FFWPU USA: Peace Road 2021 Las Vegas' on the Pioneer Trail

Naokimi Ushiroda August 30, 2021



"History is continuing to be made," said Universal Peace Federation (<u>UPF</u>) Las Vegas Chair Katherine Duncan, who recently led a city tour of historic locales during the national 2021 <u>Peace Road</u> campaign, "Drawing Nations and People Together as Neighbors."

On August 21, Duncan and a group of Unificationists on the city's <u>Pioneer Trail</u> route stopped by the home of Helen Toland, 96, who was the first African-American woman to serve as a school principal in Clark County.

"She's importing all these amazing African statues from Zimbabwe," said Duncan, pointing to various figures displayed across the front lawn. Toland's home was recognized as a historic property earlier this year. She also had a local elementary school renamed in her honor last year.

"We're so proud of her; she continues to educate people about the importance of family and knowing our history," said Duncan. "She maintains that one of the best ways to bring about peace is through education, and people understanding, knowing, and loving who they are."

Peace Road, a project of UPF co-founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and her late husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, aims to unite people of all backgrounds by transcending barriers such as race, religion, nationality, and ideology. The annual campaign, which began in early August, involves walking, biking, and driving tours for peace in cities across the US, as well as internationally in more than 125 countries.

Related: Highway To Heaven

Toland's historic Las Vegas home is located in Bonanza Village, a custom home enclave developed in 1946 that once excluded minorities. Today Duncan says the community is well integrated, but it's a place that sheds light on a very different time. The Peace Road group also walked the halls of Harrison Boarding House, where African-American businessmen and entertainers such as Sammy Davis Jr. and Nat King Cole stayed during the era of segregation.

"This tour is about honoring the past, and educating ourselves for a better future," said one Unificationist participant.

"I really believe that all the people who came to Vegas were inspired by something, and I think that was the influence of God bringing people together to enjoy its beauty despite the harsh desert conditions," said Misun Teah, another local Unificationist.

Lorenzi Park, Sammy Davis Jr. Festival Plaza, Woodlawn Cemetery, Vegas Roots Community Garden, and the Veterans Memorial Center were among other destinations during the group's two-hour tour.

In Arkansas, the Peace Road campaign continued August 28 as Pastor Bruce Biggin of Little Rock Family Church led a prayer gathering at MacArthur Park. More than 400 servicemen are honored on the black granite panels located in the park's Arkansas Korean War Veterans Memorial.

"The freedoms we have today aren't free," said Pastor Biggin, UPF's regional secretary general. "They were bought with the sacrifice of those who served in our Armed Forces. Their service will never be forgotten... We couldn't have this event without our veterans who liberated Korea and UPF's founders [natives of North Korea], and so we're grateful for America."

You can learn more and follow Peace Road's journey <u>here</u>. The 2021 campaign in North America concludes September 19 in Canada.



DRAWING NATIONS & PEOPLE TOGETHER AS NEIGHBORS



"This tunnel can help make the world a single community at last... Think of how much money the world is wasting on war. The time has come for nations to work together, pool their resources and, as the prophet Isaiah taught, beat our swords into plowshares and our spears into pruning hooks."

- Father Moon, UPF Inauguration, 2005

One Unified World

"The vision is for a high-speed transportation artery linking the entire globe. On the day of its completion, much of our world will become one village linked by one road. " - Mother Moon





Paving the Path

"In these [Peace Road] events, people of all ages and nationalities, wearing t-shirts and

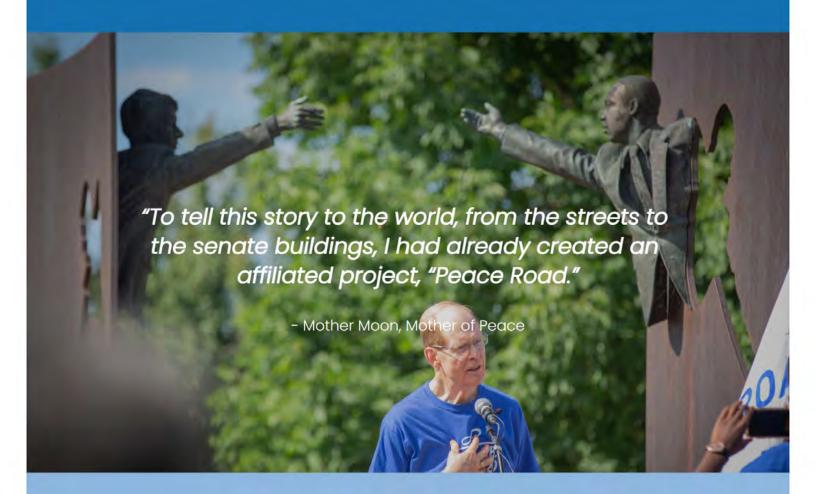


bicycles or walk to show their support for peace." - Mother Moon

Taking a Stand

"Teams of participants walk, cycle or drive along designated routes representing the International peace highway. Their path ends at local government centers where local officials, social and religious leaders speak at rallies, publicly announce their support for the initiative and stimulate publicity in local media." – Mother Moon





