana	Malaysia	Spain
Austria	Greece	Moldova	Swaziland
Azerbaijan	India	Nepal	Switzerland
Bangladesh	Indonesia	New Zealand	Taiwan
Brazil	Ireland	Nigeria	Turkey
Congo	Israel	Norway	Uganda
Cote d’Ivoire	Italy	Paraguay	UK
Ecuador	Jamaica	Philippines	Uruguay
Equatorial Guinea	Japan	Russia	USA
Gabon	Kazakhstan	St. Lucia	Venezuela
Georgia	Kenya	Senegal	Zambia

*UPF Today* is the membership magazine of the Universal Peace Federation, founded by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. Envisioning peace as a state of harmonious interdependence among individuals, families, nations and peoples, UPF advocates constructive and original practices that contribute to achieving a unified world of peace, the hope of all ages. The magazine offers a forum for Ambassadors for Peace fostering human development, good governance, public service, and collaborative peace efforts involving religions, nations and nongovernmental organizations.

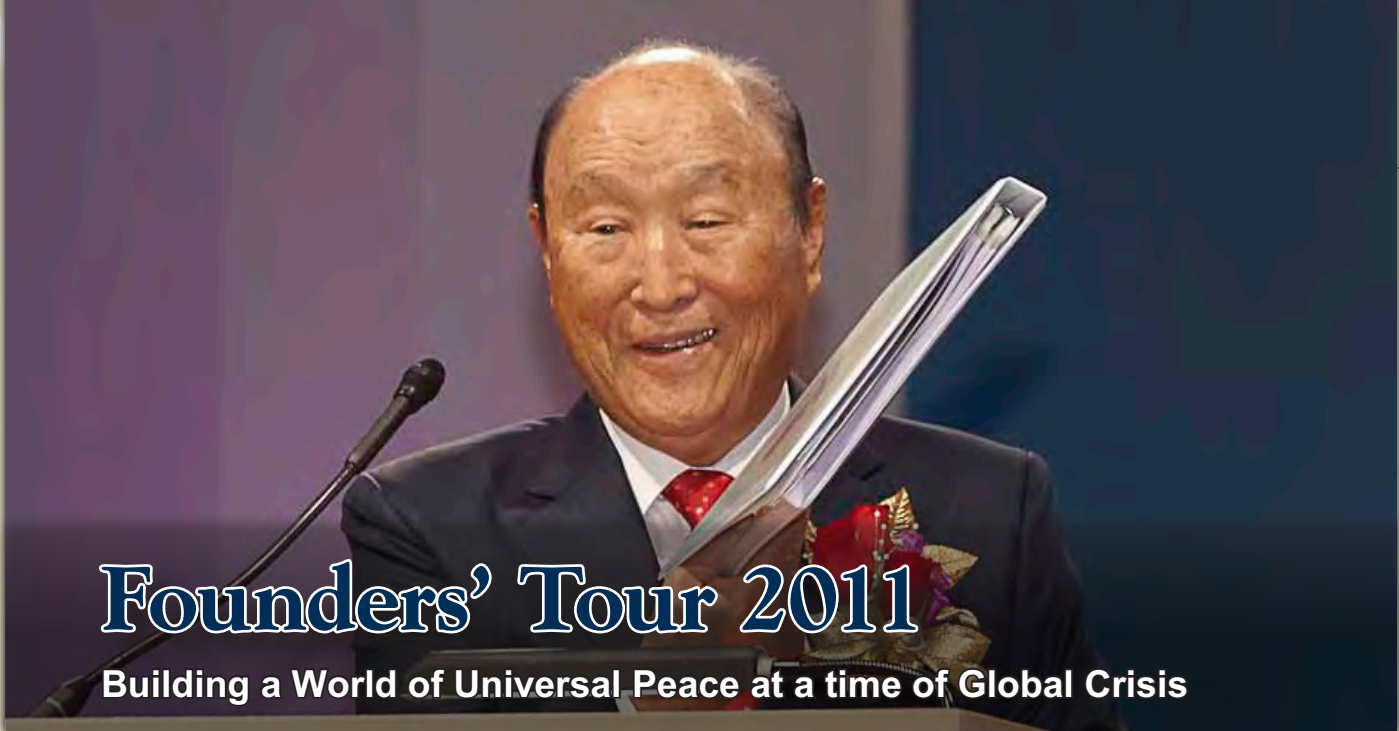
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UPF is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

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### COVER:

UPF Founders speaking at a United Nations hall in Geneva, Switzerland; (insets): Peace Tour in Istanbul; Africa Day in New York City; International Day of Families outing in Malaysia



# Founders' Tour 2011

Building a World of Universal Peace at a time of Global Crisis

By UPF International

**O**N April 24, 2011, in Incheon, Korea, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon initiated the Founders' Tour 2011 dedicated to the theme of *Building a World of Universal Peace at a Time of Global Crisis*. Among the tour party were UPF's International Chairman, Rev. Hyung Jin Moon and Mrs. Yeon Ah Moon, UPF President Dr. Thomas Walsh, and Secretary General Taj Hamad.

Father Moon spoke with great passion about the dawn of a new era of peace that can be built on the foundation of a great spiritual awakening that starts within the individual and the family. He consistently encouraged families to begin each day by reading God's word together, and to take seriously their responsibility to be peace-builders.

**MADRID, SPAIN** - The more than 700 people who attended are unlikely to soon forget the compelling sight of a man giving all he had despite being well into his tenth decade of life. His vitality, his parental love expressed through his caring words, profound insights, joyful stories, sad reflections, thrilling moments, facial expressions—all this drama brought the audience to an intimate closeness. "Spain is a land of passion," Father Moon kept repeating, "and you should use this passion for God's will."

