



IIFWP

Newsletter

In Order to Realize the World of Peace

By Dr. Chang Shik Yang and Antonio Betancourt

The events of the past few months, since our last issue, have once again shown how much our lives have changed in this post-9/11 world. First, America's destiny is clearly locked with the future of the world, and second, America as the leading world power which Rev. Moon, co-founder of the IIFWP, calls the "elder son nation," has the responsibility to inspire other rich nations to lead the world away from terrorism, religious intolerance and strife, hunger, disease, and any other forms that make life miserable on this planet. This brings us to our mission as Ambassadors for Peace (AFP).

In U.S. and Canada, today there are more than 3,000 appointed AFP across this land. These are people that cross professional fields, nationalities, and religions. Our common goal is peace. Our contributions to peace can come from the fields of religion, politics, academia, the media, NGO communities, sports, the arts, and the business world.

As AFP, we represent a calling, a sovereignty—a nation. Rev. Moon calls this nation the "Cheon Il Guk," a Korean expression which translates as the "Unified Nation of Cosmic Peace."

The earth is our common unified nation of



Rev. Dr. & Mrs. Sun Myung Moon.

cosmic peace, but this planet is neither unified nor is it at peace, yet. However we do represent one ideal, a vision, and we should subordinate our resources internal and external to make that ideal a reality.

Earlier this year, Rev. Moon, shared his convictions about realizing a peaceful world. Before a gathering of more than 500 eminent world leaders, he said,

"There has never been a time when understanding between religions and reconciliation between religious people was more urgent than it is today. The precious teachings of our religions are the source for the wisdom that has brightened human history. But religious people of all faiths tend to have three weaknesses. One, they are not realistic but are oriented toward the hereafter; two, they can be narrow-minded and sectarian; and three, they can be fanatical..."

"Religious leaders must be able to embrace all people with open minds. The real duty of all religious people is to overcome the lines of division crippling the human race, in particular the walls between religions..."

"The realization of the ideal nation of God begins with individuals who think they should love their enemies. The way to win

over enemies is not through superior strength. It is only possible through the power of true love which embraces even one's enemies. If you plant soy beans, soy beans grow; if you plant red beans, red beans grow, and if you plant the seeds from red flowers, red flowers blossom. In the same way, if you sow the seeds of Satan which seeks revenge, a tree of revenge will grow, and if you sow the seeds of goodness which loves its enemies, a tree of goodness which loves its enemies will grow..."

"The goal of God is not the victory of one religion or one ideology; it is the realization of a world of love in which all people live in peace, unity and joy. In view of the external tendency towards unification through the technological and physical development of modern society, it is the responsibility of the religions to lead the way to the realization of an internal harmony and unification..."

"In order to realize the ideal of a world of peace in a fundamental and comprehensive manner, I once again advocate that the United Nations establish an assembly consisting of representatives from all religions. At that time, these representatives must implement the central ideal that their founders sought to realize, and they must do it with wisdom, exemplifying in their personalities a true love that can serve as a model for everyone..."

"I am building "Peace Embassies" in every nation of the world as bases for our peace movement and our service movement, and as educational centers to teach and accomplish the vision and wisdom that our IIFWP advocates..."

Dear friends, the IIFWP International and the North American chapter stands ready to give support to all soldiers of peace in the field.

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This quarterly newsletter is published by North America IIFWP, a chapter of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP), which is a global organization headquartered in Tarrytown, New York. Our chapter seeks to promote a global culture of peace through dialogue and cooperation among secular and religious leaders of all nationalities, faiths and ethnic backgrounds that make up the USA and Canada. North America IIFWP Newsletter provides updates on national and international events and activities, brief articles; and papers, as well as news about IIFWP and our sister organizations, issues, and events related to the achievement of a culture of peace.

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Rev. Kwak Addresses World Leaders in Washington



Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak,
Chairman, IIFWP

Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, IIFWP chairman, addressed the participants at a conference on the Middle East Peace Initiative, "Beyond Co-Existence to a New Culture of Peace." The program was held February 26-28, 2003 in Washington, D.C. The following is an excerpt from his speech.

We are all aware of the critical moment at which we stand in world history. Tensions are high in many places around the world. Not since the heyday of the Cold War has there been such an environment. From the Korean peninsula in East Asia to the Middle East, the threat of war is on high alert.

The problems in the Middle East are also very painful to many of you in this room. For that reason,

our topic is not one that is being considered only from an intellectual or objectively analytical point of view, but also from a very personal and emotional point of view.

God's original ideal for humanity was to establish a worldwide, universal family of true love, harmony and cooperation. Of course, the human Fall resulted in separation from God, and this in turn led to divisions within the human family. But it has been precisely through religion that God has sought to restore the Fall, and particularly through the line that leads from Adam, to Noah, to Abraham and which has three primary religious expressions, in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. These three religious traditions have their roots in Abraham, and are sometimes known as the "Abrahamic faiths." These three are brothers.

For this reason, leaders and followers of each of these three traditions must reflect on their roots and their origin. That means to return to the founding ideals expressed in the core teachings and practices of our founders and prophets, including Moses, Jesus, and the Prophet Mohammed.