Universal Peace Federation

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Peace Road is a project of the Universal Peace Federation, a 501c(3) NGO in consultative status with the United Nations. For more information visit us.upf.org

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Highway to Heaven



FFWPU-USA

Imagine the world joined together by a vast international system of highways, railways, bridges, and tunnels, making all nations accessible and connected as one global family.

It's an incredible vision shared by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who co-founded Peace Road and dedicated more than four decades toward bringing the global peace initiative to life.

A panel of experts discussed the impact and need for such a powerful network on August 5 in a webinar hosted by the Universal Peace Federation (UFP)—which organizes Peace Road—as the 2021 campaign "Drawing Nations and People Together as Neighbors" kicked off earlier this week in Chicago.

"Peace Road helps create an interdependent, interconnected, and harmonious world," said Dr. Thomas Walsh, UPF's chairman and a webinar speaker. The flagship project of Peace Road, an International Peace Highway, aims to build an undersea tunnel between Korea and Japan, and a Bering Strait tunnel to connect Alaska and Siberia. Dr. Walsh said the focus of Peace Road 2021 is the tunnel that would connect the US and Russia, running under the Bering Strait.

The concept of Peace Road—which draws from the world's history of connectivity, including the ancient Silk Road and Royal Road of the Persian Empire—was first introduced by Rev. Moon at the 10th International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) in Seoul in 1981. Rev. and Dr. Moon reemphasized the importance of Peace Road in 2005 during the inauguration of UPF.

"Carrying out this project will bind the world together as one village," Rev. Moon said. "It will tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion, and country, and establish the world of peace that has been God's cherished desire... The United States and Russia can become as one... and all nations, and also all the world's religions, can combine their energies to succeed in this project."

Large-scale biking, walking, and driving tours in major cities worldwide have been a key part in Peace Road's timeline of educational efforts and raising public awareness over the years. Today, it's become a global project involving 125 nations aimed at promoting world peace.

Rick Minnich, a panel speaker and director of the documentary "Strait Guys," said a

Bering tunnel would bring "peace, progress, and prosperity to all." A clip from his film—debuting later this year—showed collective efforts to talk with native people opposed to big changes and building the tunnel.

"This really has the potential of being the Panama Canal of the 21st Century," says Scott Spencer, the chief project advisor of the Intercontinental Railway featured in Minnich's film. The railway stretches 5,500 miles and would link the existing systems in North America through Canada and Alaska, says Spencer, before joining a 70-mile long tunnel under the Bering Strait that continues on to the existing rail systems of Russia and China.

However, Dr. Vladimir Petrovskiy, chief researcher at the Institute of Far Eastern Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences, called a Bering Strait tunnel project "very ambitious" and "very strategic." He said such an infrastructure project would involve resources of national governments and affect the global, regional and transregional economy. It would also have "political implications," he said, as he pointed to different interpretations of the law of the sea, and China's two-pronged "Belt and Road Initiative" to promote economic development and interregional connectivity: the Silk Road Economic Belt and Maritime Silk Road.

"China allocates 80 percent of their resources to sea route communications," he said. "This directly implicates the Bering Strait project because it connects the Russian polar region and Alaska and that sea route." A global shift toward "green" renewable energy will also change the global economy, Dr. Petrovskiy noted.

Still, panel speakers agreed investment in the Bering Strait tunnel project is inspiring and needed.

"[This project] doesn't lack scientific background or engineering or anything other than the relations between nations," said UPF International President Dr. Michael Jenkins. "If America and Russia could cooperate on this, it could happen very quickly."

As the 2021 Peace Road campaign rolls out in the US and Canada over the next few weeks, and efforts toward the Bering Strait tunnel project push forward, the founders' vision remains within reach: "The success of this project will be decisive in establishing a peace kingdom where people will no longer make war with each other," said Rev. Moon.

Stay tuned for more Peace Road updates. You can learn more about the 2021 campaign and itinerary here.

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COMMENTS (1)

COMMENTING GUIDELINES

August 10, 2021 at 12:25 am | #

MR P N NSIO

This is where the substantialisation of the Kingdom of heaven become visible et concrete!! Well done



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