The program opened with music from Raul Antequera, a pianist who became blind in the middle of his piano career yet turned disaster into victory by developing a very sensitive ear for music. Three Ambassadors for Peace prayed: Silvia Cerrada, a young Muslim woman active in interfaith forums; Abraham Haim, a Jewish historian; and Fr. Isidro Hernandez, a Catholic monk of the Trinitarian Order, who has been Media Director of the Spanish Federation of Catholic Orders.

**ROME, ITALY** - The prestigious conference facility of the Marriott Rome Park Hotel was filled with around a thousand people who came from all over the country, many having traveled from cities in northern Italy early that same morning. Religious leaders representing Catholicism, Protestantism, Islam, and Buddhism offered readings and prayers expressing the essence of their religions in a most spiritual and beautiful way. A nun who had served as a missionary in poor countries for 45 years moved the audience to tears through her reading of the prayer attributed to St. Francis of Assisi.

"I'm grateful for this night's life-changing experience," commented Antonio Imeneo, High Commissioner of the World Parliament for Security and Peace. "Rev. Moon is a true man of God who lives what he preaches."



ROME: Father Moon delivers his keynote address



LONDON: Panelists and speakers at the House of Commons

**OSLO, NORWAY** - The visit of Father and Mother Moon coincided with the UPF and Women's Federation for World Peace European Leadership Conference taking place in the Stortinget (Parliament) in Oslo the same weekend, including top speakers from Norway's International Affairs and Peace Institutes.

Major Nils Steen Egeliien, who served in the Korean War and is President of the Norwegian Korean War Veterans, spoke of his love for Korea, its people, its culture, and the phoenix-like life of Rev. Moon. Dr. Wim van Eekelen (former Dutch Defence Minister) placed Father Moon's UPF work in the context of European efforts to make peace after the devastation of two world wars.

"I am over 90 years old, why should I come all the way to Norway?" said Father Moon. "I was taught by God, and have the responsibility to teach the world. I can't bear to keep it to myself. I thought I would die, and now I am talking about these things in Oslo, the home of the Nobel Peace Prize."

**ATHENS, GREECE** - Father Moon announced that he particularly wanted to give his proclamation message in Athens, the birthplace of European civilization. Congratulatory remarks were given by Prof. Dr. Aliko Mitsakos, President of Women in International Security in Greece and founder of the Youth Leadership Camp in Greece. "Peace is the fruit of faith and imagination and of keeping our personal values, particularly in the family," she said.

Father Moon delivered his text with many additional remarks and did not conclude until after 11:30 pm, which was wonderful news for the more than 150 Albanians who had left their homes very early that morning but due to delays at the border had not been able to arrive till nearly 10 pm. They were overjoyed to find out that they were not too late, even though there was only standing room for many of them.

"Who knows about true love?" Father Moon asked in one of his extemporaneous additions to the text. "People with Ph.D. degrees don't know about it. Even religious leaders may not know about it. The Acropolis and Parthenon — there are so many gods in Greek history and legend! But you need to have a direct relationship with the one true God."

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY** - The Middle East Leadership Conference in Istanbul examined the surprising developments across the Arab countries and the world, on the theme "Divine Winds of Freedom: New Opportunities and New Responsibilities."

Young leaders described how they saw the events of change unfold in their countries, Egypt and Yemen. Participants from Jordan, Palestine, Kuwait, and Tunisia contributed their experiences, evaluations, and insights to the conference's quest for better understanding.

The conference was rounded off by a *Legacy of Peace* ceremony honoring those who gave their lives for freedom, followed by Father Moon's keynote address, his first-ever in Turkey. "We are living in a historic time of great transition," Father Moon said. "It is time for a revolution to change history, to unite the spiritual and physical worlds and to create the ideal kingdom of heaven that God has longed for since the beginning of time."

**LONDON, UK** - Returning to London for the first time since founding the UPF in 2005, Father and Mother Moon both gave public addresses on May 11. Mother Moon spoke first in a Committee Room of the House of Commons in Parliament. Dave Anderson, MP, opened that gathering by saying that the answer to the world's problems will come "when people of good faith come together and start to find the way forward." Another MP, Tom Brake, urged the faith communities in the UK to work together "to identify common ground and common purpose, and get an understanding of where they stand

*"We are now in a time where God is concluding the providence and harvesting its fruits."*

on different issues, perhaps dispelling some of the myths that exist around the different religions.”

Lord Tarsem King, the first representative of the Sikh faith to become a member of the House of Lords, said “If the slogan ‘One Family under God’ really takes off, we will avoid the difficulties that we are going through now.”

During his keynote speech later that day, Father Moon challenged the audience to consider whether, based on their history, many accomplishments, and the great academic tradition of Oxford and Cambridge Universities, the British people truly felt qualified to victoriously enter the next stage of life, the spirit world, or whether they still might have something to learn. “This time when God has introduced a new heavenly calendar is a time for a great cosmic revolution,” he said.

**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND** - The majestic circular room of the Palais des Nations, one of the larger of the UN’s meeting rooms in Geneva, was filled on May 13 as Heiner and Carolyn Handschin, leaders of the Universal Peace Federation and Women’s Federation for World Peace based in Switzerland,

spoke about how the true root of human security begins not from politics and diplomacy but from a nourishing, intact family. Father Moon prefaced his own remarks saying, “Do not just think of yourselves as guests here, but rather as my family members – as my brothers and sisters. We are all sons and daughters of God. Become bridges for others to reach Heaven.”