The believers and leaders of these three traditions should and must do likewise. If we are faithful to the heart and will of those we most revere and honor, we cannot hate one another; we cannot fight one another.

We should recognize that the living God who calls us to peace is working for human salvation and ultimate fulfillment through these great religious traditions. By fighting we only frustrate and stand as obstacles to the divine will.

Rev. Moon always teaches the way of true love, is to live for the sake of others. By loving each other, we restore the failures and suffering of the past. There is no other way. The way to restore relationships requires that we go the way of loving our enemy. If we are to solve the problems we are facing around the world, we must practice this fundamental principle of loving our enemy. To do this we must face the challenge of overcoming our own difficult and painful feelings toward those we feel have behaved unjustly or wrongly.

This radical act of loving the enemy is the opposite of evil. Satanic power hates to see people loving their enemy. For when we love our enemy we create true brotherhood. Eventually we should create in-law relationships between former enemies.

These three Abrahamic religions must unite. This is a central prerequisite for peace. The enmity and disunity among Judaism, Christianity and Islam is a great scandal and brings sadness to heaven. Moreover, it prevents peace from being achieved. It continues to contribute to suffering and unnecessary bloodshed.

If unity can be achieved it will have a dramatic effect on world events. If people from these three traditions unite, peace can be achieved, not only in the Middle East, but also around the world. On this foundation the United Nations could be renewed and revitalized as an instrument of peace.

But, if these three traditions, through their leaders and adherents, refuse to go beyond their

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Report on FFWPU Event: God and the Ideal Society

West Orange, New Jersey, June 7, 2003

By Rev. Barry Geller, Vice Regional Director, FFWPU, Region 3

Thirty guests gathered at the Robert Treat Hotel on Saturday, June 7, for a breakfast meeting hosted by the local chapter of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. The program addressed the importance of God's inclusion in civic and political life. Among the 30 leaders assembled were the Deputy Mayor of West Orange, City Councilmen from Irvington and Orange and a representative of the Mayor of Irvington.

They all stayed for the entire 4 hour program, entitled "Rev. Moon's Thought on God and the Ideal Society." Rev. Phillip Schanker presented two very thorough and focused lectures summarizing the Creation, Fall and Restoration. He paid special attention to the motivation and results of the Fall and to human responsibility for Restoration. In addition to the politicians, a number of

pastors and Imam's from Newark, Paterson, Orange, and other towns gathered for the event.

Our efforts were directed toward helping the people understand that the misuse of love is the cause of human suffering and to inspire them to action. One clergy commented that, "All civic leaders should learn these ideas and participate in seminars on God and the Ideal Society. It is essential for public life to study these presentations." A political leader invited us to offer these presentations to other leaders in his town. Pastors were inspired by the Biblical focus of the presentations.

As the Providence develops with international leaders, we plan to hold more "God and Ideal Society" events, and to include more political leaders in our programs, Rev. John Hong, the Regional Leader, expressed



his desire to unite with True Parents heart for America and the global movement. We look forward to more member participation in outreach events as we expand into other areas of society and not only to religious leaders. ✱

ACLCL Christian Pastors Visit Holy Land

Jerusalem, May 15-19, 2003

By Rev. Michael W. Jenkins, President, FFWPU

One hundred and thirty one ACLCL clergy recently visited Israel. They performed a ceremony to bury the cross, and had a conference with 120 Jewish leaders. After the ceremony, both sides of Christianity and Judaism equally repented, and adopted and proclaimed the "Jerusalem Declaration."

On May 18, ACLCL pastors held a ceremony to bury the cross. Rev. Moon had suggested to "bury the cross in Golgotha where Jesus was crucified." They visited the Church of the Holy Sepulchre which is built at that location, and then conducted a burial

service at "Potters' Field," about one mile away.

Potter's Field was purchased by the chief priests with the 30 pieces of silver which Judas received after betraying Jesus. The ministers put the cross in a hole and covered it with the FFWPU flag. After the Bible reading, three people—a Rabbi, a Christian pastor, and Dr. Yang who is Korean—prayed as representatives of the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Israel, respectively. After the prayer, the participants put soil on the cross repenting for the false faith that for 1700 years prevented Christianity and Judaism from bringing reconciliation.

The all-day conference was held after the ceremony on "Conference for Jewish and Christian Reconciliation and Harmony."

The concluding banquet had an overwhelming feeling of victory and joy. Christians and Jews became united completely. They toasted to the reconciliation with Holy Wine. One of the main guests brought a family from his synagogue who had recently lost their 19-year-old son in a suicide bombing. The father told us that



Participants carrying cross to "Potter's Field."

when his family was at the hospital, the doctor asked him to give permission for his son's organs to be used to save an 8-year old Palestinian girl. The father prayed, and said, "Yes, I want my son's life to help someone else's life."

Political leaders cannot solve the problems in the Middle East. The solution can come only from the religious side. After the Christian pastors came back to America, Rev. Moon signed on the Jerusalem Declaration, and wrote in Korean, "Victory of Israel." Two more pilgrimages are planned. ✱



Conference guests holding "Jerusalem Declaration."

Spotlight on Ambassador for Peace Ms. Marsha Mallory-Bennett

In September of 2002, I was appointed an Ambassador for Peace by the IIFWP. I was reluctant to accept this award as I always try to avoid any personal recognition for my service work. However, I reconsidered. It wasn't until the certificate was presented to me by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon that I realized the significance of being inaugurated into the very special league of select individuals who have taken a leadership role in living for the sake of others. I am humbled.

During the week of December 9-14, 2002, I attended the Ambassadors for Peace Conference in Kona, Hawaii. The conference was entitled, "Rev Moon's Vision for the Unified Nation of Cosmic Peace: The Role of Ambassadors for Peace in Korea, Japan and USA." This conference allowed me to network with Ambassadors for Peace from these three countries.

I was introduced to Rev Moon's teachings on the Divine Principle, which is a summary of God's law. Society's ills were also addressed. Presenters reiterated over and over again the importance of promoting



Ambassador for Peace Marsha Mallory-Bennett and her sister Ambassadors from Korea and Japan.

true family values in a world that is hurting.

One of the most memorable events for me was the forming of brotherhood and sisterhood trinities. The Sisterhood pledge I signed along with my sisters from Japan and Korea states, "I join in friendship with

my partners to build a bridge of peace and reconciliation between our three nations.

Korea, Japan and the United States. As an Ambassador for Peace concerned with peace at all levels of human endeavor, I will strive to be a peacemaker and harmonizer in my family, community, society and between nations."

The highlight of the conference was being one of five participants selected to have lunch with Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, chairman of IIFWP. Considering the cultural issues confronting all international organizations, Sister Cities included, I asked, "How do I approach the crucial issue of cultural conflicts, which are often based upon traditions that go back hundreds of years." Dr. Kwak replied, "If you come to the table in peace and in love, the problem will resolve itself."

Through the teachings of the Rev. Dr. Moon and his disciples I have been enlightened as to exactly what my role is in this universe and to continue to live for the betterment of others.

Thank you for believing in me.
Ms. Marsha Mallory-Bennett. ❀

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Rev. Kwak's Address

current attitudes and practices, it will not be possible to achieve peace. I am sorry to speak so directly and so bluntly this evening.

When God created the world, he only intended peace among his children. His anticipation was that all people as we are born and come into this world, enter a place of love and joy and peace. In the beginning, God never expected to see so many divisions among people, so many religions like Judaism, Christianity and Islam. This is not God's concept. These are human concepts.

God's heart and True Parents' heart is for the three major religious traditions, these three brothers, that originated in the Middle East, live together in peace and help uplift our world. Like parents view

their children, God is viewing these three religions and their cultures. He cannot will the fulfillment and happiness of only one among them, or only two among them. He wills the fulfillment and full embrace of each.

I hope you can understand my heart and my love for all of you. I sincerely believe that if we unite together, those of us who are here for this meeting, we can start a new movement that can bring peace to the Middle East. I believe our time together is serious. This is not just some conference or another group of assembled experts gathered to talk yet again about the Middle East. I believe that in the course of our deliberations and through our time together we have the opportunity to mark a turning point in history, one which can lead to the resolution of our world's current crisis.

Let us be the leaders the world needs at this time. Thank you and God bless you. ❀

Ambassadors Luncheon: Promoting Interreligious Cooperation to Stabilize the Human Foundations of Peace

UN Headquarters, New York, April 1, 2003

By Ricardo de Sena, IIFWP Office of UN Relations

Following its commitment to support the work of the United Nations, IIFWP sponsored an Ambassadors Luncheon on April 1, 2003 at UN Headquarters in New York under the theme, "Promoting Interreligious Cooperation to Stabilize the Human Foundations of Peace." Forty representatives from the diplomatic community were informed and briefed about the IIFWP Middle East Peace Initiative, Feb. 27-Mar. 2 in Washington DC.

The moderator was Ms. Karen Judd Smith, Director of the IIFWP Office of UN Relations. She welcomed all the participants stressing that IIFWP is fully aware of the significance and importance of the United Nations, and the Middle East Peace Initiative was launched in order to support and strengthen the critical work of the UN.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary-General of IIFWP, explained the unique contribution that was made by the Middle East Peace Initiative. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, Chairman of IIFWP, explained why at this critical

moment in history, interreligious cooperation is so essential to peace building. He said, "Rooted in the teachings of its Founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, IIFWP's vision holds true that all human beings, regardless of race, religion or nationality are members of one human family, under one God, who loves and cares for all people just as parents in a family love and care for all their children.

Among the enthusiastic comments from the participants, Mr. Richard Zeif, who attended the Middle East Peace Initiative and who represents a group of NGOs with more than a million educators and teachers congratulated IIFWP for creating atmospheres where people of differences of opinion can sit down to agree to the broader issues of peace and continuation of that dialogue.