**BERLIN, GERMANY** - Crowds packed the avant-garde Tempodrom in Berlin May 17 and 18 to see the Little Angels Children’s Folk Ballet during their thank-you tour to veterans who defended freedom in Korea six decades ago, and to hear the UPF Founder challenge Germany to become known as the nation of true peace.

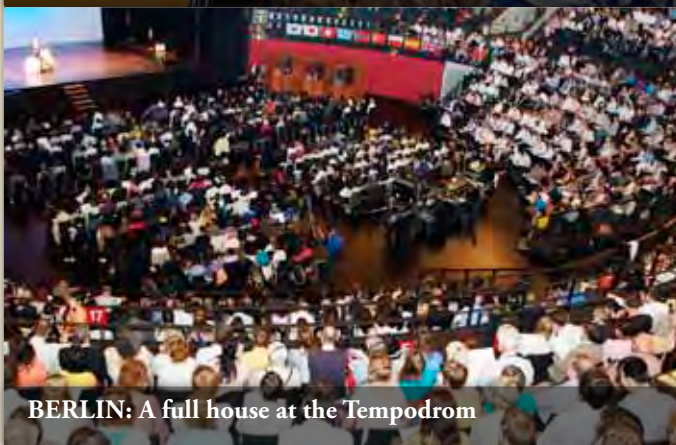
On previous visits in 1965 and 1981, Father Moon had prayed for German unity on the western side of the Brandenburg Gate. During the 1980s, he often spoke of the divided city and nation, which reminded him of his divided homeland of Korea. Joining the crowds passing freely through the city on his first visit to reunified Germany perhaps brought some closure to the painful memories of the earlier era.



ATHENS: An exchange of gifts



OSLO: Interfaith prayers



BERLIN: A full house at the Tempodrom



ISTANBUL: UPF team sailing on the Sea of Marmara



**BERLIN:** Rev. and Mrs. Moon with members of their family and European UPF leaders visit the Charlottenburg Palace



**MADRID:** A Muslim prayer

The second evening, a capacity crowd of 2,500 enjoyed music by a band from Düsseldorf, followed by a German choir. Next came a beautiful interfaith water ceremony conducted by representatives of four major religions. Dr. Achim Rohde, former President of the German state of Nordrhein Westfalen, and H.E. Alfred Moisiu, former President of Albania, expressed their appreciation for Father Moon's ideals.

**LAS VEGAS, USA** - Father Moon once again spoke of his ongoing effort to reposition Las Vegas as a more family-friendly tourist destination, a city that can welcome people of all faiths and cultures who will naturally become one family as they enjoy together the world-class entertainment and the outstanding natural beauty of the entire region.

Seeing such a rebranding as being good for business as well, Father Moon has expressed the hope that leaders of the gaming industry will use some of their vast resources to work with him to help Las Vegas gain a new reputation as a city of giving. By way of example, local charities were presented with donations totaling \$70,000 for their work among Las Vegas's neediest families.



**ROME:** The newly released Italian translation of Father Moon's autobiography



**LAS VEGAS:** Donations were presented to charities working with women and youth.

# MIDDLE EAST LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

By Natascha Schellen

**ISTANBUL, TURKEY** – Assessments of what has become known as the “Arab Spring” have varied from the start of 2011, and ranged from enthusiastic support to general concerns over stability, worries over security, and the potential radicalization of future governments in the region.

The past five months have seen much speculation over the change agents and communication channels that facilitated the regime changes through the revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt. But the point of general agreement was that these changes had come totally unexpectedly. Civil society organizations and human rights activists alike admitted their total surprise at the events, as did politicians and academics.

Based on the foundations for active peace building laid in the Middle East in more than a decade of work by UPF and its sister organizations, UPF organized the Middle East Leadership Conference entitled “Divine Winds of Freedom: New Opportunities and New Responsibilities for the Middle East,” held at the beautiful Atakoy Sheraton Hotel in Istanbul.

To identify and illuminate shared waypoints on the Middle East’s own roadmap to a brilliant future, UPF invited speakers from the region’s living faiths elaborated on key subjects: freedom and liberation, delivering justice and instituting just authority, and affirmation of the divine as the author of the structures inherent in and the principles governing human existence.

The sense of a common task and perspectives grew visibly in the course of these exchanges as the 50 participants moved far beyond the appreciation of dialogue into a dimension of collaboration and joint purpose. All in all, the conference had speakers from Turkey, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, and Tunisia.

A *Legacy of Peace* program honored some of those who had given their lives for freedom, beginning with heroes of the historic fight for self-determination during the time of European colonial control, and pioneers in the political sphere who dared to sign treaties of peace and paid for this with their lives. Mr. Thomas Schellen, moderator of the event, commemorated the names of young people whose recent deaths had been defining moments in breaking the strangleholds of security apparatuses and opening the Arab Spring.

The conference also featured the keynote address of UPF Founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, his first in Turkey. Explaining that he had long prayed for peace in the region, he poured out his heart deep into the evening. After his speech, participants were offered a copy of Rev. Moon’s autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen*, which had been brought from London for that purpose.

On the final day of the conference, discussion turned towards the roadmap for the future with group sessions to discuss waypoints of collaboration, communication, and education.



Dr. Hamdi Murad from Amman, Jordan assesses the long-term impact of recent social changes throughout the Middle East.



A young woman from Egypt explains the timeline of the protests that brought an end to the Mubarak regime.



# FAMILIES AS ALLIES OF DEVELOPMENT

By Genie Kagawa

UPF  
CHAPTERS  
OBSERVING  
THE UN DAY  
OF FAMILIES

**NEW YORK, USA-** The Permanent Missions of Angola, Iraq, Nigeria, Qatar, and Tunisia, and the NGO Committee on the Family co-sponsored a program on “Addressing Poverty by Strengthening Families” at the Office of the Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN in New York on May 16.

The keynote speaker was the Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr., the distinguished former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines. He spoke about recent radical changes such as the “Arab Spring” in the Middle East, noting that these changes originated not with any political party or opposition groups but with young students, labor unions, and families. “Families are agents for positive and transforming changes in the world,” he said.

Ms. Renata Kaczmarek, Focal Point of the UN Programme on the Family, gave important statistics on those who suffer the most from poverty, such as single parents,

large families, people living alone, and the elderly, and considered family-focused strategies as an important key to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

“Although the UN is dealing with a myriad of problems, we should not view the dilemmas facing families as just more problems to be solved,” agreed Dr. Michael Balcomb, outlining the UPF view of the family as a potential instrument of peace and reconciliation.

Mrs. Susan Roylance from the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society, talked about her work giving technical support with irrigation skills to Kenyan families suffering from hunger and poverty.

Mr. Mike Bobbit, Director of the Fatherhood Initiative of the City of New York, described the impact of a program that works with fathers of three different age groups who are not living with their children.

The NGO Committee on the Family was a co-sponsor of the event, and Mrs. Nadia Schmigel, Co-Chair, introduced some of the initiatives being made by the Committee to help families around the globe.

*“On this International Day of Families, let us resolve to support families as they nurture the young, care for the old and foster strong communities built on tolerance and dignity for all.”*

**BAN KI-MOON**  
UN Secretary-General

- Albania
- Argentina
- Armenia
- Australia
- Austria
- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Cameroon
- Canada
- Colombia
- Congo
- Croatia
- Ecuador
- Estonia
- Gabon
- Georgia
- Ghana
- India
- Indonesia
- Ireland
- Israel
- Italy
- Japan
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Malaysia
- Moldova
- Nepal
- Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Peru
- Philippines
- Russia
- Rwanda
- San Marino
- Senegal
- Slovakia
- Solomon Islands
- Spain
- Switzerland
- Taiwan
- Thailand
- United States
- Uruguay
- Venezuela
- Zambia



Ms. Renata Kaczmarek (bottom left), Focal Point of the UN Programme on the Family, leads an afternoon discussion group





## RECOGNIZING SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGES

**BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA** - A moving celebration of recognition to couples who have been married more than 25 years took place in Buenos Aires. Dialogue, comprehension, communication, patience, tolerance, faith, love, and God were mentioned as fundamental values by the couples as they shared some experiences of their lives. They were a resounding testimony of the love bond being strengthened with the passing of the years and transcending all difficulties. There were mystical moments when memories and anecdotes were combined with tears and funny situations. There was also romance, because previous to the delivery of each of the nine diplomas, the husband gave a rose to his wife.



Couples honored in Argentina

**HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS** - International couples shared how they overcame differences of languages, nationalities, and religions. Mrs. Miki Likaveke, the Japanese wife of Mr. Rence Likaveke, a business owner, shared how close she has become to Solomon Islands through giving birth to a child in the Solomon Islands; during that time she received tremendous love and care from the people of the Solomon Islands and her husband. Mrs. Nellie Masuaku, a Solomon Islander and the wife of Mr. Masuaku from the Congo, shared that the loving relationship between husband and wife is the most important thing for the education of children and that it can even overcome the stresses of poverty.



Couples honored in Uruguay

**MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY** - A ceremony recognized couples who have been married for 25 years or more and invited them to offer insights for the benefit of other couples.

Mrs. Lila Sebastiani de Pugliesi, who has been married 54 years, stated that “Without stable families it is impossible to speak of a better world.” “In my 30 years of marriage,” said Lic. Edgardo Martínez Zimarioff, “it is my experience that the family is the privileged setting for building a peaceful world; it is the school where we are educated in dialogue and harmonious encounters.”



Venezuelan family honored with the *Medal of Peace in the Family*

**CARACAS, VENEZUELA** - The Medal of Peace in the Family honored the effort and love invested by couples with more than 20 years of marriage. Sixteen families were presented with this medal by their children. Couples with 40 to 50 years of life together shared their secrets to staying together: love, communication, and fidelity.



# United Nations International Day of Families

## FAMILY SEMINARS



*Geneva, Switzerland* - Interfaith prayers in the Chapel of the World Council of Churches marked the International Day of Families.

### VIENNA, AUSTRIA

A variety of speakers addressed a forum on “Confronting Family Poverty and Social Exclusion.” Mrs. Barbara Nanoff-Schediwiy, who works as a mediator with international and intercultural couples, talked about how dialogue can support people in rebuilding relationships.

Dr. Michaela Moser, a Catholic expert on social affairs, spoke about the need to ensure a minimum income level, develop structures, and ensure favorable work conditions for families. Mrs. Xiaoyan Wang explained the meaning of the Chinese character for the family and said that two aspects of the traditional family are still prevalent in modern China: children are expected to do well in school and to be polite in all situations.

### LIBREVILLE, GABON

Speakers at a family forum lamented the “poverty of affections” growing out of the dislocation

of traditional values, the disregard of customs and habits, and the rejection of the quintessence of the foundation of the family. The clan, tribe, or village traditionally filled in any gaps, either in material or in affection, of the parents. A return to an equilibrium between the family and society was advocated.

### DUBLIN, IRELAND

Representatives of various ethnic groups took part in a panel discussion about the challenges they met coming to Ireland. Dr. Patrick Walsh, director of the Lantern Centre, chaired the forum. Mr. Pierluigi Coscia described his abiding desire to do something substantial to help the millions of children around the world who die or get no education because of poverty. He started FairTour, a company promoting tourism in different parts of the world where all profits are returned to the children of the target countries.