Dr. Noel Brown, President of the Friends of the United Nations, was very appreciative for Dr. Kwak's inspiring remarks and his challenge. Regarding the role of IIFWP as a



The ambassador's luncheon at the UN promotes interreligious cooperation.

tool for peace in the Middle East, he said, "I'm impressed with the IIFWP for its power of convening and creating a forum where people of diverse views, positions and passions can come together trying to find the common ground. We need to strengthen this and I think we need to expand this. This is extremely important." *

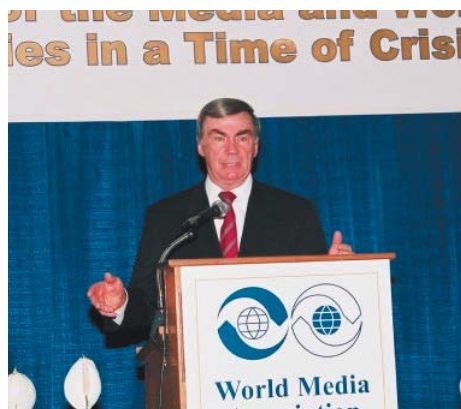
20th World Media Association Conference Focuses on Security, Family, and Faith

By Vicki Phelps, Executive Assistant, World Media Association

Proceedings of the 20th World Media Conference have just been published. Over 200 media professionals from Europe, Asia, and the United States attended the conference, held Feb. 20-22 on the theme "The Mission of the Media and World Peace: Responsibilities in a Time of Crisis." The opening banquet, three plenary sessions, and three special presentations examined the current crisis in international security, the institution of the family, and the role of religion in society.

While some speakers predicted a world filled with dangers, others expressed hope that a new world can emerge from the present darkness. For example, in his opening night speech Anthony Cordesman of CSIS expressed pessimism about the future, while Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak offered a vision for the 21st century that outlined how peace can be built on true values and true families.

In their presentations on the crisis in the



Radio talk show host Sam Donaldson

family, Washington Times Editor Wesley Pruden, author and columnist Maggie Gallagher, Prof. Jong-Won Ha of Korea, and William Devlin of the Urban Family Council discussed how the media have a responsibility to play a role in addressing the many problems of families today.

Arnaud de Borchgrave of CSIS, Prof. Ikuo Kayahara of Japan, Bill Gertz of the Washington Times, and Paul Crespo outlined the threats from weapons of mass destruction, China's militancy, and terrorism.

UPI Editor in Chief John O'Sullivan analyzed the reasons that coverage of religion is often shallow or overlooked in the session on "Media Perceptions of the Role of Religion in Society." Talk show host Armstrong Williams and Joseph Grieboski of the Institute on Religion and Public Policy also spoke at that session.

Sam Donaldson of ABC outlined his views on the relationship between the media and the military in wartime at the closing luncheon.

*Copies of the Proceedings of this conference are available for \$20 from the World Media Association, 3600 New York Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20002. **

Report on Interfaith Meetings in Montreal

Montreal, Canada

By Franco Famularo, Secretary General, IIFWP-Canada



For the past two years, interfaith meetings have been held in Montreal under the joint auspices of Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace and Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

Every third Wednesday of each month, religious and civic leaders from a wide spectrum of denominations meet to break bread together, i.e., eat a hearty breakfast and then continue in discussion, debate and serious consideration of issues of common concern.

During the past four months, February,

March, April and May 2003, topics have included: Crisis in the Middle East, War and Peace in the Fertile Crescent, and more recently the importance of symbols in various traditions.

At our April meeting, which took place a few days after the Christian celebration of Easter, Franco Famularo, Secretary General-Canada for IIFWP, delivered a powerpoint presentation on the meaning of the cross in Christianity and how it has been perceived historically by Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Native Canadians and people of other faiths.

Since the participants expressed interest in continuing the discussion, the May Interfaith meeting addressed the same topic.

At the meeting of May 21, representatives from two streams of Islam, seven denominations of Christianity as well as a Native Canadian, a representative of the Sikh faith and two representatives of the Church of Scientology, met to further discuss the meaning of the cross.

Participants often express that the gathering of such an eclectic group is itself remarkable and worth continuing. ❄



Representatives from various faiths are meeting regularly in Montreal under the auspices of the IIFWP-Canada.

Interfaith Gathering in Ontario

Toronto, Canada, May 17, 2003

By Mitch Dixon, IIFWP-Canada

The IIFWP Toronto chapter held its bi-monthly meeting at Clearstone Lodge on Rice Lake in Ontario on May 17. The crowd was a bit smaller this time from its usual 25 due to the distance to Rice Lake and the fact it was a Canadian national holiday weekend. However the good side was that the atmosphere was more relaxed from the city hustle allowing for much deeper discussion, which was rather stimulating.

Attendance was diverse which included Muslims, Christians, a Sikh and Hindu back-

tion of the poor. Solutions were aimed at the need for people to mature from a self-ish viewpoint to an unselfish viewpoint of living for the sake of others on all levels of life. "No greater love a man has than to lay down his life for his friends," –



ground, Unificationists, former mayor, college professor, school principal, and pastors.

The discussions ranged from the white man's exploitation of the African continent under the guise of religion to the problems of the world that are caused by the rich exploita-

tion of the poor. Solutions were aimed at the need for people to mature from a self-ish viewpoint to an unselfish viewpoint of living for the sake of others on all levels of life. "No greater love a man has than to lay down his life for his friends," –

Topics of note for further study include: Objective awareness of history without resentment, find constructive solutions, conflict resolution techniques, the need for unity rather than just conflict resolution, more education of God's perspective, divine principles, help to over-



Jesus. It was stressed that a citizen of any race or continent could take up the task of living for the world. It was also pointed out that an absolute standard of values is evidently necessary to be able to unite the world.

Topics of note for further study include: Objective awareness of history without resentment, find constructive solutions, conflict resolution techniques, the need for unity rather than just conflict resolution, more education of God's perspective, divine principles, help to over-

come greed, prioritization of spiritual and material values, and how do we measure progress?

The meeting included breakfast and lunch. After lunch the participants were given the opportunity to take a boat ride on Rice Lake where the school principal drove the boat on the open water for the first time.

The next meeting was scheduled for Aug 16 at the World Education College in Stony Creek, Ontario. A suggestion was made that the participants read The Exposition of Divine Principle before our next meeting.

The Agenda included: Welcome to Clearstone by Mrs. Diane Dixon, opening remarks by Dr. Hossein Auckbarallee, a presentation on "Why is World Peace possible?" by Rev. Mitch Dixon, discussion, touring, and a pleasure cruise on the lake. ❄



Guests included Muslims, Christians, a Sikh, a Hindu, and Unificationists at the interreligious meetings in Ontario.

One Step At A Time: Report on Activities in Myanmar

March 13, 2003

By Peeter Saarna, Senior Advisor, IIFWP Chapter, Myanmar

I would like to report on our budding activities. After two years of not being able to send people to international conferences due to problems procuring passports or getting permission from the government to let people leave the country, we decided to start monthly meetings.

Our first meeting was in December 2002 at the Fuji Cafe in a private room with sofa style seating and a plate glass window overlooking a lovely garden.

Present were: Rev. Smith N. Za Thwang, General Secretary, Myanmar Council of Churches; Rev. Moses Po, President, 7th Day Adventists of Myanmar; Rev. Amos Chin, President, Founder, Myanmar Bible Church (57 branches); Mrs. Miekko Saarna, President, WFWP Myanmar; Saw Teddy, President, ADRA, 7th Day Adventist NGO, Myanmar; Rev. Saw Nay Blut, Pastor, Zion Baptist Church (Kayin State); Mr. Murat, Principal, Horizon International Education Center (a Moslem); Pastor Tin Tun, Pastor,

Seventh Day Adventist Church; Rev. No Chuun, President, Gospel for Asia (200,000 members); Saw Wah Kuh, Businessman; and Mr. Peeter Saarna, IIFWP, Senior Advisor, Myanmar.

Our first session focused on Rev. Dr. Moon's speech during Assembly 2002, called, "Renewing the United Nations." We introduced ourselves, read the speech, drank Cappuccino juice or tea and had discussions. There was a nice brotherly spirit present at the meeting.

The second meeting, in January, was held at Mi Casa Restaurant, a more upscale place than the last, in a private room. We read a report by Dr. Gordon Anderson, Secretary General, Professors World Peace Academy, on "Governance and the Role of Religion in Peace and Security."

The February meeting was held at Cafe Dibar in a private room. The paper read was, "The Social, Cultural, and Global Significance of the Family," (which was



IIFWP meeting in Myanmar

read at the World Association of NGO's inaugural conference).

Again the spirit was good. The participants seemed sincerely moved by the words read. The paper to be discussed at the next meeting will be, "Loving Your Enemy in the Face of Terror," a report by Nadine Andre about the historic meeting with Rev. Dr. Moon, Minister Louis Farrakhan, and 21 religious leaders after September 11, 2001.

I think we're off to a good start. ❄

Nigeria 2003: Building a Culture of Peaceful Elections National One-Day Seminar: A Recipe for Peace

Port-Harcourt, Nigeria, April 3, 2003

By George M. Ogorie, Secretary General, IIFWP-Nigeria

Welcoming participants, the Chairman of the opening plenary session, Alhaji M.A. Abubakar, Rivers State Resident Commissioner for the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) thanked the organizers for initiating the event. He said that INEC highly cherishes every opportunity to educate the public on the conduct of free, fair and peaceful elections. He said he believed that one of the major causes of electoral malpractices and attendant unrest is ignorance.

His Excellency, Chief Segun Olusola, Founder and Patron of the African Refugees Foundation, former Nigerian Ambassador to Ethiopia and a Trustee of IIFWP, Nigeria as well as Convener of the seminar presented the keynote address. He said,

"It is not an accident that we are starting off this new series here in Port Harcourt – heartland of the South-South Geo-political zone where the incumbent Governor became the first serving Governor to be honored with



Chairman Abubakar at the opening plenary session

the Ambassador for Peace Award this year..."

Chief Olusola used the opportunity to announce the establishment of a Peace Embassy in Abuja; a place where Ambassadors for Peace would be gathering to discuss pressing national problems and plan for practical solutions to them. "The Peace Embassy has been procured through

the generous support of the IIFWP International Headquarters ... and will be launched ... on a date to be announced later," he said. He concluded by thanking the Rivers State Government for providing the venue for the seminar.

Next, was the discussion session, chaired also by the good VC, Professor Achinewhu. It was a very lively session. As all participants were there in their own right as Nigerians there was a high degree of openness during the discussion.