*Dhaka, Bangladesh* - Speakers at a seminar talked about their work with slum children, untouchables, and street children.



*Lusaka, Zambia* - Mr. Charles Nonde from the UN Information Centre talked about how the UN works to promote development and support families.



## FAMILY BONDING

### ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN

Captivating competitions for married couples of different generations comprised the interactive part of the program. Children between the ages of two and seven drew pictures on the theme of “My United Family,” and their work was displayed in the hall for parents and guests of the program. The initiators of the children’s program organized interesting indoor and outdoor games with the children.

Entertainment included music and readings from poetry on family themes. The emcee commented that in the humdrum of everyday life people are often inclined to go astray, losing their direction and forgetting about family values, their better self, and their children. Events such as the International Day of Families help people renew their connection with the ideal precious to every human being – that of true love and ideal family.

### KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA

Malaysians were invited to celebrate the UN International Day of Families in a day of social bonding on May 15 at Taman Bukit Jalil Recreation Park in Kuala Lumpur. Activities included family games and a treasure hunt. The treasure hunt required family members to work

together and thus promoted harmonious relationship between husband and wife, parents and children, and inter-generational. The park in Kuala Lumpur has special areas representing the following countries: Peru, Canada, Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, China, Japan, Holland, and England. Thus the answers that family members had to find were related to information found in these areas of the park.

### CHISINAU, MOLDOVA

A family celebration was organized for children and their parents aimed at promoting good relations between the generations. They were given an opportunity to participate together in an interactive and entertaining game.

### CAGAYAN DE ORO, PHILIPPINES

After the opening program, there were family bonding activities of ball games and parlor games. Parents, children, and youth played and challenged each other happily. The activities aimed to raise awareness about the importance of good relationships among parents, children, siblings, and peers in social development and understanding each other’s cultural background.



*Auckland, New Zealand - A Sikh family gives a rendition of the Sikh anthem at a UN Family Day event.*



*Almaty, Kazakhstan - Children perform a traditional dance.*



*Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia - UPF Malaysia Chair Tan Sri Devaki Krishnan at a Family Day sports competition.*



*Chisinau, Moldova - A forum on family values*

# AFRICA DAY AND THE DIASPORA

By Michael Balcomb



(Top) H.E. Mr. Tété António, Ambassador and Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

(Middle) Dancing in celebration

(Bottom) Transworld Performing Arts Ensemble

## NEW YORK, USA

More than 600 top dignitaries from the African Union (AU) and the United Nations, NGOs, their families and friends gathered for the 48th celebration of Africa Day at the Manhattan Center in New York on May 31st, 2011, with the innovative theme “Africa and the Diaspora” recognizing the contributions of tens of millions of Africans now living outside their native homeland.

“Our celebration is a special one as we also celebrate the Year of People of African Descent,” said AU Ambassador to the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Tété António, host of the event. “We have joined in a very exemplary partnership with UPF to draw attention to what we at the African Union call the ‘Sixth Region’ of Africa, the African Diaspora.”

A statement from the Chair of the African Union H.E. Mr. Obiang Nguema Mbasogo was presented by Amb. Anatolio Ndong Mba of Equatorial Guinea. “It is my greatest hope that Africa as a whole utilizes rationally the enormous natural resources which it has been endowed by God Almighty for the benefit of all the people, and that this wealth be shared,” he said.

“Africa represents a real force at the United Nations,” said H. E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, the President of the UN General Assembly. “My recent visits tell me that Africa is not only reshaping our global agenda, Africa is indeed at the heart of our global agenda, our challenge as well as our hope for a better tomorrow.” The UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was represented at the event by his Chef de Cabinet, Mr. Vijay Nambiar.

“We are proud of the deliverables from our partnership with the AU,” said Taj Hamad, UPF Secretary General. “UPF has introduced groups of donors who traveled to Africa and pledged their support for the eradication of sleeping sickness, and pledged to build one thousand schools throughout Africa. Construction of several schools is already underway.”

H.E. Mr. Raymond Wolfe, Ambassador of Jamaica and Chair of the Permanent Memorial Committee to Honor Victims of Slavery, spoke about the transatlantic slave trade, one of the defining episodes in the history of the African Diaspora, and the plans for a slavery memorial at the UN. Wolfe said that it would honor the millions who lost their lives and would be a visible symbol of the world’s resolve that nothing like that should ever happen again.

After all the speeches and ceremonies were concluded, Mrs. Mirriam Omala-Gauvin of the AU, the emcee for the evening, invited the expectant crowd to enjoy a feast of food and entertainment. “Africa is known for its diversity,” she said, “and this is definitely true for its cuisine and culture as well!” Following the meal, the evening was given over to celebration, with performers Africa and the Caribbean warming up the audience for an evening of dance.

*“It is my greatest hope that Africa as a whole utilizes rationally the enormous natural resources which it has been endowed by God Almighty for the benefit of all the people, and that this wealth be shared.”*



The African Union Ambassador H.E. Mr. Tête António, the President of the United Nations General Assembly H.E. Mr. Joseph Deiss, and other African Union, UN and UPF representatives with the celebration cake for the 48<sup>th</sup> Africa Day celebration in New York.

## KATHMANDU, NEPAL

The College of Journalism and Mass Communication organized the first-ever African Film Festival in Nepal beginning May 23, running for three days and ending on the African Union's Africa Day program. UPF Nepal supported the festival along with the International Association for Women in Radio and Television, the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and the Honorary Consul of South Africa.

An interesting cross-section of Ambassadors, members of the Nepalese government, filmmakers, journalists, and students of journalism and film attended the inauguration held at the Russian Cultural Center in the capital and as many as 400 people came to see different films. Nine films from six African nations were selected: the Democratic Republic of Congo, Egypt, Kenya, South Africa,

Uganda, and Zambia. There was also one film from Nepal.