Responding on behalf of the recipients, Chief P. N. Ehoro, a Port Harcourt based businessman thanked the organizers for deeming them worthy of such an award. He said he was aware that the award was a call to greater responsibility and duty and promised to live up to it.

The program came to an end with a beautiful song presented by ten members of the Youth Arrow Ministry, calling on all to live in unity and oneness. ❄

Universal Peace and the Global Significance of Religion

Lahore, Pakistan, March 29, 2003

By Ambassador for Peace Zulfiqar A. Kazmi, Ph.D, President, IIFWP Pakistan

The IIFWP Pakistan Chapter convened a one-day National Seminar on March 29 at Lahore on the subject, "Universal Peace and the Global Significance of Religion." The Ambassadors for Peace Foundation, Pakistan (APFP) were co-sponsors for this important event.

Hon. Syed Afzal Haider, former Minister for Justice, a leading expert on religion and an IIFWP Ambassador for Peace was the keynote speaker. Allama Mushtaq Hussain Jaffery, Imam Qazi Tajweed-ud-Din, Allama Javed Akbar Saqi and Mr. Zia ul Haque, former Editor of the Pakistan Times and Ambassador for Peace also addressed the participants.



150 guests attended the national seminar in Pakistan

Approximately 150 people representing all walks of life participated. Dr. Zulfiqar A. Kazmi, President of IIFWP, Pakistan, requested that the office bearers of the Pakistan Chapter arrange this seminar because of the current Middle East situation and the IIFWP initiative for peace in that

region.

Hon. Syed Afzal Haider said, "War is the worst thing known to mankind throughout his long history. It brings about the killing and destruction of human beings, the loss of their power and their defacement. It also causes the demolition of civilizations, stirs up hatred, disgust and resentments amongst the people and passes psychological problems onto future generations."

"For these reasons war must be avoided at all costs. All conflicts and differences must be addressed through dialogue." Hon. Haider appreciated the role of IIFWP in creating harmony and love between followers of all religions." ❄

International Symposium on the United States and the United Nations HIV/AIDS Crisis and International Peace and Prosperity

By Ambassador for Peace Dr. Jones Kayazze, Director of the New York Office of UNESCO

The following is an excerpt from Dr. Kayazze's presentation at the Third International Symposium sponsored by the IIFWP, and co-sponsored by the Washington Times Foundation, University of Bridgeport, and WANGO. January 18-19, 2002.

It is true that unlike many other terrible menaces to human life, HIV/AIDS is not only a health hazard but, constitutes an international crisis and a real threat to the prosperity and peace of entire nations - particularly the poor ones. The sub-theme: HIV/AIDS crisis and International peace and prosperity, chosen by the organizers of this Roundtable, is therefore quite befitting.

Not being a specialist of the subject and having been allowed only a meager ten minutes for the presentation but, having the misfortune or indeed the privilege of coming from Uganda, one of the countries most affected by the scourge, I intend to focus on the experience of that country.

In the early 1990's, that is barely 5 to 7 years after the very first outbreaks, the Uganda HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, reached a staggering peak of 14% of the country's total population (about 22 Million). Without

any exaggeration, I can say that not a single family was left untouched. Among the lessons learned from the Ugandan experience, we can mention the following:

- ◆ AIDS is mainly a behavioral phenomenon;
- ◆ That education and knowledge are not enough to change behavior;
- ◆ That programs which rely mainly on conveying information about sex education or moral precepts, that is what teenagers should do and shouldn't do, have not been as effective as hoped.
- ◆ That, on the other hand, programs which focus on helping teenagers to change their behavior using role-playing and games have shown signs of success. Peer education has been considered quite effective.

In terms of National Policy, Uganda has demonstrated a strong and steady commitment in the fight against HIV/AIDS. This commitment has also been coupled with openness and non-discriminative approach to the involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS. The Government has regularly committed a budgetary allocation to the program.

Finally, and thanks to all the above approaches and efforts, by the early 1990's



Dr. Jones Kayazze, Director of the New York Office of UNESCO

Uganda had brought down the prevalence rate from the initial 14% about 8%. In some rural areas of Uganda, HIV infection rates among teenage girls dropped to 1.4% in 1996-1997 from 4.4% in 1989-1990. This drop was matched by a drop in teenage pregnancies.

In conclusion, there is more than education to the fight against AIDS. Commitment, openness and cure for the people living with HIV/AIDS should be part of the fight. ❄

Arts and Culture in Diplomacy

New York, March 22, 2003

Adapted from an article written by Nadine Andre, Public Relations and Production Services, IIFWP

A new, subtle addition to IIFWP Conferences has been the development and deliberate effort to weave within the evening entertainment, artistic and creative interpretations that use and incorporate key conference themes.

Traditionally, the evening dinners and opening and closing banquets have included some type of entertainment. Recent attempts however, have been made to build a greater synchronicity between conference themes and the choice and content of entertainment, providing a greater synergy and connection within the creative process.

As my background has been in the theater it has been a logical progression for me to move in this direction. Working with Mr. David Eaton, Director of the New York City Symphony, an accomplished composer, con-

ductor and arranger and long-time colleague, the partnership has been natural and effortless. We have both waged throughout the years our subliminal and clandestine campaigns to bring the elements of art, harmony, beauty and grace to the sometimes vigorous and heady proceedings of conferences.

Often the proceedings and events of the day can be intense. During the recent Middle East Peace Initiative, there were some very heated moments, where emotions ran high. During the third evening after the first folk-dance, there was a spontaneous joyful outburst by Jews, Christians and Muslims, Israelis and Palestinians alike, coming onto the stage to sing in unison. It was quite beautiful and through that simple act you could feel that peace was indeed possible. There is a catharsis that comes about through singing,



Entertainment at the Middle East conference

dancing, and being joyful.

I acknowledge and commend the IIFWP organizers for seeing the importance of this aspect of culture. ❖

Report from Far East

Bulgaria: The outreach campaign ended on April 30. At an evaluation meeting held a week later, Julian Marianov, our director said that the goals set by the team -- 200 contacts and 10 potentials -- were fulfilled. This can be considered to be the most successful education program we've conducted the last 6-7 years. A general meeting of the FFWPU was held in which we accepted the report for the renovation of the Embassy of Peace building. All members appreciate the efforts that Biser Boichev has done to manage the entire remodeling process. The Embassy of Peace building is 90 years old and will require a major influx of funds to complete the job. Donations are greatly appreciated. (From Tinko Tinev, General Affairs,



Happy participants in the fishing competition

Unification Movement of Bulgaria.)

Philippines: The Board Members met at the Headquarters for the planning of the Congressional IIFWP Conference on March 19. In addition, two new Board members were invited onto the Board. The historic Joint Legislative-IIFWP Philippines Conference at the House of Representatives, in the Republic of the Philippines, took place under the theme, "Good Governance: The Role of Religion in Peace and Security." Following the keynote speaker, Hon. Jose de Venecia, the historic signing of cooperation between the House of Representatives and IIFWP took place. One hundred and thirty leaders from religious, political, academic and NGO groups attended the conference.

Thailand: Family Federation, Women's

Federation and Youth Federation for World Peace members attended a Service for Peace project with the theme, "Three Generations Linked By True Love in Action," at Ton Had Restaurant, Pattaya, Chonburee. Members of the Family Federation also gathered to plan the International Family Day 2003 and 6 committees came together to plan a forthcoming conference at Bangkok on, "Family Empowerment and Development," to be hosted by the National Institute for Child and Family Development of Mahidol University and UNFPA.

Nepal: An Ambassador for Peace Seminar at the Malla Hotel was held for 40 VIPs including former and current Prime Ministers, Chiefs of Police and University Presidents. Receptions were held by the Chief of the Armed Police Force, Gen. Shahabir Thapa and Hon. Kamal Prasad Chaulagain, Minister of Labor and Transport Management, in honor of the IIFWP Continental Directors of Asia, Dr. Christopher Kim and Dr. Julia Kim. A courtesy call with Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand was reported on national television and the Peace Embassy of Nepal was officially established in a prime location at Kathmandu. (April 21, 2003: Edited by Roshan D'Souza.) ❖



The Peace Embassy in Bulgaria

Background Report on Ambassador for Peace Activities in Uruguay

By Jorge Guldenzoph, President of National Leadership Conference; and Secretary-General, IIFWP-Uruguay

The IIFWP activities officially started in Uruguay in November 2000 with a seminar attended by more than 300 people. Attendants included: Former President, Dr. Alberto Lacalle, and former Supreme Court interim President, Dr. Rafael Addiego, who discoursed about the education of values and United Nations reform, respectively. The Ambassadors of Japan, Iran, Israel, and the Commercial and Political representative of Taiwan also attended.

Later on, Uruguayan delegations traveled to participate in seminars in Washington D.C, London and Miami. Many of them received the title of recognition as, "Ambassadors of Peace" (AFP).

In May 2001 at the inauguration in Montevideo of the "Uruguayan National Garden Residence" (a National Historical Monument), founder of the Uruguayan Peace Ambassadors, Rev. Moon, invited more than 100 leaders to attend the event where Uruguayan President Dr. Jorge Batlle was present. The leaders remained in Uruguay two more days in order to participate in a seminar for the Ambassadors for Peace on, "A New Vision for the Leadership through Voluntary Service."

It was not until the end of last year that the activity of the IIFWP really matured in Uruguay. There had already existed a strong foundation to establish a stable movement for the AFP in the country. This foundation did not come from the national cultural and civil traditions, but from an important number of citizens that took part in activities related to the IIFWP.

Especially notable were: the Conference of National Leadership (CLN). In the last 3 years, more than 1,000 high-level leaders have participated in its educational seminars. And secondly, the Diamond Society Movement. This very important movement was recognized and declared by the government as "having significant cultural impact." The movement annually organizes multiple civic events where many people and institutions receive recognition for their spiritual, ethical, and civic contributions to society.

At the last event which took place in November 2000, 1,500 participated including the Uruguayan Culture and Education Minister, Ambassadors from Costa Rica,



More than 120 guests from 7 cities in Uruguay attended the national seminar on Ambassador for Peace activities.

Ecuador, Greece, Iran, Paraguay, and Romania, and senators, deputies, and leaders of many civil society organizations.