Hon. Agni Sapkota, the Minister for Information and Communication, was the chief guest at the program. He noted that films have the ability to bring about powerful social changes, more often than economic and political factors. Hon. Dhakal, a Member of Parliament, explained how this festival relates to his nation's current political situation: "We are going through a very critical transitional period in our nation," he said. "There is something we can learn about the quest for peace from these films from Africa."

Although there are less than 100 Africans living in Nepal, nevertheless, this three-day program brought Africans together to celebrate the culture of their continent.



African media professionals honored at the film festival in Nepal: Ms. Yvonne Otieno from Kenya (left) and Ms. Catherine Apalat from Uganda (right) with Hon. Sapkota (center)



Nine films were screened at the festival held in the Russian Cultural Center in Kathmandu.

## ACCRA, GHANA

A rally at the Labone Senior High School in Accra explored causes of conflict and stimulated interest among the school's diverse Christian, Muslim, and Hindu students.

## TBILISI, GEORGIA

Young people from Cote d'Ivoire worked with local students to clean up an area along the Black Sea and afterwards shared about the problems of racism that they have experienced. The Georgians were interested in African culture, and the Africans expressed interest in working on social projects together with Georgians in hopes that it will increase mutual understanding.

## PESARO, ITALY

People supporting projects in Africa talked to students at the Scientific Lyceum in Pesaro about strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals in nations of Africa.

## MOSCOW, RUSSIA

The First Youth Festival of National Cultures, organized by the Moscow State Construction University and the Moscow State University of Culture and Art, took place on May 26, to promote a "culture of goodness and the policy of unity and harmony." International students from African countries won second prize for their native costumes and dances.

## BIEL, SWITZERLAND

Diaspora Africans living in Switzerland organized a forum in Biel on ways they could contribute to peace in their native nations. People from 12 African nations planned the event, brought traditional food and dress, and sang and danced. This event stimulated better understanding and collaboration among African people who might not otherwise meet and learn to know each other.

## QUITO, ECUADOR

A delegate of the National Secretariat of Peoples, Social Movements and Citizenship of the Cabinet of the Republic of Ecuador addressed a gathering in Quito about the social challenges faced by Afro-Ecuadorians.



Lic. Catherine Cholá Angulo encouraged everyone to make efforts to eliminate discrimination and share with Ecuadorians the beauties and diversity of Africa's cultures.

## TEL AVIV, ISRAEL

Certificates were given to ambassadors from African nations recognizing their efforts to work for reconciliation in their nations.



# UPF-JAPAN: POST-TSUNAMI REBUILDING INITIATIVE

By UPF - Japan

“We are at the biggest turning point as we have experienced an unprecedented disaster,” said Dr. Hiroo Suzuki, President of the Association of the Ambassadors for Peace of Japan, “and the fundamental power to overcome the crisis is love of God and family.” In the aftermath of the disaster, Dr. Suzuki is spearheading UPF’s “Family Promises Campaign” and a movement to rebuild not only externally but also internally.

The March 11, 2011 9.0 earthquake and tsunami devastated the coastal areas of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima Prefectures in Northeast Japan, leaving about 24,000 people dead or missing. In addition, the crippled nuclear power station in Fukushima Prefecture led to the evacuation of all residents within a 30-kilometer radius of the plant. Leaders of UPF-Japan initially purchased supplies and sent seven volunteers plus a doctor and nurse to assist people in devastated areas.

UPF-Japan’s initiative was featured at the May 14 International Day of Families meeting in Tokyo. Two Youth Ambassadors for Peace reported about their volunteer work at Ishinomaki in Miyagi Prefecture. Their main activity has been removal of rubble and mud from people’s houses. “We really felt that the reconstruction from the disaster means not only rebuilding infrastructure but also restoring heart, and what we should give to the victims is a heart of the family,” they said. The relief project is conducted by the teams each composed of six to eight young people staying for ten consecutive days in rotation, and more than 70 people had already participated in the project as of June 3.

Young Japanese volunteers were trained in disaster relief by Dr. Ron Patterson of Christian Disaster Response, a US-based NGO. Dr. Patterson and his team of three people arrived in Japan on March 24 to assess the situation and conduct a two-day training for volunteers. Mr. Hideyuki Oshima, Deputy General Manager of the Unification Church of Japan, coordinated the planning and mobilization of volunteers. The training focused on the full disaster cycle of response, recovery, education, and prevention through mitigation and preparation for future disasters.

Dr. Patterson and two volunteers from UPF-USA, Luke Higuchi and Richard Sapp, traveled to northern Japan to visit the teams at work.

At Senshu University in Ishinomaki, one team had arrived the day before and spent the night in tents. The team was in high spirits as they were waiting to be assigned to homes approved for debris removal. The campus was covered with scores of other tents as many volunteers had gathered at this site. They toured a large distribution center loaded with supplies earmarked for the nearby disaster areas.



A volunteer team cleaning up after the tsunami

Then, they visited two teams working in Matsushima. “Within a mile of the coast, there was total destruction,” reported Richard Sapp. “Bulldozers had cleared the main roads in town so that we could drive through this unbelievable maze of total desolation. The teams worked clearing mud and debris from houses which were located on the edge of the tsunami’s furthest advance. The houses were still standing and salvageable if totally cleaned out.”

“With Dr. Patterson’s ability to educate and inspire these new volunteers, we felt confident that they are prepared to take to the field,” said Sapp. “Time was spent with leaders to outline a strategy for deployment of these volunteers in the near future.”