With the CLN and Diamond Society Movement's support, on December 10, 2002, the first Ambassadors for Peace Seminar was organized for 100 people. The Ambassadors of Paraguay, Panama, Ecuador and three deputies were present, as well as prominent women leaders from humanitarian organizations.

On April 26, 2002, the second seminar was held with the participation of 120 guests from 7 cities around the country. This included humanitarian organization leaders, professors, academicians, and university professors. Also present were two former congressmen who had served as chairmen of committees on international relations.

The topics of the conferences included: (a) The IIFWP vision, philosophy, and activities, (b) Public service: to live for the sake of others, and (c) the mission of the Ambassadors for Peace. Speakers included: Mrs. Jesus Gonzalez and Jorge Guldenzoph.

The Uruguayan Chapter publishes a quarterly bulletin and two information newsletters on "Ambassadors for Peace" and "To

Live for the Sake of Others."

In the planning stage are seven new seminars for the Ambassadors for Peace for this year. Uruguay has already 200 leaders in this program, but this is only 10% of the proposed goal.

For us, the task to educate, inspire and organize a strong Ambassadors for Peace Movement in Uruguay has its roots in the words that Reverend Moon pronounced a few months ago exhorting the Ambassadors for Peace to build the Heavenly Kingdom on Earth. He spoke about the need for a nation that represents the "seed" of that reign. Trying to make clear that ideal, he said: "What kind of nation could fulfill this goal? It will be a nation of high ideals and unity. It will be a nation in which all the people can fully participate in mind, body and spirit. In summary, it will be a nation where all follow the heavenly principle—to live for the sake of others."

In sum, the Ambassadors for Peace program in Uruguay is going extremely well. Unanimously the recipients are truly honored to receive the mission and the responsibility to be anointed by the Rev. Moon for such an important and historical task. ❖

Continued from page 1

The World of Peace

This year we have supported or co-sponsored numerous endeavors designed to advance the work of peace. The "World Summit on Leadership and Governance," held Feb. 4-6 in Korea; followed by the 20th World Media Conference which met in Washington, Feb. 24-25; and the IIFWP Middle East conference held in Washington, Feb. 27-March 2.

Ambassadors for Peace, now is the time to step forward. The world's nations need you, but especially our North American continent. September 11, the conflict in the Middle East and war potential in the Korean peninsula are everyone's wake up call. Let's organize, speak out, initiate or plug into activities that will contribute to our work.



Dr. Chang Shik Yang, Chairman, IIFWP North America.



Antonio Betancourt, Secretary-General, IIFWP North America.

We need a strong grass-roots movement as well as a national and international movement.

This world in the present stage needs us desperately in order to create the culture of heart. We need to help recreate this world from our neighborhoods to the national level all the way to the United Nations. The culture of heart and living for the sake of others will certainly recreate this world. You are called to do a little more in this great enterprise whatever you feel and whatever your resources. Let's take action.

May God bless you. ❄

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 22-25, Washington, D.C.

American Leadership Initiative on "The World at a Turning Point: The Role and Responsibility of America in a Changing World." Sponsored by IIFWP, along with the Washington Times Foundation, the American Family Coalition, and the UPI Foundation.

June 26: Washington, D.C.

World Media Association Luncheon Forum, "Conflict and Peace in the Middle East: The Media's Contribution"

June 27-29: Washington, D.C.

Middle East Peace Initiative on "The World at a Turning Point: Considering Innovative Proposals for Peace, Cooperation and Co-Prosperity in the Middle East." Sponsored by the IIFWP and the American Clergy Leadership Conference.

July 10-14: Chonan, Korea

WCSF and IIFWP Assembly 2003 and IIFWP's Interreligious Peace Sports Festival

July 15: Sun Moon Soccer Peace King Cup, Korea

August 10-13: Seoul, Korea

IIFWP will sponsor a global conference in Korea, continuing the theme of the International Seminars, "The World at a Turning Point: Considering Innovative Approaches to Peace through Responsible Leadership and Good Governance."

September 25-28, 2003, Bangkok, Thailand

WANGO Annual Conference 2003

"Toward an Ethical and Caring Global Community"

Press Release

Interreligious Peace Sports Festival

A Project of the Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace

The inauguration of the Interreligious Peace Sports Festival will take place near Seoul, Korea on May 21-25, 2003, as part of the World Culture and Sports Festival. Young athletes between the ages of 16-23, from all continents, will gather in the spirit of cooperation to compete as representatives of their religions.

Today the world is suffering from numerous conflicts that are linked not only to nationalism also to religious and cultural differences. The worldwide appeal of sports can be a powerful and unique catalyst for cultural change. The Interreligious Peace Sports Festival utilizes this potential and provides international athletes an opportunity to contribute to the development of a culture of peace by creating a new legacy of cooperation, respect and reconciliation.

The Interreligious and International Federation for World Peace (IIFWP) and its worldwide network of Ambassadors for Peace are sponsoring this event in cooperation with various sporting clubs, government ministries, non-governmental organizations and businesses.

For more information and applications please contact:

Interreligious Peace Sports Festival

c/o Interreligious International Federation for World Peace

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