UPF-Russia organized a variety of projects that attracted volunteers during the national Spring Week of Goodness, April 16-24. The program is connected to *Global Youth Service Day*, an annual campaign mobilizing millions of children and youth to improve their communities through service and service-learning. It is the largest service event in the world and the only day of service dedicated to children and youth. The Russian program is now in its fifteenth year.

# A WEEK OF GOODNESS

By UPF - Russia

## HOUR OF RUNNING

The idea is simple: to promote a healthy and moral lifestyle through running as a group or in a relay for an hour in a public place. After running, participants stayed for photos and exchanged personal information.

“Through running, we made new friends,” one participant said. “These friendships gave us additional strength and much inspiration.” The idea spread to Moscow, Nizhny Novgorod, Novosibirsk, Pokrovskoye, Rostov, Tula, Ufa, Yekaterinburg and the neighboring nation of Georgia. This year the Moscow city government adopted it as one of their Week of Goodness programs.

## SHARING STORIES WITH SENIORS

Elderly people in Yekaterinburg showed young people photos from their family albums and told about relatives who fought during wars and on the home front. They described the hardships they endured. Lack of communication among the generations can lead to an emotional hunger that is destructive for both old and young. Learning about their family history helps family members to better understand and value each other and thus strengthen love and respect for one another.





An hour of running



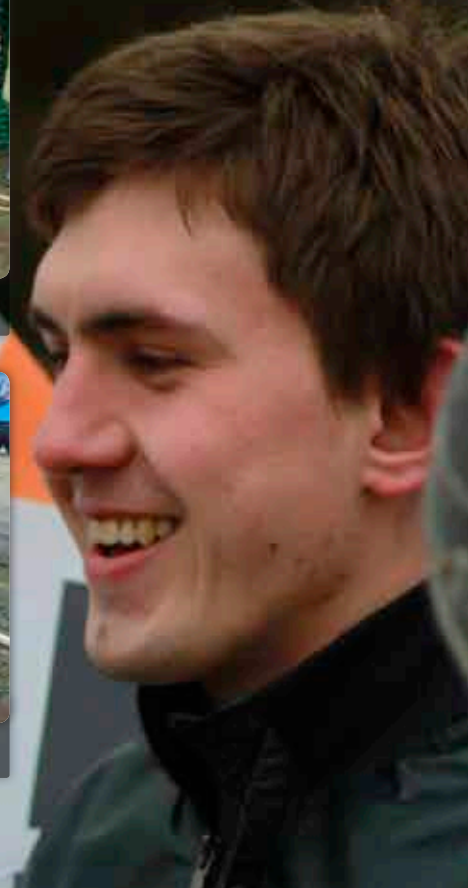
Orphans help clean a village



Children visiting a veterans' home



Tree planting



### VISITING A VETERANS' HOME

A children's dance group visited a veterans' home in Moscow seeking to bring joy to the hearts of the veterans and to thank them for their sacrificial service for the motherland. Performers sang, danced, and recited poetry, bringing smiles and even tears of joy on the faces of the elderly. The children distributed handmade greeting cards and visited the rooms of some residents who could not attend the performance. The children said they felt it was a worthwhile activity because they could see how happy they made the elderly people and because they learned many interesting facts about the lives of those they met.

### PLAYING FOOTBALL FOR PEACE

Several teams of Moscow youth responded to an invitation to take part in a tournament as a way of promoting a healthy lifestyle, mutual respect, and friendship. Teams received awards not only for top scores but also for fair play. Special appreciation goes to the team leaders who understood the importance of teaching young people moral values both in the classroom and during after-school events.

### ENGAGING ORPHANS IN SERVICE

Seminars and master-classes were offered to graduates of children's homes in Novosibirsk, introducing young people to interesting opportunities to use their leisure time to take part in projects that will benefit the greater good. Themes that sparked the most interest had to do with improving the environment and bringing together village and city dwellers. In one project, older youth worked together with young children in an orphanage and helped each child plant a tree and learn how to care for it. The young children were thrilled to see a grove of trees that they could care for and help thrive.

### CLEANING A VILLAGE SQUARE

A primary school teacher in Pokrovskoe inspired her students to pick up trash around the village square. Adults noticed the difference, and a village-wide meeting was held to discuss ways to keep the village clean and beautiful. Literature was distributed to residents encouraging more systematic efforts to beautify the village.

# UPF CHAPTER UPDATES

## NEW YORK, USA

The Permanent Mission of Nigeria and the Permanent Mission of the Slovak Republic to the United Nations sponsored “Women and the World at a Turning Point,” a parallel event of the UN’s 55<sup>th</sup> Commission on the Status of Women. The event was held at the Nigeria House on March 2 and was chaired by H.E. Mrs. U. Joy Ogwu, Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN.

Dr. Eileen Borris, Director of Training and Program Development at the Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy, in Washington, DC, said that “true peacemakers are those who are not afraid to look within, to change the way they think, and heal the pain of their heart. Forgiveness supports this kind of healing transformation.”



New York: H.E. Joy Ogwu speaks at the CSW program

## TAIPEI, TAIWAN

UPF-Taiwan organized a forum on March 26 in which NGO representatives talked about their work in various parts of the world, offering medical assistance, development aid, educational opportunities, and emergency relief. As a member of the global family, Taiwan is making genuine contributions toward fulfilling the UN Millennium Development Goals. Among the dignitaries in the audience were ambassadors from Nicaragua, Swaziland, Sao Tome and Principe, and Nauru. Of particular interest were efforts to assist AIDS orphans.



Taipei: A forum to assess the contributions of NGOs



**BAKU, AZERBAIJAN:** A seminar for Ambassadors for Peace on April 18 explored the theme of “Conflicts in the World and UPF.” The program took place at the Irshad Conference Center of Prof. Rafik Aliev, the former Minister of Religious Affairs of the Azerbaijan Government. A national UPF conference attracted high-level government officials and academicians.

## **PALHOÇA, SANTA CATARINA, BRAZIL**

City Councillor Leonel Perreira and UPF leaders worked together to organize a Peace March on April 24 in celebration of the 117th birthday of Palhoça on Brazil's southern coast. Nearly 1500 people from dozens of organizations joined this third annual march, which was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony. In addition, there were youth projects and meetings with city and state officials.

## **WASHINGTON, DC, USA**

Members of the diplomatic community attended a Japanese Tea Ceremony on May 26. The Washington, DC UPF office invited the diplomats to share in these ceremonies, which promote respect for others regardless of their station in life and letting go of personal cares while attending the tea ceremony in order to allow for self-reflection and community sharing. The Ambassador of Swaziland commented that Japan has a long tradition of self-discipline and respect for the elderly reflected in the good traditions such as the tea ceremony, which teaches how to live peacefully with others.

## **CHACO-Í, PARAGUAY**

UPF-Paraguay held a seminar in the town of Chaco-í on April 30 on the theme: "Universal Principles for Peace and the Real Problems." The program lasted two hours and was attended by 50 people from the town of Chaco-í. Participants included the Commander of the Navy, school principals, the President of the Union Club and its board, local leaders, and families.

## **SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA**

More than 60 people gathered on April 4 for a talk by Mr. James Paul, conductor of the Sydney Street Choir. Then the choir treated everyone with several heart-warming and inspiring songs. Established in 2001, the Sydney Street Choir's mission is to connect with, inspire, and empower those who are living or working in homeless or disadvantaged communities through creating music, performance, and passionate expression that truly opens people's hearts.

## **CHAPTERS ANNOUNCE SUMMER SERVICE-LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

The following chapters are holding service learning opportunities this summer. For more information please visit [www.upf.org](http://www.upf.org)

- **Building Hope in Ecuador - July 5-18**
- **Russia's Lake Baikal Ecological Project - July 9 -22**
- **Youth Service Project in Georgia - July 16-25**
- **Youth Service Project in India - July 20-27**
- **St. Lucia Religious Youth Service - August 2-12**
- **Building a Peace Park in Siberia - August 11-21**



**Solomon Islands: offers a donation to the Japanese ambassador and a gift of origami cranes.**



**Washington DC: Tea Ceremony**



**Chaco-í, Paraguay: Peace Ceremony**



**Senegalese Ambassadors for Peace presented a donation to the Ambassador of Japan and signed the condolence book at the Japanese embassy.**

# UPF Comprehensive Character Education... on Wikispaces



**Discovering the Real Me is a character education program developed to offer a comprehensive moral education for children in grades 1 through 12. Easy-to-follow textbooks and teachers' manuals contain children's stories posing moral challenges. Learn more about the program at our interactive website: [www.discoveringtherealme.wikispaces.com](http://www.discoveringtherealme.wikispaces.com).**

**Discovering the Real Me**

home Page Discussion History Settings

**Comprehensive character education**

Welcome to Discovering the Real Me, a character education program that offers comprehensive moral education. Its easy-to-follow textbooks and teacher manuals feature stories that present moral challenges. The curriculum begins with lessons based on fables for students in grades 1 and 2. It continues with lessons based on fairy tales for students in grades 3 and 4. The series builds to "Preparing for Life in Society," for students in grade 12. Each book has 17 lessons. Lessons usually begin with a story and continue with learning objectives and suggestions for interactive exercises. The readers refer to the grade level. For details about the approach to education, see [Interactive Teacher's Handbook](#).

**Table of Contents**

- [Comprehensive character education](#)
- [Learning objectives](#)
- [A work in progress](#)
- [Comments](#)
- [Contact information](#)

**STUDENT AND TEACHER BOOKS 1-12**

GRADES 1 - 4	GRADES 5 - 8	GRADES 9 - 12
LEARNING TO BE GOOD	FAMILY AND FRIENDS	DEVELOPING MY CHARACTER
WISE AND WONDERFUL	A WORLD OF CHOICES	BUILDING SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS
LIVING HAPPY EVER AFTER	WHO WILL I BE?	DEVELOPING LEADERSHIP SKILLS
GOODNESS MATTERS	GOING THROUGH CHANGES	PREPARING FOR LIFE IN SOCIETY

**Learning objectives**

Lessons are tagged by learning objectives. When you click on one of the search boxes, you will see the lesson(s) with that learning objective.

[decision-making](#) [relationship skills](#) [trustworthiness](#)

**A work in progress**

This is a wiki, meaning it is a joint creative project. We invite educators to select a lesson suitable for their students, teach it, and comment about your experiences in the discussion box. Additional lesson plans are welcomed.

**Comments**

Share your experiences by clicking on the "Discussion" box at the top of this page and then clicking on "New Post." Your comments will appear below.

**Contact information**

Search

Home

The Heart for a Blessed Education

**TRAINING MATERIALS**

**SAMPLE LESSON PLANS**

- Book 1 - Learning to Be Good
- Book 2 - Wise and Wonderful
- Book 3 - Living Happily Ever After
- Book 4 - Goodness Matters
- Book 5 - Family and Friends
- Book 6 - A World of Choices
- Book 7 - Who Will I Be?
- Book 8 - Going through Changes
- Book 9 - What Do We Live For?
- Book 10 - Building Successful Relationships
- Book 11 - Developing Leadership Skills
- Book 12 - Preparing for Life in Society

**DOWNLOAD BOOK FILES**

More Lesson Plans

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